



God came near to us as a child.

Christmas derives from the English "Christ mass," or "Christ's Mass". It comes from the custom of attending Mass to celebrate the birth of Christ.

The Mass commemorates the Last Supper at which Christ presented the bread and wine as his body (his Eucharist) and blood (his blood). It commemorates God humbling himself to become a man and offering everything on the cross for us.

"I am with you always, to the end of the world" (Matthew 28:20).

Jesus resurrected and became the life to be with us.

You have freedom of Faith. However, as a mission school, the habit of praying according to one's heart is a mission. It is important for human beings to seek the right path in life with an open heart. One day we will find the right path.

The streets are filled with Christmas songs, festive trees are decorated, and the rush of the end of the year seems far from tranquility, but I ask everyone to keep in mind that Christmas is a day of "stillness" this year, and to listen to the voice of God, which can only be heard in that stillness. What is truly important will be heard in the silence.

With thanks for the past year, "Happy Nativity of the Lord!"

D. Tagawa S.M.

Verse for January

"While you have the light, believe in the light, so that you may become sons of light." (JOHN 12:36)

Hymn for January

"I Am Standing in Front of the Door" No. 411 Catholic Hymn Book

Motto for January

"Live your life having an aim for the New Year."

"Let's give thanks for everything."

Safety Reminder for January

"Let's not run in the hallway."

Message from Deputy Principal

On the 12th, all our students attended the Christmas Mass at the chapel. During the Mass, the Christmas cards written by the children and the Christmas offering donated by you were presented on the altar by the children who served the Mass. Thank you very much for your donations. The Christmas cards were returned to the children after the Mass. The Epiphany in 2025 will be on January 5. The Epiphany is to celebrate the manifestation of the glory of God to all people, not just the Jews, through Jesus Christ, and commemorates the day when the Magi visited Jesus in the manger. Christmas trees and wreaths that have been decorated since the first day of Advent are put away on this day. Below is a summary of the sermon given by Fr. Tien after the Gospel reading:

Christmas is a time when the light of Jesus Christ shines in our hearts. There are many lively parties going on,

but let us have a quiet time to listen to the voice of Jesus. There are many Christmas decorations. They all have meaning. The “tree” protects us from strong winds. It means to protect us from difficulties. Lots of “lights” are lights that brighten people's lives through your righteous deeds. The “bells” are to call people together so that you can make friends with them. The Angels are your messages that carry the messages of justice, peace, and love to the world. There are countries where there is no peace today. Please pray for the people of those countries. The “Star” leads you to God. The “Christmas Gifts and Christmas Cards” are for the people and your friends who are always there for you, to thank them. The light of Christmas is a kind and patient heart. With a big heart, let your light shine to those around you. Say with joy from your heart, “Merry Christmas”.

2024 Marathon

Thank you for visiting our school for the marathon. All participants were able to reach the finish line. The names of the winners up to 6th place are posted on the bulletin board in the school.

The school marathon distances were 1.5 km for 1st and 2nd grade, 1.8km for 3rd and 4th grade, and 2.0km for 5th and 6th grade.

	1 st Place	2 nd Place	3 rd Place	4 th Place	5 th Place	6 th Place
Grade 1&2 Boys	2B	2B	2B	2A	2B	2A
Grade 1&2 Girls	2B	2B	2A	2B	2B	2B
Grade 3&4 Boys	3B	3A	3B	4B	3B	4B
Grade 3&4 Girls	3A	4B	4B	3A	3A	4B
Grade 5&6 Boys	6B	5B	6A	5A	6B	5B
Grade 5&6 Girls	5B	5B	5A	6B	6B	5B



Third graders went on a social studies field trip

On Tuesday, November 26, third graders visited the MaxValue Kisarazu Ota Store for a social studies field trip.

They were guided around the store and the backyard by two store staff members. They showed us how they display their products and how they pack vegetables and meat.

During the Q&A session at the end of the tour, they answered questions from the students. Thanks to this good experience, they were able to better understand the contents of their textbook.



School Holidays and Issuance of School Certificate during Winter Vacation

During the vacations, phone hours are weekdays from 9:00 to 15:00 and Saturdays from 9:00 to 12:00. The entire school will be closed for winter holidays on every Sunday and December 24 and 25, and from December 29 to January 3. In addition, any school documents or certificates will not be issued between December 24 and January 5. If possible, please apply in advance.

School Supplies

Please rewrite names on any school supplies brought back during the winter break that have faded.

Locker tool boxes and blue cases in drawers will not be brought back at the end of the second semester. Please note that the school will purchase these items if they are broken and needed to be reordered.

Please replenish the glue, scissors, cellophane tape, colored pencils, paints, etc. as needed for each grade level.

We have received many unmarked lost and found items. Please be sure to label berets, red and white hats, sweaters, vests, water bottles, and school shoes.

