

## **Become the Sun of Hope**

*SGI President Ikeda sent the following to the entrance ceremony for the new first grade classes of both Tokyo and Kansai Soka Elementary Schools, April 8.*

To all of the new first-graders, congratulations on your first day of school! And congratulations to your parents as well.

I'm sure all of you know about the sun. When the sun rises, morning comes. And when morning comes, the moon and stars disappear from sight. This is because the sun's rays are so strong and bright.

When the sun shines, it gets warm outside. The warmth feels so good that the flowers and trees, bugs and animals, and even us human beings feel happy and at ease. This is because the sun's rays are also gentle and soothing.

All of you are shining princes and princesses of the sun who will light up the 21st century. Over the next six years, while you are here at Soka Elementary School, I hope you will read many books, learn many new things and make many friends. I also hope that you will become as strong and as gentle as the sun.

On rainy days or cloudy days, the sun cannot be seen. But high above the clouds, it continues to shine brightly. In the same way, I am always warmly watching over you. I am constantly sending you rays of hope and courage. Please always remember this.

I am really looking forward to seeing all of your bright, cheerful faces as soon as possible.

**WT**