



## The Summer Climate

Principal Yuichi Hashimoto

In the middle of August, I visited Kochi Prefecture. Kochi stretches east to west along the Pacific coast of Shikoku Island, allowing you to see the sea to the south and the mountains to the north. In previous years, the afternoons were as hot as Tokyo, but the evenings were much cooler without the need for an air conditioner. However, this year, like Tokyo, the temperature in the evening would not go down. Every year my relatives complain that they never had to use the air conditioner until recently.

Looking at the rest of the world, abnormal weather continues throughout Europe, bringing with it natural disasters such as extreme heat and fires, as well as receding water levels of the Danube River. Even in China, a place where you would think there would be flooding, the water level of the Yangtze River has also dropped. The climate this year is very different.

Speaking of rivers, there is the Shimanto River in Kochi prefecture. Many people probably already know this, but the Shimanto River has 48 flood bridges designed to sink when it floods. These bridges are very simple structures with just concrete spans over the piers with no guard rails or traffic signs, and it is a little unnerving crossing the bridges without any rails or even traffic lines painted on the asphalt. The idea behind this design is to allow flood waters to flow over the bridge without washing the bridge away. Our predecessors had some impressive ideas for reducing damage from typhoons.

The second term began and the children have returned to school healthy and safe. We are still far from the end of the COVID-19 pandemic, so we hope to conduct our school activities with a sense of mutual understanding.

### Parent-Teacher Conferences

Please note that the parent-teacher conferences on September 9 (Fri.) will be held via Teams as a measure to prevent infection.

### The Summer Project Exhibition

The Summer Project Exhibition is from September 5 (Mon.) – 8 (Thurs.) in the gym from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Please refrain from talking when observing the works.

### The Art Exhibition

The school-wide Art Exhibition is December 2 (Fri.) and 3 (Sat.) from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday the 2<sup>nd</sup> is for students and Saturday the 3<sup>rd</sup> is for families. Most of the artwork will be displayed in the gym with additional pieces displayed at the entrance.

## September

Date	Day	Event	After-school
1	Th	Opening Ceremony 4 periods 12:30 dismissal	—
2	F	School lunch begins 4 periods 13:20 dismissal	—
3	Sa	Saturday School Japanese Culture	—
4	Su		—
5	M	Safety lesson, Committees Summer Project Exhibition begins	—
6	Tu	Measurements (G1)	4-6
7	W	4 periods 13:20 dismissal	—
8	Th	Measurements (G2) Summer Project Exhibition ends	3-5
9	F	Parent-Teacher Conferences via Teams: G1-G3 14:00; G4-G6 15:00	—
10	Sa		—
11	Su		—
12	M	Measurements (G3), Clubs	—
13	Tu		—
14	W	Measurements (G4)	—
15	Th	Evacuation drill Measurements (G5)	3-4
16	F	Swim lessons end Measurements (G6)	—
17	Sa		—
18	Su		—
19	M	Respect for the Elderly Day	—
20	Tu		5-6
21	W	4 periods 13:20 dismissal	—
22	Th	Student Assembly	—
23	F	Autumnal Equinox	—
24	Sa		—
25	Su		—
26	M		—
27	Tu		—
28	W	4 periods 13:20 dismissal	—
29	Th		—
30	F		—

## Notices

### \*Emergency Evacuation Drill

This month's evacuation drill will be on Thursday the 15<sup>th</sup>. Students will practice *O-ka-shi-mo* while evacuating in the event of a fire.

### \*Human Rights Day

This month's Human Rights Day is Wednesday the 28<sup>th</sup>. The lunch will be Korean bibimbap and tteokbokki.

### \*After-School Play

We will have after-school play (*hokago asobi*) for the first time this year. The play time is for Grades 3 to 6 from after school until 15:40. Please check the "After-school play" column in the calendar for dates. There will be 4 after-school play times in September.

### \*Open Schoolyard for September

The schoolyard is open to the public on Saturday, September 10 from 13:00 to 17:00.

## Educational Counselling

### September's Goal

### "Let's Get Back into the Swing of School"

Naomi Naito  
Educational Counsellor

After a long summer vacation, the second term of school has begun. Let's go over the school rules. Students arrive at school between 8:10 and 8:20. They put away their things and are ready for the day by 8:25. Also, from 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> period, they are ready to start each period on time. There are plenty of more school rules besides just being punctual.

