

# 南山だより



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## The Fragrant Breeze of May

Principal Noriaki Kobayashi

A fragrant breeze fills the May air. We take great pride in being able to sense the fragrance and see the color of the wind. I, too, would like to always live with a calm mind so that I can maintain that kind of sensitivity. Now, it is a pleasant season to do all kinds of things. As for autumn, it comes with prefixes of good images, such as autumn of sports and art, but I think this is also a wonderful season as we enter the second half of spring and move toward the brightness of summer. I hope that the students will lead active lives and become full of energy, both physically and mentally. It has been about a month since the start of the new academic year for the students at Nanzan. I am very happy to see everyone in their new classes spending their school life with great enthusiasm.

In May, rice planting begins. For several years, I used to go to Yuzawa in Niigata Prefecture during Golden Week, where I could see the planting of rice, eat delicious food, drink delicious sake, play some light tennis, and soak in the hot springs. I could only stay there for about 2 nights, but I enjoyed myself. (I won't be able to go this year...) Therefore, I have the strong impression that May and Golden Week are the rice planting season. The sight of green seedlings being planted in the wide rice paddies and large tracts of land is, I think, the original landscape of Japan, and it leads me to the idea that the land has become an important thing since this rice cultivation began, and that it has a lot to do with the shape of Japan as a country. When I have a little time off, my thoughts expand to such things, and it is a moment when I feel a little richer inside.

Working hard toward a goal is very important. However, obsessing over this alone can lead to losing sight of the world around us, and before we know it, it can lead to regrets. It is important to be aware of the need to be balanced between "on" and "off," to try to look at things from different viewpoints, to look broadly at the world and also be able to focus on a single point, to be aware of the various ways of looking at and thinking about things. For this reason, I think it is important to make time to relax, even if it is only for a few minutes during the day, or to set aside one day during the week to work on something else, leaving aside what you normally work so hard on. This is something that is difficult to do without consciously being aware to do so. Let's take this time off as an opportunity to think a little, refresh our minds and bodies, and start again in good spirits.

The month of May will begin today. This year's Golden Week is a five-day weekend starting on May 3. This is a good opportunity to experience things that are not usually possible. I hope we have an energy-filled May here at Nanzan while maintaining a healthy mind and body. Thank you for your continued support this month.

### Reforming of Working Styles of Teachers

As I mentioned at the Parent-Teacher Conference General Meeting, I would like to reiterate what was said regarding the reforms to improve working hours. The regular working hours for teachers are from 8:15 to 4:45. Our teachers do their best to work with the students while they are at school. In order to ensure that they have as much time as possible to prepare for their next class, and also to ensure that they are able to do their jobs to the fullest while maintaining a good life/work balance, we ask that parents refrain from making phone calls outside of school hours, except in cases of emergency. In cases of non-emergencies please use the Manabi Pocket Guardian Function. Thank you for your cooperation.

## Wishing for the Healthy Growth of Students

### Head of Life Guidance

At our school, we try to carefully listen to each student's concerns and worries through our monthly "School Life Questionnaire". The homeroom teachers and other teachers involved have been working together to solve the concerns of the students. The homeroom teachers listen to the student's thoughts and situation in more detail regarding the things written in the questionnaire. They then discuss and provide guidance to work towards a solution with the student involved, the teachers, and sometimes the parents. These issues that arise are shared not only with the homeroom teachers, but also with teachers throughout the school so that they can look after the students in a variety of situations.

We believe in the importance of close cooperation with parents and guardians, and the community in order to ensure bright and healthy days for the students. All of us at the school will do our best to ensure a safe and secure school life everyone this school year.

If you have any concerns or observations about your child's life, activities, or relationships at home or in the community, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

## School Research Lessons

### Head of Research Lesson

At our school, we are conducting research centered on the "Nanzan Style" approach. "Nanzan Style" is a method for creating classes that encourage students to "think," "expand," and "deepen" their learning. We aim to develop "students who can learn, think, make decisions, and express themselves" by incorporating the five styles of "How to Conduct Classes," "Board Work," "Interaction," "Notebook Usage," and "Study Rules" into classes at all grade levels.

This is the fourth year that we have implemented "Nanzan Style." Last year, we focused on "activities involving interaction" with classmates. As a result, small group discussions have become smoother. The students have shown a willingness to listen to their classmates' opinions and to present their own ideas. In the future, we would like to improve class-wide discussions to allow them to think deeply. This year, we have decided to set the theme of our school research as "Aiming to cultivate the ability to learn through independent and interactive learning activities" ~ Creating classes that foster the ability to think, make judgments, and express oneself.

We are always thinking about "What are the students are learning?", "How are they learning?", and "how can they apply what they learned to their daily lives?" Rather than a teacher-led approach with the mindset of "teaching", we look things from the viewpoint of "learning" with students taking the lead to create daily lessons to nurture their ability to learn.

**★Challenge Time** Supplementary learning (Challenge Time) may be conducted during recess or after school if necessary, such as when assignments cannot be completed. Please be aware that there may be changes to the dismissal time.

### May Events Calendar

2 (Tue)	Farewell Assembly for Departing Teachers	17 (Wed)	2nd Urinalysis (Makeup Day)
8 (Mon)	Committee	19 (Fri)	Tax Lesson G6
9 (Tue)	Evacuation Drill Smoke Inhalation Experience (G2,4)	22 (Mon)	Open School Safety Lesson (G3,4)
10 (Wed)	2nd Urinalysis	23 (Tue)	Open School, Safety Lesson (G1,2,5,6)
12 (Fri)	Explanatory Meeting for G6 School Trip	25 (Thu)	Heat Stroke Prevention Lesson G5,6

### May Goal

### Think and Act Independently