



The end of this school year is just around the corner. It is the season for our children to graduate or be promoted to the next grade. I am happy to have experience our children's healthy development and to feel their confidence.

Our preschool life has changed since last October due to COVID-19. Some events were cancelled, and the children's play actives have changed. Our children and families must have felt these inconveniences. However, regardless of that situation, the children were always full of energy as you saw in our Christmas Video and Exercise Observation Day. Also, the bulletin boards that the teachers had created to highlight the children's preschool daily life showed that they were always cheerful and energetic.

I saw the children playing with the teachers outside of my office one day. The two-year-old classroom children danced to music. The three-year-old classroom children ran inside a circle so as not to be hit by a ball when playing dodgeball. The four-year-old classroom children were challenged to jump with a jump rope more times than they did on the Exercise Observation Day. I smiled unintentionally.

Despite this difficult situation, our children experienced a safe and happy preschool environment. The teachers were able to concentrate on taking care of the children because of your understanding and cooperation. I give you my sincere gratitude of thanks for your cooperation.

For the parents/guardians of the graduating children, I wish for your child to have a great time at his/her new school. For the parents/guardians of the continuing children, we will make every effort for our children to play and to learn to their fullest during the next school year as well. We appreciate your future understanding and cooperation.

Director Keiko Damiata

## Messages from the Teachers

### Risu Class

The year went by so quickly. We had a wonderful time to experience our children's healthy growth. At the beginning of the year, the children hardly said, "Good morning!" or felt shy to dance or had a worried look; however, by the end they showed their personality, greeted cheerfully, played together, and seemed to be happy to see their friends every day.

They showed their dignified appearance on the Performance Day and the Exercise Observation Day. They shared the joy with each other about countless "they can do it." To the Risu children, the presence of their friends especially affected them.

They heard the encouragement from friends who said, "You can do it." or "You try it." were challenged by themselves. It amazed us every day to see how much our children grew.

Although they did not have much time as usual to play with friends, we hope that their spending time together in the Risu class will be a lasting fun memory.

## **Banana Class**

There were some changes about play in the Banana class this past year due to COVID-19. For example, some children used to get tired of putting blocks together before, but they spend more time and create more complicated designs now. Also, as the children did not have much time to play together due to COVID-19, it took time to feel comfortable with one another. However, they seem to be happy to see their friends every day now. Although this year has been challenging, we think that the children in the Banana class will have lasting good memories.

## **Melon Class**

We think that our children have grown into thoughtful and caring individuals. For example, they help friends clean up or they ask, "Are you ok?" or say, "Do not cry anymore." with gentle words when they see a crying friend. Due to COVID-19, there were many restrictions, and they did not have much time to play with friends; however, we think that spending time with classmates will be a wonderful memory to them.

## **Bara Class**

To the children of the Bara class, congratulations on your graduation! Under difficult conditions, our preschool started in October. The time has passed quickly. Although the Bara class started with a small group of children, the number increased little by little, and the class became more lively. All the Bara children became good friends. They always played together when outside. They called out each other by saying, "Let's play together." Sometimes one child took the initiative and talked about rules. We felt reassured to see their growth every day. Sometimes we heard, "Please wear a mask.", "It is not ok to touch.", or "Please stay away." They acted like teachers. They learned to jump many times although they had never played with a jump rope before. They learned to read and write the Hiragana letters. They learned big numbers as well. We experienced their growth in many ways.

We were happy to have the Bara children. Thank you very much.

## **Sumire Class**

It has been one year since we first met the Sumire children. Due to COVID-19, we were limited in sharing, and we had to wear a mask this year. There was less physical contact among us compared to other years. However, we created new activities for children's daily play and preschool events based on trial and error. In addition, we felt fulfilled in their learning because we were able to spend more individual time with the children. The other day, when we asked the children to draw a memorable picture, all of them drew about playing with friends. Although they did not have much time to play together this year, we were happy that they felt getting together was fun. Lastly, we are grateful for our parents/guardians' cooperation and understanding. We are happy to have experienced your child's growth. We are praying for your child's future healthy growth. Thank you very much.

## **To the GBC Volunteers**

We would like to say thanks to Brian Imada, Alan Miwa, Dave Mitani, Daniel Iwamoto, John Nakamura, Joe Nishihira, Wallace Yuki, and James Yokota for your support during this school year. They trimmed the garden at the Church, repaired things in the classrooms, installed Koinobori, set up audio equipment for our Exercise Day, and did a lot of odds-and-ends for us. In addition, many GBC Volunteers supported our preschool this school year.

## **Important Announcements**

**School Year 2021 - 2022 will start on August 16<sup>th</sup> (Monday).**

We regret that we will not be able to conduct **the Entrance Ceremony** due to COVID-19. We plan to have announcements regarding the new school year by email just like last time.