



# 翔鷹

Japanese School of Abu Dhabi School Newsletter

2025  
January  
10<sup>th</sup>

## Happy New Year!!

Principle Satoshi Kanda

Happy New Year! I hope you are having a happy and successful New Year.

On January 8, the students' voices sounded in the school building. Before the winter break, I told the students to think about their "Dreams and Goals" for the year 2025. At the opening ceremony, I told them that I wanted them to confirm their "Dreams and Goals" with their friends in each class and do their best for the year. Finally, I told them about my own goals.

"I set my goal to say thank you at least 10 times a day. This is so that I will always remember to say thank you. I am very happy that everyone came to school today in good spirits. Thank you very much. Thank you for listening to me until the end. Thanks to you, I was able to say thank you twice today."

After the opening ceremony, I walked by two G1 students tending to their flower garden and asked them how they were doing. I thanked the two students for their detailed explanations.

"Thank you for explaining everything in detail,"

The girl said.

"Ah, the third one!"

It was an unexpected reply, but I immediately recognized it and said with a smile.

"You listened to me very carefully at the opening ceremony. I am very happy that you remember me. I appreciate it."

The smile on the girl's face when she said, "My fourth one!"

That day was a memorable day for me because of the smiling faces of the girls.

I hope that every day this year, all 70 students will continue to show their individual strengths and develop their own sensitivity in their daily educational activities.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

### A G9 student's essay was selected for Honorable Mention in the 49th "Small Kindness" Essay Contest.

Even if people turn their backs on me...

"Your small kindness can be a big bother to other people."

Perhaps because of these words, I used to be afraid of being kind to others. No, I was not afraid of being kind to others, but I was afraid of doing something different from others. What changed me was the environment of "Abu Dhabi".

I came to Abu Dhabi as soon as I entered junior high school. I felt anxious and scared, like I was alone on a dark, unlit road. But it was my friends who helped me. She talked to me many times

every day. Thanks to this small act of kindness, I was able to escape from the dark road. Just living day by day brightened my horizons.

One day, I felt the value of a small kindness. It was when I returned to Japan for a short time.

It was April, when the cherry blossoms were just beginning to bloom. I was riding the train. A woman in her 70s got on the train. I was sitting in the seat, so I decided to give her my seat. As soon as I did so, I said, "Hi, please have a seat."

It did not take long for these words to come from my mouth. But the moment I said the words, I could see that everyone nearby looked at me. I had never felt that way before, and it scared me. As I was thinking, "I used to hate it when this happened to me...(Everyone looking me)" the woman sitting in my seat and she said smily, kindly and warmly, Thank you."

I was feeling ashamed of myself for worrying about giving up my seat. And the woman said the same thing to me "Thank you" when she got off the train. I felt very proud. I was glad that I had the courage to be kind to people. Later, I looked out the train window and saw the first blooming pink, which was more beautiful than any other color.

"Your small kindness can be a big bother to other people."

But the joy I feel when people are pleased with my work cannot be described. But the small kindnesses my friends have done for me have made it possible for me to be kind to others.

I think many people are reluctant to act in a kind or different way. It is very important to have the courage to overcome the cold eye they may receive for their actions. When you have that courage, you are one step closer to kindness.

Even if people turn their backs on me, I still want to have the courage to stand up to them.

## **Desert Activities December 11<sup>th</sup>**

One of our unique events was the desert activity. The activities included sandboarding, sledding, fire making, marshmallow baking, and science experiments. In the fire-making activity, in particular, the students showed initiative in thinking and working together. Prior to the activity, the students had a strategy meeting in vertical groups of all grades, and as they discussed their opinions, the older students took the lead in organizing the discussion, which showed the interaction and growth of the students beyond their grade level. In the beginning of the event, there were times when the fire did not start well, but the students called out to each other and worked together without giving up until the end, and all teams succeeded in making a fire. The children roasted marshmallows on the fire they had built and enjoyed scientific experiments, all with a sense of accomplishment and smiles on their faces.



## Planting of Mangrove December 17<sup>th</sup>

The theme of this year's integrated learning class for G5 and 6 is "Mangroves and the Environment". Building on what they learned last year, they are summarizing what they have newly learned this year. G5 and 6 students also participated in the "Japan-UAE Mangrove Planting Exchange" organized by the UAE ambassador of Japan and JODCO. We were also able to interact with five high school students from Okinawa Prefectural Yaeyama High School and local student guides for mangrove conservation through tree planting. The children were surprised to see that the mangroves planted a year ago had grown. The mangroves in Abu Dhabi are called "gray mangroves (gray stem color). Professor Baba, Professor Honorary of the University of the Ryukyus, told us that the species name is "hirugidamashi" and that it is distributed in Ishigaki and Yaeyama. Through the mangroves, we learned about the importance of tree planting and ecosystem protection.



### 〈Schedule of January and February〉

		January		February
1	水	New Year	土	
2	木		日	
3	金		月	Sports Class
4	土		火	14
5	日		水	
6	月	Winter Lesson	木	Student Committee
7	火	Winter Lesson	金	New Japan Philharmonic Special Class
8	水	Opening Ceremony	土	
9	木	Physical Measurement	日	
10	金	Physical Measurement	月	New Student Guidance
11	土		火	
12	日		水	Committee Meeting
13	月	Sports Class	木	
14	火		金	13
15	水	Evacuation Drill	土	
16	木	Student Committee	日	
17	金		月	Term-end Exam① Kanken Online
18	土		火	Term-end Exam②
19	日		水	
20	月	PJC Bridge	木	
21	火		金	
22	水	Sports Day Preparation Kanken Online	土	
23	木	Sports Day Preparation	日	
24	金		月	
25	土	Sports Day	火	
26	日		水	Open Class · Class Meeting Ramadan Meeting
27	月	Substitute Holiday	木	
28	火	Exploring in the town (G1&G2)	金	Ramadan Starts
29	水	Committee Meeting		
30	木	Falconry Experience(G7-G9)		
31	金			

- Jan 13 All Grade P.E class
- Jan 15 All Grade P.E class
- Jan 20 All Grade P.E class
- Jan 22 Sports Day Preparation  
Kanken Online(G7-G9)
- Jan 23 Sports Day Preparation
- Jan 25 Sports Day
- Jan 27 Substitute Holiday
- Jan 28 Exploration Study G1&G2
- Jan 30 Falconry Experience(G7-G9)
  
- Feb 7 New Japan Philharmonic  
Special Class
- Feb 10 New student Guidance
- Feb 17 Term Exam 1 (G7-G9)  
Kanken Online(G1-G6)
- Feb 18 Term Exam 2 (G7-G9)
- Feb 26 Open Class · Class Meeting  
Ramadan Meeting