

## Our Presentations Were Done Well!!

We had the "Higashi Time Presentation" on Friday, February 17<sup>th</sup>.

Kenjiro gave a presentation about the development of the plant he grew at school, from when it was a sprout to when it bloomed and bore seeds. Yuta gave a detailed presentation with some quiz questions about the snail we had in our classroom, and about the insects living in the Onuma district. It seems like he really loves insects.

For his ingenious presentation, Seitaro interviewed Mr. Hori from the sightseeing boat company. Seitaro was very interested in the uninhabited island in Onuma. He also showed us how the lakes were made using a diorama. Hibiki used some images in his detailed presentation about Onuma's microbes. For his experiment, he raised some microbes from the lake to see if they could be used as fish food.

All the presentations were about nature and environment in Onuma, and we were all able to learn a lot about the town that we live in.

<Higashionuma ES>

## Enjoying Winter!

Thank you very much for your cooperation regarding our skiing lessons, winter recreation, and snow statue creation.

It snowed less than usual this winter, but Ikusagawa's children still enjoyed our winter events a lot. We had four skiing lessons. All of our members were able to ride a gondola and a lift to the mountaintop, and everyone was able to finish skiing down the mountain. Students had a great time and smiled a lot during our recreational winter events, which included a snowball fight, a sleigh relay, and treasure hunt. The milk from Kubota Pasture and the new menu item, the mixed stew with Chinese noodles, were also very good. Our pond smelt fishing event was blessed with good weather, so we could fish happily. We also ate tempura. We caught pond smelt!! Serious snowball fight.



Making snow statues ~Admirable Silver Award!!

<Ikusagawa ES>

## Farewell Meeting for 6th Graders



Our farewell meeting for the 6<sup>th</sup> graders was held on Thursday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>. Each grade displayed a well-designed banner that they had made for the occasion. The banners were covered in handwritten messages to encourage and thank the 6<sup>th</sup> graders.

Each grade's performance at the meeting was heart-warming and we could see how much all of our students have grown up. The 1<sup>st</sup> graders' performance was a beanbag toss with a dance. The 2<sup>nd</sup> graders entered the hall dressed as Godzilla and performed the Koi Dance. They inspired whole school to get up and do the dance as well. This picture is of Mr. Yoshida, who has a "degree" in the Koi Dance. The 6<sup>th</sup> graders' performances were game matches with the teachers. They played against the teachers in the "Wiping the Floor Race," the "Long Rope Jumping Race," and "Mental Math Competitions." It was great to see their growth when they got together through the matches. They were full of gratitude during the meeting before the 6<sup>th</sup> graders' graduation.

<Nanae ES>

## Wishing for a Challenge and for Growth

Vice-Principal Ryuji Mitani

Looking back this fulfilling year, we held lots of educational activities and joined many local events. During the school festival, all of the students gave wonderful performances. The students' steady, daily efforts led to big achievements. A lot of people were touched to see the students' great performances and to witness them trying their hardest.



The joy they feel when they collaborate with their friends is more touching and memorable than what they feel when they try on their own. When we see various student activities and presentations, we are impressed and surprised that each student has a diverse range of abilities. All terms finish today, and the students are going to start living in new circumstances. We hope that they believe in themselves, take on many challenges, and fly high in their new environments. Also, we hope that they have their own goals and dreams, and that they keep taking steps towards these.

<Suzurandani Branch S>

## School News of Nanae

# Digest No.5 Apples & Grapes

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## A Dignified Vow, Words of Farewell, and Touching Singing Voices



On March 17<sup>th</sup>, we held our 108<sup>th</sup> graduation ceremony. Our principal, Asakura, handed out the graduation certificates. The words of farewell consisted of the lower grades calling out for the 6<sup>th</sup> graders, and the 6<sup>th</sup> graders addressing their underclassmen. The choir expressed the wish for the current students take over the tradition of the school

from the graduates. The students, their parents, and the guests were moved to tears by the beautiful harmony of the choir performance. The recent graduates left a brilliant impression on our school. The people who attended the ceremony praised the graduates on their dignified attitudes and on the vows they made. We think they created a new tradition. We also want the current students to think of the graduates as their role models.

<Onakayama ES>

## Graduation Ceremony

We had our 109<sup>th</sup> graduation ceremony on March 17<sup>th</sup>. Despite looking nervous, our eight graduates received their graduation certificates from Principal Iwasaki with dignity. Superintendent Yoda and the PTA chairman gave them kind and encouraging words. Additionally, their old homeroom teachers and many other people congratulated them on their graduation.

