

## ALT's Newsletter ~ From Arianne

### 2018 - KJ Sports Festival

May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2018 was so much more than a Sports Festival for KJ; it was a day for class pride, friendships and countless memories. The entire day was filled with laughter and smiling faces from students, parents and teachers. We could not ask for better weather as the day began with the Opening Ceremony followed by the hoisting of the National Flag. Everyone participated in the traditional *rajio taisou* (Radio Calisthenics) before the actual sporting events which consisted of a medley of activities done by students belonging to five different color teams.



The morning events comprised of tests of speed with the 100m Dash for juniors and seniors; followed by the 200m Sprint for seniors. After this the juniors participated in an All –Class Long Distance Run with support from teachers. No one was left behind!



Then came the test of agility and grace with the Obstacle Race and Bread Eating Competition. The obstacle race found some fearless seniors spinning around a baseball bat, running under a hurdle, fishing a candy out of a bowl of flour then elegantly making their way over a balance beam with a tennis ball on a racket before they made a dash to the finish line with a face full of flour. Agility and grace perfected!! This was swiftly followed by the Bread Eating Competition. A student had to run to a basket, choose a paper with a name on it, find the named person who must then give them a piggyback ride to the hanging bread. From there, they must complete the race as a team.

The most wonderful thing to witness was the *minna de jump* – Class Skipping Rope Competition. To see an entire class jump in unison as one giant body was truly amazing. Both the seniors and juniors participated in this event. The traditional *Yosakoi Dance* came after where only the juniors



homeroom classes competed against one another.

In the afternoon the seniors took part in a Club Relay which meant they each had to pass an unusual baton to their team-mates. Each club's 'baton' was actually something that represented their club, for instance, the PhotoClub ran with a picture frame. Everyone present definitely enjoyed watching this race. Next was the Quick March Competition by the senior boys, immediately followed by the junior 3 legged race and the senior 4 legged race. The All Grade Relay was done by a student from the youngest grade to highest grade on each leg of the race. The tug of war came after which meant teachers got a chance to show students their true strength. Then the different color teams had relays with the girls then the boys.

The day ended with the Closing Ceremony, lowering of the flag and the clean-up; but even though it is over and done, the memories made will be held in the hearts of all present who came together not for competition but for cooperation.