

Suse Elementary School

General Information



1 School Address

78-1 Miyashita, Suse-cho, Toyohashi City

Aichi Prefecture, Japan

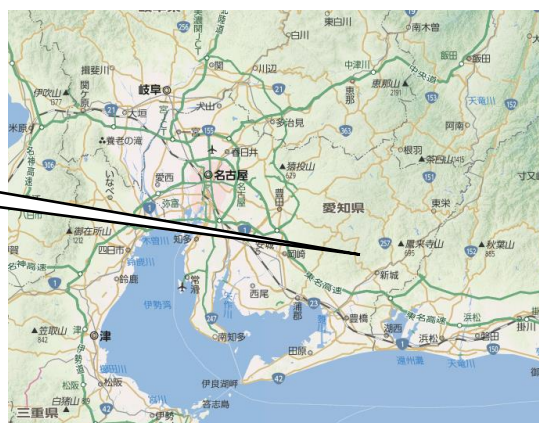
Postal Code: 441-1111

Tel. No.: 0532-88-0008 Fax : 0532-87-1015

E-mail: suse-e@toyohashi.ed.jp

Homepage: <http://www.suse-e.toyohashi.ed.jp>

Suse Elementary School



2 Number of Pupils and Staff

School Principal: MR. OKADA TERUO	Staff: 14	No. of Classes: 7
Pupils : 45 (Male)	44 (Female)	Total: 89

3 Educational Goals

(1) School Targets

Motto: (Earnestness “*Honki*”, Doing Things With All One’s Might “*Chikara Ga Ippai*”)

Every person	- learn willingly:	the thorough basic education, to foster an attitude to learn willingly;
	- kindhearted:	cultivate richness in minds , to foster creative and compassionate heart
	- live vibrantly:	good health, grow strong in mind and body

(2) School Management Policy

(Fun “*Tanoshiku*”, Get-Along Well “*Nakayoku*”, Truly “*Tashikani*”, Learn “*Manabu*”)

- a.) Promote educational activities that foster critical thinking, judgment skill, creativity, practical skills, advanced learning; and heighten the motivation to learn willingly.
- b.) Value learning attitudes and willingness, promote activities which foster and allow sense of self-awareness and sense of accomplishment.
- c.) Aim at making a school which values good rapport and camaraderie, and which hones kindhearted spirits among pupils
- d.) Deepen the partnership and cooperation with families and communities; and to promote regional-based activities.
- e.) Carry out teacher-training and organizational plans, enhance the teaching quality and teachers’ professional competencies.

(3) Priority Targets

- a.) Bring out the best in each person in order to enhance self-consciousness and confidence.
- b.) Recommend the development of a school which make use of the community and school distinctive features and resources; promote the utilization of fun and motivating educational activities; and cultivate richness in mind that values the community where they live.
- c.) Aim to secure the establishment of fundamentals and basics; devise lessons that take advantage of small groupings ,increasing pupils’ learning motivation as well as improving instructional methods.
- d.) Cultivate the basic and fundamental habits and manners, and to instill the good quality of acting voluntarily.

4 Yearly Schedule:

The underlined activities are done by different grade levels and or age groups, whereas the highlighted activities are done in collaboration with the local community.

Mo.	Event(s)	Athletic	Arts & Sciences	School Trips	Work-related	Others
Apr	Entrance Ceremony Opening Ceremony Farewell Ceremony					- Orientation - Welcome Program

						(Gr.1)
May				<u>Excursion</u> Outdoor Activity	- <u>Stem/Root</u> <u>Tubers planting</u> -Rice planting - <u>Zero Waste</u> <u>Campaign</u> <u><i>(Gomi Zero)</i></u>	Home Visitation
Jun		-Opening of the pool - <u>Jump rope</u> <u>challenge (long)</u>	-Collecting snails (semisulcospira) - Camaraderie and (Cultural) Exchange Meeting		Planting Potatoes	
Jul						
Aug						
Sep		Athletic Meet	Summer Break Exhibit		- <u>Zero Waste</u> <u>Campaign</u> <u><i>(“Gomi Zero”)</i></u> - Harvesting Rice	
Oct	(1 st Term) Closing Ceremony (2 nd Term) Opening Ceremony		Releasing Fireflies to their habitat	School Trip	Harvesting Sweet Potatoes and other tubers	
Nov		Sprint/Speed Test	Learning Exhibition (Open School)			
Dec		Marathon Meet			Rice Cake Pounding Event	Individual Roundtable Conferencing
Jan					Cultivating Mushrooms	Classroom Observation
Feb		- <u>Jump Rope</u> <u>Challenge</u> <u>(single)</u>			Buckwheat (soba) Party	Orientation for In-coming pupils
Mar	Graduation Ceremony Closing Ceremony					-Farewell Program for Gr.6 -Class Meeting

