



Fujiwara Elementary School

Dear Mr. Knipping,

Thank you very much for your recent letter and your delivery of supporting materials. I am the principal of Fujiwara Elementary School, Shinya Yoshida. We are thankful from the bottom of our hearts for everyone's heart-warming assistance.

On March 11th, 2011 at 2:46PM, a big earthquake occurred in the Pacific Ocean. Centered on the coasts from Aomori prefecture in the north, down to Ibaraki prefecture, we received a lot of damage due to the earthquake, tsunami, and the leak of radioactivity from the nuclear power plant. Over 3000 people died from this earthquake and tsunami, and the number of people who lost their homes is also great.

Even here, in Fujiwara town in Iwaki city in Fukushima prefecture where our school is located, many houses were badly damaged. But since we are far from the ocean, there wasn't any damage from the tsunami. Also, since the nuclear power plant is somewhat distant from here, the issue of radioactivity was also not that bad. Even so, the grounds of the school buildings and school yard received cracks and the walls were broken.

The hardest issue was that many people took refuge at our school. Over 200 people lived in the gym and classrooms. It was difficult to feed and help them all.

It's been one year and 4 months since the earthquake disaster and people have returned to their normal lives. Gradually they came to have bright hopes.

There are 160 children at Fujiwara Elementary, from 1st graders to 6th graders. In them there are 23 children who could no longer live in their houses and evacuated due to the earthquake. Everyone is very cheerfully living the student life. Everyday they steadily study and play lively in the school yard during recess. This year they can once again do their sports festival and swim in the school pool.

Japan has certainly received various aid and support from around the world and until now has been able to recover. We are thankful to many people around the world. From now on I think our children can cheerfully enjoy living the student life.

Sincerely,

吉田 信也

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Shinya Yoshida

Principal

Fujiwara Elementary School

Iwaki city