



Autumn Events

Principal Yuichi Hashimoto

As the students prepare for the Art Exhibition, the trees outside are changing colors. The seasons are quickly changing from autumn to winter, and with each turn of the seasons, the children are steadily growing. I would like to share with you some of the events taking place this autumn.

Autumn for the Arts

The theme for the Art Exhibition is "Expand Your World with Your Hopes and Dreams." The students did their best to create artwork that expresses their hopes and dreams. There are individual works, collaborative grade works, and a school work made by all members of the school. I hope everyone can appreciate each individual piece of art. If the children's efforts and skills are recognized and celebrated, then they will be encouraged to do their best in future endeavors.

Autumn for Sports

To enhance their physical education, some grades were able to participate in tag rugby lessons and soccer lessons led by FC Tokyo members and coaches. Surely the children were impressed to receive instruction from professionals, and although the lesson was just a short period of time, it was wonderful to see the children steadily improve their skills.

In addition, December is Jump Rope Month. A new jump rope card has been issued, and we hope that the children will have no problem exercising in the cold December.

Autumn for Culture

During the Anniversary Week of the school's opening, students participated in different activities related to the school's 109th Anniversary. One such activity was the School Anniversary Assembly on November 10. For the assembly, all of the students gathered in the schoolyard; and although the students have gathered there for morning assemblies and emergency drills, this was the first time in several years that the students were together for a whole period. Without any precedent from previous years, the upper grade students had to improve themselves through trial and error in their preparations. On the day of the assembly, the facilitators gave clear instructions so that everyone could enjoy participating in the assembly. Seeing all of the students together after such a long time was a fitting way to celebrate the school's 109th anniversary.

I hope this experience will be utilized for the school's 110th Anniversary next year.

December

Date	Day	Event	After-school
1	Th	Jump Rope Month begins	—
2	F	Art Exhibition (for students)	—
3	Sa	Art Exhibition (for families)	—
4	Su	Human Rights Week begins	—
5	M	<i>Kodomo</i> Summit (G6 reps.), Safety lessons	—
6	Tu	Family Jump Time (G2, G4)	—
7	W	Family Jump Time (G1, G6), 4 periods	—
8	Th	IPTM (if requested)①, 5 periods, Planetarium (G6), Family Jump Time (G3, G5)	—
9	F	IPTM②, 5 periods, Evac. drill, Music Assembly	—
10	Sa	Human Rights Week Ends	—
11	Su		—
12	M	Committees	—
13	Tu	IPTM③, 5 periods, Information Morals Lesson (G3), Family Jump Time (G2, G4)	—
14	W	IPTM④, 5 periods, Family Jump Time (G1, G6)	—
15	Th	Social studies field trip (G4), IPTM⑤, Family Jump Time (G3, 5), 5 periods	—
16	F	IPTM⑥, 5 periods	—
17	Sa		—
18	Su		—
19	M	Clubs	—
20	Tu	Tokyo Ensemble Mini-Concert (G5)	—
21	W		—
22	Th	School lunch ends, Student Assembly, 4 periods	—
23	F	Closing Ceremony, Jump Rope Month ends, 4 periods	—
24	Sa		—
25	Su		—
26	M	Winter vacation begins	—
27	Tu		—
28	W		—
29	Th		—
30	F		—
31	Sa		—

IPTM: individual parent-teacher meeting

Notices

*Evacuation Drill

The evacuation drill on Friday the 9th will practice what to do in the event of an announcement from the Earthquake Early Warning (EEW). Students will practice *o-ka-shi-mo* and practice how to keep themselves safe.

*Jump Rope Month

December is Jump Rope Month, and students will take on different short jump rope challenges with their school families and classmates.

*Human Rights Day

This month's Human Rights Day will be Monday, December 5. The lunch for that day will be hand-made pirozhki from Russia.

*December's Open Schoolyard

The schoolyard will be open Saturday, December 17 from 13:00 – 16:00.

*Term 2 Closing Ceremony, Term 3 Opening Ceremony

Both the Closing and Opening Ceremonies will be normal school days, but there will be only 4 periods and no school lunch.