Calligraphy Works

We will participate in the 77th Chiba Prefecture Primary, Junior and High School Calligraphy Exhibition. If you wish to participate, please submit your work with the application form to your homeroom teacher on January 7 (Tuesday). Please be sure to follow the submission deadlines, as the delivery date has been set.

English Test

On January 24 (Friday) Eiken will be held. Notifications of the test result and the admission ticket to the second test will be mailed to your home on February 25 (Tuesday). The second test will be held on Sunday, March 2. Results for the second test are expected to be sent on March 18 (Tuesday). In addition, applicants who apply for exemption from the first examination should not take the first examination.

After School Study and Play

After school study and play for the third term will begin on Tuesday, January 14. Please consult the school schedule in the school newsletter “Akatsuki” carefully.

Change of School Dismissal Time

Due to the 3rd Entrance Examination on January 18 (Sat.), the dismissal time will be changed. Students will be dismissed at 12:00 after lunch.

Achievement Tests

Achievement tests will be held in the third term and the results will be reported with the third term report cards. Testing will be conducted between February 7 (Wednesday) and 9 (Friday). All A course tests will be supplied by an outside vendor. In B Course, Japanese tests will also be supplied by an outside vendor, but all the other subject tests will be written in-house. Please see below.

	Grades 1 to 4	Grade 5 & 6
A	Japanese & Math	Japanese • Math • Science • Social studies
B	Japanese & Math	Japanese • Math • Science • Social studies

The 17th Chiba Prefecture Private Primary School Joint Art Exhibition

Ten private elementary schools in Chiba Prefecture will participate in the “Joint Art Exhibition” and display their students’ works. A flyer was distributed today. We hope to see you there. Our school will be on duty at the reception desk from 10:00 to 17:00 on January 17 (Friday).

Exhibit Period: January 11 (Saturday) to 20 (Monday), 2025 (10 days)

Location: Nikke Colton Plaza, from 10:00 to 17:00

Chiba Prefecture Private Primary School Fair will be held in Ichikawa City.

A school information session will be held in Ichikawa City, Chiba Prefecture, where private elementary schools in Chiba Prefecture will come together to conduct school information sessions. If you are in the neighborhood, please visit the event with your children.

We hope many people will come to visit us and become interested in our school. We have posters and flyers that can be placed in places where many people will see them, such as where the children practices. (Please let us know if you would like to give them to your children, and please collect them after the event date.)

Place: Ito Memorial Hall, Showa Gakuin

Date: February 23 (Sunday), 2025

Time: 9:40 – 13:40

Staff: Mr. Maruyama, Mr. Sasaki, Ms. Horie



Removal of gis email address for children

The gis.ac.jp email address distributed at the start of online classes will be completely deleted from the server. Please register with each family's email address when using Zoom for online classes in the future.

Student's personal belongings and personal grooming

There are children who bring things that are not necessary for school life. There are also some children who are concerned about their disheveled clothing. We will instruct them to bring to school only what they need for school, to wear the correct size uniform, to wear a school hat, to tie their hair up, and not to step on the heels of their shoes. We ask for your cooperation in paying close attention at home as well.

Schedule for January		Departure Time	After School Study/Play
Winter Vacation until January 6 (Monday)			
7(Tue)	3 rd term Opening Ceremony Regular class schedule	14:45	—
8(Wed)	Committee for Grade 5 and up 3 rd Disaster/Emergency Drill	15:35	—
9(Thurs)	School Bus Group Meetings Start of Borrowing Books from the Library	14:45	—
10(Fri)		14:45	—
11(Sat)	Joint Art Exhibition until 20	13:55	—
12(Sun)			
13(Mon)	Coming of Age Holiday		
14(Tue)	Start of After School Study and Play	14:45	○
15(Wed)	Club Activities for Grade 4 and up	15:35	—
16(Thurs)		14:45	○
17(Fri)		14:45	—
18(Sat)	3 rd Entrance Examination	12:00	—
19(Sun)			
20(Mon)	P.C. for A Course	14:45	—
21(Tue)		14:45	○
22(Wed)	Committee for Grade 5 and up	15:35	—
23(Thurs)		14:45	○
24(Fri)	English Proficiency Test/Eiken ^③	14:45	—
25(Sat)	Open School for Prospective Students	13:55	—
26(Sun)			
27(Mon)	P.C. for B Course	14:45	—
28(Tue)		14:45	○
29(Wed)	Club Activities for Grade 4 and up	15:35	—
30(Thurs)		14:45	○
31(Fri)	Kanji Proficiency Test/Kanken ^②	15:35	○
Note	※3 rd term after school play and study begins from the 14 th . In some cases, they may be cancelled due to the implementation of other events ※The school dismissal time on January 18 (Sat.) has been changed to 12:00. ※Class observation and parent-teacher conferences are scheduled for February 8 (Sat.).		