

# 南山だより



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## Three rules (to doing your best) once again.

Principal Noriaki Kobayashi

The blue sky peeking through during a break in the rainy season is dazzling, and summer is in the air.

Two months have passed since the start of the 2023 -2024 academic year. All the students have settled in and are enjoying their school life. In the schoolyard, one can see the creek flowing with water in the lush green Nanzan Forest, and see that the living things are becoming more and more active. Seeing the students noticing these things, one realizes how wonderful the environment of Nanzan Elementary School is.

At the opening ceremony of the first term, entrance ceremony, and at the school assembly in April, we talked about the three rules that we would like the students to follow for the year. The three rules are: "Get Along with Others," "Study hard," and "Build a healthy body." June is the perfect time to be aware of and work on these things once again. This is because June is "Fureai Month" and we have the "Physical Aptitude Test" as well.

"Fureai Month" is also called "Bullying Prevention Month." The Tokyo Metropolitan Government has designated June, November, and February as the "Fureai Months (Bullying Prevention Months)" throughout Tokyo. Our school will also aim to eradicate bullying by deepening relationships between individuals with the monthly life guidance goal for June as "Let's find the good qualities in others." Specific initiatives include not saying "Chiku Chiku" (prickly) words, using more "Fuwa Fuwa"(soft) words and finding and telling good points about classmates. We consider this as an important activity to "Get Along with Others". We would also like to ask for your understanding and cooperation at home.

The "Physical Aptitude Test" is officially called the "New Physical Aptitude Test." In the past (since 1961), it was called "Sports Test," consisting of the "Physical Fitness Assessment Test" and "Athletic Ability Assessment Test". The exercises included step-ups, standing forward bends, vertical jumps and inverted rows. These exercises were all common in the past. In 1999, the content of the exercises was changed and it became the "New Physical Aptitude Test. The content has also changed to exercises like the 20-meter shuttle run, sit-ups, and seated forward stretches. You can look at your child's results card and compare their results to the national average, Tokyo average, Minato average and school average as well as their individual scores based on the set evaluation points, so that you can learn about their physical fitness from various angles. The results will be available in July, so I hope your child will think about their fitness and act accordingly during the summer vacation.

To improve physical fitness, it is important to engage in exercise, sports, and physical activities with enthusiasm. Physical aptitude tests other than the 50m run and shuttle run will be held on June 9 (Fri). There is only one week left until then, and I hope that your child will challenge themselves to work on something that they are passionate about in order to improve their fitness. We also hope that they will learn about their own physical fitness and make use of it in their future physical education and various other endeavors.

Finally, regarding the rule to "Study Hard," in April, the students have learned and are able to follow the school and classroom rules. I am sure your child has accumulated many positive experiences during Golden Week. Now, with the arrival of June, all classes have become more settled in their studies. In this month, we hope that the students will continue to work hard to further accelerate their learning efforts to their maximum potential.

We will continue to nurture students with a good balance of virtue, knowledge, and body for their better growth. We look forward to working together with parents and guardians. Thank you for your cooperation.

If you wish to request the school to prepare a document to be submitted to an outside party, please contact us at least 10 days in advance. We may not be able to accommodate your request if the time frame is too short. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

## About the English Support Course

ESC Chief

The 2023-2024 school year marks the seventh year since the establishment of the English Support Course (ESC) program at Nanzan Elementary School. Although this program is well-established, we are continually finding new ways to develop and improve the program every day.

The English Support Course was established as a way for non-Japanese speaking foreign nationals to engage in the rich curriculum and diverse experiences offered by public elementary schools in Japan. Through the combined efforts of the homeroom teachers and the English Support Teachers (EST), the school provides an academic environment that is free from language barriers in which students from various backgrounds can learn together freely.

In broad terms, there are two basic styles of classes that ESC students attend. The first style is "in-class" study, which covers subjects such as life studies, morals, and art among others. These in-class studies are conducted by the homeroom teachers, with the EST playing a supporting role as an interpreter that explains the lesson contents to the ESC students and also acts as a translator for both ESC and Japanese students so that they can enjoy sharing their ideas freely.

The second style is "separate-class" study, which covers language arts and mathematics classes. During these periods, the ESC students will move to a separate classroom with the EST. English language arts and mathematics classes are conducted exclusively in English so that ESC students can maintain their communication skills for when they return home or move to another English-speaking country. ESC students also study Japanese language arts, which are aimed at establishing basic communication skills that will enhance their experience while residing in Japan.

The primary goal of the ESC program is to support the ESC students in their daily school lives, but it also benefits the rest of the school as well, as it offers a unique environment for all of our enrolled students. The ESC program increases students' opportunities for exchanging language and culture, thus creating a greater sense of internationalism in the school and the community. We hope that the experiences provided by this program will give all students at Nanzan the skills needed live in a global society. Thank you for your support.

## Guidance that is Tailored to Each Individual

Small Group Math Instructor

Our school provides small-group instruction in Math for grades 3-6.

First, a placement test is given before each unit of study to assess each student's level of understanding of the content previously studied. Then, based on the results, homeroom teachers and small-group teachers discuss and set the course of study.

At that time, a common understanding of how to proceed with the study and the objectives to be emphasized is developed. 2 classes are divided into 3 groups for grades 3-5, and 1 class is divided into 2 groups for grade 6, respectively. Three courses (basic, standard, and advanced) are prepared and taught.

All courses are evaluated by the same test at the end of each unit, so there are no upper or lower ranks in each course. The only difference is the learning method used to reach the common goal of "understanding what is being taught." This is a learning style that aims for all students to reach the goal. With this concept, our school conducts small-group instruction on a daily basis, based on each student's familiarity in the mathematical content being studied. We thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

## June Events Calendar

1 (Thu)	Ball-Throwing Lesson (G4~6)	12 (Mon)	Greetings ※ Until 29 (Thu)
2 (Fri)	Ball-Throwing Lesson (G1~3)	13 (Tue)	Onaka Genki Lesson (G3)
3 (Sat)	Boccia (G3)	15 (Thu)	Social Studies Field Trip (G6)
5 (Mon)	Pre School Trip Check-up (G6)	19 (Mon)	Evac. Drill Smoke Inhalation (G2,4)
6 (Tue)	School Trip (G6) ※Until 8 (Thu)	20 (Tue)	Kokoro Theater (G6)
	Water Caravan (G4)	22 (Thu)	Water Treatment Lesson (G4)
9 (Fri)	Physical Aptitude Test	23 (Fri)	Social Studies Field Trip (G3)
12 (Mon)	Swimming Instruction Begins	30 (Fri)	Greetings make-up day

## June Goal

## Find Good Qualities in Others (Fureai Month)

Construction on the Outside Wall of the School Gym  
From June 1<sup>st</sup> (Thu) to August 31<sup>st</sup> (Thu), work will be done on the outside wall of the school gym. A materials storage area will be set up in part of the school yard, and scaffolding will be erected around the gymnasium. We will proceed with the construction work while always taking safety into consideration. We ask for everyone's understanding and cooperation in staying away from areas that are off-limits.