

Afterword

We will deliver the “35th Collection of Essays by Elementary and Junior High School Students Contemplating Peace”. This year, this collection of essays received a total of 89 entries, 35 from Elementary school students and 54 from Junior High school students. All of the works are carefully written about their thoughts on peace from the perspective of elementary and junior high school students.

Inspired by classes, books, and the news, students think about war, research, listen to stories, and visit the sites of war, and each of them conveys their thoughts on war and peace, such as what war brings, the value of peace, and the threat of nuclear weapons. They also ask us, the readers, “What is peace?” “Can we say that the modern age in which we live is peaceful?” and “What can we do to build a peaceful world?”

There was a war in Numazu City, where we live. It is said that the town of Numazu changed overnight, and many citizens lost their lives.

In 1987, Numazu City declared itself a “Declaration of a City of Peace to Abolish Nuclear Weapons. Building lasting world peace is the common desire of all humankind.” “We will protect the beautiful earth and a peaceful life for our children and grandchildren.” We need to continue our efforts.

Many wars are still occurring every day in the world, and many lives and livelihoods are being lost at this very moment. We sometimes want to turn our eyes away from this tragic reality. However, as we go about our daily lives, we sometimes feel as if the events are happening in a different world from our own.

In the midst of all this, the Japan Confederation of A- and H-Bomb Sufferers Organizations, which has appealed for the abolition of nuclear weapons from the standpoint of atomic bomb survivors, was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. The award was given in recognition of the efforts made over the past 70 years to realize a world without nuclear weapons, and the activities of strongly advocating the testimony that nuclear weapons must never be used again. We hope that this award will be an opportunity to eliminate the threat of nuclear weapons from the entire world.

In order to avoid repeating the same mistakes in the future, it is important for elementary and junior high school students, who will be the leaders of the future, to think about peace in their own way, discuss it, and disseminate what they have learned. It is my hope that through this collection of essays, elementary and junior high school students in Numazu City will have thorough discussions with people around the world about what true peace is, and that it will connect their hopes to the future.

I hope this collection of essays will unite all of us who wish for peace and become a big step towards a peaceful world.

Finally, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to everyone who has read this collection of essays.