

南山だより



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In the Midst of Change

There are only three weeks left in the first term. Many parents and members of the community came to the school for the recent open morals lesson and lecture, and were able to observe the students and the morals lessons. The content was different for each grade, but we would be happy if each family could listen to what their child had to say regarding the lesson.

Swimming instruction began at school last month, and I can hear the student's excited voices from the principal's office. In recent years, the heat has become so intense that many days are too hot to get into the pool. In our generation, we used to take a dip in the pool in the hot summer to cool off, but the environment, including the climate, have changed quite a bit since then.

This time, I would like to tell you about the night school where I used to work. For many people, the term "night school" may conjure up images of high school or university classes with regular hours. Night school was originally established for those who had not completed compulsory education (i.e., had not graduated from junior high school) due to war or other reasons, and even today there are eight night schools in Tokyo. The students who attended these classes were high school age or older and had not yet graduated from junior high school. The actual night school classes are depicted in the movie "Gakko (School)" directed by Yoji Yamada.

When I worked there, there was only one student who did not graduate because of war, as he was much older. The others were foreign nationals who had not attended or graduated from school in their home countries. The students were from more than 10 different countries, and some of them could barely understand Japanese. Therefore, there were times when they could not understand the rules of the Japanese school or could not communicate with each other, which sometimes led to arguments. The ages of the students ranged from late teens to 90s, making for a truly diverse group of students.

Most of the foreign students work some kind of job during the day. Some of the students also had other jobs during the night. I think it was very difficult for them to come to the night class after work in the evening. However, most of them had a clear purpose and were very dedicated to their studies. Many of them wanted to obtain a junior high school diploma, go on to high school or other higher education in Japan or their home country, or get a better job for themselves. For those who attended night classes, going to school was not a want, but a necessity.

The night school classes are located inside the regular junior high schools, so there are students in the regular classes who are in the school from morning to late afternoon, and students in the night classes who come to the same school from late afternoon to night time. At first I was puzzled by the difference between the regular class and the night class, but when I came into contact with foreign nationals who were working in Japan and attending school here, I realized that they had a different perception than I did.

Various factors have changed even in the past few years and will continue to change in the future. I believe that we will need to increasingly coexist with cultures and values that are different from those of the past. However, we do not know how big the changes will be 10 or 20 years from now. It is the elementary school students of today who will be entering society 10 to 20 years from now. What do you think today's children need to acquire when they become independent in society? I want students to acquire beliefs about how they want to live (profession and lifestyle), the ability to understand the current situation and predict the future regarding themselves and society, and the ability to accept the ideas and lifestyles (differences) of others and to cooperate with them.

We need the help of each family and the community to take into account the developmental stages of students throughout their school life at Nanzan Elementary School and to nurture their ability to become independent in society in the future. We look forward to your support.

As the heat continues, we ask that all parents and community members take care not to get sick or become ill.

The Hakone Field Trip Created by the 6th Graders

Grade 6 Homeroom Teacher

When asked in April, at the start of the 6th grade, what they were looking forward to this school year, many students answered "the Hakone school trip," one of the major events for the 6th graders, which took place from May 29 (Wed) to 31 (Fri).

Each student set goals for the trip, and individually prepared for it by ensuring that they did their role to the fullest for the benefit of everyone. Led by the organizing committee, leaders like the activity group leaders, room leaders, meal leaders, and environment leaders, understood their roles, thought among themselves about how to support each other and what arrangements were necessary, created discussions, and received advice as they made preparations.

Throughout the three days of the trip, each student was seen carrying out their role properly. Judging from the expressions on their faces when they returned to Nanzan Elementary School, as homeroom teachers, we are happy to see that the 6th graders had the opportunity to mature significantly.

One of the ways in which students in the 6th grade are growing as a grade is that they are increasingly using language that encourages each other. On the trip, we could see them using these words of encouragement in many places. The reason why the trip was not only fun but also fulfilling is because they were able to fully demonstrate their strengths and make the Hakone trip, which they created themselves, a success. We look forward to seeing more achievements from the 6th graders in the future.

Interacting With Classmates ~Friendship is...~

Head of Moral Education

Students are learning through daily moral education lessons. In moral education, we often read narrative texts. In language classes, we often analyze the story while reading it. On the other hand, in morals lessons, after reading the feelings and actions of the characters in the story, the students think about what they would do if they were the characters in the story and share their thoughts. It is a subject that places emphasis on thinking about oneself. In teaching at school, we work to cultivate moral values not only in moral classes but also through all academic activities. Students have opportunities to acknowledge others through interactions with other grades in Tatewari group activities, interactions among themselves in the classroom, and through exchanging opinions in all classes. We will continue to nurture a sense of morality through all of our academic activities, which is important even after graduating from elementary school and becoming adults.

The Open Morals Lesson and Lecture aims to deepen mutual understanding of how moral education should be provided at home, school, and in the local community, as well as to promote the growth of students' minds and hearts. This year's theme was mainly about interacting with others, and students learned about proper language, greetings, and courtesy through discussions with their classmates. The 1st grade students learned about using proper language to warm the hearts of others, and the 2nd grade students discussed about how to be kind to others. Third grade students learned about having an awareness of the emotional connection with friends and helping each other. Fourth graders were motivated to strengthen their friendships through thinking about what it means to think deeply about friendship. 5th graders were asked, how they can build better relationships in the area of using social networking sites. Sixth graders thought about what a true friend would do by holding discussions on trusting each other and strengthening friendships.

We will continue to undertake moral education in cooperation with families and the community. Thank you for your cooperation.

July Events Schedule

1 (Mon)	Committee	11 (Thu)	Keisan Perfect Retest
3 (Wed)	Kanji Perfect Test	12 (Fri)	Clothed Swimming (G3~6)
4 (Thu)	Keisan Perfect Test	16 (Tue)	Individual P-T Meeting ~19 (Fri) Club
5 (Fri)	G6 Social Studies Field Trip	18 (Thu)	End of School Lunch
8 (Mon)	G5 Summer Camp Explanatory Meeting	19 (Fri)	Closing Ceremony
9 (Tue)	Evacuation Drill	22 (Mon)	Summer Swimming ~26 (Fri)
10 (Wed)	Kanji Perfect Retest		

July Goal

Reflect on your Studies and School Life in the 1st Term

