

Huge Excitement over Small Wooden House

Playhouse Donated to Mineyama Daycare

On December 18th, nine third-year students from Miyazu High School's Department of Architecture gifted a playhouse to Mineyama Daycare. This effort, which was started in 2001, has students perform "hands-on research" by donating student-made wooden structures to nurseries, kindergartens, and the like.

The house was 1.2 meters wide, 1.5 meters long and 2.1 meters tall. And after its unveiling at the daycare's playground, children rushed inside, stuck their heads out the windows, and took a look around. Also, in addition to the playhouse, a toy fishing set and play blocks constructed by both Miyazu Junior High School students and Miyazu High School students were gifted to the children. They promised to use the equipment and toys properly, sang a song of thanks, and played a game of "Rock Paper Scissors Conga".

Tomoya Araki of Miyazu High School commented, "The work was split up amongst us, so making sure our parts came together was difficult. And even though it took over 4 months to finish, seeing the children so happy made me feel great."



Strong Brush Strokes Start off New Year

First Calligraphy of the Year at Ukawa Elementary

On January 9th, the first calligraphy of the year was held at Ukawa Elementary. The purpose of this yearly event is to start off the New Year in an energetic way by having children become interested in handwriting and calligraphy, all while naturally leveling up their writing.

First and second graders wrote in the classrooms, and students in the third to sixth grades wrote in the gymnasium. While listening to harp music reminiscent of the New Year, students heartily wrote characters in accordance to three themes: “A Beautiful Heart”, “Unrelenting Bravery”, and “New Endeavors”. Sixth-grader Yūdai Sasaki commented, “I paid extra attention to the thickness and curve of the lines. I think I put my practice to good use.”



Amino High Schoolers Provide Tour around Tango

“One-Day Tango Tour” with Kyoto Subaru High School

As a part of their coursework, Amino High School and Kyoto Subaru High School students collaborated to provide the “One-Day Tango Tour” on December 24th.

At the Amino High School campus, which was the first stop of the tour, 25 second-year students from Amino’s Planning and Management Department welcomed 37 visitors from Kyoto city and beyond with traditional “Amino Calisthenics”. After that, they waited on the participants at the guesthouse venue, and conducted a surprise “Local Game Show” thereafter.

Tomomi Hamada and Misuzu Azuma, the MCs of the gameshow, commented, “We weren’t sure if the guests would have fun, but thankfully they had a great time. It would be great if they brought home some great memories of Kyotango City.”

Miyuki Fujita, a visitor from Kyoto City, also commented, “Of course there was delicious crab, but the high schoolers planned some fun activities and really allowed us to enjoy Kyotango.”



241 New Books to Hirai Kaichirō Collection

Omiya Daycare Kids Participate in Reading Meet-up

The Hirai Kaichirō Collection at Omiya Library was restocked with 241 new books thanks to donations from the Hirai Kaichirō Foundation (Nakagyou-ku, Kyoto City). The books were put into circulation and 41 children visited the library.

City employees read picture books to the children on this day. With eyes aglow, the children rushed towards the readers and listened attentively. They then grabbed the new books and enjoyed reading themselves.

*Hirai kaichirō Collection

The late Hirai Kaichirō was originally from Omiya, and was the former president of Nichicon (company). The Hirai Kaichirō Foundation (Chairman: Nobuko Hirai) granted his dying wish of supporting those who raise children. And in 2009, thanks to the foundations donations, the collection was established at Ōmiya Library. Their yearly contributions have allowed for a library totaling 2,730 books.



Celebrating the Opening of Long-Awaited Bypass

Opening Ceremony of National Highway 312 Hashizume Bypass

On December 9th, the National Highway 312 Hashizume Bypass, which lies in the Hashizume district in Kumihama-cho, was opened to the public.

The previous road that passed through Hashizume was a road in the shape of an S-curve with bad visibility. Kyoto Prefecture had its hands in this project since 2006, and a new 500-meter-long/11.5-meter-wide (including sidewalk) bypass replaced the old, aging bridge to address safety concerns.

On this day, the Director of the Tango Promotion Administration Office, Members of the Prefectural and Municipal Assemblies, Mayor Misaki, and former land owners of the construction site all attended the opening ceremony held at Kumihama Agricultural Center. Everyone celebrated the road's inauguration with the ceremonial "Kusudama-opening" (scattering of decorative paper balls).

The Council for the realization of the improvement of National Highways 178 & 312 sponsored the day's festivities, and its chairman, Masāki Taniguchi, started everything off with a few words: "We are so happy to be able to ensure the vehicular safety of the children and residents of this area."

Afterwards, children pressed a button to turn on the power, lit up the way, and vehicles finally drove on the new road.



Young & Old Socialize over Stuffed Animals

Mineyama High School Yasaka Campus Students Open Handicraft Cafe

Mineyama High School Yasaka Campus third-year home economics students conducted the “Handicraft Café”. This event is meant to capitalize on the high schooler’s special skills, while having them interact with the elderly and young by sharing how to make stuffed animals.

The students prepared the materials so that the stuffed animals could be made with minimal steps. In addition to instruction, everyone enjoyed conversation while drinking hot chocolate. High Schooler Fūka Ikeda commented, “Teaching people is much harder than making them by yourself, but I was happy when we saw a well-made finished product. It was also fun talking to people who you would normally not have the opportunity to speak with.”