Latter of the ceremony, the graduating students found it difficult to part with the current students. We think the graduates held six years of memories in their hearts.



With the theme of the graduation being, "Fly high above to the future," our graduates changed their mindset as departed from the school. Thank you for congratulating this moving ceremony together.

<Onuma ES>

## The 85th Graduation Ceremony Congratulations on Graduation!

On March 17<sup>th</sup>, we had our 85<sup>th</sup> graduation ceremony. With the graduation theme "Moving forward to dreams, aim for higher goals," our seventeen Fujishiro graduates kids flew high. As their parents, community members, and former underclassmen watched, the graduated students spoke of their ambitions for junior high school. They received their graduation certificates with dignity. We hope that they will be able to participate actively in junior high school as Fujishiro kids.



The current students saw off the graduates with full-hearted, powerful words and a choir. It seemed that they recalled the activities they had done with their upperclassmen, and how the 6<sup>th</sup> graders were acting in their final year of elementary school. The graduates passed the baton on to the current Fujishiro students.

<Fujishiro ES>

## Congratulations! The 70<sup>th</sup> Graduation Ceremony



Many congratulatory speeches were heartwarming made to the grade 6 graduates. Among those who made speeches were Akiteru Hoshimura, the Deputy Commissioner of Nanae Board of Education, and Jun Miura, the Chairman of PTA. The principal presented the grade 6 graduates with their diplomas. The students left for junior high schools with the congratulations of their families, their school, and their community. Thank you all so much.

<Togeshita E S>

Apples and Grapes is being issued by Nanae Board of Education to help further strengthen the relationship (between Nanae and Concord). We would like to introduce you how the schools and students in Nanae are like through this newspaper. In the 5<sup>th</sup> Apples and Grapes, we would like to tell you about the schools in February and March.

## Learning About Concord

On February 17<sup>th</sup>, our 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students learned about Concord from Ms. Anna in the school gymnasium.

Concord is generally known as the site of the "Battle of Lexington and Concord," which was the first battle to break out during the War of Independence. Ms. Anna also taught about Concord's history, nature, food, culture, historical structures, amusements, well-known persons, school life, etc. The students had a good time taking quizzes that covered many topics about Concord. To their surprise, they were able to understand a lot of Ms. Anna's English. In the Thoreau School Library, we can enjoy an exhibit about Japan and find lots of information on Nanae. When you get the chance to visit America, you should stop off at Concord.



<Onakayama JHS>

## Ceremony of the Entrance into Oonuma J.H.S.'s Alumni Association The 69<sup>th</sup> graduation ceremony

On Tuesday, March 6<sup>th</sup>, we held the Ceremony of the Entrance into the Alumni Association. The members totaled 4,678, including the graduates of this school year. At the ceremony, the chairman Sanka gave a hearty speech, during which he said that one should make good use of one's time to lead a full life. After that, the representative of the Alumni Association, Takumi Takashima, made a fresh resolution to the new members entering into the Alumni Association.



On Wednesday, March 15<sup>th</sup>, the 69<sup>th</sup> graduation ceremony was held under a cloudless blue sky. In a solemn atmosphere, all students, including the graduates, attended the ceremony with dignified attitudes worthy of Oonuma J.H.S. They showed dignity through their greetings and politeness, as well as during the farewell speech, the address in reply, and the anniversary chorus.



After the ceremony, the graduates going through the arch left the nest with many smiles and tears. We all hope that the graduates will find their own paths and pursue their dreams successfully.

<Onuma JHS>

## I wish the graduates good luck on the start of their new lives

I am most grateful for the support and cooperation given this year

Principal Mikihiko Adachi

On Wednesday, March 15<sup>th</sup>, we held our 70<sup>th</sup> graduation ceremony. Many guests, parents, and people of the district were in attendance. The graduates displayed admirable attitudes during the reception of their diplomas, the farewell speech, the address in reply, and the chorus. At the last minute, the ceremony's location was changed to the civic center of Nanae. The students showed remarkable adaptability in the face of this change, and that surprised me. I saw their dependability in a new light. I don't know how to thank you enough.



Recently, we held our end of the year ceremony. The 1<sup>st</sup> grade students grew up greatly during the year. They admirably mentored the class of incoming students, sharing their knowledge and experience with their new underclassmen. 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students will move up to the 3<sup>rd</sup> and final grade of junior high school. After the graduation ceremony, it is said that students are very determined to make the ceremony more moving next year. I wish every student good luck on their new starts. I am most grateful for your deep understandings and the warm support you have given to our educational activities this year.

<Nanae JHS>