

## Minato City Combined Sports Event

6-1 Shizuka Muramatsu

6-2 Hiroshi Kurokawa

We were worried about the weather, but on October 24<sup>th</sup> (Tues) the Minato City Combined Sports Event was held at Yumeno Stadium.

Strength was gained through morning practice and practicing during P.E. class.

They all really got their legs pumping at the very official looking facility for running in the 100 m dash. The students looked a little nervous, being their first time in such a large arena, but when it was their turn to run they all gave it their best and all the practice payed off.

Also, they did their best to cheer on their classmates while running. They worked together as one.

They showed proper Higashimachi ES attitude by giving it their all. It was a satisfying Combined Sports Event.



## 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade

3-1 Shūichi Yamasaki

3-2 Naoko Murakami

Science, social studies, integrated studies and small group math classes begin from 3<sup>rd</sup> grade.

Science is studied by investigating nature and looking for differences to compare. Also by experimenting, they learned many skills, such as: asking questions, making predictions, experimenting, organizing results, and making conclusions.

In social studies, through neighborhood studies, they summarized the characteristics of Higashimachi's neighborhood. Also through the supermarket field trip, they learned about store keepers' efforts and ideas.

During integrated studies, students learned the flow of study first, topics are set and materials are gathered, organized, and presented. In the first term they studied about Minato City's special characteristics. In term 2 they learned about the world and international understanding.

Teaching in small group math classes, takes away barriers and classes 1 and 2 are mixed. Students can be seen learning and teaching one another. It's very useful for teaching because classes are regularly changed, so the two home room teachers and small group math teacher cooperate and understand all of the students.

It is almost the end of the term. We will make sure each of the children have a feeling of achievement and accomplishment by the end of the term of study.

## "What is musical growth?"

Music Teacher Keiichi Hatanaka

When I was a college student, my composer teacher asked me a question "Mr. Hatanaka, if you could say what 'musical growth' is in one word, what do you think it would be?"

If you were to say "musical growth," it makes one think of many different areas of musical activities, like singing and instruments. If it is singing, then the answer would be singing in the correct pitch with a wide range of sound. If it were musical instrument performance, then of course it would be the ability to move one's fingers quickly and having a sense of rhythm. If it were all of these things together then how would we summarize in one word musical growth? I was stumped. I could not answer the teacher's question.

My teacher told me, "The answer is 'being able to hear what you could not hear before.'" Clearly that is it. I was convinced. Your ears do not get better physically; but, by improving one's musical skills, experience increases and the sounds you did not notice before become apparent. Recently, I have felt this is not only true for music but also for personal growth as well. When one has a goal, they give their best efforts to improve. I think in doing so one does not only gain skill but the way one looks at things and thinks about them gain a better understanding. Musical growth and personal growth are the same process. While supporting daily lessons in musical growth, I want to watch over the children's personal growth.

## International Studies

International Studies Leader Shūichi Yamasaki

Beginning in 2002 (H. 14), Minato City began incorporating English language into public schools. In 2007 (H. 19), classes conducted in English were given the title of "International Studies," and to facilitate these classes a "Native Teacher" (NT) was assigned to each school to begin English instruction. One special characteristic of Minato City is the effort that it puts into English language classes that are held twice a week.

In addition to our schools implementation of the International Program, the international course continues to use "proficiency-based learning." Depending on the students' English skills, we are working to improve their English communication abilities.

In class, they learn the English target sentence of the day. They practice speaking full English sentences and not just the vocabulary.

Also there are many foreign students at our school, so during morning assemblies, the lunch broadcast, and classroom greetings, there are many situations where English can be heard and spoken.

Increasing English vocabulary is important to improving communication skills, but there are many countries, each with their own cultures, and it is important to know their differences and teach international understanding. We want to encourage the growth of the students who can one day take to the world stage, and to that end, efforts are always being made to give students the ability to mutually recognize, agree, and accept others despite differences.