

Yamanouchi Municipal Minami Elementary School, Grade 2

Let's Grow Delicious Apples – Learning Through Growing, Sharing, and Enjoying

Second graders at Yamanouchi Minami Elementary School took on the challenge of growing apples over the course of an entire year. Through the experiences of growing, sharing, and tasting, the children learned about farming, the importance of nature, and their connection to the local community. This hands-on project gave them a deep appreciation for the food they eat and the people who help make it possible.

Taking On the Challenge of Apple Farming

In the spring, with the support of local farmers, the students borrowed a field and began caring for apple trees. They engaged in authentic cultivation activities, such as thinning blossoms, picking leaves, laying reflective sheets, and turning apples to ensure they received even sunlight. By applying what they had learned, the students helped enhance the apples' red color and sweetness.

The apples they grew were lovingly named Crisp and Juicy Fuji Apples by the 13 Second Graders of Minami Elementary. The name reflects their pride and affection for what they had nurtured.

Selling Apples and Connecting with Customers

At a local roadside market, the children held a sales event where they offered samples and gathered feedback from customers. Hearing comments like "Sweet and delicious!" and "So full of honey!" brought them joy and a strong sense of accomplishment.

After the event, they wrote thank-you letters to express their gratitude, helping them feel the connection between food and the people who enjoy it.

Valuing Life and Making the Most of Nature's Gifts

The harvested apples were also turned into apple juice and used in cooking, ensuring that nothing went to waste. Sharing the juice with their families and the whole school gave the children the chance to experience a complete cycle, from growing to giving, and showed them the joy of caring for both nature and others.