

# January Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8 Opening Ceremony School lunch Committee Wednesday schedule	9 Measurements (G4~6)	10 Sekishokai	11 Hyakunin Isshu Measurements (G2,3) Tatewari Greeting 1	12
13	14 Coming of Age Day	15 Safety Instruction Measurements (G1) Kakizome Exhibition Begins Tatewari Greeting 2	16 Kanji Tatewari Greeting 3	17 Calculation Gidayu Performance Tatewari Greeting 4	18 Hyakunin Isshu Open School Japanese Instrument Experience (G5, 6) Tatewari Greeting 5	19 Open School Open Morals Lesson Lecture Meeting Tatewari Greeting 6
20	21 Morning Assembly Tatewari Greeting 7	22 Tatewari Assembly Drug Abuse Resistance Lecture (G6) Tatewari Greeting 8	23 Kanji Tatewari Greeting 9	24 Calculation Tatewari Greeting 10	25 Hyakunin Isshu Tatewari Greeting 11	26
27	28 Morning Assembly Tatewari Greeting 12	29 Music Assembly Tatewari Greeting 13	30 Kanji Kanji Level Test Tatewari Greeting 14	31 Calculation Tatewari Greeting Make Up Day		

※An Evacuation Drill will be conducted without advance notice during the month.

## January Goal

### 「Listen Carefully」

- Listen while forming your own opinion.
- Practice asking questions and giving feedback

UNICEF Fund-Raiser (December 11 ~ 14)

**25,641 yen** was raised. Thank you for your cooperation.



# School Newsletter January Edition

January 8, 2019  
Minato City, Nanzan ES  
Principal Terumi Aketagawa

## 南山小学校

I hope that the New Year will bring fulfillment to all your wishes.

The faculty will strive and work together as one with the desire to see the healthy growth of all the children.

Thank you for your support and understanding in the coming year.

Principal Terumi Aketagawa



新(あらた)しき 年のはじめの初春の 今日降る雪の いやしけ吉事(よごと)  
Aratashiki Toshi no hajime no shoshun no Kyo furu yuki no iyashike yogoto

This poem was composed by the Nara period poet Otomo no Yakamochi and was used as the closing verse of the literary anthology "Manyoshu." At that time, the first snow of the new year was seen as a sign of good luck. Just like the snow falling on that day of early spring, it is a poem praying for many good things to accumulate in the same way that snow will pile up.

As this poem suggests, I pray that everyone will have a year that is filled with happiness.

Our school promotes traditional Japanese cultural education, and in December, grades 5 and 6 experienced Japanese puppet theatre, while grade 4 studied about Edo period patterns. Among other things in the 3<sup>rd</sup> term, there will be a gidayu performance, the Traditional Games Assembly, and a traditional Japanese instruments experience. We believe that these activities will provide the students with educational experiences that cannot be obtained through reading textbooks, and they will encourage the growth of a rich artistic sensibility in the students.

Also, during the morning study time of every Friday in December, the students engaged in games of Hyakunin Isshu with each other. Every year, students are tasked with memorizing 20 poems so that by the time they graduate they will have reasonably learned 100 of the poems. Already, the first graders, who were joining in the Hyakunin Isshu Tournament for the first time, could be seen listening carefully to the first part of the poem in order to quickly snatch up the card with the matching second part of the poem. The students from abroad as well are working hard to memorize the poems, and join in the karuta games with serious expressions on their faces. The poems are difficult to understand, but it is a joyous thing when the students can sense even just a little of beauty of the changing of Japan's four seasons or the tenderness of people's emotions. Perhaps they can even just enjoy the unique way in which the Hyakunin Isshu poems are read.

On January 11, 18, and 25, the students will gather in gym to play against other grades. Also, students with confidence in their abilities will be able to join in the Champion Course (Ogura Hyakunin Isshu) in the auditorium. An all-out climactic and breathtaking battle will surely unfold before us. Parents and guardians are welcome to come and join the activities.



Puppet Theatre  
Shamisen Experience



Edo Period Patterns  
Dyeing Experience



Hyakunin Isshu  
Grade 1 Takes on the 20 Poem Challenge

The 3<sup>rd</sup> term, along with being the conclusion of the school year's studies, is also an important time to prepare for the students moving up to the next grade as well as graduation. Grades 1 ~ 5 have 56 days of school, while grade 6 has 55 days. I hope that students will cherish each and every day and have a productive school life. While we reflect back on the growth of the past year, as the faculty we also want to reaffirm our desire to strive for creating a connection to the following year.

## About Kanji Time and Calculation Time

Head of Mathematics

Every week students will spend 15 minutes having "Kanji Time" and "Calculation Time" before regular classes begin with the goal of mastering how to read and write kanji and the foundations of calculation, and to be able to use these skills in their studies and daily life.

Students will study a total 1,026 kanji by the time they graduate elementary school. Also, students do addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division calculations using decimals and fractions and not just integers. We are striving to establish the foundations of these skills through accrual by regular daily study.

Additionally, by having the Kanji Perfect and Keisan Perfect tests at the end of each term we can validate the success of the students' efforts. By all means, please watch over the children and give them words of encouragement as they study at home.



Students as they receive certificates for their Perfect Tests in the Principal's Office

## Flower Arrangement Experience

G5

"Arranging flowers means that you become responsible for the lives of the flowers." This is the most important thing that the 5<sup>th</sup> graders have learned during the Flower Arrangement Experience. Every single material for a flower arrangement, such as the tree branches, plants and flowers have their own life. The students realized that being responsible for the lives of the flowers, having them shine beautifully, and making the best out of them are the fundamental philosophies of "kado" (flower arrangement). At first, the students timidly started to arrange the flowers. However, the instructors from Ikenobo repeatedly visited the students' tables to support them, which helped them enjoy taking on the plants and flowers while getting bolder little by little.



The students devoted themselves to the kado to the extent that time passed too quickly and it became time to present their works. This time, instead of making individual works, 2 or 3 students made a group and created one arrangement together. They were interested in not only their own work but also their classmates' works and enjoyed observing each other while sharing their comments.

## The Music Concert

Music Teacher

The Music Concert was held on December 1, Saturday. The purposes of the Music Concert are to present the fruits of the music studies, cultivate a rich sensibility through experiencing the enjoyment of musical activities, and to communicate the school's academics to parents, guardians, and community members.

**Grade 1** "Aisorani E wo Kako"  
"Koinu no March"



**Grade 2** "Do-Re-Mi Song"  
"Antagatadokosa"



**Grade 3** "Todokeyo Kono Yume wo"  
"Black Hole" "When the Saints Go Marching In"



**Nanzan Jazz Band**  
They stylishly showed off the fruits of their regular practices.



Students from Nanzan Kindergarten came to watch the rehearsal of the Music Concert. Sakura Class performed the song "Arigato no Hana", which they will sing at their own performance

**Grade 4** "Aura Lee" "Momiji"  
"Donna Tokimo"



**Grade 5** "COSMOS"  
"Kilimanjaro"



**Grade 6** "Chikyuu Seika"  
"Tsurugi no Mai"



Through engaging in the Music Concert, the students experienced the joy of creating something together while supporting and cooperating with each other. During the performances, they also experienced the pleasantness of feeling the rhythm while joining the flow of the music and expressing it with harmony. By observing the other grades' performances, there were comments from the students showing new aspirations like "I want to sing that song" or "In what grade can I play that instrument?" after the Music Concert. I look forward to the future activities with them.

I believe that you witnessed 6 years' worth of growth of the students on the day of the concert. I would like to express my gratitude to the many that came to observe.