These rules may seem strict, but they are to ensure the safety and piece of mind of all 500 students and provide a strong foundation for ideal school life.

With the help of all parents and guardians, we hope to instruct the students to return to a peaceful school life.

## Grade 5's Hakone Summer Camp

5-1 Naomi Naito

5-2 Ayaka Mitsuka

The children truly enjoyed their summer camp in Hakone. Grade 5, who could not go on any field trips the past few years because of COVID-19, first went on an excursion in June to learn about punctuality and group work. For their summer camp trip, they did their best with choosing their groups and preparing for the trip.

The trip took place on August 4 and 5. Despite concerns about the weather, the students arrived at school with bright smiles and heavy luggage. On the bus, the Bus Rec. group hosted a quiz game to get everyone excited about their trip. On the first day, at the Mori no Fureaikan Hall, students enjoyed a quiz rally and making crafts from nuts. In a thick fog reminiscent of the movie "The Pirates of the Caribbean," the students were unsure if they would be able to board the pirate-style tour boat that awaited them; but alas, just before they were scheduled to depart, the fog cleared and the students embarked with no troubles. They enjoyed all of the planned activities at Niko Niko Gakuen. They were unable to have their campfire due to rain, but in the gym they each held a candle and made a wish before blowing out the flame. They worked up a sweat learning folk dances and games and then fell fast asleep at night.

The two days were full of uncertainty due to the weather, but the children enjoyed their time with their friends. We hope they will utilize this experience in the second term of Grade 5.



## Summer Project Exhibition

Junichi Takagi  
Chief of School Affairs

After the summer vacation, Higashimachi hosts a summer project exhibition. In previous years, there were fewer students, so the projects could be displayed in the hallways in front of the classrooms; however, with an increase in the number of students came an increase in the number of projects to display, and the exhibition was relocated to the gym, which is transformed into a mini-exhibition space.

Every year, students in all grades come to school with their projects they thought of and made on their own. Various projects that include crafts, recipes and cooking, and travel journals are on display.

Going to the exhibition with the students is a good time for teachers to see them enjoying the projects and works with their friends. Parents and guardians are also allowed to visit the exhibition, and as there are many who wonder what summer projects they can do with their children, perhaps going to the exhibition will provide hints about what kind of projects and works there are, or how the projects change as the students advance to the higher grades. We hope you can come and see for yourselves.

◆Dates: September 5 (Mon.) – September 8 (Thurs.) 9:00 – 16:00

◆Location: Gym

## Classroom Window

## Grade 2

- 2-1 Tomoya Kobayashi
- 2-2 Eiko Shinjo
- 2-3 Fukashi Egawa

The Grade 2 students are putting a lot of effort into their various activities and enjoying themselves at school. In the "Town Exploration", they looked for their favorite spots around the neighborhood. They were so happy to find all the places they heard their friends talking about. For the *Motto Motto* Town Exploration in the second term, the children will listen to people who work in neighborhood stores and discover more about their town. In their *kokugo* class, they thought of tools they wish were invented and shared them with the class. We were surprised to see how imaginative and detailed the children were with inventions, like a pencil that turned your drawings into real objects and grown-up gummies that turn children into adults when you eat them. During recess, students can be seen playing in the schoolyard and the gym or reading and drawing in the classroom. In the second term, we hope to support the Grade 2 students so that they can have a safe and peaceful time at school.



## Learning in the ESC (English Support Course)

Yumiko Minowa  
English Support Teacher

As of now, there are 22 students from 9 countries learning in the English Support Course (ESC). ESC students study math and language arts with their English Support Teacher (EST) and other subjects in their classrooms with their classmates (with the help of the EST).

In math class, ESCs use translated math textbooks and learn math based on Japan's national curriculum. During language classes (*kokugo*), they study Japanese and English. To preserve the students' English abilities and keep them at the same level as their counterparts in English-speaking countries, topics and skills learned in these classes resemble those in Japan's *kokugo* class. In Japanese class, students start studying greetings, hiragana, and katakana, and learn phrases and expressions that are useful for their time at school. So that they can present their ideas in Japanese and understand their teachers and classmates, students focus on speaking, writing, reading, and listening to understand their classmates' ideas as well as ideas from books.

Higashimachi is ripe with a philosophy of global education that provides all students with the skills and attitude necessary to participate in the global society of the future. We hope all students will take pride in their own country's culture while recognizing and respecting the differences in other people's cultures.



