

# 南山だより



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## History at Nanzan Elementary School

It is now a season of fresh, crisp green leaves. I would like to thank the many parents who attended the recent Parent-Teacher Conference.

Today marks the end of April, and three weeks have passed since the Opening Ceremony and Entrance Ceremony. The students who looked a bit nervous at the beginning of the school year seem to be gradually getting used to their new grade and class. The first graders, who had been feeling nervous and anxious about life at the elementary school, seemed to relax after receiving a warm welcome from the upper graders at the "Grade 1 Welcome Assembly". The first graders had a traffic safety lesson, the second graders had a lesson where they drew a fire truck, and the third graders went on a tour of the local area. Fourth graders and above have started committee activities and club activities, and are active in a variety of settings. During morning and lunch recesses, students can be seen playing energetically in the schoolyard and talking happily with their classmates in the classrooms, and the school is full of energy.

While watching these wonderful students, I became curious about the history of this Nanzan Elementary School and did a little research. The school opened in 1876 and has a long history and tradition. The school was opened with generous donations from the local community, and a wooden school building was built at 7 Miyamura-cho.

Later, in 1895, the school moved to 69 Aza Uchida-yama, Miyamura-cho (the current location of Roppongi High School). During the era of this two-story wooden school building, there was a wisteria trellis covering the entire school yard, with light purple flowers blooming in the spring, and the sports day was held under this trellis. For this reason, this period is known as "the era of the wisteria trellis school building," and when people who studied at this school building think of their memories, the wisteria trellis is the first thing that comes to mind.

After, in 1927, a new school building was constructed at the present location as part of the reconstruction plan for the Great Kanto Earthquake that occurred in 1923. The three-story reinforced concrete school building, which was rare in Tokyo at the time when many private homes were one-story, was said to be majestic. At the time of its completion, the school had 1068 students and the largest playground in the Tokyo metropolitan area. This school building survived for about 50 years without being destroyed by fire during the turbulent Showa period (1926-1989). Time passed, and in 1978, the current school building was completed. Since then, the school has watched over and sent off students through the Showa, Heisei, and Reiwa eras. After such a long history, Nanzan Elementary School will celebrate its 150th anniversary in 2026.

At this historic Elementary School, the students are working very hard every day. However, some of them seem to be a little tired. This weekend will be a four-day weekend, so we hope that they will take a break and recover, and then return to their school life with renewed energy.

We would like to thank all parents and community members for their understanding and support of our school's academic activities. May 16 (Thu) and 17 (Fri) are open days for the school. If you have time, please come and see the children at school. Thank you for your continued support.

## 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

## Initiatives at Nanzan Elementary School (*Tatewari* Groups and Cross-Grade Interaction)

Head of Special Activities

*Tatewari* group activities and interactions with students from different grades have been a long-standing tradition at Nanzan Elementary School.

In the *Tatewari* Group, students from grades 1 to 6 are divided into 14 groups and deepen their friendship beyond their grade level through various events and assemblies. The students sing together at the morning music assembly, and at the student assembly, they cooperate to play games devised by the assembly committee.

In addition, during the *Tatewari Nakayoshi* Assembly and Greetings Campaign Week, the upper graders show leadership and direct the activities.

Students also interact with other grades, the kindergarten and junior high school in a variety of settings, including Integrated Studies, Social Studies, Life Studies, and Language Studies, and link these activities to career education. The daily accumulation of such activities supports the growth of the students at Nanzan, who are able to take action on their own initiative and cooperate with and be considerate of others.



## Start Curriculum

G1 Homeroom Teacher

The Start Curriculum is a curriculum for students entering elementary school to help them get used to elementary school life based on what they have learned and cultivated through play and life in kindergarten, nursery school, and preschools.

At Nanzan Elementary School, the first grade schedule is divided into 15-minute intervals for one period (45 minutes) and incorporates songs and hand games to maintain linkages with the kindergarten and nursery schools. Thereafter, the students develop their independence and growth through subject-oriented learning, as well as through life studies using combined and linked instruction.

We also have a 6th grade Start Curriculum, where the 6th graders support and set an example for the 1st graders in their school life so that each one of them will be aware of being in the highest grade and take a leadership role.

The 6th graders are the big brothers and sisters who lead the school.



**★About 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

1 (Wed)	Committee	21 (Tue)	G6 Tax lesson
7 (Tue)	Start of checkups	28 (Tue)	G6 Pre-Hakone Checkup
13 (Mon)	Evacuation Drill	29 (Wed) ~ 31 (Fri)	G6 Hakone Trip
16 (Wed)	Open School (Safety Lesson G1,2,3,4)		

## May Goal

**Think and Act Independently**