

南山だより



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The Fruits of *Fureai* (Interaction) ~Reconsidering Our Use of Language~

Vice Principal Yumi Yasukawa

On October 29 (Sat), the P.E. Presentation is being held on a single day for the first time in three years. While taking steps to prevent the spread of Covid-19 infections, the whole school is watching each other's performances. Seeing their classmates and other grades performing hard inspires the students along with the support of their families encouraging them. For families and faculty, this is a moment of joy at seeing the students' growth. Interacting with each other in a big event like this is a very valuable opportunity to "appreciate each other's good qualities and discover one's own good qualities."

November is "*Fureai* Month (Bullying Prevention Month)". Every year at our school, each class discusses "*Fureai* Month" and creates a slogan, which is then presented in front of the whole school. Below are some of the slogans that the students came up with last year.

- ★Let's wholeheartedly practice sharing warm feelings and helping each other through interaction with others.
- ★Say greetings and phrases clearly and cheerfully that make everyone happy.
- ★Words are a mirror, so let's use more "fluffy words!"※

※"Fluffy words" are words that warm people's hearts.

When differences of opinion occur between students, it is often triggered by the words, gestures, or attitudes of others. Even if the person does not mean it, the words may be perceived as hurtful, or the gesture or attitude may make the other person feel uncomfortable. Even when there is *fureai* (interaction), this does not mean that these situations will never occur. However, when we notice such situations, we need to use the power of words to apologize for the hurtful words or clear up misunderstandings.

More than 30 years ago, when I first started teaching in Tokyo as a newly hired teacher and went to work at a school for the first time, I found a parcel on my desk. It was a gift sent by my homeroom teacher in 5th and 6th grade. When I opened the package, I found a letter addressed to me, which read as follows.

"You are the first of my students to become a teacher. Teaching is a job where words matter. Please remember that."

The gift I received was a dictionary. I still treasure that dictionary. When I interact with people, I remember my mentor. I am grateful to my mentor for giving me the ability to think about what words I should use to communicate with people, even when things do not always go well.

From November 14 (Mon) to November 25 (Fri), a "Traveling Message of Peace" written by celebrities will be displayed in the hallway in front of the teachers' office, and peace-related books will be available in the library. We hope that you will take a look when you visit the school, experience the wonderful words, and have a warm conversation with your children at home about "*fureai*" (interacting).

There are many kinds of "*fureai*". Direct interaction with people, exchanges of letters and emails, encounters with artworks and books... We hope that warm hearts and words will be born from these interactions, and that it will be an opportunity for us, adults as well as children, to reevaluate our use of language.

Passing Down the Nanzan Tradition ~*Tatewari* Group Activities · Interaction Across Grades~

Special Activities Committee

“Supporting the grade 1 students working hard is very fun.” “Finding the right words of encouragement can be difficult, but we help each other in our group and challenge ourselves.” “We have been supported kindly up until now by the upper graders. I want to show gratitude by working hard.” These are some of the reflections that the upper graders, who lead the *Tatewari* activities, have said. At Nanzan Elementary School, we place importance on the opportunity for students from grade 1 through 6 to interact with one another in the 14 *Tatewari* groups. We had an Introduction Assembly in April, and the students were able to strengthen their bond through the *Nakayoshi* Assembly in July. During the Greeting Campaign in September, the School Representative Committee and the *Tatewari* group leaders hosted lunchtime broadcasts of each groups' goals across 14 days of the campaign. They were able to unite the students as one by sending a message about filling Nanzan with bright greetings. The Assembly Committee organizes games to deepen each groups' bond and friendship, as Assemblies are opportunities for the children to enjoy time with the whole school while respecting one another. The music assemblies unite hearts by singing together. In addition, the students have had the opportunity to interact with one another in their classes by helping each other record the results of the Physical Aptitude Test and watching each other practice for the P.E. Presentation. “I want to do greetings at the school gates to spread the joy of greetings.” “I want to teach traditional games for New Year's too.” “I want to pass down Nanzan Traditions with upper graders taking the lead.” These words are very admirable. We will continue to develop understanding and kindness amongst the students through supporting student-led activities and passing down traditions.



International Understanding

International Studies Committee

At Nanzan Elementary School, we have students from various countries, and we have initiatives for international understanding education.

In International Studies classes, the homeroom teachers play a central role in cultivating the foundation of practical communication skills in English, while promoting international understanding education with a broad global perspective, with the goal of fostering the qualities of an international person. We put “communicating” in English at the center of our lessons instead of “speaking” in English, and discuss with the native teacher how to incorporate greetings, foods, and culture of other countries into the classes.

As part of our school's special activities, the student representative committee led the “Friends Around the World Project” initiative. During the lunchtime broadcast, students from various countries introduced their country's characteristics and dishes both in their native tongue and in Japanese, by making a quiz about it. By being exposed to languages and cultures from countries outside of English speaking countries, the students will be able to deepen their international understanding.

Moving forward, we will continue to cultivate international citizens by developing an attitude of contributing to an international society and communication skills through growing their strengths and unique qualities through International Studies and Friends Around the World Project initiatives.

November Calendar of Events

2 (Wed)	Committee Activities	18 (Fri)	Evacuation Drill
5 (Sat)	Greeting Musical Minato City Information Ethics Lecture (Parents)	22 (Tue)	G4 Social Studies Field Trip School Lunch Tasting Event (for G3 parent applicants)
7 (Mon)	Wednesday Schedule 5 Period Day	28 (Mon)	Committee Activities (for December)
10 (Thu)	4 Period Day	30 (Wed)	Club Activities
11 (Fri)	Wednesday Schedule 5 Period Day Math Level Test (Applicants only)		

November Goal

Use Proper Language <*Fureai* Month>