



Welcoming the New Year, 2023

Principal Yuichi Hashimoto

Happy New Year to all families of Higashimachi Elementary. We have been blessed with good weather and a peaceful New Year. The new year has arrived, and the children have returned to school with smiles on their faces. The third term is the shortest term, but it is also an important term to prepare for advancing to the next grade. Although the COVID19 situation continues into the new year, we still hope to adapt to the situation and continue to conduct our educational activities. We look forward to your continued support and cooperation as we did the previous year.

Last month in December, we held a brief Jump Rope Month for children to jump rope together during recess. The children were working hard to complete the tasks written in the beginner level jump rope card. One new thing we introduced this time is a completion stamp and advanced level jump rope card given by the principal to students who complete the beginner level card. Because of this, many children who passed visited my office during recess. The children's faces as they entered my office were full of pride and accomplishment. In the end, 46 children passed the beginner level, an improvement from last year. Again, the importance for children to experience accomplishment and success was evident, and it will increase the children's self-confidence, self-affirmation, and self-esteem.

Main Events in Term 3

January 18 (Wed.) – January 19 (Thurs.) Open School

The Kakizome Exhibition and the Open Morals Lecture will be held during the same week as Open School. Due to COVID19, classes will be divided into three groups and parents and guardians will have to attend during pre-determined times. Please contact your child's teacher if you are unable to attend during the scheduled times.

There will also be an open forum discussion about moral education with a guest lecturer. All parents and guardians are invited to participate.

Date and Time	Wednesday, January 18, after 5 th period
Location	Kokusai ABC Hall
Guest Lecturer	Suyoshi Asai, Faculty Supervisor for Minato City Board of Education

February 9 (Thurs.) Parent-Teacher Conference for 2023-24 Grade 1

February 10 (Fri.) Kanji Kentei (for those who applied)

February 22 (Wed.) International Assembly

March 7 (Tues.) Parent-Teacher Conference (G1-G3)

March 8 (Wed.) Parent-Teacher Conference (G4-G6)

March 8 (Wed.) Grade 6 Send-Off Assembly

March 23 (Wed.) Graduation Ceremony

March 24 (Fri.) Closing Ceremony

March 25 (Sat.) Spring vacation begins

January

Date	Day	Event	After-school
1	Su		—
2	M		—
3	Tu		—
4	W		—
5	Th		—
6	F		—
7	Sa		—
8	Su		—
9	M	Coming of Age Day End of Winter Vacation	—
10	Tu	Opening Ceremony (4 periods), 12:30 dismissal	—
11	W	School lunch begins, 4 periods, 13:10 dismissal	—
12	Th	Kakizome (G1, G2, G5, G6)	—
13	F	Kakizome (G3, G4)	—
14	Sa		—
15	Su		—
16	M	Committees	—
17	Tu	Kakizome Exhibition begins	G5 G6
18	W	Open School, Open Morals Lesson	—
19	Th	Open School	G3 G4
20	F	Kakizome Exhibition ends	—
21	Sa	Family Asobi, Information Ethics Online Seminar	—
22	Su		—
23	M	Clubs	—
24	Tu	P.E. Assembly (G1, G6), Evacuation Drill	G3 G5
25	W	P.E. Assembly (G3, G5)	—
26	Th	P.E. Assembly (G2, G4)	G4 G6
27	F	Teacher development lesson (Grade 2 Class 1), Other grades and classes have 4 periods	—
28	Sa		—
29	Su		—
30	M		G4 G5
31	Tu		—

Notices

*Evacuation Drill

The evacuation drill on the 24th (Tues.) will simulate a flood. The students will practice *o-ka-shi-mo* while learning what to do in the event of a flood.

*Human Rights Day

This month's Human Rights Day is the 31st (Tues.) The lunch will be fish and chips from the United Kingdom.

*Open School

Open School will be held on the 18th (Wed.) and 19th (Thurs.). Visitors will be divided into groups A, B, and C and have specific visiting times. Details will be given in a separate notice from the school. If you are unable to visit during the allotted time, please contact your child's classroom teacher.

*Kakizome Exhibition

The Kakizome Exhibition will be held from Tuesday, January 17 to Friday, January 20. The works will be on display in the hallways outside each classroom.

*Open Schoolyard for January

The schoolyard will be open on Saturday, January 14 from 13:00 to 16:00.

Educational Counselling

January's Goal "Let's Be On Time"

Naomi Naito
Educational Counsellor

A new year has arrived and so has the third term, a crucial period before moving up to the next grade.

School is a type of communal living, and Higashimachi consists of unique grades with individuals from different homes and different backgrounds. Because of these differences, there is a lot for students to observe and learn. Students often will show adults unexpected skills, and we believe these skills come from their lifestyles and can help develop confidence and friendships. "Time" is something that is shared among oneself and others. By valuing each other's time, we can guarantee a more fulfilling time for all of us.

We hope to begin the new year fresh so the students can feel they truly completed their school year by March.

