

On the publication of the 34th Collection of Essays by Elementary and Junior High School Students Contemplating Peace

Numazu City

Numazu City Board of Education

On March 20, 1987, Numazu City made the Declaration of a Peaceful City for the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons by a resolution of the city council. The abolition of nuclear weapons is a common desire of the people of the world, and it expresses the desire for peace based on the will of citizens and city councils in response to the danger of nuclear war.

This collection of essays contains works by elementary and junior high school students in the city that express their feelings about peace in essays and poems based on lessons, various media, and the experiences of people close to them. We received many works and were able to publish it as the 34th volume. We would like to express our sincere gratitude to the elementary and junior high school students, and everyone involved for their understanding and cooperation during this publication.

It will soon be 80 years since the end of the war. At a time when opportunities to hear the voices of people who have experienced war are rapidly disappearing, war suddenly broke out in Ukraine two years ago. Even for children who thought of war as something that happened in a faraway country, the news of this war, which was reported every day, unexpectedly gave them an opportunity to think about war and peace anew.

In the essay, he writes that he empathizes with boys and girls of the same age who were placed in the tragic and harsh conditions of war, and that he once again realized how happy the normal, peaceful life that we currently have is. They faced head-on the misery of war and looked for ways to do something about it, showing that they were seriously thinking about what they should do as they are from a generation that has never known war.

The desire for peace remains unchanged throughout the ages. I believe that elementary and junior high school students will never forget the feelings they have expressed through this collection of essays, build a peaceful future, and pass it on to the next generation.

We hope that the voices of peace-loving children will be heard by as many people as possible.