

# November Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Seeing Eye Dog (G4) Hyper QU (G4~6)	2
3 Culture Day	4 Substitute Holiday	5 Safety Instruction	6 Kanji	7 Keisan	8 Reading	9
10	11 Morning Assembly	12 Art Field Trip (G4) Social Studies Field Trip (G3)	13 Kanji	14 Keisan Dental Check-up	15 Reading School Play (Students' observation day)	16 School Play (Parents' observation day)
17	18 Substitute Holiday	19 Music Assembly Health Check-up for New G1 Reading Week (~29)	20 Kanji Club Japanese Manners (G1) Kids Athletics (G3, 4)	21 Keisan Tax Lecture (G6)	22 Reading Evacuation Drill (J-Alert)	23 Labor Thanksgiving Day
24	25 Morning Assembly Teeth Brushing Week (~29)	26 Tatewari Assembly Edo Komon (G4)	27 Kanji Traditional Games Assembly (G2) Research Lesson G4	28 Keisan Haiku Lesson (G1)	29 Reading	30

## November Goal 「Use Proper Language」

- Do not say hurtful things.
- Finish what you want to say when talking to someone.



南山小学校

School Newsletter

November Edition

October 31, 2019  
Minato City, Nanzan ES  
Principal Akio Nanba

Students Who Are Friendly and Work Together

Vice Principal

The cherry trees which were overflowing with blossoms in the schoolyard and at the school entrance during spring have begun turning shades of autumn and shedding their leaves, and we can feel the steady creep of the fall season upon us. The School Play will be held on November 15 (Fri) and 16 (Sat). The 16<sup>th</sup> (Sat) will be the parents' observation day, and we would like to invite our honored guests, community members, and families of the students to come and witness how much the children have grown.

【Enjoying expressive activities and tasting fulfillment by making a play with creative originality】

The School Play only happens once every two years. The roles have already been assigned according to the students' choices and auditions, but in the School Play, every student plays a leading part. While sharing ideas, improvising new ways of expression, and using their imagination, each grade will produce a play together. Within this process the students will experience a sense of unity, fulfillment, and accomplishment by mutual cooperation, peer mentoring, and shared encouragement throughout their practices.

In their practices, there are some students who have memorized not only their own lines, but the lines of their classmates as well. It shows just how focused the students are during their practices for the play. The plays have various themes such as "friendship," "cooperation," "trust," and "consideration." By all means, please take some time to read through the script at home, and share in the qualities of their play.

【Cultivating hearts and minds that are mutually acknowledging of others' qualities】

The School Play performance on the 15<sup>th</sup> (Fri) will be the students' observation day. Through the performances of their plays, I anticipate the students will have a lot of positive feedback for each other that expresses their mutual acknowledgement of their qualities and efforts. Quality of expression comes from things like how they say their lines, what actions they make, the way they pause, and the intonation of their voice. Quality of concept comes from original ideas, such as how they put value on using actions to move the story along smoothly, and what kinds of props they come up with. The students are cherishing their practices, finding the qualities of their classmates, giving each other advice and encouragement. From the first play practices until the day of the final performances, we will nurture in the students hearts and minds that are mutually acknowledging of others.

【Nurturing feelings of thoughtfulness】

Through the performance of the school play, the students will think deeply about the themes of the stories, friendship, cooperation, trust, and thoughtfulness; they will learn from each other, and within the performance discover how to use expression. We want them to find worth in what they learn from the performance and make use of those lessons in their daily lives.

November is *Fureai* month. At our school, each class will make use of their morals class time to think about bullying, and then in December they will make a presentations about their discussions at an all-school assembly. Our school aims to nurture a sense of belonging that is free from bullying and being ostracized. We will continue striving to raise students who are thoughtful of their peers and get along well with others.

## Aiming for “Unity” and “Independence”

Grade 6 Teacher

From September 24 (Tue) to 27 (Fri), for 4 days and 3 nights the grade 6 students went on their school trip to Hakone. “Unity” and “independence” were established as the grade goals for this trip. Also, in preparation for this trip, the students learned about the history and traditions of Hakone, as well as the nature surrounding it and the people who work there, from which each student formed a question to embark with.

Students experienced the history of the area through visiting Odawara Castle and the Hakone Sekisho Checkpoint, and also from hiking along the Hakone Kyukaido trail. By having hands-on experience with crafting *Odawara-chochin* (Odawara-style lanterns) and *Yosegi-zaiku* (Japanese marquetry) the students gained an understanding of the intricacy of the techniques and traditional culture of the generations from olden times.

This year, we spent our time at the campgrounds together with grade 6 students from Shiba ES in Minato City. We had recreation time together, during which we deepened our interactions through self-introductions and singing songs together. Also, they mutually acknowledged each other's qualities by virtue of being the same 6<sup>th</sup> graders, and upon returning to their respective schools their sense of responsibility to do their best as the top grade was renewed.

Throughout this school trip to Hakone, each and every 6<sup>th</sup> grader has had the opportunity to think carefully about the various meanings of “unity” and “independence” and has made conscious efforts to engage with these ideas. It is not enough to simply proclaim a goal, for in order to accomplish it a plan is also necessary, and the students learned the importance of putting said plan into action. By all means, I hope that the students will continue to make use of what they have learned in their daily lives.

By each and every one of the students joining together, the 6<sup>th</sup> graders can overcome any challenge, and this school trip to Hakone stands as proof of that fact. With 5 months left until graduation, the students will make use of what they have learned on the school trip and give their all to do their best as the top grade of Nanzan ES.



Odawara Castle



Hakone Sekisho Checkpoint



Yosegi-zaiku



Odawara-chochin



Lake Ashi Boat Cruise



Hakone Kyukaido Trail

## Put Your Heart and Soul into Six Balls!

Grade 3 Teacher

On October 5<sup>th</sup> (Sat), grades 3 and 4 had a chance to experience the game boccia.

### What is Boccia?

The game of boccia originated in Europe. The objective of the game is for each team to throw or roll their six balls, red or blue, towards the white jack ball (target ball) and get as close to it as they can. Just like in curling, teams can knock their opponent's balls away from the target and jockey for the winning position. One difference between boccia and curling is that unlike curling, it is allowed to move the target ball by hitting it with your own ball, which is part of the appeal of the game.

First, the students listened to the rules as explained by the Tokyo Akebono Rotary Club, after which they split into teams and tried the game for themselves.



The students strategized when playing the game, such as throwing their ball with greater force and purposefully knock the jack ball into a different position when their opponent's ball was closer to the jack ball than theirs.

Having already experienced the game last year, the 4<sup>th</sup> graders enjoyed the activity by acting as leaders for the others by giving advice and praising them with comments like “Good job!”



After the experience had concluded and the students were writing to the Tokyo Akebono Rotary Club which had instructed them, their letters were full of many joyful comments such as, “It was fun working with my teammates to get closer to the jack ball,” and “I feel like I want to go watch and cheer at an actual boccia match.”

Boccia is one of the official events of the Paralympics. It would be great we could all go and cheer at the matches.

I would like to express our gratitude to the Tokyo Akebono Rotary Club for their gracious instruction.