

南山だより



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(Have a wonderful summer break while you try many things)

The following is a speech I gave at one of our morning assemblies.

Today I will talk about "kokoro" (heart, mind). Where do you think your "kokoro" is?" Maybe in your chest? Maybe in your head? Or maybe right around your eyes? I am sure that everyone feels, "It's right here!" in some way or another.

So, do you think that "kokoro" is something that can be seen by other people? Some of you may feel, "There's no way you can see it!" But I feel that it is something that can be seen. "Kokoro" is something that becomes manifested in form.

For example, the way you remove your shoes. At school, I can regularly see the students' shoe boxes. Some of you put your shoes away with the heels neatly lined up, while others put them away haphazardly. Sometimes the left and right shoes are in opposite places, other times the shoes are upside down. Every once in a while there are even some shoes that have fallen on the floor.

When I look at those shoes, I get a sense of each students' kokoro taking form. When a student takes the time to carefully put away their shoes, I can tell, "This child has a calm demeanor, and it shows from how they neatly take care of their belongings." On the other hand, when their shoes are not properly lined up, it tells me things like "Maybe this child had a disagreement with someone, or maybe something unpleasant happened." "Perhaps something distracted them, or the situation was chaotic."

At any given time, "Your own feelings" become your "kokoro", and the way you take off your shoes becomes the "form" in which it is expressed. Things like how you put away your shoes at school, how you take off your shoes at home, how you use the bathroom slippers etc., you can say the same thing about each of them if you stop and think about it. So, what would you do if the person next to you did not put away their shoes properly? Just quietly line up their shoes for them. I think that they will certainly understand your "kokoro," and that they will have a sense of "gratitude" in kind. Also, your own kokoro will swell with a sense of warmth.

Kokoro is form, form is kokoro.

Summer break is about to begin. There will be many opportunities for the students to nurture their hearts and minds. We hope that you and your child will discuss the goals and experiences that can be achieved in summer, and that you will spend a meaningful time giving form to your hearts and minds.

When I was in elementary school, part of my summer break for me meant collecting rhinoceros beetles and stag beetles. I would wake up at 4 a.m. and go to the same spot where I would meet my friends, and together we would look for beetles. If we did not find the beetles before everyone else, other children would get them first. Any insect-related information that we received during the day would be reflected in the following morning's collection operation. The beetles we collected were like treasures to us.

Also, when I visited my mother's hometown, every morning with my cousins I would collect buckets of rhinoceros and stag beetles, which are the natural enemies of peaches or grapes. The beetles we collected were bought by a Tokyo-based company, and for us it was a part-time job (and a secret from our parents). The taste of the ice cream I bought using the money from my part-time job was exceptional. When I think about it now, these are all good memories. Even now, when summer arrives, the excitement of collecting beetles remains the same.

What memories will the students of Nanzan create this summer? On September 1, we look forward to seeing how the students have grown stronger, both physically and mentally.

【Regarding Small-group Instruction for Mathematics】

In the 2021 school year, we achieved a response rate 100% of "I understand/I understand well" from students in regards to mathematics. We are proud of the results of our efforts to develop the students' academics by proficiency level.

This school year, we will continue to provide small-group instruction by proficiency level in math for grade 3 and above, under the slogan of, "Helping able students become more proficient" and "Helping struggling students become more proficient." Through thinking, judgment, and expression, we provide instruction that allows students to experience the joy and fun of mathematics.

Physical Fitness Initiatives

Health and Fitness Promotion Committee

At our school, we are engaging in various initiatives that are meant to improve the physical fitness of the students. The goal is not only to increase opportunities for exercise and improve physical fitness, but also to experience the joy of exercise and cultivate a foundation of qualities and abilities to enjoy exercise throughout one's life. Each year, we identify issues based on the results of the analysis of the previous year's physical aptitude test and consider what we can do help the students improve. Last year's results showed that students at Nanzan had struggles with their throwing ability. To help the students improve their throwing ability while having fun, we invited a former professional baseball player from the Yakult Swallows as a guest teacher in June and held a "Ball-throwing Lesson." He gave many tips on how to throw farther, and the students practiced enthusiastically.

In addition, the "Exercise Committee," which was formed last year, plans activities to improve running, throwing, and explosive power once a week during "Tairyoku Up Time," during which they continue to work on a variety of movements.

We hope that you and your children will also enjoy various physical activities at home as well.



Valuing Solidarity and Gratitude on the Hakone School Trip

Grade 6 Teacher

From May 31 (Tue) through June 2 (Thu), the 6th graders embarked on an overnight trip to Hakone. Since last year's overnight programs could not be held due to the spread of infectious diseases, the students took the initiative in preparing for this year's trip, taking care of their health, setting goals for their groups, and working together to make it a fruitful three-day, two-night program.

From the beginning, the principal gave the slogan "Sawayaka Nanzan" to the students, and everyone made it a point to greet others and express gratitude wherever we went. On the first day, we visited Odawara Castle, the Open-Air Museum, the Glass Museum, and The Little Prince museum. On the second day, the group traveled by cable car, ropeway, and pirate ship from Gora Station to the goal at Hakone Sekisho via Hayakumo Mountain and Owakudani Valley. On the third day, each group walked around Fuji Safari Park. Each activity provided an opportunity for each group to overcome their own challenges and become more united. At Nikoniko Kogen Gakuen, everyone had a lot of fun and excitement during the campfires and class games. Although there were some difficulties during their first overnight trip, the students visibly grew from day 1 to day 2, and from day 2 to day 3, and were able to cooperate better with each other.

We hope that they will apply what they have learned and experienced on this trip to their future school life and play an even more active role throughout the school as 6th graders. We would like to thank all the parents and guardians for their understanding and cooperation throughout the school trip.



July Calendar of Events

2 (Sat)	Tatewari Nakayoshi Assembly	13 (Wed)	Evacuation Drill, Club
4 (Mon)	Committee	19 (Tue)	End of School Lunch
6 (Wed)	Kanji Perfect Re-test	19 (Tue)	~22 (Fri) Individ. P-T Meetings
7 (Thu)	Keisan Perfect Re-test	20 (Wed)	Closing Ceremony
8 (Fri)	Everly Concert	25 (Mon)	~29 (Fri) Summer Swimming
		26 (Tue)	27 (Wed) Summer Camp (G5)

July Goal

Reflect on your Studies and School Life in the 1st Term