

January Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7 Winter Break Ends	8 Term 3 Opening Ceremony School Lunch Starts Committee	9 Measurements G1, G6	10 Sekishokai	11
12	13 Coming of Age Day	14 Safety Instruction Kakizome Exhibition (~18 th) Measurements G3, G4 Tatewari Greeting 1	15 Kanji Measurements G2, G5 4 Pr. Day Tatewari Greeting 2	16 Keisan Drug Abuse Resistance Lecture G6 Tatewari Greeting 3	17 Hyakunin Isshu Open School Kanji Level Test ⑤ Enjoy Music G4 ② Noh G5, G6 ③④ Tatewari Greeting 4	18 Open Morals Lesson Lecture Meeting Tatewari Greeting 5
19	20 Morning Assembly Tatewari Greeting 6	21 Tatewari Assembly Tatewari Greeting 7	22 Kanji Research Lesson G2 Tatewari Greeting 8	23 Keisan Tatewari Greeting 9	24 Hyakunin Isshu Tatewari Greeting 10	25
26	27 Morning Assembly Tatewari Greeting 11	28 Music Assembly Tatewari Greeting 12	29 Kanji Club Observation Tatewari Greeting 13	30 Keisan Enjoy Music G4 Tatewari Greeting 14	31 Hyakunin Isshu Tatewari Greeting Make Up Day	

The evacuation drill for this month will be done without prior notification.

January Goal 「Listen Carefully」

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



南山小学校 School Newsletter

January Edition

January 8, 2020
Minato City, Nanzan ES
Principal Akio Nanba

「Team Nanzan」 ~A New Spring~

On New Year's Day, clear blue skies stretched as far as the eye could see, and a calm and quiet New Year has begun. Happy New Years to all the families and members of the Nanzan community.

We are deeply grateful for all of the support and understanding that we have received in the past year in regards to our school's academic activities. In the New Year, the all of the Nanzan faculty are committed to working together as one to foster the healthy growth of every student at our school.

[Standards for Study and the Nanzan Style]

We have received a 97% return rate of the school evaluation survey from the parents. We are very grateful for your cooperation. The aggregated results will be distributed towards the end of February.

At our school, we are taking steps to reevaluate the "Study Approach," and as a way to firmly establish proper study habits and discipline in the students we have created the "Standards for Study" which clearly outlines academic goals and methods. Full implementation of these standards is planned for the start of April, but as a set of instructional items common throughout the school, our goal is to establish study habits and discipline that emphasize progressive academics and close involvement.

We want to build and expand a new Nanzan style of classes to maximize the results of studies for the students through "Classes that are 'understandable' and 'interesting' by the interconnection of knowledge," "Classes that establish the ability to make predictions and be persistent in engaging with the materials," "Classes that give rise to new discoveries and abundant ideas while working together with others," and "Classes that foster reflection on one's own learning as well as thinking about the follow-up studies and how to make use of what was learned in everyday life."

[Implementation of the New Course of Study from April]

What follows are the hopes (of MEXT) as they have been written in the newest revision. "That which has been learned at school will become 'Zest for Life' for the students, day after day, and will connect to life that follows henceforth. In future society, no matter how it may change in the coming of difficult times, the students will be able to identify, consider, and make judgments on their own in order to take action, and that they will be able to realize their individual ideas of happiness. Finally, we want to carve out a bright future together with the students." (From the MEXT homepage.)

During this school year, our school's research lessons have focused on nurturing the "ability to think," "judgment," and the "power of expression" in life studies and science classes. By taking the successes and issues of these research classes into consideration, we can improve the school's academic activities, and the goals of the new course of study can be reflected in the academic curriculum for the new school year.

[2020 Tokyo Olympics, Paralympics]

The long awaited opening ceremonies will finally arrive on July 24th and August 25th. For our school, we are planning on attending Paralympic track and field events on August 28th and 29th as well as September 1st at the New National Stadium.

Based on the Olympic goal of "Promoting a better and more peaceful world," the students engage in studies that "Educate about the Olympics and Paralympics," "Awaken curiosity and interest about sports," "Create connections with athletes," and "Conduct research about participating countries." We are already looking forward to seeing what kinds of dreams and excitement the Olympic games impart upon the students with the basis of what they have learned from the Olympic・Paralympic education. We hope that this year's games will be one that is handed down for generations to come.

"Team Nanzan" is determined to move ahead at full-force in the spring of this New Year, and will continue to embrace the themes of "Nanzan Elementary School Where Every Student Grows by Learning" ~Nurturing Global Character Establishing the School with the Community~. Thank you for your support in the coming year.

Guide Dog Caravan Experience

Grade 4 Teacher

In the 4th graders integrated studies class, the students engaged in the "Minna ga Sumiyasui Machi" study by thinking about what kind of town would be comfortable for everyone to live in. We invited lecturers as well as guide dog users from the Japan Guide Dog Association to visit our school, and learned in detail about people with impaired vision and guide dogs. In 2002, laws regarding people with disabilities and use of service dogs were formulated and acceptance of service dogs became obligatory, but there has been little progress in public understanding, and we learned that in reality people with guide dogs have been repeatedly refused entry into establishments and use of transportation. Also, the students were able to experience firsthand what it is like to lead a guide dog user around, as well as directly ask various questions about what their daily life is like. This study provided an opportunity for all of the students to think deeply about the things that they can do in order to make a town that is comfortable for everyone to live in.



Presentation of the Fureai Month Activities

School Nurse

The Tokyo Municipal Board of Education has designated June, November, and February as "Fureai Month(s)" in an effort to improve prevention and responsiveness to problematic actions and truancy related to bullying, suicide, and violence.

At our school, the theme has been "Thinking about bullying," and each grade took time during their morals classes to consider the idea "bullying." During the December 2nd "Fureai Month Assembly," each class presented their thoughts and what they had discussed.

In recent years, I feel like there has been an increase in the number of heart-wrenching incidents that have reached my ears. Every time I hear that kind of news, it reaffirms my belief in the importance of nurturing within the students hearts and minds that value human connections. Through the Fureai Month activities, I hope there will be more "Fuwafuwa Words" like "Thank you" and "I'm happy" that make others feel good about themselves, as well as greater awareness of the importance of connecting with others with a kind heart.



Research Lessons at Our School

Head of Research

At our school, "Nurturing individual thinking, the deepening of connections, and creating a rich learning environment for students" has been the basic theme for the advancement of our in-school research. Beginning from the previous school year, research lessons have been carried out in the life studies or science classes of each grade that concentrate on independent and cooperative learning, with the intent of strengthening the ability to think, make judgments, and express ideas.

For example, in the grade 6 unit "The Bodies of People and Animals," when thinking about "How food changes once taken into the mouth," the study began with the students first formulating their own hypotheses. From there, with a clear hypothesis as their grounds they thought about how to conduct an experiment, and proceeded with verification. With the results of the experiment, they concluded by considering that human saliva contains something that can change starch into a different substance. The important point for future studies is establishing "the ability to think, make judgments, and express ideas" through "independent and cooperative learning." Also, through these types of studies, the school will develop not only research lessons, but classes throughout the year as well.

The first and second terms have already concluded, and all throughout we have been establishing the class flow of in a series of studies in which the students share their own ideas and accept the ideas of others in order to create something even greater. On the other hand, there is of course individual differences in the degree of establishment, and moving forward this will be an issue for our consideration. The results of this year's research will be compiled at the end of the 3rd term, and once other issues become apparent, we will make improvements to the research activities at Nanzan, from which the vision for the next school year will come to light.

