

Preface for the 32nd 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 then, in order to maintain the understanding of this proclamation and cooperation of citizens, Numazu City has set up monuments at key locations and held the panel exhibition "the Atomic Bomb and People".

This collection of compositions includes essays and poetry written by elementary and junior high school students of Numazu, of their feelings on peace, inspired by school lessons and their exposure to various media and the testimonies of people around them. This year again saw a large number of submissions, as we publish the 32nd edition.

Since the first edition, the publication has been released every year without fail, except for last year due to the Covid 19 pandemic. This year's publication of the 32nd Edition is the first in 2 years, and we would like to express our gratitude for the understanding and cooperation of the elementary school students, junior high school students and others involved.

Now as over 70 years pass since the end of the war, opportunities to hear of war experiences from those who lived through it are becoming scarce. This situation makes the role of this collection all the more important, as a tool to encourage elementary and junior high school students to ponder the misery of war and nuclear weapons, and the importance and preciousness of peace. We believe that this collection will instill feelings of peace in those who read it and lead to a peaceful world to be handed down to future generations.

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