



## The courage to take the first step

It was last month, on a day where our school grounds were covered with a particularly heavy snow. I asked one of our 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students, "Could you help shovel the snow?" This single conversation started a chain reaction. One after another, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students picked up their shovels and joined as volunteers. In the cold air, white breath coming out of their mouths, they quietly carried snow for others. They were very helpful and reliable that day, and I was deeply moved by their actions. There, I saw real *kindness*—a kindness that cares about other people.

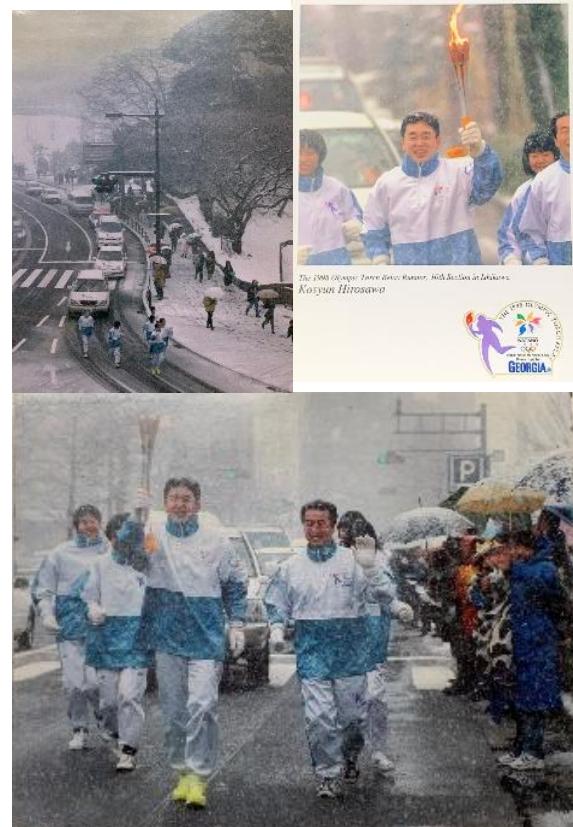
However, the next day, even more snow fell, and that day, I purposely chose not to ask anyone for help. After seeing what they did yesterday, I thought that they would notice the situation and step in on their own today. So I waited and trusted in their goodwill. What happened in the end? Sadly, not even one person came to shovel snow that day.

Even so, I tried to remain kind. I wanted you to move one step forward from only doing something because someone told you to. I hoped that you would have the courage to think, "No one is doing it now, but it's something that needs to be done," and take the first step by yourself. There is nothing wrong with thinking, "I'll do it after someone else starts." But taking that first step in silence, when no one is moving, requires great courage. That first step has the power to change your life, and the world around you.

In fact, I myself have had an experience where taking that "first step of courage" brought me a treasured memory in life. I have been a big fan of the Olympic Games for a long time. When Nagano was chosen as the host city for the Olympics, I wanted to help in some way. However, I gave up at first. I told myself that I was too busy with work. Then, I saw a recruitment poster for torch runners. I thought things like, "There's no way someone like me would be chosen," and "It would be embarrassing if I fail." I kept finding all these reasons not to try. Even so, deep down, I had a gut feeling that I didn't want to regret doing nothing.

So, I gathered my courage, wrote about my passion for education, and sent in my application. To my surprise, I was chosen! The day I ran with the Olympic torch was one of the brightest days of my life. The cheers from the people, the weight of the torch in my hand, and the beauty of the flame—If I had said, "It's impossible," and closed off my own possibilities, I would never have seen that wonderful scene.

Dear 3rd graders: Your future is like a pure white snowfield, spreading out before you, where no one has walked yet. In your life, you will face many questions with no clear answers. You may feel worried and unable to move forward during these times. But please remember this: The people who change the world are always the ones who take the first step. You already have kindness. Now, add courage—the courage to act on your own. I hope you will walk your own path with confidence. I'm always cheering for your first step.



School principal Koshun Hirozawa

## Delivering the Spirit of Noto! -Second Graders Host the "Noto Railway CM Screening"-

On Tuesday, February 3, a screening event was held at Anamizu Station on the Noto Railway to present the final results of the second-year students' "Noto Railway Commercial Project."