Educational Counselling

December's Goal "Let's Clean Up Our School"

Naomi Naito
Educational Counsellor

The long-awaited Art Exhibition begins on December 2, and the students have devoted several months of effort to their artwork. We hope upper grades and lower grades can enjoy the fun, uniqueness, and beauty of each other's works.

Soon after the Art Exhibition ends, we will begin wrapping up our studies for the winter holiday. December is a time of excitement and frenzy; and to make sure we start the new year off on the right foot, it is important to tidy up the area around us. From your pencil cases to your backpacks, from your lockers to your classrooms – there are several places that need tidying up. We hope to take care of each place one by one by the Closing Ceremony at the end of the term. We also ask that families check pencil cases and backpacks at home.

School Anniversary

Ms. Yagisawa, Ms. Mitsuta, Ms. Mishima
Heads of Steering Committee

This fall, on Thursday, November 10, we celebrated the anniversary of the opening of Higashimachi Elementary. For the past few years, there have not been many opportunities to gather in one place. For many faculty and students, this was the largest assembly they had seen at the school.

On the day of the anniversary, the 5th and 6th grade members of the steering committee held an assembly. They led the celebration of the school's 109th anniversary by delivering congratulatory speeches, breaking open the *kusudama*, presenting original mascots, and participating in presentations by other committees like the assembly committee and the lunch committee.

After the assembly, we feel there are more students now who want to celebrate Higashimachi's anniversary and keep the school close to their hearts. Next year will be the 110th anniversary. We hope the children will take part in a variety of activities and further appreciate Higashimachi Elementary.



Clubs and Committees

Aino Yagisawa
Special Activities

At Higashimachi, Grade 5 and 6 students are split among 9 committees and carry out duties to help enrich school life for all of the school's students.

The other day, the committees held discussions and preparations for the school's 109th anniversary, bringing their various ideas to reality.

We hope that committee activities at school will contribute positively to their career development by giving them an opportunity to think independently about how to carry out their duties and encourage them to cooperate and be aware of their roles in society.

There are 10 clubs for students to choose from: Art and Illustration, Sports, Cooking, Science, Badminton, Table Tennis, Music, Indoor Play, PC, and History.

Last year, the school took suggestions for new clubs to create, and having met the minimum number of members and other conditions, the History Club was established, leading to the creation of a club in response to the students' interests and wishes.

In each club, the children work together with students from different grades to enjoy club-related activities based on their shared interests. The faculty members in charge of each club are doing their best to help the children be cooperative and independent members that can plan and carry out activities on their own.

The Grade 4 students are putting their effort into numerous challenges. For the Family Asobi the other day, they thought of different games to play with the Grade 2 students. The Grade 4 students looked very reliable as we watched them give instructions and play with the younger students. During the tag rugby lesson, the students listened carefully to the instructors and understood the rules so that they were able to run around the schoolyard and have fun. For the Art Exhibition, they could be seen giving their best and putting all of their effort into their works.

There are only 4 months left in Grade 4. When they become upper-graders, they will join committees that require a great amount of responsibility on their part. To prepare them for this transition, we are now guiding them to think for themselves about what needs to be done and look for opportunities to carry out their responsibilities.



Jump Rope

Tomoya Kobayashi
Sports



Continuing from last year, December 1 (Thurs.) to December 23 (Fri.) will be Jump Rope Month, where children will take on different jumping styles with a short jump rope. At Higashimachi, students will do their best in individual styles as well as the endurance challenge. This year, students will gather with in their school families for "Family Jump Time" where they will jump together in rhythm. No matter the hopping style, the students will do their best and improve their physical health.

There will be upper-level and beginner-level cards this year as well. Students who complete the card this year will receive a stamp from the principal. With a lot of practice (and jumping), we hope students of all abilities will be able to improve themselves.

Please prepare a jump rope for your children at home. It is important that children use a jump rope that is appropriate for their height. To check, please step on the jump rope with one foot and hold the jump rope handles straight up. The handles should come up to your child's chest in order for them to jump easily. Depending on the make of the jump rope, it may be difficult to adjust the size, so please make sure at home that you teach your child how to adjust the length of their jump rope. We hope the children will be able to welcome a healthy new year after the Jump Rope Month.



Hold the handles and bend your arms so they form a 90° angle with your chest. Step on the middle of the jump rope with one foot

