

南山だより



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“Fureai Month ~Barrier Free Hearts and Minds~”

Vice Principal Yumi Yasukawa

As autumn deepens, we can hear the pleasant sound of insects coming from the Nanzan Forest in the evening. I believe that the sights and sounds of the natural world can be very soothing for people.

Thank you for your warm support of the students' activities at the recent Nanzan P.E. Presentation. When I see the students encouraging each other during practice, praising each other for their success in the performance, and sharing their joy together, I get the sense of their hearts touching each other. It makes one realize that there is a direct correlation between the size of an event and the amount that children grow.

November is “Fureai Month.” Together with the local community, we want to think about “bullying prevention” and work on it at school so that the students will develop the feeling that “bullying is something that should never happen.” The school will continue to cultivate the minds of the children outside of the classroom through the creation of mottoes and other projects.

From my past experience, I believe that one of the reasons why bullying occurs is the fact that people are unable to accept their differences from others. Thinking about it in this way reminds me of an encounter with a certain person. It was an encounter with Ms. Miki Matheson, a Winter Paralympic gold medalist and vice-chairperson of the Japanese Paralympic team in the summer. When I was a homeroom teacher, she taught us about true barrier-free through her classes.

The following two points are what Ms. Matheson told the children.

- The importance of not only the visible barrier free, but also of “barrier free hearts and minds”
- “Barrier free hearts and minds” can be achieved through creativity

Ms. Matheson said that if we tell ourselves things like “I can't play with someone in a wheelchair,” or “I can't do the same things with a blind person,” it puts distance between us and other people, and creates “barriers in the heart and mind.” At the Tokyo Paralympics, I learned about diversity, possibility, and fairness, all of which are necessary for us to live together. If we transpose this lesson into our daily lives, it means that it is important to feel free to talk to and interact with everyone, without distancing oneself just because another's personality or tastes differ.

Also, Ms. Matheson taught us the importance of creativity by comparing some words in English. Those words are “impossible,” and “I'm possible.” Even if the spelling is the same, a little shift in perspective and some creativity can make the difference of changing “can't” into “can.”

In this “Fureai Month,” we aim to create a barrier free environment for hearts and minds, and with a little creativity, everyone can enjoy their daily lives.

Nanzan 2021 (P.E. Presentation)

Head of the P.E. Presentation

Due to difficulties caused by the novel coronavirus, this year as well we held a P.E. Presentation in place of Sports Day. Although we were not able to have all the grades perform together in order to avoid crowding, time was set aside for the grades to observe each other and give advice, which helped to promote exchanges between the different grades. In addition, students in grades 2 – 6 looked at the goals and review sheets from last year's P.E. Presentation in their Career Passport before setting their goals for this year. By remembering and writing about their frustrations and successes from the previous year, they could set concrete goals for this year.

On the day of the performance, the first grade students were able to do their dance at their first P.E. Presentation with lots of smiles and fun. The second graders stretched their arms out wide as they danced the *Soran-bushi*. Using flags, the third graders moved in formation while doing their dance. The fourth graders danced with speed and precision together in unison. The fifth graders used fans to charm the audience with their powerful and unified performance. The sixth graders enlivened the venue with their performance.

We would like to express our gratitude to all the parents for their understanding and cooperation during the P.E. Presentation. Thank you very much. We will continue to provide further instruction to the students so that they may make good use of the efforts and successes of this project in their future school life and other events.

Tatewari Group Activities • Exchanges Between Grades

Special Activities Section

What is one of the qualities of Nanzan ES?—There are many, but one thought that is shared by graduates of our school is “friendship that transcends grades.” This is in part due to our school's *Tatewari* Group activities.

Fourteen groups made up of 1st through 6th grades students are made, and throughout the year the students will participate in activities with the members of these groups. Unfortunately, due to the effects of the novel coronavirus, we have not been able to arrange as much interaction as before. Even so, the *Tatewari* Greetings in June and September meant that the group members were able to meet again after a long pause.

Most students would arrive at school early on their assigned greeting day, ready to go. The lower grades observed and learned from the examples set by the 6th graders.

In the future, through activities with different grades, we will continue to nurture a spirit of mutual consideration and communication skills, with upper graders caring for lower graders, and lower graders learning from the good points of the upper graders. And in this way, the school culture of “friendship that transcends grades” will be carried on.



November Calendar

1 (Mon)	Committee Activities	17 (Wed)	Evacuation Drill
8 (Mon)	Open School (Even numbered students)	20 (Sat)	145 th School Foundation Day Assembly
9 (Tue)	Open School (Odd numbered students)	24 (Wed)	Club Activities
	School Explanatory Meeting	29 (Mon)	Committee Activities
16 (Tue)	Softball Throwing		

November Goal

Use Proper Language <Fureai Month>