

# The 30th Edition of Thinking about Peace

## Preface for the 30<sup>th</sup> 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 the approval of the city council on March 20, 1987. People all around the world have the desire to abolish nuclear weapons in order to prevent nuclear wars. This declaration expresses the desire for peace by our citizens and city council who are concerned about a nuclear war crisis.

Since this declaration was made, in order to help our residents understand its purpose and cooperate we have been making various efforts to promote peace education. These efforts include building monuments for important places in our city, showing movies about peace, holding a panel exhibition titled “Humans and Atomic Bombs,” and distributing publications.

This collection of essays 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 and various kinds of media, and stories from the experiences of people close to them. Many writings and poems have been collected this year again, and we will publish this collection as the 30th edition.

In this collection, some students searched, listened, or experienced things related to the war, and they are reminded how they are happy that they can live peacefully compared to the lives of the boys and girls of the same age under the miserable and cruel condition of the war. Other students feel a sense of crisis because their opportunities to listen to the stories from the people who experienced the war is decreasing. They also understand and feel deeply that it is important for them to pass down how frightful the war and nuclear weapons were. They are trying to think seriously what they should do as people who haven’t experienced wars in order not to forget the painful memory of the past.

We believe that all students will build a peaceful future by holding onto the strong and honest thoughts that they felt in “the last summer of Heisei.”

We hope this collection of essays will be read and enjoyed by as many people as possible.