Application for Participation

Associated Schools Project (ASP) for Promoting International Education

Outline of the way the Project(s) will be implemented in the institution

(please use extra sheets if necessary)

Description of the Project (プロジェクトの概説)

This school is considered one of the smallest in the Division of City Schools for having 89 pupils in its total enrolment in 2013. Blessed with lashing nature, the bounties of its surrounding mountains and rivers flowing on the northern part of the school district area are one of its many advantages. Furthermore, people living within the school district in collaborative effort, support the school in providing educational experiences on numerous local industries which work in harmony with nature. In like manner, the school is committed to value and to further enhance the community and school connectivity.

Taking advantage of its small population, the school designed a heterogeneous age groupings in doing educational activities in various contexts. The rational for increasing the activities in this *multi-age* grouping is to create an opportunity for more interaction among children in different grade levels. In addition, it is presumed that through these various activities the realization of the ultimate goal to develop in our children the desirable attitudes and sensibility towards other people's needs and feelings can be achieved.

Making use of the regional distinctive characteristics, the activities to investigate nature and hands-on experience on local industry are deliberately conducted. The reasons behind the design of these activities that provide opportunities for children to be in touched with the nature and people of the region as well as engaging into industry-based hands-on experiential learnings: to build a solid concept of region's good qualities; and instill the sensibility on valuing the community where we live. It is also perceived that the use of educational activities which keep the body and mind active are considered essential.

Through the use of the above elements, it is our ardent desire to raise children who are vigorous, considerate and kindhearted.

Objectives of the Project (プロジェクトの目的)

1 Activities in Hetero Age Grouping

Cultivate a compassionate heart among children by taking part in activities done in multi-age groupings in daily school activities and in purpose-oriented

activities; and to be able to do responsive actions based on careful understanding of other people's feelings in a given circumstance.

2 Activities Involving Nature and Environment

Nurture the consciousness and willingness to protect the natural environment which is vital to community by conducting local nature encounter and exploration activities, and richness of the local nature awareness campaign.

3 Activities in Collaboration with the Local Community

Make children aware of the characteristics of the region where they live including the advantages it is giving to the community in order to instill the sense of value thereof. Enable them to be familiar with the various kinds of industries in the community and get acquainted with the people who work in such enterprise.

Execution (プロジェクトの実施)

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

1 Activities by Multi-Age Groupings ("Daruma-han")

On day-to-day, school cleaning is done by "daruma-han", a heterogeneous grouping based on age. There are instances during the long break on Wednesdays wherein children in the upper grades play with the pupils in the lower grades using their originally designed recreational activities and in the same manner, the children in the upper level make use of "learn-by-doing technique in "daruma-han" activities.

A group competition on *skipping rope* is held once a year. The jump rope done in

group using a long jump rope is called "*naganawatobi*" and "*nawatobi*" refers to the one played in singles. In order to attain the objective of the event, cooperation, healthy spirit of competition, perseverance, and encouraging each other are inevitable. Moreover, it is to foster the "We did it!" sense of accomplishment and to cultivate a heart that is considerate to others. Likewise, it is an effective way to develop their physical agility.



In "*Naganawatobi*", the upper grade pupils give needed advice to children in the lower grades.

2 Connecting with Nature

○ *Breeding-Discharging of Fireflies*

In Susegawa River which flows on the north and in Nagahikogawa River which runs on the south of the school area, fireflies fly out on months of June and July. In an attempt to protect fireflies fluttering along the river banks, breeding firefly larvae and discharging them to their natural habitat have been done and continued for more than 10 years now. The school collects and raises marsh snails which fireflies feed on; provides means for fireflies to improve egg spawning; and undertakes larvae incubation and raise them until proper maturity. Children take turns in feeding the collected marsh snails as well as monitoring the aquarium water quality. Then in late autumn, the entire school heads to discharge these cultured larvae into Susegawa River. In addition, survey of aquatic life and analysis of water quality of the river flowing through the region is carried through alongside with the promotion of activities geared toward protection and conservation of natural environment of the community.



