



～枕崎市教育委員会だより～

# TEAMまくらざき

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## 巻頭言

### "Old Friends"

Makurazaki City Board of Education Superintendent, Koichi Kinoshita

One afternoon, I saw some junior high school students returning home with their friends. It was a bit unusual to see students out and about so early in the day so I asked them, "How come you are all learning school so early?" They happily replied back, "We had a test today! We are worried about the results of the final exam, but we are looking forward to summer vacation and competing for first prize in the summer festival!" I thought to myself how they seemed like very nice friends and I hope their friendship will last a long time.

Recently, I had a party with some old friends. We have been friends since high school and I still see them often today. This time, as well, Mr. A, who was the class president in high school, was in charge of making arrangements for the reunion. Everyone was 65 years old this year. They all wake up early and value their time, so the gathering started at 5:30 PM. Everyone enjoyed talking about their old high school days, their teachers, and their post-retirement lives. We also discussed health and age-related topics, which are unavoidable at our age. However, there's no need to elaborate on that. We quickly moved to a nearby restaurant, where we arrived just in time to get on the last train for the day. We promised to meet again. We've been friends for 50 years, and it was so much fun to reunite with my high school friends.

For all that time, my friends and I have been in touch, and even when we don't meet, we can instantly pick up where we left off, and flowers bloom in our conversation. The tension in our heart's melts away, and we feel liberated. We don't know how much time we have left, but we pray to meet again in good health, and we make promises for the future.

At this age, however, we might not be able to promise to meet again. There's always a possibility that we might not be able to.

For one year, we get to cherish each other. I think this is a natural progression of things. I also think it's important to spend this precious time doing things we wouldn't normally do. Who knows when it will be our last farewell? It's a time to pour our hearts out. In short, it's a feeling of deep gratitude. I think it's deeply meaningful for us to spend time doing what we love, being ourselves, and supporting each other's lives. That's what I've been thinking about recently.

It's been two months since I last saw my old high school friends. I want to see them again soon.

## Arrangement of Counselors and High School Information Sessions at the Educational Support Center

This fiscal year, in order to enhance the consultation system for truant children and their guardians in this city, we have arranged dedicated counselors. This initiative started in May of this year.

As a new initiative this fiscal year, we held "School Information Sessions" so that truant children and their guardians can choose their desired path. We were able to provide explanations from 4 public high schools and 4 private high schools. Depending on the high school, they are reviewing their educational programs to match the social situation where students take the initiative. It was clear that the range of choices has widened, and we explained the matters related to the path of learning that each student is interested in.

## Activities of the Municipal Junior High School Student Union

On Wednesday, June 4th, Makurazaki City Junior High School Student Union Standing Committee and Advisory Meeting was held at Beppu Junior High School, which is this year's secretariat school.

Three student representatives from four junior high schools in the city participated and discussed the annual plan and exchanges with Makurazaki City, as well as exchanges with Mishima Village and Wakkanai City in Hokkaido, with whom Makurazaki has deep ties. Active opinions were expressed by students, such as "We want to introduce local specialties to each other."

## For a Safe and Secure Life for Children

On Wednesday, June 18th, the City Life Guidance Research Council and the External Student Guidance Liaison Meeting were held. Currently, there are no major problems occurring in our city, but as we head into a summer full of freedom, we cannot be complacent. It is important for parents and children to consider why children's entry is restricted by the agreements made at the External Student Guidance Liaison Meeting, and to strive for the prevention of incidents and accidents. Furthermore, swimming in rivers and the sea within the city is prohibited. Let's make sure that we do not encounter water accidents that directly endanger lives. Wishing you a fun summer vacation!

## Regarding Safety During Commuting to School in the Rainy Season

In southern Kyushu, the rainy season began 23 days earlier last year, on May 16th, bringing localized heavy rain, and at times, even sky conditions that made it seem like the rainy season had ended. On rainy days, we tend to look down while walking due to carrying an umbrella and the poor condition of the ground, which makes it difficult to see our surroundings. Let's understand the characteristics of rainy days and be extra careful to prevent accidents.

<Characteristics of Rainy Days>

It's hard to see your surroundings, hard to hear sounds, and car drivers may not notice you easily.

<Things to Be Careful About on Rainy Days>

Hold your umbrella so you can see clearly ahead, do not walk in a line side-by-side, and be careful of cars even when avoiding puddles.

## Column ~Special Needs Education~

### "29 Talented Individuals in Makurazaki City"

Makurazaki City employs 29 Special Needs Education Supporters (Commonly known as Supporters) who provide learning and daily life support to children primarily in regular school classes who require special assistance. A maximum of 7 supporters are assigned per school. Special Needs Education Supporters work with teachers at school to provide assistance to children who are struggling with daily learning and life. Training is also conducted annually, and their expertise is improving year by year.

In Makurazaki, substantial support is provided in these unseen areas, creating an environment where children can lead happy school lives.