

## Ama City Jimokuji Elementary School

### <School introduction>

Commemorating the 142nd anniversary of its opening this year, Jimokuji Elementary School is one of the most traditional schools around the area. The school is abundant in lush greenery, boasting "Biotope", which serves as an oasis for everyone, and awning curtains made of vines in front of the teachers' office. In the east of the school stretches the woods of Jimokuji Temple. This may be why you can see jewel beetles here which are rarely found on the flat. Wishing to foster children with the local community by utilizing these rich resources in the area, we have all our students work on Integrated Studies with the theme of "Our Hometown Jimokuji – Get Involved, Hand Down and Be Connected".

Jimokuji Elementary School has been a member of UNESCO Associated Schools Project Network (ASPnet) since 2012 and focused on the promotion of ESD. This year, aiming to further encourage the activities of collecting aluminum cans and plastic bottle caps to provide vaccine for children in developing countries, our students tried plastic bottle cap artworks in line with the themes for respective grades. Activities for respective grades including the above are marked in our own ESD calendar and systematized so as to be deepened and expanded according to grades. In this way, Jimokuji Elementary School aims to raise children who deeply understand and love our hometown by studying with our local resources in ESD and Integrated Studies, and to make our school and town better at the same time.

### <Outlines of activities by respective graders>

1<sup>st</sup> graders: First graders try activities focusing on the school and its neighboring areas. One of them is to grow morning glories and send them to people in the community to deepen exchanges.

2<sup>nd</sup> graders: Second graders expand their sphere of activities into the local shopping streets and station vicinities. Separated into groups, they go to stores on the shopping streets for interviews, study about the shopping streets and interact with people there.

3<sup>rd</sup> graders: With the welfare theme "Developing a people-friendly town", third graders study about sign language, Braille and wheel chairs, and visit local day-care facilities.

4<sup>th</sup> graders: Under the theme of "Developing an eco-friendly town", fourth graders grow bitter gourds and study about environments from specialists.

5<sup>th</sup> graders: Fifth graders study about the industry of Jimokuji. As Jimokuji is the largest producer of brushes in Japan, they conduct detailed research activities to inform more people of the fact. In addition, they gather information about the agriculture, commerce and other industries of Jimokuji and make presentations on what they have learned.

6<sup>th</sup> graders: Sixth graders learn the history and culture of Jimokuji. By gathering information, they further expand their knowledge of the local history and culture so as to make use of it in activities to spread the attractiveness of our town. In every summer vacation, they go gathering information in six groups with different themes: "Jimokuji Temple", "Kayazu Shrine", "Hansen's disease", "Remains", "Streets" and "Jimokuji-Sekkyo-Genjibushi (Japanese puppet play)". By organizing what they have learned through the information gathering or from guest teachers, and what they have researched in their own ways, they give presentations to their parents and local people in the Integrated Study Presentation Session in November.