The firefly larvae cultured from autumn to winter are discharged into Susegawa River.

3 Collaboration with the Local Community

○ *Rice Planting and Rice-Cake Pounding*

The school rents a paddy to plant rice. Some local residents who are experts in farming industry share their know-how growing rice. Not only that, they also share their knowledge and experiences on identifying the differences on yields brought by the quantity seedlings, and methods of applying fertilizers rice harvest



Hands-on rice planting with the community expert farmers.

Through this hands-on experience with the local residents, children become aware of the immense effort and ingenuity of rice growing.

They also taste the joy of the harvest during the “*mochitsuki*” event , glutinous rice are pounded into cakes. The main treat of the event enjoyed by everyone. Aside from this, the school cultivates tubers such as potatoes and sweet potatoes through collaboration with the local residents.

○ *Cultivation of Mushrooms*

In our school district, there are quite a number of mushroom growers. These people have a good reputation on mushroom cultivation in the region. The school invites them to mentor the event held at school for the purpose of providing knowledge and know-how of the local community nature- based industry. Children inoculate the logs with spawns inserted into holes and water them regularly. It has become an opportunity for them to know that mushroom growing is not a familiar thing of everyday life. Furthermore, it is perceived to pave a way to understanding the role of the local industry in the community as well.



Learning from the experts how to prepare log beds for mushroom

Type of materials to be used (使用する教材)

1. Activities by different age groups

- Jump rope (long, group) “*Naganawa*”: There are provisions for each year level.
- Jump rope (short, individual) “*Nawatobi*”: To be prepared by each pupil.
- Recreation supplies for the entire school utilization:

Can opener, newspaper, ball, etc.

- Planning Committee : All-school recreation , group/team activities plan, and oversee pupils’ activities and organization.

2 Activities in connection with nature

- Bucket, sieve : To be used for collection of *Semisulcospira* – snails.
- Large water tank : Includes air pump, filtration equipment and so on.
- Aquarium Cooling Device : Necessary for firefly larvae survival, water temperature of around 20°C is required.
- Incubator : For hatching of larvae and spawning of fireflies.
- Paper cups : To be used to separate individual larvae during the discharging process.
- Water quality assessment kit : To be used to test the river water quality.
- Bat, dropper : Used in studying the aquatic life and collection of larvae.

3 Activities in collaboration with the local community

○ *Rice Planting and Rice-Cake Pounding Event*

- Rice seedlings and fertilizers.
- A sickle , a rack for drying rice : For harvesting

- Stone or wooden mortar and wooden mallet, bamboo steamer and cooking stove : Used in rice-cake pounding event.
 - *Mushrooms Cultivation*
- Log for cultivation and starter colony (wooden dowel spawn) : Inoculation
- Electric drill : For drilling holes .
- Cheese wax : For sealing wooden dowel spawn.

Is there any type of evaluation to examine the effects of the project on students' comprehension and attitudes? (プロジェクトに対する生徒の理解と姿勢の評価方法)

- In carrying out the respective activities, children must have a clear understanding of the activities' goals and objectives in advance. Each pupil or group is expected to create their own method of arriving to solutions given in a particular situation depending on the nature of the activity. Exhibits of their outputs are displayed and presented in order to sustain and increase their learning motivation.
- Pupils are given an opportunity to present their summarized reports on two major activities such as Rice-Cake Pounding event (that is the culminating activity of Rice Planting and Breeding-Discharging of Fireflies activity) during the school exhibit.
- At the end of each activity listed above, pupils are given a task to draw pictures or write compositions containing their over-all reflections on the concluded events. The data are then treated and assessed carefully.

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.

(本学校を代表して、ユネスコASPの参加申請をし、少なくとも2年間は上記概要にそってASPに貢献する活動を行うことを確約します。また、毎年ASPコーディネーター(※日本の場合は日本ユネスコ国内委員会)に活動のレポートを提出します。)

OKADA, TERUO

Principal

Suse Elementary School