



南山小学校

March Edition

School Newsletter

March 1, 2018
Minato City, Nanzan ES
Principal Terumi Aketagawa



Connecting a Grateful Heart



Principal Terumi Aketagawa

In February, 1,500 cars became stuck in Fukui Prefecture, Yamagata Prefecture recorded 445cm of snow cover, and there was no end to the news about the dreadfulness of heavy snowfall. Yet, at a time when snow was causing so much hardship, the Pyeongchang Olympics brought athletes from 92 countries together in competition on stages of ice and snow, and gave inspiration to the people of the world.

The gallant figures of the athletes was forever burned into my mind as I watched them taking on challenges in their games that were beyond the experience of my imagination; they soared through the sky and danced through the air in events like skiing, snowboarding, and ice skating. Yuzuru Hanyu won consecutive gold medals for figure skating for the first time in 66 years, and the performance of Japan's female athletes was superb as they won a number of medals in women's speed skating and curling. Perhaps the children's dreams have grown larger now in preparation for the 2020 games in Tokyo.



One athlete that especially left an impression on me was Taichi Hara, who is from Shibuya City's Hiroo JHS, and was the first ever to win a bronze medal in men's freestyle moguls. When talking about medalists in the Winter Olympics, there is a strong image of athletes from snow country, but he showed us that even those with an urban upbringing can see their dreams come true through hard work and polishing their talents and abilities. I hope that all of the elementary school students will find something they are fond of, chase their dreams, and challenge themselves without giving up.

Only a short time remains of the 6th graders' elementary school life. Grade 6, after discussing ways to show their feelings of appreciation towards the school, have been engaging in the "Arigato Project." Along with ambitiously spreading their thoughts of "thank you" throughout the school, there are also mixed feelings of sadness as their departure draws near. With G6 setting an example, students of every grade speak kindly to grades lower than their own, and playing together has become a daily occurrence, which is becoming a good tradition at Nanzan ES.



G6 playing with G1

Students of the lower grades will inherit the warm sense of "thank you" from the 6th graders, and it is my hope that they will continue to cross the grade-barrier as well as become people who can show kindness towards anyone and everyone.

The other day, there was a "thank you"-related episode. While one of the grade's classes was being observed by a school trustee (in charge of providing opinions and evaluation of the management of the school), they shared the following words. As the teacher was passing out papers, the students receiving the papers showed their appreciation by saying "arigato gozaimasu" (thank you very much). The school trustee praised the politeness of the students for being able to say "thank you" even for small things. When someone does something for another, saying "thank you" comes naturally for Nanzan students in all grades, but it was with a renewed sense of joy that I heard this praise from someone outside of school. I hope that the sentiment of "thank you" will continue to be passed on.

This will be the final edition for the year, and from the bottom of my heart, I would like to express my gratitude to all the parents, guardians, and community members for their understanding and support with our school's academic activities. We look forward to your continued support in the next school year.

On February 9th at the presentation for the Minato City Board of Education Research Pilot School • Kindergarten, in addition to Tokyo, visitors from Kanagawa, Chiba, Saitama, Gunma, Shizuoka, Fukushima and others came from far and wide to observe. Thank you very much to all of the participants.

March Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3 G6 Send-Off Parent-Teacher conference
4	5 Morning assembly Committee School counselor	6	7 Kanji Perfect Test School counselor	8 Calculation Perfect Test	9 Evacuation drill March 11 th Remembrance Assembly	10
11	12 Morning assembly School counselor	13	14 Kanji retest	15 Calculation retest	16	17
18	19 Graduation Ceremony Rehearsal School counselor	20 End of school lunch	21 Spring Equinox	22 Graduation Ceremony	23 Completion Ceremony	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

March Goal

「Clean the areas you use thoroughly.」

- ★ Clean the lockers, desks, and classrooms in preparation for the next class that will use them.

Club Activities

Head of Special Activities

In the clubs, the goal is for students to willingly engage in the activities, and so the 4th through 6th graders join clubs with others that share mutual hobbies and interests, and there they cooperate with members of other grades.

There are 5 active clubs at Nanzan ES, which are "Illustration • Crafts," "Sports," "Board and Card Games," "Science," and "Traditional Culture." Centering on the 6th graders, the students plan out what they want to do, and enjoy carrying it out. The other day, the current 3rd graders had the chance to experience the different club activities in preparation for joining one next school year. The upper grades could be seen explaining about the club activities to the 3rd graders as they warmly invited them to participate in the activities together.

One part of club activities is for students to learn the importance of cooperation among grades, and it is my hope that students will remember the importance of this and make use of it in their daily lives.

【Illustration • Crafts】 【Sports】 【Board and Card Games】 【Science】 【Traditional Culture】



Interaction with Azabu Nursery

Grade 1

On February 21 (Wed), the children of Zo-gumi from Azabu Nursery got to experience what it is like to enter elementary school.

In preparation for this day, grade 1 worked in groups during the life studies unit "Welcome, New Grade 1 Students" to create activities based on their own experiences for the nursery school students that would ease their worries and help them look forward to starting elementary school.

On the activity day, after the classes met with each other, in groups of 2 to 3 the younger students went around in order to experience the various corners made by the 1st graders. At recess, all the 1st graders and younger students joined together in the gym to play "Janken Train" and "mojugari." The students were able to make use of their experiences interacting with Nanzan Kindergarteners, such as speaking kindly, holding hands, and actively looking for children who needed partners. Through this interaction, the students began to understand that they will soon become 2nd grade "bigger brothers and sisters," and throughout, they could be seen showing consideration for the younger students as they engaged with them in the activities. I want to have the students make use of what they learned, both in their future studies and in their daily lives.

【1-1 School Rules Quiz】

【Ocharakahoi】

【Janken Train Altogether】



School Research Presentation

Research Leader

The school research presentation for Nanzan ES and Nanzan Kindergarten was held on February 9 (Fri). Over the course of two years from 2016 to 2018, our school has acted as the Minato City Board of Education Research Pilot School, and this presentation was to show the results of our research to teachers from other schools. The research classes that were held on that day are detailed below.

1-1 (with 4 year olds)	Music	"Enjoying Japanese Nursery Songs"
1-2	Life Studies	"Welcome, New Grade 1 Students"
2-1 (with 5 year olds)	Life Studies	"Discovering Games"
3-1	Integrated Studies	"Project: Teaching Others"
6-1	Integrated Studies	"Project: Thank you, Nanzan ES"
4-1 (with 3 year olds)	Art	"Night Town"
5-1 (with 5 year olds)	Integrated Studies	"ES Library Expedition"

On presentation day, around 300 visitors came to our school, ranging from as far away as Shizuoka, Gunma, and Fukuoka prefectures. Not only teachers, but also Ward assemblymen, and university professors among others came to visit. Much praise from these visitors was given for how the students kindly interacted with the younger children, and for the motivation they displayed in their activities.

From these 2 years of interaction, the students have narrowed the gap between themselves and the kindergarteners, and they can be seen freely interacting together during recess on the playground. Moving forward, we want to make use of the lessons learned through this research in our school's academic activities



G4 and 3 year olds "Night Town"



G5 and 5 year olds "ES Library Expedition"



G2 and 5 year olds "Discovering Games"



G3 and G6 "Project: Teaching Others"