



Sparkles in Each of Us With a 110-Year Legacy Set Out for the Future

Principal Yuichi Hashimoto

This is the slogan that expresses the children's thoughts and feelings about the 110th anniversary of the school's opening.

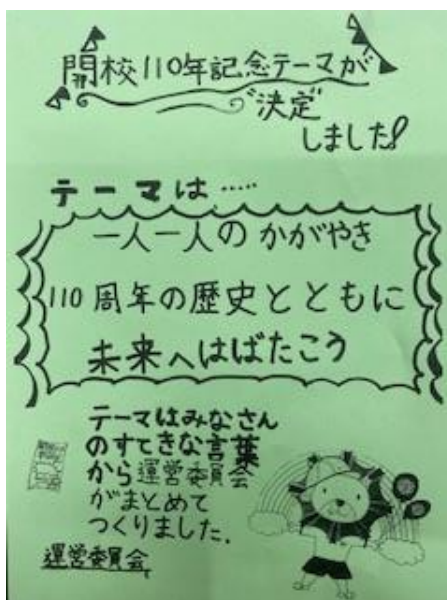
Next year, the school's anniversary ceremony will be held on Saturday, November 18, and activities for this celebration have been in motion since the previous academic year.

In their committees, the children discuss what they can do for the 110th anniversary and work to actualize these ideas.

The steering committee invited ideas for a mascot and created a character called "Sunlight," which was presented last November at the 109th Anniversary Assembly. At that time, the Assembly Committee and the school lunch committee also gave similar presentations. Afterwards, in creating a slogan for the 110th anniversary, the children shared what they had discussed in their classrooms and the slogan was decided upon by the Steering Committee. The children came up with a wonderful slogan that showed their love for the school as well as their desire to do their best for the future.

The Sports Committee created an Anniversary Celebration Dance that was presented at the P.E. Assembly in late January. This was also created by soliciting choreography from the children. They were able to create a wonderful dance that expresses their feelings of celebration. We hope that the parents will have a chance to see it sometime in the future. In this way, the children's collective efforts are advancing toward the 110th Anniversary.

The children will be taking part in many activities in preparation for this 110th Anniversary. I hope to make this a meaningful experience, not only for the children, but for parents, guardians and members of the community. As always, your cooperation will be greatly appreciated.



February

Date	Day	Event	After-school
1	W	Four periods	—
2	Th	Student Assembly	G3/4
3	F		—
4	Sa	Family Asobi, Japanese Culture (G5), Career Class (G6)	—
5	Su		—
6	M	Clubs (G3 observes, 6 periods)	—
7	Tu	P.E. Assembly (G1/6)	G5/6
8	W	P.E. Assembly (G3/5)	—
9	Th	P.E. Assembly (G2/4) Parent-Teacher Conference for 2023 G1 Students (G1/2 4 periods)	—
10	F	Four periods, Kanji Kentei (if applied), G5 Presentations	—
11	Sa	National Foundation Day	—
12	Su		—
13	M	Committees	—
14	Tu		G3/5
15	W	Music Assembly, 4 periods	—
16	Th		—
17	F		G4/6
18	Sa		—
19	Su		—
20	M		—
21	Tu		—
22	W	International Assembly (1 st - 4 th periods)	—
23	Th	The Emperor's Birthday	—
24	F		—
25	Sa		—
26	Su		—
27	M	Clubs	—
28	Tu		—

The evacuation drill in February will be unannounced.

Notices

*The International Assembly

The International Assembly will be held on Wednesday, February 22. Parents and guardians are welcome to come, however there will be no designated seating. Please limit 1 visitor for 1 child. Also, please give priority to parents/guardians whose children are performing (relocate to the rear when your child's performance is finished). Please refer to any notices from the school for details.

*The Kanji Kentei

The Kanji Kentei will be on Friday, February 10 for those students who applied. Levels 10 to 8 will take 40 minutes and be dismissed by 14:20; levels 7 to 2 will take 60 minutes and be dismissed by 14:40. Students not participating in the test will be dismissed by 13:10.

*Human Rights Day

Human Rights Day will be Friday, the 24th. The lunch will be julienne soup with ravigote sauce from France.

*Open Schoolyard for February

There will be no open schoolyard.

