

Environmental Education Through the Provincial Nature and the Green Manufacturing

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Our school stands on a hill in Hamamatsu city, which is one of the famous industrial cities in Japan. We can see Mt. Fuji in the distance from our school. Since 1991, our school has been working on environmental education and activities based on “voluntary work” to protect the provincial nature and “manufacturing” in consideration of nature and environment as well. Every year in May, kite flying festival called “Hamamatsu Matsuri” is held with participation of many citizens at Nakatajima dune with the grand Pacific Ocean as its background. Loggerhead turtles come along swimming on the current and lay their eggs along this sea shore. Little terns, one kind of migratory birds, come in numbers and make a colony, too. We have been participating in cleaning up activities to protect this precious seashore since 10 years ago, where students and their parents have worked together, carried out enlightenment activities and made public relations to citizens by flying a big handmade kite with a message for the conservation of nature. Moreover, we have worked on cleaning up Lake Hamana, whose shape is like an open hand and very beautiful itself. Students have made a solar and human powered boat called “TAIYO BUNMEI GO (The Solar Civilization)” by using used plastic bottles, and participated in competitions with their messages of conservation of nature on its hull. Fortunately, we won a one-hour-endurance race last year. This continuous environmental education and activity showed its great power in 1997, when the accident of heavy oil outflow by the Russian tanker in the Sea of Japan occurred. 74 people from our school took part in the severe volunteer activity to clean up the oil around the Sea of Japan in winter. “Declaration of Environmental Education” and approval of credits such as industrial subjects on social contributions and activities on environmental issues outside school have been highly regarded as an advanced work in environmental education. As written above, students fully realize “how important the certain relation between nature and human beings is”, and they are enjoying their work on environmental education and activities through being close to “provincial nature” and experiencing “green manufacturing” in consideration of nature and environment. More and more attention has been paid at our actions these days by many neighborhood schools.

