



南山小学校 School Newsletter

September Edition

September 1, 2017
Minato City Nanzan ES
Principal Terumi Aketagawa

September Calendar of Events



Principal Terumi Aketagawa

42 days of summer break have come to a close, and the energetic voices and smiling faces of the students have returned to school. This summer, for the first time in 40 years, Tokyo had 21 consecutive days of rain, and the sun shone less relative to previous years. The state of the weather was less than ideal, but as the students carried their summer projects to school with care, there was the sparkle of joy in their eyes which spoke of a fulfilling summer break well spent. Now it is time for the 2nd term to begin. We want the students to have a fulfilling 2nd term as well by making use of their experiences and efforts from the summer break.

From the beginning of the summer break on July 21 members of the Nanzan Elementary Neighborhood Disaster Prevention Conference hosted "Radio Taisou", and I would like to extend my gratitude to the parents, guardians, and community members for their support. I was happy to see the students who awoke early in the morning to participate at 6:30 a.m. and join one of the five neighborhood groups. Also, there were many students who eagerly participated in summer swimming and summer study at the school. Volunteer students from Roppongi High School visited the school to support the students in their studies. Support from members of the community is deeply appreciated.

Radio Taisou



Summer Swimming



Summer Study



From August 6th to the 8th, grade 5 had their first overnight stay at Hakone *Niko Niko Gakuen*. Although there was a typhoon approaching at the time, the students were able to climb Mt. Sengen, and finish all of their planned activities. The grade 5 students demonstrated outstanding behavior, learned the importance of cooperation, and deepened the bonds of their fellowship by seeing the qualities of their friends.

In London, the International Association of Athletics Federation World Championship was held. I was glued to my television as I watched the youngest athlete, the 18 year old Abdul Hakim Sani Brown, compete for Japan in the men's 200m final. At the young age of 18, he has already carved his name into the history books by finishing 7th place in the final race, and afterwards demonstrated his emotional strength with his comment, "I wasn't nervous at all."

The truth is, I used to work at the school that Sani Brown attended when he was in 1st grade. Sani Brown moved to a different school after that, but by chance, I was transferred to the same school as well. The expression I see on his face on TV is the same innocent expression he had in elementary school, but his well-toned athletic form is something I could never have imagined from his elementary school days, and it reveals the extent of his bold efforts.

Many students at Nanzan are involved with various sports, crafts, and performing arts. These students are full of latent potential with unknown depths. I want to give them my everlasting support in following their dreams and make their aspirations come true. The faculty and myself will endeavor to make a rich and fruitful 2nd term.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Opening ceremony Evacuation drill School lunch begins	2 Safety class Parent-Teacher conference Summer break project display (until the 8 th)
3	4 Morning assembly G6 swim meet send off Committee School counselor	5	6 City swim meet (G6) School counselor	7 End of swimming instruction Final swim	8 Swimming with the kindergarten (G5) Lunch interaction (1-2, G4)	9
10	11 Pool closing School counselor	12 Music assembly Social studies field trip (G4) Lunch interaction (G2, G5)	13 Kodou (G6)	14 Roppongi JHS job shadowing	15 Roppongi JHS job shadowing Lunch interaction (G3, G6)	16 Paralympic sports experience (G3, G4) Club
17	18 Respect for the Aged Day	19 Committee presentations Student assembly JHS observation afternoon (G6)	20 Greeting campaign 1 Washokki school lunch (G5, G6) School counselor	21 Greeting campaign 2	22 Greeting campaign 3	23 Autumnal Equinox
24	25 Morning assembly Greeting campaign 4 School counselor	26 Student assembly Greeting campaign 5	27 Greeting campaign 6 Research lesson (1-1)	28 Greeting campaign 7	29 Greeting campaign 8	30

September Goal

"Keep Proper Posture"

- Write your letters large and neatly
- Hold your pencil properly and sit up straight

Clothed Swimming

Head of P.E.

Every year, representatives from the Japan Red Cross visit our school to help instruct the students using real life experience for what to do when faced with a drowning incident, and what to do if you find yourself in a dangerous water-related situation.

The instruction was carried out this year as well, on July 3 (Mon). When the students jumped into the pool with their clothes on, they felt how dangerous such a situation can be, and learned that it is possible to save a life with something as simple as a bucket, bag, or plastic bottle that can be used for buoyancy. The important lessons learned on this day can be of use whenever visiting a river or the sea.



Swimming Instruction

P.E. Department

From when the pool opened on June 12th, the students have spent time swimming and splashing in P.E. during their swimming instruction and at summer swimming. The focus for the lower grades was to practice “getting used to water through playing” and “floating and submersing.” The students who were at first hesitant to even get their faces wet have since become quite used to being in the water. The middle grades added *kenobi* and *fushiuki* as floating exercises to their routine, and began learning the first steps for the crawl and breaststroke. The upper grades focused on the finer points of the swimming styles, and practiced the crawl and breaststroke in groups divided by objective.

«Interview ~What did you work hard at and accomplish during swimming this year?~»

oI could put my head under water. / I could do *darumauki*. (G1)

oI could do *fushiuki*. / I worked hard at doing *kenobi*. (G2)

oI could swim 25 meters. / I did the crawl and reached level 5. (G3)

oI worked hard at the breathing technique for the crawl. / I could do the breaststroke.

oI passed rank 2 by being careful of my breathing while doing the crawl and moving my hands quickly while doing the breaststroke. / I improved my breaststroke time by 10 seconds by being conscious of my *kenobi* technique. (G5)

oI could do the crawl for 50 meters. / I worked hard at doing the crawl and I was able to go from level 2 to rank 2. (G6)

From this interview we can see that the students set goals for themselves and engaged in their swimming exercises with the utmost effort. Next week on the 7th will be the last swim, and we hope this conclusion will leave the students with a sense of accomplishment and fulfillment.



Hakone Summer Trip

5-1 Teacher

During summer break, the 5th grade students traveled to Hakone on their summer trip, where they experienced many things through their five senses while surrounded by nature. Each and every student cooperated with their classmates while also being able to act independently while on the trip.

On the first day at the outdoor mess area, the students made use of their cooking experiences from home economics class to make curry and rice. For certain, the flavor of the curry they made for themselves was something exceptional. At the *Narusawa* ice cave, the students experienced a world of ice inside the 0°C cave interior. On the same day, they met with students from Onarimon ES at the camp site, where they had a camp fire and recreation together, and thus deepening their friendships.



On the second day, the students took on the challenge of mountain climbing on the slopes of Mt. Sengen. I was moved as the students shouted encouragement to each other as they tread firmly up the mountain, one step at a time. We were blessed with good weather, and the students were able to experience both the beauty and rigor of nature. Upon reaching the summit, unintentional shouts of joy echoed out, and that moment of accomplishment will surely become a long-lived memory. The keyrings the students made at the *Mori-no-fureai* Hall (Nature museum) and the mementos they purchased will also serve as memories in physical form.



On the third day, the students observed real animals at Fuji Safari Park. Excitement levels were high on the bus as they saw these living and breathing animals before their very eyes. The students felt a sense of joy at being able to actually see and touch these animals in person. During the summer trip, the students had to think for themselves, and they acted with thoughtfulness towards others. For certain this experience will be useful for the students in their school lives, and I hope to see each and every one of them make the most out of it. This trip was made possible with the support of the families and with the many individuals who watched over the students, and for that you have our deepest gratitude.