

## UNESCO Associated Schools Project Network

### Kuge elementary school

“We continue protecting Musashitomiyo.”

808 Kuge, Kumagaya-City, Saitama Japan

Kuge elementary school was founded in 1989.

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#### Introduction

We have bred the fish “Musashitomiyo, *Pungitius* sp” the symbol fish of Saitama Prefecture, cooperating with the neighboring Sayada elementary school and Kumagaya East junior high school. And we have been supported by Center for Environmental Science in Saitama and Musashitomiyo protection association in Kumagaya, in order to study the fish and to carry out the over-summer survey. We’ll introduce the annual activity of the Eco-club in Kuge School.

#### Outline of Musashitomiyo

Musashitomiyo is a unique fish which raises children in a nest like a bird. And they live in the river consisting of cold and clear water, where water-weeds grow thick. In Kuge elementary school, we are pumping up groundwater to Tomiyo Pond, in order to breed the fish. The fish had inhabited, Kawagoe city and Honjo city in Saitama once. However, it lives only in Motoarakawa River at Kumagaya city now. So it is on the verge of extinction. The fish was specified as the prefectural natural monument in 1991.

#### Activity of the Eco-club in Kuge School

We clean the tank for exhibition aquarium, measure water temperature, and remove garbage in the pond by shift operations everyday. We introduce the feature of the fish, the protection activities, and the method for cleaning

of Motoarakawa River in the event 'Environmental smiling day' which is held once a month.

Further, we extract water-weeds in the neighboring river, in the committee activity relevant to environment. It is because; they provide the fish with the place of habitation. And, we also have to exterminate crayfishes which are one of the enemies of the fish.

We are carrying out the over-summer survey for investigating multiplication of 20 fish. We are obtaining a delightful fact that 20 fish increase to 700 fish in one year.



The over-summer survey



Tomiyo Pond in Kuge School

### Conclusion

We'll be promoting of Musashitomiyo on under the slogan currently written on the signboard of the school "We continue protecting Musashitomiyo."

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