Educational Counselling

February's Goal

**"Don't Let the Cold Beat You!
Get Out and Move About!"**

Naomi Naito
Educational Counsellor

These days we still must wash our hands and gargle without fail, and even though washing our hands with freezing cold water may give us a shock, we are doing our best to bear it for the sake of our health and the health of our friends and family.

The cold can sometimes make us feel physically and emotionally drained; however, the children at Higashimachi are bright and energetic enough to shrug it off. Surely it is because of the children's proactive "can-do" attitude that they are able to endure the season's cold weather.

Negligence is one of our biggest nemeses, and we will continue to instruct the students to wash their hands and gargle, so please have your children keep a handkerchief with them. We will guide the students to stay healthy and active for the coming spring.

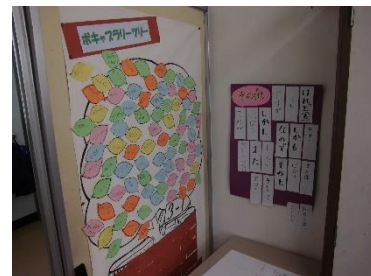
In-School Research and Development (Teacher Development)

Nozomi Yamamoto
Research and Development

At Higashimachi, teachers are researching and developing skills in educating students to be independent and supportive learners via the writing lessons in *kokugo* class. Classes are conducting activities to increase their vocabulary with various activities like vocabulary trees as well as writing self-introductions and friend introductions.

The teachers have developed different approaches so that students will feel more motivated to write, and the students are able to share their ideas with their classmates and recognize good things in their writing. Many students who did not feel confident in the first term now find they can write more effectively.

We hope to use the results of this year's research in subsequent years to improve learning in other subjects and to better each student's learning.



Japanese Culture

Yoshiyasu Tabei

Higashimachi's promotion of Japanese culture understanding is part of its International Studies Program. The International Studies Program also includes the international studies classes, education in international understanding, cross-cultural education, and support for children of foreign nationalities.

Japanese culture classes include *shado* (tea ceremony), *taiko* (Japanese drum), and *shogi* (Japanese chess) conducted by instructors from the area, as well as *karuta*, *kendama*, *koma*, *hyakunin issun*, and *shuji* (calligraphy) taught by the homeroom teachers.

This year, guest teachers from the local community taught classes to 5th and 6th graders. *Shado* was taught by Ms. Otsuka and Ms. Kaneko. *Taiko* by Ms. Noda and Ms. Komine. *Shogi* was taught by Sugimoto Sensei, Sugawara Sensei, Minagawa Sensei, and Aida Sensei.

The children showed great interest in the activities and had fun learning about them.



Educational Counselling and Advice

Wakana Kamimura
School Counsellor

This year, the school counsellors are available every Thursday (Counsellor Ikeda) and Friday (Counsellor Kamimura). We are happy to have students visit us whenever they want to.

At the counsellor's office, we listen to children's concerns and problems and can either help process their feelings or work towards a solution. If the children do not wish to talk about their problems, they can come to spend time comfortably by drawing pictures or folding origami. Some children may feel that just entering the counsellor's office takes a little courage, but we are always happy to welcome anyone who visits us.

School Counsellors at all Minato City elementary schools conduct individual interviews with all Grade 4 and Grade 5 students. Because of this, many students feel close to their school counsellor. Just by putting their feelings into words, students feel better about going back to class because they now have an idea on how to resolve issues with their classmates. To that effect, in the case of bullying, the counsellors can talk with the children involved as well as work with the classroom teachers and deal with the issue accordingly.

We also offer counselling to parents and guardians. Parents who are concerned about their child's behavior are welcome to contact the school counsellors. Those who wish to speak with a counsellor can first contact their child's classroom teacher, the school nurse, or the Vice Principal.

Japanese Kanji Aptitude Test (*Kanji Kentei*)

Hiroshi Yagi
Kanji Kentei

We hope that by taking the *kanji kentei*, students will develop their study habits and experience the success that comes from achieving an individual goal. Until the day of the test, we will review how to read, write, and use kanji, and we ask families to talk at home about establishing a strong foundation for studying.

★ Kanji Kentei ★

Date: Friday, February 10, 2023, 5th period

Dismissal times: Levels 10 – 8 2:25 p.m.

Levels 7 to 1 2:45 p.m.

Students not participating in the test
will be dismissed by 1:10 p.m.