This project began last June and continued for more than six months with the aim of sharing the charm of traveling around the Noto Peninsula with people across Japan. At the venue, ten unique commercials were shown. Each one was created by students who wanted to tell others about the good things in their local area. One student who took part in the project proudly said, "I am very happy that we could share the energy of Noto with everyone. I hope many people will ride the Noto Railway and come to Anamizu." This comment left a strong impression on everyone.

After the screening, the students sang "Gunjō," a chorus song they had also performed at the school festival, together with local community members who had gathered at the station. Through their voices echoing in the station and the warm applause that followed, the students were able to feel a stronger bond with the community. It was a valuable experience that helped them gain confidence and realize the joy of having their message reach others. Finally, we would like to express our sincere gratitude to Dentsu for their great support in producing the commercials, and to everyone who came to the event on the day.

### [Announcement]

The completed commercials will be released on our school website and the Noto Railway website in the near future. We hope that parents and guardians will also enjoy watching these works, which were created with great passion by the students.



## Echoing Cheers and Strong Bonds -The Ball Games Tournament Was Held-

On Tuesday, January 20, the Sports festival was held in conjunction with the school open day. Although the weather was extremely cold, the school gym was filled with student's enthusiasm and cheers.

This time, first- and second-year students played soft volleyball, while third-year students played regular volleyball.

All grades had exciting matches, but what was especially impressive was how many students encouraged each other by saying things like, "Don't worry!" and "Next one!" Seeing them work together as a team and support one another during the games made us feel their great growth. Also, at the end of the program, a special match was held in which 2<sup>nd</sup> and the 3<sup>rd</sup> graders competed against the teacher's team. We would like to thank all the parents for their cheering and continued support, and we sincerely appreciate your participation.



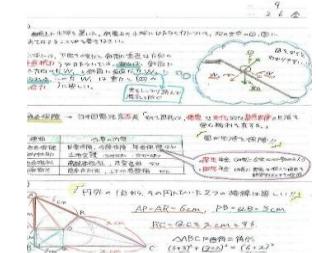
## Encouraging Regular Home Study -Two Months into the "+ONE Notebook" Project

It has already been two months since the "+ONE Notebook" initiative began. This activity was originally proposed by Mr. Sakashita with the idea of *finding something to work on independently, beyond regular homework*. So, how is it going?

Some students have already finished their first notebook and have moved on to their second. On the other hand, in the midst of busy daily schedules, some of you may feel, "Maybe my pace has slowed down a little recently." Even if your notebook has been left untouched for a while, that's okay. Starting again today is never a bad thing.

What matters most is not aiming for perfection, but continuing—again and again—by restarting whenever necessary.

The small efforts you make now will surely become a great source of strength in the next school year. As we prepare to welcome a new grade beginning in April with confidence, it would be wonderful to take a moment to reflect on ourselves and value the mindset of trying just a little more—"just five more minutes," or "just one more page."



Diagrams and illustrations help students understand lessons better and remember them more easily.

## February

- 10(Tue) Risshi shiki(2<sup>nd</sup> grade)
- 11(W Holiday) Oku-Noto Joint wind Ensemble practice (at Wajima JHS)
- 12(Thu) Elementary school trial enrollment
- 17(Tue) 18(W) 3<sup>rd</sup> grade final exam
- 19(Thu) Career talk (1<sup>st</sup> grade) 20(F) Student assembly
- 24(Tue) Student council meeting  
Buffet school lunch
- 26(Thu) Final exam (1<sup>st</sup>/ 2<sup>nd</sup> grade)
- 27(F) Final exam (1<sup>st</sup>/ 2<sup>nd</sup> grade)
- Emergency first aid training session (1<sup>st</sup>/ 2<sup>nd</sup> grade)



## March

- 1 (Su)Brass band concert (Laport Suze)
- 2(M) Student council meeting
- 10 (Tue) 11(W) Public high school entrance exam
- 13(F) Graduation ceremony
- 17(Tue) Student council meeting
- 18(W)Public high school announcement of acceptance
- 24 (Tue) Closing ceremony • Farewell ceremony

