

The 29th Edition of Thinking about Peace

Preface for the 29th Edition of Elementary and Junior High School Students' Essay Collection: "Thinking about Peace"

Numazu City
The Numazu City Board of Education

Numazu City issued the "Declaration of Peace and the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons" with approval of the city council on March 20, 1987. The abolition of nuclear weapons for the prevention of nuclear war is a common desire of people around the world, and this declaration expresses the desire for peace by our citizens and city council who considered the crisis of nuclear war.

Since this declaration, we have been making various efforts to promote peace education in order to acquire the understanding and cooperation of our residents regarding the purpose of this declaration. These efforts include building monuments for important places in our city, showing movies about peace, holding a panel exhibition titled, "Atomic Bombs and Humans" and distributing publications and visual materials about peace to elementary / junior high schools, libraries and so on.

This essay collection contains writings and poems of elementary and junior high school students in our city, and it expresses their feelings of peace based on what they learned from classrooms, various types of media coverage and stories of experiences of people close to them. Many works were submitted again this year to be published in this 29th Edition.

Some students wrote about their visits to battle sites in Japan and overseas including the Atomic Bomb Dome and Okinawa through which they witnessed and felt the horror of war. Other students listened to stories from the people who actually experienced war and wondered how it would be if they lived during the war. These essays show a strong will of the students to take responsibility for a peaceful future in facing the tragedy of wars and atomic bombs and considering what they need and what they can do for peace. We believe that every student will continue to consider peace and make changes for a peaceful future.

We hope that this collection will be enjoyed by as many people as possible.