



## Recognizing and Inspiring Each Other

Do you know the manga *SLAM DUNK*? It's a story about high school students aiming to become the best basketball team in Japan. It was even made into a movie recently. I absolutely love *SLAM DUNK*. I have both the regular and the deluxe editions of the manga, and I've read them so many times I've lost count. I even bought a collection of its famous quotes. Even though I already know the ending and every line by heart, I always end up in tears when I finish reading it. Have you read it? If not, I really hope you will.



The main character, Hanamichi Sakuragi, has great talent but no basketball experience. His rival, Kaede Rukawa, has amazing skills but lacks stamina and defensive strength. Ryota Miyagi is quick and agile, but short. Hisashi Mitsui has natural ability, yet he once quit the team and struggles with fitness because of that break. Their captain, Takenori Akagi—nicknamed "Gori"—is a strong defender, a great leader, and full of passion, but he's also too strict with himself and others. On top of that, he has a loud voice and a rough face that matches his nickname! There's no such thing as a perfect person. That's why each character's flaws make them real, lovable, and compelling. Their weaknesses don't make them hated or mocked. Instead, they become reasons their teammates care about them even more.

The school festival has ended, and I feel that each grade came together like the team in *SLAM DUNK*. Don't you think some people's "weak points" were actually loved by others? Why is that? I believe it's because we value differences and enjoy encountering different ways of thinking. At the festival, some people were good at detailed work while others weren't. Some were confident singers, and others were shy. Some loved performing on stage, while others preferred to stay behind the scenes. But by recognizing and encouraging each other, you created beautiful mosaic art, wonderful choirs, and impressive plays. These experiences are what build great classes and strong communities.

If we start to feel ashamed of being different and try to hide those differences, we'll end up creating a "boring story" filled only with flawless characters. When everyone looks the same, both weaknesses and strengths become invisible.

In Japanese society, people often try too hard to hide their shortcomings. Please do not hide it because your weakness is also your uniqueness. I want you to treasure everything you have, because all the good and bad make you who you are.

Remember: *Everyone is different, and that's what makes everyone special.*

Thank you for giving us the best school festival ever!

Principal Koshun Hirozawa



### November

- 10(M) School assembly, Outreach class(2nd gr)
- 11 (Tue) Leave school at 12:30
- 14 (F) JFA Kokoro project (2nd gr)
- 20 (Thu) student parliament (3rd gr)
- 23 (Su/Holiday) All Noto freshman tournament (kendo)
- 27 (Thu) Final exam
- 28 (F) Final exam Eye checkup(1st gr)



### December

- 1 (M) School assembly
- 2 (Tu) Regional academic test(3rd gr)  
Assessment test (2nd gr)  
The student council committee
- 3 (W) Regional academic test(3rd gr)  
parent-student -teacher meeting(3rd gr)
- 4(Thu)/5(F) parent-student-teacher meeting(3rd gr)
- 7 (Su) Oku-Noto Ensemble Contest
- 11 (Thu) Anachu-time
- 19 (F) Drug abuse prevention class(3rd gr)
- 24 (W) Closing ceremony, Student assembly,  
Handing out report cards
- 25 (Thu) Handing out report cards



Brass band opening performance

Our principals piano challenge !!

1st grade Mosaic art

Youth speech contest

2nd grade play

1st grade chorus

2nd grade chorus

3rd grade chorus

3rd grade play

Whole-school Chorus

## A photograph of three students standing in a row, each holding a wooden award plaque. On the left is a girl in a white sailor-style school uniform with a red bow at the collar. In the center is another girl in a similar white sailor uniform. On the right is a boy in a white short-sleeved button-down shirt and dark trousers. All three are smiling. The plaques they are holding are identical, featuring a circular logo with a red ribbon and the text '2017' and '2018'. In the background, there is a Japanese flag, a blue flag with a white emblem, and a banner with Japanese text.

3rd gr

## Boys Table tennis singles Tanaka, Boys Soft tennis Yachi/Nakagawa pair

1st grade Boys 100m 2nd place  
1st grade Boys long jump 3rd place  
All grade girls long jump 3rd place  
1st grade girls long jump 5th place  
All grade boys 800m 6th place  
1st grade girls 100m 7th place

1st grade Boys long jump 8th place