

# Application for Participation

*Associated Schools Project(ASP) for Promoting International Education*

## *Futagawa* : Our Hometown

—Growing to support, love and be connected with the community—

Outline of the way Project(s) will be implemented in the institution  
(please use extra sheets if necessary)

### **Description of the Project**

In our school, with things like participation in the "*Futagawa Honjin* Festival" and "school forest conservation activities", throughout the region, students are able to participate in educational activities throughout the community. With the cooperation of many people from the community, students have been learning many of things, including traditional culture, traditional arts, and volunteer spirit from people of the community. In addition, it was thought to promote ESD education for nurturing leaders of a sustainable society and to foster a feeling of gratitude and attachment to local students.

The "*Futagawa Honjin* Festival", started in 1991, at the same time as the opening of the *Futagawa Honjin* museum. Beginning with the reasons of promoting the *Futagawa* district, students from the Brass Band in 1996 participated in the festival, as a member of the *daimyo* parade. All second graders participation started in 2002, helping actors and behind-the-scenes with the *daimyo*. In the event, local residents each support (gathering of vegetables, making dumplings, meeting the elderly figures) the construction of the teahouse in two places along the old road, with tea services and vegetable, flower and dumpling selling, playing bamboo flutes, demonstration of straw sandals crafting, entertainment and green tea, as well as the role of the successor of the traditional performing arts culture.

School forest management has been entrusted to the school since 1948, but for a long time the forest was left alone to grow. It has grown into a big forest now, of cypress and Japanese black pine, originally planted by only two people adults. We started work on making it our "hometown forest." In 1999 with the help of local people and forest service, we go every year to do conservation activities such as weeding and thinning. Through the school forest conservation activities and local schools are incorporated in the activities, we have nurtured a feeling, by taking care of the nature and showing the importance of environmental protection so students feel more familiar nature of their hometown, *Futagawa*.

In order by in sync with " Education for Sustainable Development " and to promote a common understanding by all staff, a review of the curriculum, in line with comprehensive learning, it was decided that we will create a calendar for ESD that is also associated with information sharing activities of the school district and student council activities. This practice will continue on the basis of the ESD calendar, we will be able to notice the good of the region in the future and to nurture a love of the community and its people.

## Objectives of the Project

In school, we work from the point of view of "love our hometown" to ESD. Throughout this project, in connection with the local people, we learn traditional arts culture of our hometown. We will strive to protect the environment of our home, do some good in the community, and nurture leaders for a sustainable society.

These are four activities that relate to ESD

(1) Activities that show the traditional arts and culture in the region

- "Local Cultural Experience Course"
- "*Futagawa Honjin* Festival and *Daimyo* Parade"

In regards to the "Local Cultural Experience Course", the history of *Futagawa Honjin* is taught as well as: doll making, bamboo work, *origami*, *ikebana*, Japanese drum, and paper cutouts, straw sandals making, tea ceremony. Then, during the "*Futagawa Honjin* Festival", a bamboo flute, green tea making, and straw sandals development demonstration take place, as well as a doll exhibition. These events are used to demonstrate the things the students learned.

(2) Environmental Protection Activities

- Forest Conservation
- River Cleaning

Through these two activities, the promotion of environmental conservation is demonstrated. In addition, the interaction of the people of the region through these activities shows students how to be a responsible member of the community.

(3) Community Support

- The exhibition of *Nobori* flags during *Futagawa Honjin* Festival
- The exhibition of *Toro* lanterns during *Futagawa* Inn Lantern Festival

The exhibition of *Nobori* flags, in various places along the old road, during *Futagawa Honjin* Festival, is a production of the 1<sup>st</sup> graders' art department. Also, the 3<sup>rd</sup> graders make their own *Toro* lanterns and exhibit all along the old road during *Futagawa* Inn Lantern Festival. These activities are contributed to the community for events and festivals in the region.

(4) School Events

- Sports Festival, Cultural Festival, Chorus Competition, Work Experience (2<sup>nd</sup> grade)  
Social Welfare Experience (1<sup>st</sup> grade)

By having the opportunity to present the results to students, parents, teachers, and community members together, a feeling of emotional attachment to the community and local pride in the region increases.

## Execution

(e.g. through a specially designed course, through an existing course(s) or as an extracurricular activity)

To deepen the learning of history, traditional arts, and traditional culture from the point of view of "loving our home", in connection with the people of the region, we promote ESD in school, it is situated to be education for nurturing leaders of a sustainable society full of local love.

In order to achieve the goal in each grade, such as the activities in the art department, a practical ESD calendar has been created.

ESD Calendar

	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar		
1st				Making <i>Nobori</i>		Local Cultural Experience Course	River Cleaning	Futagawa Honjin Fes.			preparations	Forest Conservation		
2nd			practices, preparations											
3rd		Making <i>Toro</i>		Lantern Fes.										

(1) Traditional arts and culture of the region



straw sandal making



Futagawa Honjin Festival (Bamboo Flute)

(2) Environmental Protection Activities



River Cleaning



Forest Conservation

### (3) Community Support



Flags Exhibition



Lanterns Decorating Festival

### (4) School Events



Sports Festival



Real Life Work Experience (recycling)

#### Type of materials to be used

- Handbook of Junior high school Career Education ; Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science, and Technology, 2011
- The history of school districts, *Futagawa*, *Tanigawa* and *Futagawaminami* ; Toyohashi General Meeting 2006
- Schools of Character (School management, Educational activities) ; *Mikawa* General Education Meeting 2008
- *Futagawa Honjin* Festival Daimyo Parade Guidelines; *Futagawa Honjin* Festival Executive Committee 2014

#### Is there any type of evaluation to examine the effects of the project on students' comprehension and attitudes?

The evaluation of the attitude and understanding of the students is performed as follows.

- We understand the impressions from the announcement of the results of efforts for the various activities of the students. They make presentations of their results and display them in the classroom. For example, a summary of the activities and learning motivation is evaluated by observing their attitudes.

With the evaluation of the above, by performing the following, we hope to further enhance our ESD activities.

· Surveys will be taken after December, called "school life questionnaire" and "the effectiveness of the Community Learning".

They are to be carried out by parents, students, and faculty and staff, a questionnaire Asking about the awareness of change and love and pride of the community. Also, telling our school councilor the results provides a great opportunity for further advice.

· The featured curriculum for local students is to review the ESD calendar based on the practices this year and to improve the specific activities of regional learning.

*On behalf of my institution, I apply for participation in the UNESCO Associated Schools Project and give the assurance that this institution will make an active contribution to the Project, as outlined above, for a minimum period of two years. At the end of every year, I shall submit a report of the Project to the ASP National Co-ordinator of my country.*

3/3/2014

Date

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Principal

Futagawa Junior High School

Principal's name

Position

Institution's name