

# Future

## Back to school from holidays!

We have a very positive start after the Obon holidays. The students have returned to school refreshed and relaxed and are thriving in the familiarity of their school routines. It was an eventful week for the 4th grade. We had new students coming for trial, a new foreign teacher, and Solan Special concert.

Five new students in the fourth grade were coming this Thursday and Friday. Also, we have a new fourth-grade teacher from the US. His name is Brian, and he will be a homeroom teacher for either of Grade 4 class. The former students were eagerly helping out the new students in Project lessons to get to grips with micro:bit. One could see that the new students greatly enjoyed programming. They kept on trying different programs with micro:bit, even at recess. Students have been enthusiastically helping new students by explaining how to use micro:bit, the iPad, and what they usually do before or after lessons and at recess. The fourth graders wanted to show their best side, so the last two days, there were a lot of jokes and fun, and everyone was in high spirits. Open school students quickly got accustomed to the class atmosphere and, by lunchtime on Thursday, were already chatting and playing with the others. It was as if the students had known each other for a long time. It is just amazing how quickly the children get on with each other.

In music lessons, students kept learning to play the recorder and composing words to the music of Shining Future ~輝く未来へ. When they look for words that fit the school's spirit and the music, they think about their meanings and have interesting discussions. Such as, what freedom means, and what the future means. And these discussions are what sustain their interest in composing. Ms. Taniguchi, Ms. Higuchi, and Mr. Suzuki organized the SOLAN Special Concert this week, performing songs from Disney movies. Kids were thrilled. They froze and plunged briefly into a fairy tale world. We were all impressed by how beautifully Ms. Tanaka sings. Everyone asked the teachers to play an encore, so Ms. Taniguchi played the Shining Future ~輝く未来へ, and all the grades sang. There were a lot of fourth graders among the children listening to the whole concert in awe. Some ran to Ms. Taniguchi and Ms. Tanaka right after it finished to share their impressions.

Despite the bad weather, the week was lively and joyful. The fourth graders shared what they were doing during the holiday. They met new children and played dodgeball with Mr. Aratani. At last, they attended a concert by the teachers, and some presented their inquiry topics. I hope the following weeks will be as positive and fun as this one.