



# 翔鷹

Japanese school of Abu Dhabi **School Newsletter**

2021  
January 5<sup>th</sup>  
Editor: Vice Principal

## New Year of Reiwa the 3<sup>rd</sup>

Vice Principal Koji Sato

Happy new year to everyone. I wish you a wonderful year. Last year was a year when we all got heavily affected by COVID-19 pandemic. In Japan, around this time of last year, we started to hear about COVID-19, and the news of Diamond Princess cruise ship in Yokohama quickly frightened all the Japanese, then WHO announced the warning of COVID-19 pandemic to the world.

I met the school principal in the training by MEXT for teachers who would be dispatched overseas. We have been discussing the school curriculum to achieve the “school where students want to go and parents want children to go” in the UAE capital city of Abu Dhabi in the Middle East, which is unknown to us. We finished the training and preparation, and right before the appointment and receiving the passport, we received the emergency email of the indefinite halt of dispatching teachers overseas from the ministry at the end of March, and the Prime Minister announced the state of emergency in April. A number of unprecedented actions and school regulations were taken, including school closure.



We had online meetings between teachers in Abu Dhabi and Japan, 8000km away. We have discussed how to implement the education in Japanese school. We have constructed the online classroom system using Microsoft Teams and could hold e-Learning lessons more than the standard number of lessons in Japanese elementary and junior high school. I was impressed by the advanced ICT environment and cooperative relationship and system among teachers, students and parents.

Without us, management teachers, teachers and staff of our school have prepared the COVID-19 preventive measures in school and classrooms and passed the ADEK inspection to start the 2<sup>nd</sup> term. We hoped to come to Abu Dhabi in summer when it's spring, and in autumn when it's summer. Then on the 1<sup>st</sup> of October, we finally arrived in Abu Dhabi. As I imagined, there are excellent teachers, hard-working students and cooperative and supportive parents. We could hold the mid-term exam for junior high students and that allowed us to give an evaluation at the end of the term.

The closing ceremony of the 2<sup>nd</sup> term was the hybrid style and held both at school and online, using an electronic whiteboard in the hall for G1 students, who could not participate in the entrance ceremony at school. The school principal introduced the Kanji of the year, “密”(Mitsu, meaning crowded and closed. It was frequently used in Japan to call for avoiding the Mitsu situation.) and “Birds in Abu Dhabi”, showing the pictures on the electronic whiteboard. We avoided Mitsu, endured and devised throughout the year. However, the Kanji of Mitsu also has the meaning of familiarity and bonds.

Today is the opening of the 3<sup>rd</sup> term. We are ready to welcome all students after 2 weeks of e-Learning. Although we still cannot see the end of this pandemic, we, Japanese school of Abu Dhabi, are working cooperatively to maintain the learning environment, making an improvement and progress in this year of Reiwa the 3<sup>rd</sup>.

【January】

Date	Event
1 Fri	New Year
2 Sat	
3 Sun	
4 Mon	End of Winter Holiday
5 Tue	3rd Term Start e-Learning
6 Wed	
7 Thu	
8 Fri	
9 Sat	
10 Sun	
11 Mon	
12 Tue	
13 Wed	
14 Thu	
15 Fri	
16 Sat	
17 Sun	
18 Mon	
19 Tue	
20 Wed	
21 Thu	
22 Fri	
23 Sat	
24 Sun	
25 Mon	
26 Tue	
27 Wed	
28 Thu	Kanken
29 Fri	
30 Sat	
31 Sun	

National Day



National day event was held on November 30<sup>th</sup>. This year, we held it online to prevent the spread of coronavirus infection. Starting with the opening speech by a junior high school student, there was a lot of content such as short speeches about National day by Emirati students and parents and reading of the Quran. In the quiz of the UAE by Emirati students, all students participated and enjoyed it very much. It was a nice opportunity for everyone to celebrate the foundation day of UAE and to learn about its history.

Installing electronic whiteboards and making good use of them

On 6<sup>th</sup> Dec, 11 of electronic whiteboards have been installed in Japanese school of Abu Dhabi.

We have received those from the ICT program by MEXT and Japan Overseas Educational Services. These are the catchphrases for the electronic whiteboards.

- More fun, more understandable classes by using electronic whiteboards!
- The classes electronic whiteboards are used make students speak up spontaneously!
- Very convenient for teachers too, especially in this COVID-19 situation!
- The large screen makes students keep good posture!
- We can also use for school events and ceremonies!

By using electronic whiteboards, Japanese school of Abu Dhabi will develop more than before.



1<sup>st</sup> term online → 2<sup>nd</sup> term every other week online → 3<sup>rd</sup> term All students come to school after 2 weeks  
 • School bus (Driver: Mr. Mohammed) is now a motorcoach.  
 All students will come back to school soon. We appreciate the hard work of the PTA member in getting a larger bus and we would like to thank all the PTA members for understanding and cooperation. Thank you.