



## A Pollen-Free Season

Principal Yuichi Hashimoto

As reported in the media, the amount of pollen from the cedar and cypress trees was high this year, and many children complained of itchy eyes and runny noses on their way to school in the morning. However, complaints such as those have seemed to quiet down. It seems that the hay fever season is over. I was one of those who suffered from hay fever this year, but I finally feel relieved.

After the Opening Ceremony, the Entrance Ceremony, and the Meet-and-Greet for Grade 1, April has come to an end. The school year is off to a good start. Morning greetings on the way to school are more enthusiastic than in previous years. This may be due to the fact that more and more children are not wearing masks.

Although we no longer have health cards for children to fill out every day, we would like you to check on the health of your children every morning as you did before. If you feel that your child is not feeling well, please refrain from sending them to school.

## May's Goals

Let's pay attention to the words we use!

Date	Day	Events	After-school
1	M	Committees ②	—
2	Tu	Farewell Ceremony	—
3	W	Constitution Day	—
4	Th	Greenery Day	—
5	F	Children's Day	—
6	Sa		—
7	Su		—
8	M	Sports Day special schedule begins, Clubs ②	—
9	Tu	Physical exam (G4, G5)	—
10	W	4 periods	—
11	Th	P.E. Assembly, Sports Day practice, Follow-up urine test (if requested), Physical exam (G2, G3)	—
12	F	Student meeting for Sports Day ① (G5, G6)	—
13	Sa		—
14	Su		—
15	M	Vision test (G1 ①)	—
16	Tu	Sports Day practice, Vision test (G1 ②), School trustees meeting, Heart exam (for absentees)	—
17	W	Second follow-up urine test (if requested)	—
18	Th	Music assembly, Sports Day practice	—
19	F	Sports Day preparation, Student meeting for Sports Day ② (G5, G6)	—
20	Sa	Sports Day, bring lunch	—
21	Su	Substitute Sports Day	—
22	M	Substitute holiday	—
23	Tu	Evacuation drill	—
24	W	Vision test (G2 ①)	—
25	Th	Student assembly, Vision test (G2 ②, G3 ①)	—
26	F	Vision test (G3 ②)	—
27	Sa		—
28	Su		—
29	M	Committees ③, OJT starts, Vision test (G5)	—
30	Tu	Excursion (G1), ENT exam (G5, G6)	—
31	W	4 periods	

Please check your grade newsletters for dismissal times.

## Notices

### **Evacuation Drill**

May's evacuation drill will practice how to respond to a big earthquake. Students will use the evacuation routes from the classroom to the schoolyard.

### **Human Rights Day**

This month's Human Rights Day is Wednesday the 31<sup>st</sup>. Lunch for that day will be jambalaya and hearty chicken noodle soup from the United States.

### **Lunch Fee Withdrawal**

Starting this year, lunch fees will be processed as a public account.

Details about lunch fee withdrawal days and amounts will be provided by the Minato City Board of Education.

### **Newsletters**

In an effort to reduce paper waste and the amount of things children take home, from May the school newsletter, grade newsletter, and school lunch newsletter will be available digitally on the school's website, where they can also be downloaded for personal use. Those who wish to receive a paper version of any newsletters may contact their child's classroom teacher.

### **Sports Day Practice**

The Sports Day special schedule will be in use from Monday the 8<sup>th</sup> to Saturday the 20<sup>th</sup>. Please check the schedule often as it is different than the original schedule. Also, the students will be practicing more, and they are more likely to sweat afterwards, so please have them bring a small towel and water bottle to school.

## Learning in the ESC Program

EST Yumiko Minowa

As of now, there are 17 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.

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.

### **Applying for Smile Room and Special Assistance**

Higashimachi has hosted the special Smile Room classes for students who are concerned about their studies as well as their school life. Also, parents may apply for the on-going program that assigns a special instructor to join their child's class and offer individual assistance if they wish to do so (beginning in the second term of 2023).

New applicants for the Smile Room or the individual support teacher should consult your child's classroom teacher, our school nurse, or the Vice Principal by **Wednesday, May 10**.