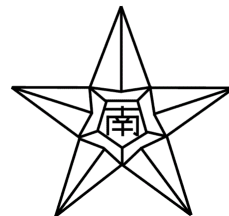


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Wonderfulness of Children ~ Unity of Knowledge and Action ~

Tsuyoshi Imamura

The year is quickly coming to an end, and only one month remains. The season has suddenly changed this year, causing some students to fall ill. It is also a time of year when fatigue can easily set in, so please take good care of yourselves as well as your family.

Recently, as a Tokyo 2020 legacy project, we invited former Paralympic gold medalist Shigeo Yoshihara to our grade 4 class as part of their studies on "A town that is easy to live in". Mr. Yoshihara lost his eyesight when he was 10 years old due to retinitis pigmentosa, but went on to win a bronze medal in the high jump at the Atlanta Paralympics, a silver medal in the cycling at the Athens Paralympics, and a gold medal at the Sydney Paralympics. He later switched to blind soccer and still plays for the Japanese national team.

In the class, the students walked along the Azabu Juban shopping street with Mr. Yoshihara and practiced how to give directions and how to tell people what kind of things to pay attention to and how to give explanations. At first, the students seemed nervous, but they gradually became accustomed to the activity, and they proactively called out to Mr. Yoshihara and walked with him. After returning to the school, they asked many questions, each of which was answered in detail. One question from a student asked, "How do you know when to cross at a pedestrian crossing without a traffic light?" These were good questions that made everyone think. He answered, "I measure the timing to start walking by sensing the people walking around me."

Actually, there was something that happened afterwards. When Mr. Yoshihara was walking along the Azabu Juban shopping street, a student from Nanzan Elementary School called out to him, "Yosshi-" and walked with him to the bus stop, and when he got on the bus, he told us this made him very happy. Even if someone realizes "I can be of help if I do this," it does not always lead to action in that situation. Perhaps there are many people who know what they should do, but they think about it too much and are unable to take action. The students at Nanzan Elementary School are able to actually take action, which is a wonderful thing. It must just be a natural thing for them. I believe this is because the families and community are nurturing them by acting as good role-models.

In addition to Mr. Yoshihara, in November we invited actors from the Shiki Theatre Company, Japanese national lacrosse team player Sodeyama, and people from the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association as guest teachers. In addition, we have been conducting various academic activities such as work experience in the Azabu Juban shopping district, and all grades have visited art museums to experience art appreciation. I believe that this is one of the wonderful aspects of Nanzan Elementary School, which is rooted in the local community. I am sure that the students' learning, not only at school, but also in the community and at home, is accumulating within them and slowly but surely nurturing their rich humanity and social skills.

The Art Exhibition will be held on December 20 (Fri) and 21 (Sat). We hope that parents and members of the community will be able to view the works of art created by the artists of Nanzan Elementary School. We look forward to seeing you at the school. We will continue to make every effort to ensure the healthy growth of the students, and we ask for your continued understanding and cooperation in our school's academic activities. In addition, we are also asking for your cooperation in the school evaluation (parent/guardian survey) from December 9 to 23.

About Committee

Special Activities

The school has seven committees. They are the Representative, Library, Broadcasting, Assembly, Health, Minna Eco, and Athletic Committee.

Committee activities are activities in which each student is aware of their role as a member of the school, and in order to make school life richer for themselves, they divide up the work within the school and tackle it in a self-directed manner.

At our school, all 5th and 6th grade students belong to respective committees and work together to come up with ideas on what they can do to help.

The Representative Committee, for example, has been conducting a greeting campaign in front of the main gate, arriving at school early every morning, in order to make the school a place where everyone greets each other. Also, the Minna Eco Committee has been thinking of ways to reduce the amount of leftover food from school lunches, and has called on the entire school to participate in Food Loss Week.

Through their respective committee activities, the students are working hard every day to make Nanzan Elementary School a better school.

About Building a Healthy Body

Physical Education Coordinator

The number of times students can do the long jump rope in 3 minutes is recorded by each class and displayed on the staircase landing. We feel that this has led to an improvement in athletic ability and physical fitness throughout the year.

In June, we also welcomed a former player of the Yakult baseball team as a guest teacher and held a "How to Throw" class. The students enjoyed learning many tips on how to throw the ball farther, such as being aware of rhythm and looking in the direction they want to throw the ball.

For children to grow, it is important to have a well-regulated lifestyle that includes going to bed early, getting up early, eating breakfast, adequate sleep, a well-balanced diet, and proper exercise.

We encourage you to try a variety of physical activities with your child at home and take a second look at their lifestyle.

December Events Schedule

2 (Mon)	Committee	12 (Thu)	4 Periods	Indiv. P-T Meeting ^③
3 (Tue)	<i>Fureai</i> Month Slogan Presentation			<i>Keisan</i> Perfect Retest
4 (Wed)	Kanji Perfect Test	13 (Fri)	5 Period Day	
5 (Thu)	Evacuation Drill (Stranger Danger)	19 (Thu)		Music Appreciation Lesson (G5)
	<i>Keisan</i> Perfect Test	20 (Fri)		Art Exhibition ^①
6 (Fri)	<i>Fureai</i> Month Slogan Presentation	21 (Sat)		Art Exhibition ^②
7 (Sat)	Nanzan Kindergarten Anniversary Ceremony	23 (Mon)		School Lunch Ends
9 (Mon)	My School PR Competition (G5)	24 (Tue)	4 Period Day	
10 (Tue)	4 Periods	25 (Wed)	4 Period Day	Closing Ceremony
	Indiv. P-T Meeting ^①			
11 (Wed)	4 Periods			
	Indiv. P-T Meeting ^②			
	Kanji Perfect Retest			

December Goal

Reflect on the 2nd Term's Studies and School Life