



Shiwasu, Last Month of the Year

Our God, Jesus Christ, is present among us as the Gospel says, "I am with you until the end of the world". He has ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father.

This year is coming to an end leaving us many memories. Let us spend the end of the year thanking God and those around us for the many blessings we have received and asking for forgiveness for the mistakes we have made.

Forgiving, understanding, and smiling at others are the most beautiful forms of humanity.

D. Tagawa S.M.

Verse for December

And let the peace of God rule in your hearts. (COLOSSIANS 3:15)

Hymn for December

Adeste Fideles

Silent Night

Motto for December

Let's help each other and be kind to each other.

Safety Reminder for December

Foresee what will happen to keep yourself safe.

Message from Deputy Principal

Fr. Tagawa's words for this month's issue tell us what the month of "Shiwasu" is like.

This year's Advent begins on December 1. From this day until the Nativity on the 25th, we look back on the past year, reflect on it, confess to God what we have done wrong, and ask for forgiveness. Then, we prepare ourselves to live according to God's will in the new year. In other words, December, the last month of the year, is the time when we reflect on the year, thank God and people, repent of our sins, receive God's forgiveness, and celebrate the Nativity, the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Christmas is a time when we become new people, embrace the Lord Jesus in our hearts, and make a fresh start with hope.

Fr. Tagawa teaches us that forgiveness, understanding, and smiling at others are the most beautiful forms of humanity. If you have friends with whom you are in discord right now, or to whom you have not yet apologized or whom you have not forgiven, December is the perfect time to resolve them.

But forgiving and being forgiven may not be easy at times, both for children and adults. Let us listen to the words of the Bible. Jesus tells us, "If each one of you does not forgive his brother from his heart, my heavenly Father will do the same to you (Matthew 18:35). Jesus also told his disciples, "Even if he sins against you seven times in a day, and seven times comes back to you saying 'I repent,' you must forgive him." (Luke 17:4). The number "seven" is often mentioned in the Bible, meaning "completion" or "perfection. In other words, as we forgive and are forgiven over and over again, the power of sin over you and me will lose its power, and we will draw closer to God, who is "perfect". That is why Fr. Tagawa teaches us to forgive and ask for forgiveness in both last month's and this month's issue.

Essay Contest

To promote reading among children, a book review contest for the summer vacation assignment was held in our school. At the school morning assembly on November 1st, the four winners were presented with their awards.

Grand Prize: [redacted] 5A, "What We Can Do Now for World Peace"
 Excellence Awards: Lower Graders: [redacted] 2A, "Never Forget Us"
 Middle Graders: [redacted] 4B, "Catch the School Rabbit"
 Upper Graders: [redacted] 6B, "Reading Swimmer"



Boy's and Girl's Assertion Contest

6B [redacted] represented our school in the "50th Boys and Girls Assertion Contest" hosted by the Kisarazu City Liaison Council of Youth Advisors. She proudly presented her opinions about local medical care.



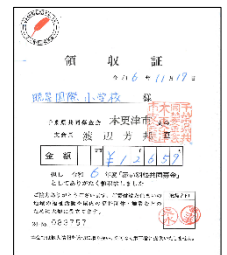
Class Visit

Thank you for taking the time out of your busy schedules to come to the class observation and watch the science presentation. Thank you for appreciating each student's hard work.

The third term class visit will be held on February 8 (Saturday) together with the Parents' Meeting. Each homeroom teacher will report on what changes have been made during this school year in the children's situation after the report at the parents' meeting in April.

Red Feather Fundraising Donation

We are thankful for the cooperation of our students and parents for this year's fund drive and we were able to collect a cash amount of 12,659 yen. The raised fund was donated and forwarded to the Chiba Branch office of the Red Cross.



Field Trip

On Wednesday, November 20, grades 3-6 each went on a field trip. The 1st and 2nd graders also went to visit facilities near the school. Unfortunately, the weather was bad, but students were able to discover and experience things that they would not normally be able to experience at school.



After School Study and Play

After school study and play for the second term will end on Thursday, November 28; they will not be held in December. It will resume on January 14 (Tuesday).

School is closed on Saturday, November 30

School will be closed because of the teacher training sessions on Saturday, November 30.

Proficiency Tests in 3rd Term

English Proficiency Test, Kanji Proficiency Test, and Math Proficiency Test will be held in the third term. Application forms for each test have been distributed. The deadline for application for these tests, which will be held in the school on Friday, December 6. Children who wish to take the tests should submit the completed application form to their homeroom teachers. These are the last proficiency tests for this school year. Please make sure not to forget to apply.

Test	Grade Level	Date of Test	Deadline of Application
EIKEN/English	Level 2 ~ 5	January 24 (Fri.)	December 6 (Fri.)
Kanji Kentei	Level 2 ~ 10	January 31 (Fri.)	
Math	Level Pre 1~11	February 14 (Fri.)	

