



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 as his Body and wine as 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 your heart is a mission. It is important for us to seek the right path in life in an obedient and respectful manner. Someday 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. However, I want 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 Principal

As the year-end is drawing close, we look back on how much the children have grown through their learning and various school events. It has truly been a year in which each of them was able to shine even more brightly in their own unique way. We would like to express our sincere gratitude to all parents and guardians for your warm understanding and continued support throughout the year.

In the church calendar, December marks the season of Advent. It is a time when we quietly await the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ, while also cherishing compassion for those around us and holding in our hearts prayers for others, even when unseen. Christmas is not only a festive celebration, but also a valuable opportunity to reflect on the spirit of sharing and gratitude.

During the winter break, many families will have more opportunities to spend time together. As you gather around the table, we hope you will take a moment to look back on the past year, talk with your children about what they accomplished and what they worked hard on, and share warm moments of mutual appreciation.

The Bible tells us, "For everything there is a season" (Ecclesiastes 3:1). There is a time to learn, a time to play, a time to rest, and a time to pray. Keeping a good rhythm in these things helps nurture both the heart and the body. We hope that children will avoid staying up late and irregular routines as much as possible and take good care of their health. May your family welcome the new year while exchanging kind and encouraging words at home.

The Bible also teaches, "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances" (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18). We encourage you to take a little time each day to look back together as a family and share "one thing you are thankful for today."

Please take good care of your health and have a safe and enjoyable winter break. We look forward to welcoming the children back to school in the new year, full of energy and with bright smiles.

### Red Feather Donation (Report)

Thank you for your cooperation with the Red Feather Donation. We have donated 4,357 yen to the Chiba Prefecture Community Chest, a social welfare corporation.



### 2025 Marathon

Thank you very much for coming to the school despite your busy schedules. With warm cheers from parents and students, all participating children ran all the way to the finish line. Starting this year, we have decided to compile the results by grade and by gender. The names of the award recipients will be posted on the school bulletin board in the school.

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

	1 <sup>st</sup> Place	2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	4 <sup>th</sup> Place	5 <sup>th</sup> Place	6 <sup>th</sup> Place
Grade 1 Boys						
Grade 1 Girls						
Grade 2 Boys						
Grade 2 Girls						
Grade 3 Boys						
Grade 3 Girls						
Grade 4 Boys						
Grade 4 Girls						
Grade 5 Boys						
Grade 5 Boys						
Grade 6 Boys						
Grade 6 Girls						



## **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 the faded names on any school supplies brought back during the winter break.

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

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

We have received many unmarked lost and found items. Please be sure to write your child's names clearly on his/her beret, red and white hat, sweater, vest, water bottle, and school shoes.

## **Calligraphy Works**

We will participate in the 78th 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 (Wednesday). Please be sure to follow the submission deadlines, as the delivery date has been set.

## **English Proficiency Test**

On Friday, January 23 Eiken will be held. Notifications of the test result and the admission ticket to the second test will be mailed to your home on Tuesday, February 24. The second test will be held on Sunday, March 1. Results for the second test are expected to be sent on Tuesday, March 17. In addition, please note that 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 13. Please consult the school schedule in the school newsletter "Akatsuki" carefully.

## **Change of School Dismissal Time**

Due to the 3rd Entrance Examination on Saturday, January 17, the dismissal time will be changed. Students will be dismissed at 12:00 after lunch.

## **School Evaluation Survey**

We have sent out the School Evaluation Survey via Mimamorume. The deadline is Saturday, January 17. Thank you for your cooperation.

We also distributed the student survey today. Please have your child fill it out at home and submit it to the homeroom teacher at the beginning of the new term, or place it in the mailbox in front of the staff room.

## **The 18th 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. We hope to see you there. Our school's reception duty is on Saturday, January 10th, in the morning.

Exhibit Period: January 10 (Saturday) to 14 (Wednesday), 2026 (5 days)

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



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

A school briefing session will be held in Ichikawa City, Chiba Prefecture, where private elementary schools in Chiba Prefecture will come together to conduct school briefing sessions.

If you are in the neighborhood, please visit the event with your children.

Date: Monday, February 23, 2026 (National Holiday) Time: 9:40 – 13:30

Place: Ito Memorial Hall, Showa Gakuin Staff: Mr. Miura, Mr. Maruyama, Mr. Vicente, Ms. Horie

## **Achievement Tests**

As a summary of the year's learning, we will administer achievement tests from Monday, March 2 to Friday, March 6, 2026. The tests will use the "Kyogen Standard Achievement Test." Information regarding the subjects will be provided in the January issue of the school newsletter "Akatsuki".

## 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.

## 2025 University of Tsukuba "Seeds of Science" Award Winners

〈Encouragement Prize〉 Grade 4, Class A – [REDACTED]

“Is the Soil Used for the Sumo Ring Special? – Comparing It with Other Types of Soil –”

〈Effort Prize〉 Grade 4, Class A – [REDACTED]

“Physical Changes in Elementary School Pitchers – The Scientific Meaning Behind the 50-Pitch Limit –”

This year, two students from our school applied, and both received awards (out of a total of 903 submissions).

Since first participating in 2022, our school has produced award recipients for four consecutive years.

To strengthen their research, students revisited their research sites to gather missing data or conducted additional experiments—efforts that require considerable time and persistence. However, the hard work they put in becomes a valuable learning experience.

We look forward to seeing even more students participate next year. With the hope of nurturing children who will one day connect with the world through the field of science, we will continue to support these endeavors.

	Schedule for January		Departure Time	After School Study/Play
<b>Winter Vacation until January 6 (Tuesday)</b>				
7(Wed)	3 <sup>rd</sup> term Opening Ceremony Committee for Grade 5 and up	Regular class schedule	15:35	—
8(Thurs)	3 <sup>rd</sup> Disaster/Emergency Drill Start of Borrowing Books from the Library		14:45	—
9(Fri)	School Bus Group Meetings		14:45	—
10(Sat)		Joint Art Exhibition until 14	12:55	—
11(Sun)				
12(Mon)	Coming of Age Holiday			
13(Tue)	Start of After School Study and Play		14:45	○
14(Wed)	Club Activities for Grade 4 and up		15:35	—
15(Thurs)			14:45	○
16(Fri)			14:45	—
17(Sat)		3 <sup>rd</sup> Entrance Examination	<b>12:00</b>	—
18(Sun)				
19(Mon)			14:45	—
20(Tue)			14:45	○
21(Wed)	Committee for Grade 5 and up		15:35	—
22(Thurs)	Election of Student Council Members		14:45	○
23(Fri)	English Proficiency Test/Eiken③		14:45	—
24(Sat)		Open School for Prospective Students	12:55	—
25(Sun)				
26(Mon)			14:45	—
27(Tue)			14:45	○
28(Wed)	Club Activities for Grade 4 and up		15:35	—
29(Thurs)			14:45	○
30(Fri)			14:45	○
31(Sat)		Orientation for New Students' Parents	12:55	—
Note	※ 3 <sup>rd</sup> term after school play and study begins from the 13 <sup>th</sup> . In some cases, they may be cancelled due to the implementation of other events ※ The school dismissal time on January 17 (Sat.) has been changed to 12:00. ※ The Class Observation and The English Learning Presentation are scheduled on Saturday, February 7. ※ The Music Festival is scheduled for Saturday, February 21.			