



Towards New Developments

Principal Yuichi Hashimoto

It is now the end of the academic year. Thank you all very much for your understanding and cooperation in our school's educational activities throughout the year. The next academic year will mark the 110th anniversary of the school's opening. The school's measures in response to COVID-19 will also change. We hope these changes will improve our school and make it a place that children can enjoy attending.

The main improvements are listed below. Everyone's cooperation in the coming school year will be greatly appreciated.

- Increased Number of Classes

We will have three new Grade 1 classes next year, which will make 16 classes for the first time at Higashimachi. However, there are no available classrooms. We will be renovating and building special classrooms to make room for the new classrooms next year. Therefore, in past years, the sixth grade has been in the annex (*shinkosha*), but from next year, due to the classroom arrangement, three classes will be assigned there.

- Digital Versions of School Newsletters and Grade Newsletters

We plan to reduce the number of paper-based letters and notices. The April issue of the newsletters always contains a large amount of information and is a transitional period for everyone, so the April issue will be distributed in paper form; however, starting with the May issue, notices and letters will be published digitally and made available on the school's website. If you wish to continue to receive the paper version, please contact your new homeroom teacher for the next academic year.

- Taking Home the Tablets

We have received concerns that the tablets are heavy and difficult to take home every day, especially for the lower grade students. In an effort to lighten the weight of things students must bring and take home, the school will be more flexible about taking home the tablets every day.

- Entrances and Exits Used When Arriving and Leaving School

As the COVID-19 situation has improved, the service entrance that was used as an entrance and exit for students will be closed.

- Changes in the Daily Schedule

A special Wednesday Schedule (B Schedule) will be established. Students will be dismissed from school 15 minutes earlier than other weekdays.

- Preparing for a Subject-Based Teacher System

As part of the transition to a subject-based teacher system, a home economics instructor will be assigned to the upper grades.

Month

Date	Day	Event	After-school
1	W	Arigato no Kai (G6), 4 periods	—
2	Th		—
3	F		—
4	Sa		—
5	Su		—
6	M	Committees	—
7	Tu	Parent-Teacher Conf. (G1-G3) 15:00	—
8	W	G5 Music Assembly, G6 Send-Off Assembly Parent-Teacher Conf. (G4- G6, 5 th period) 15:00	—
9	Th	Student Assembly	—
10	F	Kindergarten Visitors (G1)	—
11	Sa		—
12	Su		—
13	M	Clubs	—
14	Tu		—
15	W		—
16	Th	Music Assembly (Term 3 Song)	—
17	F	PTA General Meeting	—
18	Sa		—
19	Su		—
20	M		—
21	Tu	Vernal Equinox	—
22	W	School lunch ends Graduation Rehearsal (G5/6)	—
23	Th	Graduation Ceremony (G5/6 only)	—
24	F	Closing Ceremony	—
25	Sa	Spring Break	—
26	Su		—
27	M		—
28	Tu		—
29	W		—
30	Th		—
31	F		—

Notices

*Parent-Teacher Conferences

The parent-teacher conferences will be held in the individual classrooms. The conferences will begin at 15:00 on Tuesday the 7th for Grades 1 – 3 and Wednesday the 8th for Grades 4 and 6. Grade 5 will have their conference on Wednesday the 8th at 14:00 in the gym.

*Human Rights Day

Human Rights Day will be on Monday the 20th. The lunch for that day will be handmade nikuman and corn soup from China.

*Graduation Ceremony

The Graduation Ceremony will be Thursday, March 23. There will be no school for Grades 1 – 4 on that day.

*Closing Ceremony

The Closing Ceremony for Grades 1 – 5 will be Friday, March 24. Report cards will be distributed on this day. Please look at the reports cards together and talk about your children's improvements over the year. Grade 6 will not have school on this day.

Educational Counselling

March's Goal

"Let's Wrap Up the Year!"

Naomi Naito
Educational Counsellor

It's March, and only 20 days of school remain for the academic year. The time for students to leave their familiar classroom and classmates is coming soon

If you look at this as 20 more chances to grow up a little or make memories with your friends, you will notice a change in how you see the Graduation and Closing Ceremonies. The end of the year is where one can feel the significant results of their efforts.

Everything that has happened over the past year – thoughts, realizations, achievements – was a lesson learned. The faculty will instruct and encourage the students to look back on the past year and connect these lessons with the next academic year.

Graduation

6-1 Yoshiyasu Tabei
6-2 Norihiko Saito

There are 16 days left until the graduation ceremony, and the students continue to grow each day. We hope the children will treasure their remaining time here.

While looking forward to graduation, the students are reviewing their studies over the past 6 years and wrapping up their final lessons.

In the second term,

- the students took pictures and began making their graduation album.

In February,

- they spent most of the month polishing their 650-character graduation essay.

In March,

- the students will host the Arigato no Kai with the faculty, staff, and family that have taken care of them during elementary school.
- they will perform an ensemble for Grades 1 to 5 at the Grade 6 Send-Off Party. They will also pass on the representative duty of taking care of the school flag on to Grade 5.

Then, for the graduation ceremony on Thursday, March 24,

- their efforts will turn to confidence and they will graduate with pride.

Growing Up

1-1 Misa Kawakami
1-2 Aino Yagisawa
1-3 Hirotaka Ishino

In April, the Grade 1 students arrived with brand new *randoseru* bags, anxious and excited for their new school life. Now it is already March, the tulips are in bloom, the days are warmer, and the children will soon be in Grade 2.

The students have been so happy to share their accomplishments with us over the year, like writing neatly, jumping over the vault box, and being able to play the melodica.

We are very proud to see how they are enjoying their studies, playing with classmates, and participating in events and how they are giving their best in everything they do. We will cherish each and every day as we wrap up their studies so that they can start the second year with confidence.



International Assembly

1 ねん

"From Head to Toe"

Grade 1 shared with energetic movements their favorite foods and what they want to improve in international studies. They danced and sang the song "Super Potato" in a cute way, which they had so much fun practicing.



2 ねん

"The Very Hungry Caterpillar"

The students presented how the amount of food the hungry caterpillar ate increased as the days changed. For the finale, they turned into butterflies, spread their wings, and flew away.



3 ねん

"We Love Minato City"

Grade 3 presented about what they had learned about Minato City from social studies field trips and integrated studies. They used gestures and an interactive quiz to engage the audience in their performance.



4 ねん

"Looking Back and Looking Forward"

Grade 4 students thought about what they wanted to be and shared their ideas with gestures. They presented in loud, clear voices at a pace that was easy to follow.



5 ねん

"Here! Anpanman!"

To familiarize themselves with several English sentences, they performed a read-aloud play based on "Doraemon." Saying lines and singing songs in English that they often hear in the cartoon naturally made them more enthusiastic!



6 ねん

"Our Best Memories"

Grade 6 reflected on the six years they spent at Higashimachi Elementary School. They created their own script, with each group presenting memories of each grade.



