

# **Preface for the 31<sup>st</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 approval from the city council on March 20, 1987. The abolition of nuclear weapons for the prevention of nuclear war is a common desire of all people around the world and this declaration express the desire for peace by our citizens and city council who consider the crisis of a nuclear war.

Since this declaration, we have been making various efforts to promote peace education in order to acquire 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 "Humans and Atomic Bombs," and distributing publications.

This essay collection contains writings and poems from elementary and junior high school students in our city. It expresses their feelings of peace based on what they learned from class, various kinds of media, and stories of experiences from people close to them. Many writings and poems are collected this year again and we will publish this collection as the 31st edition.

The eras have made transitions from Showa, Heisei to Reiwa and we have less chances to listen to the stories about the war based on real experiences. In such situations, many students express their honest gratitude for living a life at ease and the importance and preciousness of peace because they listened to the few stories about the real war experiences, read books on the war or visited the places deeply linked with the war.

They think seriously what they should or can do in order to pass peace to the next generation. It is necessary that each person should make an effort and work towards the realization of everlasting peace. We believe that they are trying to make a peaceful future by their own strong and sincere wish for peace in the first year of the Reiwa era.

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