

南山だより



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A Renewed Spirit

Principal Noriaki Kobayashi

The extremely hot summer vacation has come to an end. The students have returned happy and healthy. In Tokyo, temperatures of 35°C or higher were the norm, and the heat stroke index continued to exceed the "danger" level of 31 (exercise in principle must be stopped). I believe that students have had various experiences at home and in the community during the long vacation. I would like to thank everyone who supported these experiences.

In my speech at the closing ceremony of the first term, I told the students that, "I would like for them to have a summer vacation that is filled with many accomplishments." As the UN Secretary-General Guterres warned in July that "global boiling" was a more appropriate term than "global warming" to describe the heat in the record books, I wondered what types of valuable experiences the students gained over their summer vacation. I am sure that each of the students at Nanzan had experiences that were only possible this year. I am looking forward to hearing what they have to say. The 5th graders went to Hakone for the summer camp, where they spent one night and two days away from their families and ate and slept with their classmates. This experience will surely be a positive influence in their future school life. It is said that students grow a lot over the summer, and we are looking forward to seeing how the 5th graders have changed.

The second term is a term with many opportunities for students to demonstrate and further develop their abilities that have grown a notch or two. In September, there are major events such as the 6th grade "Intra-City Swim Meet," and the "Intra-City Sports Meet" to be held at the National Stadium, which was the main venue for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games, the Sports Day which will be held on October 28 in an unrestricted format, and the School Performance on December 9. Along with daily studies, utilizing sports and the arts are a chance for students to greatly develop the three skills of heart, mind, and body.

Therefore, I looked into the history of the Sports Day.

Origins of the Japan's Sports Day (From Wikipedia)

Sports days (*Undou Kai*) were first held in Japan during the Meiji period (1868-1912). In the beginning, sports days were called "Kyoutou Yuugi Kai," "Taisou Kai," or "Taiku Taikai." According to a common belief, the first sports day in Japan was held on March 21, 1874, at the Imperial Japanese Naval Academy. (It is said to have been held under the guidance of an English teacher, Frederick William Strange, who later held a sports day at the Tokyo University Preparatory Gate, to which he had been transferred.) However, there is also a theory that the first such event was held in 1868 at the Yokosuka Ironworks of the Tokugawa shogunate by engineers and craftsmen. On May 25, 1878, the *Rikigekai* was held at the Sapporo Agricultural School. It is said that within just a few years thereafter, it spread to elementary and junior high schools throughout Hokkaido. Sports days were also held at Meiji Law School (the predecessor of Meiji University) in 1882, and at the University of Tokyo and Tokyo Senmon Gakko (said to be the direct source of Waseda University) in 1883. Later, the first Minister of Education, Yurei Mori, began to hold sports days at schools in order to promote group activities for physical education.

This year's Sports Day at Nanzan Elementary School will be a return to the Nanzan Sports Day in its original format. To start the second term, we will place emphasis on physical fitness.

The entire staff will continue to work hard for the sound physical and mental development of the students of Nanzan during the second term. We look forward to your continued support.

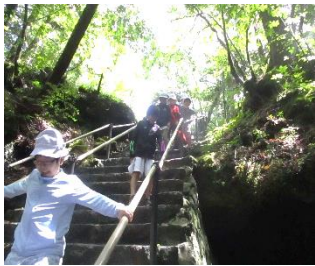
Hakone Summer Camp

Grade 5 Homeroom Teacher

5th graders went to Hakone on August 9 and 10 during their summer vacation. Each student took on a different role, and it was impressive to see how they gave it their all for their first overnight stay in Hakone. During the two-day and one-night trip, there were many students who challenged themselves to achieve their goals, making the most of what they had prepared in advance. Unfortunately, it was raining on the first day, but the participants enjoyed the bus recreation that they planned for themselves while heading to Hakone. Upon arrival, they enjoyed a tour of a milk factory and a feeding experience at the Dairy Kingdom Orache. They also enjoyed their delicious lunches prepared by their parents and guardians. Thank you very much for your cooperation.



A candlelight fire was held at night at Hakone Nico Nico Kogen Gakuen. The vice-principal appeared as the god of fire and shared the fire while accepting the determination of the children of the fire god. After a lively song and dance session, the students discussed how they will continue to build a better relationship with one another. In the reflection meeting, they discussed their respective achievements and challenges, and showed their growth as 5th graders.



On the second day, we explored the wind and ice caves, they were able to experience the magnificence of the Sea of Trees in Fuji. At Sakana Park, they learned about nature and fish, and deepened their thoughts on the SDGs.

Through the overnight stay, the students were able to appreciate each other and notice the good qualities that they had not noticed before. We hope that they will make the most of this experience in their future school life. We would like to express our sincere appreciation for the cooperation of the parents and many others.

Application for Special Support Classrooms and Assignment of Learning Support Staff (starting in April 2024)

Special Support Coordination

Since the 2008 school year, the school has opened a special support classroom (Step Room) within the school as a place to provide guidance to students with developmental concerns to help them overcome or improve their difficulties in life and learning. In addition, we are in the process of assigning learning support staff to provide individualized assistance to aid in areas of difficulty during simultaneous instruction in the regular classes.

Parents who are not currently receiving such guidance and support and wish to have their children attend special support classes or be assigned a learning support staff in the future, please contact the homeroom teacher, special support coordinator (Nashizawa, Katano, or Takatsu), or the vice principal by Friday, September 29 (Fri).

September Events Calendar

1 (Fri)	Opening Ceremony 3 Periods	11 (Mon)	Pool Closing	Summer Project Exhibition Ends
2 (Sat)	Evacuation Pick-up Drill		P-T Conference	Information Morals Lecture
4 (Mon)	Step Begins	12 (Tue)	<i>Furoshiki</i> Experience (G5)	
	Measurements G1.2	13 (Wed)	Planetarium (G4) Mori Art Museum (G1)	
	Committee	14 (Thu)	Mori Art Museum (G2)	
5 (Tue)	School Lunch Begins	14 (Thu)	Rice Harvesting Experience (G5)	
	Measurements G3.4	20 (Wed)	Seeing Eye Dog Caravan (G4)	
	Intra-city Swim Meet	21 (Thu)	Bicycle Simulator (G2.4)	
	Summer Project Exhibition Starts	22 (Fri)	Send off Assembly	
	Greeting※ until the 25th	26 (Tue)	Greeting (Make up Day)	
6 (Wed)	Club	27 (Wed)	Intra-city Sports Meet (G6)	
7 (Thu)	Measurements G5.6	28 (Thu)	School Lunch Tasting	
8 (Fri)	End of Swimming Instruction		Health Committee	
	Suntory Art Museum G6		Social Studies Field Trip (G5)	

September Goal

Put Your Heart into Your Greetings