Sekishokai – Kakizome Exhibition

Hiroshi Yagi
Sekishokai and Kakizome

Sekishokai, a traditional calligraphy event, will be held on Thursday, January 12 for Grades 1,2,5, and 6 and Friday, January 13 for grades 3 and 4. The term “*sekisho*” refers to gathering together to do impromptu calligraphy as well as an exhibition of a master’s calligraphy style to disciples and others. From this, many elementary schools host *sekishokai* events for students to gather and partake in *kakizome*.

Grades 1 and 2 will perform *kakizome* with pencils in their classrooms. Grades 3 and above will gather in the gym and do their *kakizome* with traditional *fude* brushes. Students in all grades will do their best to show the results of their practice during the end of the second term and winter vacation.

The students’ calligraphy works will be on display during the Kakizome Exhibition from January 17 (Tues.) to 20 (Fri.). The exhibition will be held at the same time as Open School, so we invite visitors to come observe the students’ calligraphy works.

★ Kakizome Exhibition ★

Dates: Tuesday, January 17– Friday, January 20

Location: Outside individual classrooms



School Lunch

Ayako Koide
School Nutritionist

Due to the spread of the novella COVID19, lunch time has changed significantly. Before, students could put their desks together and talk about the day’s lessons or the school lunch while they eat; however, now, students must eat in silence. Of course, it is difficult for elementary students to remain absolutely silent during the entire meal, but families might be surprised to see how hard they try to eat quietly. School lunch now may seem like only half as fun because of that, but there are still many children at Higashimachi who feel their tummies rumble when the smell of lunch wafts from the school kitchen, who peak into the kitchen windows from the schoolyard, who share their thoughts about lunch during recess or after school, who ask to have the same meals cooked at home, and who just really enjoy school lunch.

There are 190 school lunches this year. Lunchtime is not just for taking in nutrients, but also a time to learn the names of dishes and ingredients and practice table manners. We strive to create lunch menus that excite the children as well as stimulate their understanding about food. These days it is difficult to learn about eating together, but we hope the students will learn many things from school lunch.

Every month this year, we have Japanese event lunches, local cuisine, international cuisine, and home-made breads and variations to offer eating experiences rich in flavor and atmosphere.

To pass along Japanese dietary culture, we continuously teach the students about how to place dishes, use chopsticks, and show proper table manners. We hope that families at home also practice these things when eating together.

Emergency Evacuation Drills

Hiroshi Yagi
Educational Counselling

At Higashimachi, we have emergency evacuation drills once every month. We instruct the students to listen to the announcement, follow the rules (*okashimo*: *o* – no pushing, *ka* – no running, *shi* – no talking, *mo* – no going back), and think for themselves about the appropriate way to act. We practice disasters such as fire, earthquake, J-Alert, early earthquake warning, and suspicious people, among others.

This year evacuation drills are carried out as a school with all grades participating at the same time. This is a way to adapt to the new school lifestyle. Grade 4 and Grade 6 students were able to observe and learn about emergency stockpiles and evacuation areas in a learning experience provided in cooperation with the fire department, the city's disaster prevention division, and the Higashimachi Community Disaster Prevention Group. We hope to continue providing these emergency evacuation drills in accordance with the recently adopted lifestyle changes.

In April, parents and guardian submitted emergency pick-up cards for the school to use in the event of a disaster. This year, we were unable to conduct a pick-up evacuation drill, but should the need arise, we ask parents and guardians to read the emergency emails sent from the school and come collect their children.

Lastly, please talk with your children at home about how to act during an evacuation, what to do if a disaster occurs on the way to or from school, and how to stay safe after school.

Classroom Window

Grade 5

Grade 5 Class 1 Naomi Naito
Grade 5 Class 2 Ayaka Mitsuta

The always-energetic Grade 5 students will finally become the school's top grade in April. Over the remaining three months, we hope to improve the abilities of each individual, each class, and the entire grade.

Since April of Grade 5, we have set up situations for the students to work together in groups and as a grade, like the *Higashimachi Soran* for Sports Day and the class excursion. The excursion was the first event of its kind since COVID19. There was also the Summer Camp, where we were able to enjoy the trip thanks to the children's determination driving away the wind and rain. And recently, the children enjoyed their inter-class baseball-type game that they practiced during P.E.

In the fall, the students established three goals for themselves. The first is to research and present about "Rice Cuisine around the World" for integrated studies. The second is to give an ensemble and chorus performance for music. And the third is to perform "Pomp and Circumstance" for Grade 6's graduation ceremony.

These past few years of living with COVID19, it has been difficult for the children to interact with people, including interacting with friends and classmates as well as presenting and performing in front of friends, family, or schoolmates. Although everyone is still fumbling their way through this difficult time, the children are gradually improving. We hope that they will continue as the upper-class to improve themselves through self-learning, group-learning, and determination as they "hop, skip, jump" their way towards their goals.

