

# 互山

Toyama Elementary School

## Turning Challenges into Chances!

Head teacher – Toshio Yurino

The buds of the cherry blossoms by the east gate are starting to appear, spring is coming and there is only one month left of this school year. This year started with the postponement of our school activities in March, and for over one year our school has been battling with the corona virus in many different ways.

Although all of our measures have been taken with the safety of the children in mind, lots of our educational activities have been cancelled or postponed, and there have been lots of changes to circumstances and things that we have asked you all to endure. We are sorry to have put everyone through this.

This year, one of the main reasons we were able to continue providing education to the children was because of the support we received from the PTA, the local community and the parents. We were able to keep going because of the supportive atmosphere you all help to create around the school. Please allow me to thank you all once more.

This year I have felt that, by dealing with the virus and putting up with the preventative measures in place, the children have developed and grown in many ways! In terms of their studies, the children have shown the ability to stay calm and work hard on their tasks, hold their own opinions, and show enjoyment in having discussion with their friends, all while adhering to the new rules we have in place. In terms of their 'school life skills', I have noticed more children being able to exchange greetings with one another and also with the people they meet in our neighborhood, even though they we all have to wear masks! Not only that, I have noticed the children are getting better at praising one another and pointing out each other's strong points.

I strongly feel that dealing with this 'new society' that they are in will make the children be able to realise their dreams for the future. Under this current 'State of Emergency' the children have had to notice what is happening in the world around them, gather up the necessary information and think and act in the best way. This experience will definitely put them in good stead for the future and make them able to persevere in difficult situations and turn these difficulties into opportunities – in Japanese the phrase for this is 'turning a pinch into a chance'.

It is important that we tell the children that they should not just sit back, and look nonchalantly at this new society, they have to live in it, grow in it, and continue to work hard in it and achieve their dreams!

For us, the school staff, there were many new experiences in this school year too. There were countless new things we had to attempt and we exchanged a lot of opinions to work out the best strategies for dealing with these new challenges. All of this was for the children and to keep the smiles on their faces. We hope to continue working hard with all of you to keep those smiles beaming next year and beyond too! Thank you for this year! Let's hope we can go back to the days when we did not have to care about this virus soon, just as the lyrics to this spring song remind us

♪春よ来い、早く来い、あるきはじめて、みいちゃん  
が、赤い鼻緒のじよじよ(草履)はいて、おんも(外)  
へ出たいと、待っている♪

Gyofu Souma – lyrics · Ryutaro Hirota – song

Physical Education as a part of the healthy development of children!

~ New lifestyle at the school ~

Research leader – Kaori Shibuya

The above title was the theme of our research project for the course of this year. We believe that throughout our lifetimes, in order to have a healthy and cheerful life it is important to be healthy in body and mind, and for this it is necessary to learn about keeping healthy and to put this knowledge into practice from a young age. This year, we researched how to make the most of each physical education lesson under the current circumstances we are facing. We researched how to make sure the children are getting enough exercise and how to use ICT effectively when teaching the subject. Unfortunately, this year we could not hold proper research classes with other P.E. teachers due to the virus. However we were able to share our individual research and findings, have discussions and learn from local specialists and experienced teachers. From now on too, we will continue to work hard through these research projects to make each day at the school more and more fulfilling for the children.



# Our 6 years at the school

## From the 6<sup>th</sup> year students

### \* Memories from the 1<sup>st</sup> year \*

In our first year at the school we remember the 6<sup>th</sup> year students being really kind to us. In the School Recital we performed 'Kujira-Gumo'. We did the play in front of a lot of people, so we were very nervous!

### \* Memories from the 2<sup>nd</sup> year \*

The trip to Shinagawa Aquarium was one of the most memorable events from the 2<sup>nd</sup> year. We enjoyed looking at the fish and sea creatures, many of which we had seen for the first time, and the dolphin show!

### \* Memories from the 3<sup>rd</sup> year \*

This was the first time for us to change classes! We were happy to make new friends! At Sports Day we danced to 'Irotoridori'. It was an energetic dance and difficult to memorise, but we had a lot of fun!

### \* Memories from the 4<sup>th</sup> year \*

School Committee started this year. Some of us joined the Planning Committee. We planned pupil meetings and the 6<sup>th</sup> year Farewell Party. We also remember making posters and charity collection.

### \* Memories from the 5<sup>th</sup> year \*

This year we had a more active role in the School Committee. We worked hard along with the 6<sup>th</sup> years. We went to Megami Lake on our first overnight trip. Making butter and dancing in the candle fire were very fun memories!

### \* Memories from the 6<sup>th</sup> year \*

This year we had the Sports Festival. It was hot so the practice was tough, especially the poses when we had to squat down! But, on the day of the Festival we pulled off a great performance, we were so pleased!

There were many days we could not go to the school this year, but when we could go we were so happy to see the warm, smiling faces of the teachers. We could enjoy our final year of elementary school.

### School Life Targets for March

#### Let's look over this year

- Look over this year and get ready for the next one!
- Prepare all the equipment you need for next year!

## Events in March

1	M	6 <sup>th</sup> period classes (2 ~ 6)
2	T	
3	W	5 <sup>th</sup> period classes
4	T	
5	F	Farewell to 6 <sup>th</sup> years! Parent's Meeting – 1/2/3
6	S	3 <sup>rd</sup> period classes
7	S	
8	M	Parent's Meeting – 4/5/6 5 <sup>th</sup> period classes
9	T	
10	W	
11	T	
12	F	Law education (5)
13	S	
14	S	
15	M	Field trip (6) 5 <sup>th</sup> period classes
16	T	Manabi – final for 3 <sup>rd</sup> term Social studies trip (3)
17	W	Greetings activities
18	T	
19	F	
20	S	
21	S	
22	M	5 <sup>th</sup> period classes
23	T	5 <sup>th</sup> period classes End of lunches Big clean up
24	W	Closing ceremony 1~5 Home time at 10:00 Graduation ceremony (rehearsal) 6 Home time at 12:15
25	T	Graduation ceremony
26	F	First day of spring vacation

\* Disaster drill will be held without prior warning, so is not included on this calendar

## Events in early April

6	Tu	Enrollment ceremony / Going up a school year ceremony / Opening ceremony
8	Th	Start of school lunches
9	F	Safety guidance Body measurements

School events, including Saturday classes, may change depending on the State of Emergency