

On the publication of the 36th 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 36th 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.

In 2025, our country marked the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II. The period from the Meiji Restoration to the end of the war, commonly referred to as the “prewar and wartime” era, lasted 77 years, meaning that the “postwar” period has already become longer in terms of time. If no effort is made, memories will inevitably fade as time passes.

Looking beyond Japan, wars and conflicts continue to occur in places such as Ukraine and Palestine, and many precious lives are still being lost on a daily basis.

Against this backdrop, this essay collection conveys how elementary and junior high school students in Numazu have sincerely confronted the value of peace and the tragedy of war and nuclear weapons. They have done so by listening directly to the stories of those who experienced war firsthand, visiting sites within and outside the city connected to war, and watching films and animated works related to war. Through these experiences, they have reflected in their own way and compiled and shared their thoughts in the form of essays and poems.

Activities that seek peace are, above all, important to continue, and the desire for peace remains unchanged in every era. We believe that the elementary and junior high school students will not forget the feelings they embraced through this essay collection, will continue to inherit the memories of those who came before them, work to build a peaceful future, and pass these values on to the next generation.

We sincerely hope that the voices of children who love peace will reach as many people as possible.