

# Future

## Young Problem Solvers

In ICT lessons and sometimes in the first period, the fourth graders work with micro-bit. I think it is their favorite activity at the moment. So many of the students program at home and in their free time, even if no one makes them do it. At recess, one can hear some children talking about programming. It seems like there are many future engineers in our class. It is great to see that the students have found something they are passionate about. They should work in pairs or groups to make or use some programs. That brought the chance for some students to talk with those classmates they hadn't talked to a lot and get to know each other better. In project classes, students are now thinking about what problems are there in school that micro-bit can solve. Eventually, it should give them an idea of what kind of program they should be developing. So, first, they discussed what problems exist in the school. Next, they divided into groups and picked some teachers to interview about their problems at work. The answers turned out to be interesting.

Interviewing teachers made many students realize how hard teachers' jobs can be and that some teachers do a lot of work that is not necessarily teaching, like administrative work, for example.

This week, the students brainstormed what causes these problems and how to solve them. Using thinking tools, they threw as many ideas as possible, narrowed them down, and discussed them vigorously. Some had already thought about which program would solve a certain problem. I was happy to see how enthusiastic they were about discussing teachers' concerns. They care about the teachers a lot and are determined to help them.

As for music classes, the fourth graders keep working on Shining Future 輝く未来へ. With Ms. Mirei, they came up with the lyrics to the part of the song where, before, they just sang "Lalala." So now, the song got new lyrics. However, they decided to keep a small part of the song as it is, just singing "Lalala." I can't wait to see them singing the new version of the song. I'm sure it will come out as great as the first one.

Unfortunately, many children stayed at home this week and attended classes online. The students already miss each other and can't wait to study and play altogether in person. We, teachers, look forward to everyone's recovery and seeing students coming to school as usual. I wish everyone a summer vacation!