

Making Ceramics Together with Family

Children Make Memories before School Closing

On January 28th, the “Memorial Ceramics of Love” event was held at Amino Preschool. This preschool, along with its parent-teacher association, took news of the school’s closing in stride, and planned this family ceramics event in response. In total, 24 groups of parents and children participated.

Under the supervision of Daisaku Hayashi, a ceramic artist who resides in Amino-cho, families were able to have fun and create personal pieces free from any theme restrictions. The children made pieces like rhinoceros beetles, monsters, trains, dinosaurs, and their own faces. There were even some who referenced animal picture books to make their piece as realistic as possible.

Souma Koishihara (six years old) is good at building and brought his favorite monster to life. He complimented his outstand work with a smile, saying, “This is so cool! 200 points!”

After being fired in a kiln, the ceramics are scheduled to be handed to the children at the school’s closing ceremony.



The Young Protect Long-Running Tradition

“Hyakudo-uchi” of Oganari, Tango-cho

The traditional event “Hyakudo-uchi” was held on February 3rd in Oganari Taiza, Tango-cho.

As the sun rose at around 7 A.M., 11 young men in their 30’s and 40’s dressed in ornamental aprons, and ran around a freezing Tango-cho energetically chanting “Wasshoi Wasshoi”. They offered stones picked up from the coast to 3 different shrines, and prayed for the health and happiness of the people of Tango-cho.

Pacesetter Takehiko Obata commented, “This is a brutal event held in the freezing cold, but we don’t want to let this tradition die out, so the young will continue to carry it on.”



Praying for Healthy Children as a Region

“Dondo-yaki” at Isanago Elementary

“Dondo-yaki” was conducted on January 16th at Isanago Elementary; participants prayed for the health and educational success of the local children. This event was originally held at the now-closed Goka Elementary School, but due to recent school reconfigurations, Isanago Elementary decided to continue the event in Goka’s stead.

Goka Community Center, the Yoshiwara Community Center, old persons associations, and parent-teacher associations worked together to prepare a tower roughly 3 meters tall. New Year’s decorations were loaded into the pine and bamboo structure. It was then finished up with a straw-mat wrap and placed in the center of the school yard.

The children circled around the tower, and representatives from each grade presented goals for the coming year. Afterwards, the tower was set on fire; flames and smoke rose to the heavens accompanied by the sound of burning bamboo. Also, while chanting “Dondoyaa Dondoyaa” the children tossed their “first calligraphy of the year” into the flames.

Student President Tasuku Ishizaki thanked everyone who made the event possible and called out to his classmates, “Let’s treat our friends, our words, and ourselves with care while living this student life.”



Learning the Charm of Agriculture from the Pros

Yasaka Campus First Years Conduct “Practical Agriculture Seminar in Tango”

The Mineyama High School Yasaka Campus conducted the “Practical Agriculture Seminar in Tango” on February 6th at the Tango Agricultural Laboratory. 15 first-year students from the plantation department at Yasaka learned about the agriculture of Tango from farmers and the like.

At the laboratory, the students were introduced to “Tango Agricultural School Facilities”, an effort aimed at raising the next generation of farmers. After that, they learned about the charm of farming from Toshihiro Miyamoto, someone who studied at the said facilities for 2 years. Toshihiro Miyamoto came from Chiba Prefecture to start farming; he currently grows cabbage and other produce at a national farmland in Kumihama-cho. The children listened to his fiery story: “Farming’s merit is being able to do it for life,” “Farming is thought to be hard, and farmers are thought to have no days off, but thanks to machines and efficient processes, there is time to enjoy hobbies as well.”

Taichi Nakaza shared his thoughts: “I learned a lot listening to the professional farmers. I want to make sure to study thoroughly in school to decide where my future is going.”



Unveiling the Results of a Year's Worth of Research

Kumihama High School Students Conduct Research Presentation

On January 23rd, a Research Presentation was conducted at Kumihama High School. There, students presented on themes such as tourism, nursing, international exchange, and the environment, and even performed songs through sign language.

Third-year student of the Wellness Department, Yuna Matsumoto, commented on the hands-on study she did at a retirement home, as well as her experience helping the disabled. She said, "I strongly felt that I want to be in a position where you are trusted by clients. I want to do welfare work in the future, and interact with staff who also take pride in their work." In addition, as a Panasonic Education Foundation School, the third-year students of the Liberal Arts Department presented their research on falling population countermeasures and tourism promotion. They proposed that in order to have young people who have left Kyotango city build a love for their home and eventually return, children must thoroughly learn about Kyotango's charm and the hurdles it faces. Also, having tourist simply eat local foods is not enough; they hypothesized that having them raise and harvest their own food is the key to long-term stay and repeat tourism. In addition to reporting their research, they also showed an advertisement that was shot using a drone, and touched on the importance of broadcasting through social networking services.



Advertising Local Charm to the Masses

Mie, Morimoto Regional Home Page Released

“Come on Over! Mie and Morimoto”, a website that advertises the charm of Mie and Morimoto, was opened on January 25th. This website was made by the Mie-Morimoto Council for Town Growth with funding provided by Kyoto Prefecture and Kyotango City. It is mainly focus on introducing Mie and Morimoto to those who may be considering I-turn and U-turn relocations. The council’s chairman, Yoshibumi Nitta, commented, “Using this website as a spark to relocate, we want people to take a glimpse into this region and its hard working people. We were contacted by a city-dweller yesterday, so we definitely feel that the advertisement is working.”

