

The 29th Edition of Thinking about Peace

Afterword

We are presenting the 29th Elementary and Junior High School Students' Essay Collection: "Thinking about Peace." This year, we received 115 writings in total: 34 from elementary school students and 81 from junior high school students.

We received many essays from all grades in various themes again which showed serious consideration in facing peace. In some writings, students read various materials, such as books and newspapers, in order to express how tragic and meaningless war is. We also found some students who visited battle sites and considered how they could conserve today's peace. We also felt antiwar feelings from some of the essays to never repeat war again based on recent news coverage, movies and pictures. Many parts of these essays expressed the students' wishes to care for peace and their thoughts to find what they can do to conserve peace.

Our hometown, Numazu, is a beautiful city in which nature, history, culture and industry are harmonized together. Numazu City issued the "Declaration of Peace and the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons" in 1987. Even today, 28 years since this declaration, war and domestic conflicts are still continuing in some parts of the world. It is not so easy to achieve world peace which everyone in the world should pursue. We must pay attention to and seriously consider the fact that countless people are still suffering from the ravages of conflicts on this earth.

We hope that elementary and junior high school students in Numazu City can deepen their feelings for peace through this essay collection as they become adults who hold hopes for our future, and they can continue live in a world where peace is the norm. We also hope that readers can reconfirm the weight of responsibility to "protect our beautiful earth and peaceful life to the end of our future generations," as Numazu City declared, and continue their best efforts for this purpose.

Finally, we would also like to express our sincere gratitude for the readers of this essay collection.