

Iida Municipal Kamimura Elementary School, Grades 5 & 6

Living in Harmony with Nature in Kamimura

Kamimura Elementary School, located in the southern region of Iida City, has only 24 students in total. Despite its small size, the school places great importance on connections with local people and the surrounding natural environment. Under the theme “Protecting and Utilizing Nature,” students in grades 5 and 6 engaged in diverse, community-based activities to learn how they can make a positive impact in their hometown.

Creating Playground Equipment from Reused Wood

The school’s woodworking group began with a wish to build new playground equipment. When they heard that a nearby preschool was planning to dismantle its wooden deck, the students felt it would be a waste to throw it away. They proposed relocating the deck to their school and consulted with the principal and community center staff to decide where to place it.

Working together with local adults, they dismantled the deck and applied preservative treatments, and they plan to reassemble it in February. Once completed, the equipment will be more than just a play area; it will serve as a symbol of their collaboration with the community and a place full of shared memories.

Growing Flowers to Bring Joy to People and Nature

The school’s nature group started a flower cultivation project with the hope of protecting and increasing natural beauty. They planted *Primula juliae* and anemones at school and plan to deliver the blooming flowers to local preschools and elder care facilities.

This activity reflects the students’ desire not only to nurture plant life but also to create comfortable spaces for people and animals. It gave them a meaningful opportunity to realize that caring for nearby nature is a first step toward building a sustainable society.

Looking to the Future

Through these activities, students at Kamimura Elementary School are discovering

what they can do, even in a small school. Each child's actions and ideas carry great weight in such a close-knit environment, helping to foster strong ties with the local community. They plan to continue learning through practical ex