

## Visiting Miyamae Elementary School

Friday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>

The 11 teachers from the US and Ms. Catharine Ishida visited Miyamae Elementary School in the morning and spent almost the whole school time on the day. As soon as their arrival, they could see '*Kamishiba*' class for the first graders. By using the authentic wooden frame, the home room teacher read the story dramatically and the student really gave their attention to it. '*Kamishiba*' was one of the US teachers' requests, and the school managed to realize it. After watching the second graders' classes, the visiting members saw Principal *Kashiwaba* give an enthusiastic presentation to introduce his school in English on the screen in his office. During the recess, they saw children playing in the school yard. On the third period, which was their *Tokkatsu*, the third graders played dodgeball in the gym following their own plan. The visitors saw the opening ceremony of swimming pool for the first and the second graders. As US schools seldom have their own swimming pools, it was a special experience for them to see it. During the lunch time, they have lunch, which is called *Kyushoku* in Japan, together with the students. While eating, the students asked them a lot of questions about the US and the students there. The students' committee of health showed the way to use tooth brush to the students. All the students cooperated to get the dishes back and cleaned the classroom. The teachers from the US saw the real *Tokkatsu* in the school.

The Class by Ms. Karen Krzystof-Bansley on Tuesday, June 26.

In the open space hall, Karen taught 60 sixth graders on the third period. Catharine helped her by translation. First, Karen introduced herself, then explained the life in Chicago and the lives of her students in Madock Elementary School. The 60 students played BINGO game with English words. During Q&A time, they asked Karen questions such as "What things are there, not in Japan but in the US?" or "Do they have different subjects from Japanese schools?" or "What do they play during the recess in the US?" The students were surprised to hear that the students were served their breakfast in some region or they have choices their menu of lunch in the US.

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