

Notice: Our school's homepage has an English version. Please go to the Osaki town homepage.

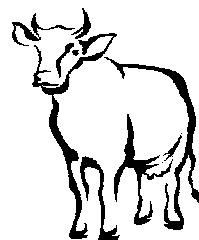
野方っこ【英語版】 Nogatakkko

Nogata Elementary school
January 14, 2009, Vol.13



Happy New Year

Happy New Year. I really appreciate all the parent's and local community's help last year. Thanks to you, it was a fruitful year. I hope all of you and our students have a good 2009.



~ Memories of Long Ago ~

Principal Koichiro Sonoda

When the new year's morning comes, I feel purer and cleaner. I always remember my memories of the new year as a child.

It may be our custom, but my family used to work hard each year, we made rice cakes on December 28th, cleaned the house on December 29th, and put up decorative pine trees at the gate on December 30th.

The day of making rice cakes, we kindled a fire in our stove early in the morning. Steam would rise from the boiled rice around the house. We would hear the sound of somebody pounding boiled rice, then making rice cakes one after another.

Everyone from the neighborhood would gather, and help out in making the rice cakes. Some would boil the rice, some would pound it, and others would shape them into round cakes.

We kids would always enjoyed sticking our hand inside the basket and eat the leftover rice cakes.

On New Year's Eve, we took a bath earlier than usual. A little later, we would have a very nice dinner(it was always sukiyaki)that we usually didn't have.

(Though I've forgotten how old I was, I remember being more sad than happy, The chicken used in the sukiyaki was one that I had raised since it was a chick. Because of that I couldn't eat chicken for a long time.)

In the morning on New Year's Day, I woke up to the sound of somebody cooking in the kitchen. It smelled like burning rice cakes. I felt strange when I washed my face with water from a well, but also refreshed.

After having some steamed rice cakes and vegetables, I would go to school for the New Year ceremony. Although I don't remember what was said during the speech, I do recall singing the New Year song "January 1st". It went like this, "It's the beginning of the year" . . . Afterwards, we'd go home. I would play a lot of games with my friends, such as flying a kite, spinning a top, karuta, and battledore shuttlecock.

On January 2nd and 3rd, I would go with my family to see some other relatives. I always hoped to get a New Year's gift. This is such a memory that I have of long ago. I think that we've lost these traditions some time since then.

I believe this will be good year. It was calm and sunny on the morning of New Year's Day.
(Takuboku)

Cross-Country Meet ~ Never give up ~



【3rd grade kids start】

The final event of the 2nd term was the Cross-Country Meet held on Friday, December 5. There were many parents and local community members rooting for the kids. Some new records were achieved as a result of running every morning. We also really appreciate everyone helping the children cross the streets

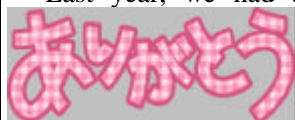
【New Records】**Congratulations !**
6th Grade:Kurumi Seto 7'35"
1st Grade:Syuka katou 3'50"

Santa Claus give the cake ~ 6th grade

On Monday, Dec. 22nd, Three sixth graders dressed up as Santa Claus and surprised the first graders with Christmas cakes. The vice principal also came along playing Christmas song on his accordion. It really felt like Christmas in the classroom. The first graders were truly surprised by the Santas. They had a great time at their last school lunch of the year.



Last year, we had a collection for old and used postcards. Many people donated post cards out of good will. Instead of discarding them, please help us collect these post cards so that we can donate them to UNESCO. Their campaign has led to the building of schools all across the world for 1.2 million children in 43 countries. We are collecting until the end of January. Please donate any postcards you may have. Thank you.



classroom. The first graders were truly surprised by the Santas. They had a great time at their last school lunch of the year.

January Goals

【Lifestyle Goal】 Watch one's language

【Health Goal】 Do not get sick

【Reading Goal】 Read many kinds of books



Awards and Congratulations ! Arts and Crafts Contest in Soh district

【Highest prize】 5th grade Natuki Ohno;
6th grade Michiyuki Maeda;

"Life with a Flower " Picture Contest

【Special】 2nd grade Daichi Ando;

【Awards】 2nd grade Takeru Kojyo;6th grade Kazuma Yamashita

Traffic Safety Poster Contest in JA

【Governor prize】 3rd grade Keiichiro Morishige;

【Silver】 1st grade Ayato Yoshidomi;6th grade Emi Yanagiharta;

【Bronze】 4th grade Takayasu Samoto;

【Honorable Mention】 2nd grade Daichi Ando;3rd grade Ryusho Moriya;

Blue Haiku Contest in Kawanabe

【Special】 5th grade Miho Fukumaru;

2008KID's Autumn Soccer Tournament (under 3rd grade) 【3rd prize】 Soh,Osaki F.C.

6th Sadaharu Oh Cup Baseball Tournament 【3rd prize】 Nogata Children's Baseball Club

4th M's Cup Baseball Tournament

【1st prize】 Nogata Children's Baseball Club

3rd Osaki Cup Baseball Tournament

【1st prize】 Nogata Children's Baseball Club

January & February School Events

The,1/8 Opening ceremony,safety patrol of school zones

Fri,1/9 School Guard Leader on Safety Patrol

Thu,1/15 Academic fundamentals test (5th grade) ~ 1/16

Fri,1/16 School visitation, PTA, Junior High Counseling Meeting

Sat,1/17 Promotion of Education Convention (8:45 Soh)

Tue,1/20 Club activities

Thu,1/22 Counseling Week ~ 1/29

Mon,1/26 School Lunch Week ~ 1/31

Tue,1/27 Club activities

Wed,1/28 School lunch payment ~ 1/30

Fri,1/30 Lecture on health at school (15:45 Nakaoki)

Fri,2/13 New Student Open House

Thu,2/19 School Festival

There was an incident of indecent exposure around the school area during winter break. Please be careful and advise your children.