Marathon

This year's school marathon will be held on Saturday, December 7. For more details, please see the letter that will be distributed next week. Students practice for the marathon race in their PE classes. If your child does not feel well or has pain in any part of the body, please be sure to contact the school or your child's homeroom teacher.

Christmas Mass / Closing Ceremony/ Donations

The Christmas Mass will be held on Thursday, December 12. Students will be dismissed from school at 14:45 as usual. Also, the closing ceremony will be held on Saturday, December 14, and students will be dismissed at 12:00 after lunch.

We would like our students to learn the meaning of Christmas in Catholicism and share the joy of Christmas with you all. We are willing to welcome the parents to attend the Mass.

Date of Christmas Mass: December 12 (Thursday)

Time: 9:30 – 11:00

Venue: Gyosei International Primary School's Gym or Chapel.

From Monday, December 2 there will be a donation box placed in front of the Christmas tree beside the staffroom. Donations will be sent to the people in need in Japan and overseas through Charitas Japan in the Japan Catholic Central Office. If you wish to make a donation, please put your donation in the envelope provided with the invitation letter to Christmas Mass. Please seal the envelope and put it into the donation box.

School Cleaning

During the 5th and 6th period on Friday, December 13, we will have our second term school general cleaning. We will conduct it with the students and teachers only. Parents will not be asked to help. Students will need to wear their P.E. clothes and to bring a dust cloth. They can bring rubber gloves if they want to. The school will not lend out supplies to the students who have forgotten to bring theirs.

School Library

Books in the library can be lent to the students until Friday, November 29 for one week. All borrowed books must be returned by Saturday, December 7. Please be sure to return the borrowed books accordingly.

Bringing Home of School Supplies

From Monday, December 2, students will take home their school supplies. Please follow the instructions of your child's homeroom teacher on what to take home. A large and durable bag will be useful to take them home. Please have it ready if necessary.

Fire Prevention Poster Contest

The Kisarazu City Fire Department has notified us of a call for fire prevention posters. If your child would like to join the contest, please contact in his/her homeroom teacher by December 13 (Friday). At a later date, applicants will be notified of the application guidelines and points to note for the entry.

Target Grades: 2nd grade to 6th grade

Contents: Items related to fire prevention (Description of fire prevention slogans are not mandatory)

Submission Deadline: January 10, 2025 (Friday) / The school deadline is January 7 (Tuesday).

Notice from Accounting Section

From this month, students account statement will be handed to students on the day our school newsletter Akatsuki is issued. Please confirm receipt of the October statement as it was handed out today. If you wish to have your statement mailed to your home, please contact the accounting office. TEL 04382-52-3291

Compensation Insurance

If your child damages his/her belongings or piece of school equipment or facility, the parent/guardian may be required to compensate the damage. We recommend that you purchase personal liability insurance to prepare for such an eventuality. It is often purchased as a rider to fire insurance, personal accident insurance, or automobile insurance, but it may also be purchased on its own. Co-op Mutual Insurance also offers this service.

	Schedule for December	Bus Departure Time	After School Study-Play
2(Mon.)	P.C. for A Course, Grade 3 and up Internal Entrance Exam for 6 Graders for Acceptance to our JH Start of Christmas Donation Transfer Exam	14:45	—
3(Tue.)	General Assembly	14:45	—
4(Wed.)	Club Activities for Grade 4 and up	15:35	—
5(Thurs.)		14:45	—
6(Fri.)	Deadline for Eiken/Kanken/Suken Application	14:45	—
7(Sat.)	Marathon Last Day of Returning Books Borrowed from the library	13:00	—
8(Sun.)			
9(Mon.)	P.C. for B Course, Grade 3 and up Substitute Day for Marathon	14:45	—
10(Tue.)		14:45	—
11(Wed.)	Committee Activities for Grade 5 and up	15:35	—
12(Thurs.)	Christmas Mass (from 9:30 to 11:00)	14:45	—
13(Fri.)	General Cleaning in 5 th - 6 th Period (Needed PE Clothes & a Dust Cloth)	14:45	—
14(Sat.)	2nd Term Closing Ceremony (Dismissal after Lunch/ Allowed to Come with a Sub-bag Only)	12:00	—
Winter Vacation December 15, 2024 - January 6, 2025			
Jan 7(Tue.)	3rd Term Opening Ceremony Classes as Usual	14:45	—
Reminders	<p>After-school study and play for the second term ended in November; it will not be held in December.</p> <p>Please take note of the following different dismissal time:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Saturday, December. 7: 13:00</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Saturday, December. 14: 12:00</p> <p>After school activities during the 3rd term will begin on Tuesday, January 14.</p>		