



## Completing the Small Tasks in Front of Us

Head teacher: Atsushi Ebara

I came across the following passage while reading some study notes a 4<sup>th</sup> year student took (I have shortened it a little):

‘When I was returning to the classroom after cleaning time, I saw a member of the school lunch staff coming to tidy up the lunch wagon. Then I realised that person was tidying up the used milk cartons. Tidying up the used milk cartons, which had fallen over, was not this person’s task. However, they realised that if they didn’t do it, someone else would have to. I thought that we can all behave like this if we think about it, and we can all help each other out by not leaving small tasks for other people to do. From now on, I will put my used milk carton back neatly.’

I was very impressed by this comment so I praised the student that wrote it. Actually, when you think about it, our lives are made up of these kinds of small things. When they build up they lead to big things. The Japanese baseball player Ichiro said that setting a new record is a collection of small things which when stacked together lead to something great.

We want to raise children that think in this way at our school. It would be impossible to do this without the help and support of the parents and members of the local community.

Thank you for your unwavering cooperation this year.

### Notifications regarding temporary closure:

- 1 Period - March 2<sup>nd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup>
  - Spring vacation: March 26<sup>th</sup> to April 5<sup>th</sup>
- 2 Communication through this period:
  - Most messages and notifications will be sent over the mail system or put on the home page.
  - Newsletters will be posted using the above method.
- 3 What to take home:
  - For safety reasons we have tried to limit the amount of things the children need to take home. Things that can be kept at the school will be done so and will be used in April. Homeroom teachers will contact you if anything needs to be bought or replenished.
- 4 Lunch money refund:
  - 6<sup>th</sup> years and transferring students will be refunded.
  - Other students will have their next payments adjusted.
- 5 Study during temporary closure and vacation:
  - Amount depends on school year and class, so please be aware there will be differences in how much work students get.
  - There will be some homework on topics that the students have not covered yet. Please help your child do it to the best of their ability, but do not worry if it is too difficult. We will follow up with it in the next school year.
- 6 School events:
  - All events except for the graduation ceremony have been cancelled (including parents meetings)
  - Please await further information regarding the graduation ceremony
  - Report cards will be given out next term (6<sup>th</sup> years will be given soon – await further confirmation)
  - Every year we ask the new 6<sup>th</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> year students to come early to prepare for the new school year. We will contact you about this soon.
  - Please await further information regarding the Enrollment Ceremony.
- 7 Staying safe during time off school:
  - Check the notification we handed out already.
  - To prevent infection from corona virus please refrain from going out as best as you can.

School staff will be away during the following times:

(Weekdays) 18 : 00 ~ 7 : 30

(Holidays) (Sat•Sun•Public Holidays•School holidays)

(Spring holiday) 16 : 45 ~ 8 : 15

Please be aware we do not operate a message system

Main events next term (Dates are correct as of now):

**Opening Ceremony / Enrollment Ceremony: Monday 6<sup>th</sup> of April**

**Parents Meeting: 1/2/3 Thu 16<sup>th</sup> April 4/5/6 Fri 17<sup>th</sup> April Wakakusa Mon 20<sup>th</sup> April**

**Sports Day: Sat May 30<sup>th</sup> Open Day / School meeting Sat 20<sup>th</sup> / Tue 23<sup>rd</sup> June**

More details regarding events will be given out in the Parents Meetings in April



~ From the Classroom (Upper Years) ~



**6<sup>th</sup> years**

(Teacher: )

In this last year at elementary school, it was also our first time to split into two classes. The combination of splitting into two classes and the pressure of being the oldest year group in the school made us quite nervous at the start of the school year. However, our students grew into their roles and did a great job leading the school in different events, and were more than suitable leaders for the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary events. I was so moved by everyone's serious faces during the Sports Day event, and I will never forget the beautiful scenery we saw in Tateyama and the fantastic music we made at the School Recital event. I would like to thank every student for making this year a very memorable one for you. Thank you!

**Wakakusa 6<sup>th</sup> year**

(Teacher: )

We have been really busy at this closing point of the 6<sup>th</sup> year. Now we are getting ready for our final events at the school, and the students are busy writing their graduation essays. The students seem very serious and motivated to finish off their time at elementary school on a high. To relieve the children from this pressure we sometimes go up to the rooftop garden for some sunshine, enjoy feeding out class turtle and we generally make the most of our free time. I feel very relieved when I see the children release the tension inside them and relax. Let's get ready for and enjoy the graduation ceremony from now on.

**5<sup>th</sup> years**

(Teacher: )

This year we have spent a lot of time wondering what it means to be in one of the two oldest year groups at the school. Over the course of the year the children have definitely grown into their roles and now they are very reliable members of our school. Now, after sending off the current 6<sup>th</sup> years, we are going to be the oldest year group at the school. However, we are still full of beans and enjoying our school lives as normal! Let's continue enjoying our school lives, while remembering there's only one month left until we become the oldest year group!

**Wakakusa 5<sup>th</sup> years**

(Teacher: )

Since becoming members of the oldest year group we have been taking care of the younger year groups and playing key roles in school committee meetings. This year has been one in which the children have done lots of things by themselves! In the farewell school trip on the 7<sup>th</sup> of February we were the leaders of the groups and encouraged and guided the children younger than us. Now we are getting ready for the farewell events in March, so we can say goodbye to our friends in the 6<sup>th</sup> year. What reliable members of the school we are!

**4<sup>th</sup> years**

(Teacher: )

This year has been one of building up to entering the top year group. We have been telling the students that they have to be role models to their younger peers and that we have to teach and lead the 3<sup>rd</sup> years in the same way that we were taught and led last year! The children have gradually become more and more able to do this. This year we have had lots of excursions where we could meet people and see things in action. The children learnt to be grateful to the people in society that help our lives go smoothly. The children not only showed appreciation to those around them, but also showed the ability to talk out, and solve problems together.

**Wakakusa 4<sup>th</sup> years**

(Teacher: )

This year has gone by so quickly! We met new friends this year and made many new relationships! Every child has able to shine and show their strengths. The children developed and expressed themselves in different events this year, including Sports Day, the School Recital and the mixed class activities. From April we will become members of the older year group. We will have jobs in the committee, and be given more roles around the school. Let's continue shining and developing and becoming more confident in ourselves!



《Newsletter Editor》

Thank you for reading the newsletter this year. I hope it gave you a feel of our school and the events we hold. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you notice anything or would like to give any feedback.

(Editor)

☆Networks and Preparations ☆ (Lifestyle guidance leader: )

Thank you for your help and support with our activities this year. Through our monthly disaster drills, the children have been learning how to protect themselves in the event of a disaster occurring. Let's not forget that next month will be the 9<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Tohoku Earthquake, and this year we had a lot of damage from typhoons. Please do remember to talk with your families and the people in your neighborhood about what you will do if a disaster occurs. Establishing networks and making preparations are essential in effective disaster planning. We cannot predict when disasters will happen. Therefore it is important to talk about what you and your family will do in different situations and to make preparations accordingly.

Please check our homepage:

<http://www.shinjuku.ed.jp/es-higashitoyama/>

The newsletter will be posted in other languages on the school homepage.