

Smile Project

Paralympic Games

Supporting School

Boccia



**Higashimurayama City
Megurita Elementary School**



Japan Boccia Association

Higashimurayama City Megurita Elementary School < Comments from the School >

- Both students and school staff became more familiar with the Paralympics, and our interest in the Paralympics increased.
- Students now show interest not only in boccia but also in other Paralympic sports.
- Through interacting with students from Kodaira Special Needs School, students realized that we can easily achieve inclusion with a little bit of kindness and consideration for others.
- Students learned about the people with impairments living in the same community as them through interaction with the community self-help support facility.
- The project gave teachers opportunities to teach understanding of people with impairments. The project also made us once again realize the importance of putting ourselves in others' shoes in supporting not only people with impairments but all students.

Program Overview

【Boccia Instructor Training Seminar】

On June 3, 2017, we held a training seminar at the school gym instructed by Mr. Mitsuki Murakami, the head instructor of the Japan Boccia Association. School staff attended the lecture and they employed what they learned to advise students after the seminar.

【Boccia Lecture】

From June 19 to June 24, 2017, the students in the 2nd to 6th grades enjoyed a one-hour boccia lecture by Mr. Mitsuki Murakami from the Japan Boccia Association.

【Student Networking through Boccia】

On July 11, 2017, **we organized a student networking event where the 6th graders taught the 1st graders how to play boccia. Students got to know each other through the event.**

【Class Boccia Session】

After the boccia lecture by Mr. Mitsuki Murakami, each class participated in one-hour boccia sessions. **Through the activity, all the students at our school comprehended the rules of Boccia.**

【Participation in the Tokyo Metropolitan Public Schools Boccia Exchange Conference】

On July 29, 2017, our school joined the Tokyo Metropolitan Public Schools Boccia Exchange Conference. We teamed up with Tokyo Metropolitan Kodaira School for Special Needs Education and enjoyed making strategies together and rooting for each other. **We shared a waiting room and students got to know each other during lunch. They chose to sit next each other on the bus back to school.**

【Boccia Practice with Kodaira School for Special Needs Education】

On September 23, 2017, we visited Tokyo Metropolitan Kodaira School for Special Needs Education and joined boccia club practice. **At the practice, students also tried using wheelchairs and learned how difficult it is to throw boccia balls from a wheelchair.**

【School Boccia Session】

On November 11, 2017, we conducted a schoolwide boccia session for the school anniversary. **We made teams mixing students from the 1st grade to 6th grade. Students enjoyed playing boccia together and sometimes gave strategy advice to each other.**

【School Trip to Japan Para Championship】

On November 20, 2017, **we conducted a school trip to see the Japan Para Championship Boccia Tournament at Musashino Gymnasium and we rooted for Japan.** Before the game, students enjoyed trying other Paralympics sports such as wheelchair basketball, wheelchair racing, and other track and field sports at the exhibition corners in other rooms. After the game, they got to talk to and take pictures with the boccia athletes from Japan's national team as well as former wheelchair basketball and skating Paralympians.

【Boccia Session with the Local Elderly】

On January 20, 2018, we organized a boccia session with the members of a community elderly group. **They joined student teams, and students took up the responsibility to teach them boccia's rules. The participants from the community elderly group sent us a message stating that they learned the appeal of boccia through playing it with children.**

