

The International Assembly

Head of International Studies Shuuichi Yamasaki

It is time once again for our school to hold the International Assembly, in which the students make a presentation from their international studies class.

Each class will be presenting to the other grades, and due to the increase in student numbers we will be unable to provide reserved seating for parents and family members at the event. It is however still possible to attend and observe from behind the student seating area. We request your cooperation in giving viewing priority to the parents and family members whose children are performing at the time.

Date, Time, Location

February 7 (Tue) In the Gymnasium

3rd Period (10:45 ~ 11:30)

1-A, 2-1, 3-1, 4-1, 5-1, 6-1

4th Period (11:35 ~ 12:20)

1-B, 2-2, 3-2, 4-2, 5-2, 6-1

Program

Grade 1 "To the Zoo"

Grade 2 "The Hundred-Story House"

Grade 3 "The Big Turnip"

Grade 4 "Try Everything"

Grade 5 "Japanese Holidays"

Grade 6 "World Rankings"

Jump Rope Competition

Head of the JRC Hiroshi Kurokawa

The school's Jump Rope Competition for this year is scheduled for February 21 (Tue). Every day, students can be seen practicing on the school grounds. Some are practicing individually with their friends counting their jumps for them. Some are practicing in groups, keeping time by chanting together. Whether individually or in groups, all the students are practicing hard and giving it their best.

In the December PE assembly, the grade 6 students demonstrated the various jump rope techniques that are included in the competition. The demonstration began with simple techniques, such as the forward and reverse jumps. By showing off more advanced techniques, such as the difficult *hayabusa*, the on-looking students' excitement grew as they became eager to start practicing.

Students set goals for themselves in the individual jump rope challenges, and they have been working hard at accomplishing them. In order to improve their class records, the students have had to communicate and cooperate together, fostering deeper bonds of friendship along the way. One of the charms of the Jump Rope Competition is how it encourages the growth of individuals and groups.

In the end, the Jump Rope Competition is an opportunity for the students to have fun while doing physical activities.

Fire and Smoke Inhalation Awareness

Head of Evacuation Drills Miku Kobayashi

On January 20th, the school conducted an emergency evacuation drill that simulated the contingency of a fire in the teacher's office. Afterwards, the 1st, 2nd, 4th, and 5th graders had the opportunity to enter an artificial "tent house," created by the fire department, to simulate what smoky conditions may be like during an actual fire, and to practice the proper response to such a situation. With vision obscured by thick clouds of white smoke, it took considerable time to walk even the shortest route through the room. Exclamations of "I couldn't see!" and "I was scared to walk!" could be heard from the students emerging from their smoky trial.

It is said that in the event of a fire, the smoke is more dangerous than the flames themselves. Indeed, there are far more victims of smoke inhalation than anything else in fire related incidents. This emergency evacuation drill was different than previous cases, as it provided a unique and important experience by demonstrating the dangers of smoke during a fire.

Education Consultation

School Counselor Nobuko Arai

Every week on Tuesday, Ms. Arai, and every Friday, Mr. Nagao, have been visiting the school as counselors this year. During break times and after school, we are always willing to discuss matters of friendship, family, study, and any other concerns students may have. Working as a counselor always feels rewarding, as students tend to leave with smiles on their faces after having a chance to take a break from everyday life and talk to someone who can listen to all their worries and troubles. At times, we work together to think of solutions to problems. Especially in cases involving trouble between friends, the students themselves play an important part in finding solutions, and then work with their teachers as well to resolve things. As adults, it can be easy to assume these issues are no big deal, but in a child's world such troubles can feel like very serious matters, and so it is necessary to deal with them as such. Of course, as adults we must be cautious of going too far ahead and interfering too much, as it can stifle growth of a child's willingness and desire to resolve situations.

At times, parents and family members will visit us to talk as well. If there is anything about your child's development, whether behavioral or emotional, that you wish to discuss, please feel at ease to consult with us. In the event that you would like to arrange a meeting, please contact either your child's homeroom teacher, the school nurse (Ms. Yamagishi), or the vice principal of the school, and they will assist you in making an appointment.