



Newsletter

SY-2025 Kani-shi Dota Elementary School

【学校教育目標】たくましく生きる土田の子  
あたたかく かしく ねばりよく

# Hatobuki

英



土田小オリジナル  
キャラクター【はとみん】  
January Issue

## Contemplating "Reverence for Heaven and Love for Humanity" in the New Year

I was lucky enough to travel to Yamagata Prefecture some time ago and discovered the existence of Nanshu Shrine in Sakata City. Nanshu means "Saigo Takamori," a shrine dedicated to Saigo Takamori. The Shonai region, where Sakata City is located, was once the territory of the Shonai Domain, which fought against the new government forces in the Boshin War (a war between the Meiji government forces and the former shogunate forces) and surrendered to Saigo Takamori. I was curious as to why there was a shrine dedicated to an enemy general, so I did some research...

During the Boshin War, the Shonai Domain won consecutive battles, dealing a blow to the new government forces. However, as allies such as the Yonezawa Domain surrendered one after another, the Shonai Domain eventually surrendered as well. The lord of the Shonai Domain, Sakai Tadazumi, prepared to commit seppuku and informed the enemy commander, Saigo Takamori, of his surrender. However, Saigo said something unexpected to him: "If you admit your wrongdoing, that's fine. There's no need for you to apologize by committing seppuku." He then handed over a list of weapons to be handed over. "Your domain is a defense against Russia from the north. Please keep all of these weapons as they are." Saigo's generosity, treating the Shonai Domain not as enemies but as allies in a new era, deeply touched the Shonai Domain's lord and all his retainers. This moving story has been passed down through the generations, and about 100 years later, Nanshu Shrine, dedicated to Saigo, was built in Sakata.

In 1870, the feudal lord, Sakai Tadaatsu, personally visited Kagoshima with his retainers to seek Saigo's teachings. After Saigo's death, his teachings were compiled into the book 『南洲翁遺訓』 "Nanshu O Ikun," which was distributed throughout the country. Sakai Tadaatsu was also one of the initiators of the plan to erect a bronze statue of Saigo Takamori in Ueno Park, Tokyo.

Thanks to the people of Shonai who have passed down the story of Saigo Takamori's way of life and thinking through "Nanshu O Ikun," we are able to learn about Saigo's thinking today. Included in the book is the famous phrase "Respect heaven and love people."

It is said to mean "to fear and respect everything in this world, and to treat everyone you meet with love."



Children, and sometimes even we adults, can create conflicts not only in major conflicts such as foreign wars, but also in our own lives by behaving in a way that lacks consideration for others or by trying to force our own way of thinking.

Just as Saigo and the people of Shonai once broke the cycle of hatred with "love," I too would like to determine what my true purpose is and what I must value, respect others, and have "love = consideration for others." I would also like to strive to help the children of Dota Elementary School to grow into people with "tolerant hearts" who can cherish both themselves and their friends. Thank you for your continued support this year.

Principal Chiba Tomoji



mo.	date	day	Event
1	1	Thur	New Year
1	2	Fri	
1	3	Sat	
1	4	Sun	
1	5	Mon	
1	6	Tue	
1	7	Wed	ALT School Opening Assembly
1	8	Thur	ALT
1	9	Fri	Name Writing Day 高野SC
1	10	Sat	<b>「Kakizome Exhibit」Info</b> Calligraphy will be displayed in the hallways of each classroom. You are welcome to visit during the period below. If you are driving, please enter through the east gate and park in the playground. Period: 1/13 (Tue) ~ 1/16 (Fri) Time: 16:00 ~ 16:30
1	11	Sun	
1	12	Mon	
1	13	Tue	ALT Jump Rope Practice
1	14	Wed	Music Recital/ALT
1	15	Thur	Kira-Kira Activity Comm. Meeting
1	16	Fri	高野SC
1	17	Sat	Kani City Elem & Junior HS Art Exhibition and Special Needs Class Art Exhibition
1	18	Sun	Kani City Elem & Junior HS Art Exhibition and Special Needs Class Art Exhibition
1	19	Mon	ALT
1	20	Tue	ALT/Gr-6 Tea Ceremony Experience①/ 藤本SC
1	21	Wed	Students' Assembly
1	22	Thur	Club Jump Rope Practice
1	23	Fri	高野SC
1	24	Sat	
1	25	Sun	
1	26	Mon	
1	27	Tue	Gr-6 Tea Ceremony Experience② Pet Bottle Recycle Collection
1	28	Wed	ALT Rep. Assembly/Students' Assembly
1	29	Thur	ALA Future Musician Project (Gr6) Club
1	30	Fri	Figure 8 Record Meet 高野SC
1	31	Sat	

### 【Request for Confirmation of Enrollment for SY-2026】

When planning for the number of classes for next school year (2026), we need to confirm your child's enrollment status.

In this regard, please read the "Enrollment Confirmation for SY-2026" announcement, that will be distributed on Jan 7 (Wed). Fill out the "Enrollment Confirmation Form" then submit to your class adviser. Furthermore, if you are planning to transfer, please state this on the form.

\*Current 6th graders will also be required to submit a letter of commitment to enroll at Sonan Junior High School. If you are considering enrolling in a private junior high school, please indicate this in your statement and submit it.

### 【November Recycle Collection Report】

• Carton Box	390kg	780 yen
• Newspaper	760kg	2280 yen
• Alum Can	30kg	3000 yen
• Magazine	270kg	270 yen

Total 6330 yen

The amount from the recycle collection for November is 6,330 yen. We will use the proceeds properly for educational activities and environmental improvements. Thank you for your cooperation.

### < February Major Activities >

- 4(Wed) School Materials Retailing(for incoming Gr-1)
- 6(Fri) Sonan JHS Orientation (Gr-6)
- 7(Sat) Incoming Leader Training (Gr-5)
- 13(Fri) Class Visitation/ Gen.Meeting



You can view the Dota Elementary School website from the URL below or by scanning the QR code on the right.

<https://www2.school.city.kani.gifu.jp/dota/>

