

## Nature

It has become a beautiful season of new green leaves as the petals of the cherry blossoms fall in the gentle breeze. It's been a new month since the new semester has begun and each class are showing signs of adjusting to their new teacher.

When I dropped by the fifth grader's Japanese class, they were studying "the seasonal words from Spring to Summer" in order to create "Haiku" poems. I am happy to live in a country like Japan where there are four distinct seasons which can be expressed in a variety of expressions in the Japanese language. Just by reading a word, people can imagine the scenery and feeling of each season. In addition, when the season changes, nature can inspire one's senses, rejuvenate the body, encourage one to challenge oneself, change one's perspective and calm one down, all at the same time! In particular, the month of 'Satsuki (May)' is the season which provides the strength of life through foliage and it feels like its energy is being sent through my whole body.

Japan as a country is facing very serious issues right now and this is uncomfortable knowledge for many people. However, I believe it is important to take time out and observe the nature that surrounds us. Calming ourselves by observing nature and receiving its power and energy should help us find the solution to the next step.

The March earthquake has not only taught children not to underestimate the power of nature, but also shown adults the need to teach people to coexist with nature, especially in this lively season.

Right now, students can find many forms of life in the school grounds. New buds, tadpoles, killifish and mud snails are in the bio tope, and the sweet scents of freesia and bright yellow dandelions in the school garden. I really hope that the students enjoy the moment and live their lives to the fullest.

### Our School Newsletter is now published in English!

From next year, Higashimachi ES will incorporate an international class. Preparations are under way this year, and an English version of the school newsletter is one such step of this transition. The school newsletter is translated by our ALT instructors and then proof-read by our native teachers. You can find the English version of the school newsletter on both the bulletin board near the school front gate and the school website. It could be interesting to compare the Japanese and English versions. Please enjoy!

Ms. Atsuko Shinozaki (Principal)

## May Schedule

Day		Events etc.	After School
1	Sun		
2	Mon		Gr. 4 - 6
3	Tue	Constitution Day	
4	Wed	Greenery Day (Day of Midori)	
5	Thu	Children's Day	
6	Fri	Safety Guidance, Rice Planting (Gr. 5)	Gr. 2 - 6
7	Sat	Japanese Cultural Studies #2	x
8	Sun		
9	Mon	Fire Drill, Parent-Teacher Interviews, Collection of the containers for Urine Test	Gr. 4 - 6
10	Tue	Eyesight Exam (Gr. 1 - 3)	Gr. 3 - 6
11	Wed	Eyesight Exam (Gr. 4 - 6), Heart Exam, Sketching class at fire station	x
12	Thu	Parent-Teacher Interviews, Dental check-up (Gr. 1 - 6)	Gr. 4 - 6
13	Fri	Community meeting	Gr. 2 - 6
14	Sat		
15	Sun		
16	Mon	Health check-up for School Trip (Gr. 6)	Gr. 4 - 6
17	Tue	School Trip to Hakone (Gr. 6)	Gr. 3 - 5
18	Wed	School Trip to Hakone (Gr. 6)	x
19	Thu	School Trip to Hakone (Gr. 6) School Lunch with parents	Gr. 4 - 5
20	Fri	School Trip to Hakone (Gr. 6)	Gr. 4 - 5
21	Sat		
22	Sun		
23	Mon		Gr. 4 - 6
24	Tue	Ear & Nose Exam, School Lunch w/ 'family' members	Gr. 3 - 6
25	Wed		x
26	Thu	Committee meeting, Eye Exam (Gr. 1-6)	Gr. 4 - 6
27	Fri	Field Trip (Gr. 1 - 6)	x
28	Sat	Japanese Cultural Studies #3	x
29	Sun		
30	Mon	School Route Inspection	Gr. 4 6
31			Gr. 3 6

## School Goal for May



School Guidance Counselor:

"Let's be more creative to enjoy school life"

Follow the rules when playing with your friends.