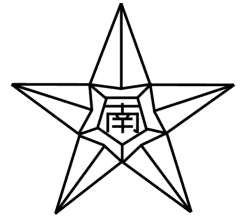


南山だより



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Results of the School Evaluation Questionnaire (Term 2)

Principal Tsuyoshi Imamura

The new year has begun, and as usual, our school held the New Year's calligraphy event. The first and second graders used 4b pencils, while the third graders and above used brushes. Each student wrote with great care, and the results were wonderful and refreshing. We would like to express our gratitude to the parents and community members who had the opportunity to view the students' remarkable works at the calligraphy exhibition.

Now, we would like to thank you for your cooperation in the second-term school evaluation parent questionnaire. Regarding the results, when compared to the first term, when combining "strong agree" and "somewhat agree" as positive evaluations, and "combining strongly disagree" and "somewhat disagree" as negative evaluations, the overall positive evaluations have increased. For example, in question 4, "The school does not overlook student's problems, concerns, or troubles, and makes efforts to prevent bullying and absenteeism by offering advice and guidance," the positive evaluation increased by 6%, from 79% in the first term to 85%. We believe this reflects the positive impact of the school's actions. Additionally, in question 6, "The school works to foster interest in sports and the arts through interactions with athletes and music concerts," the positive evaluation increased by 5%, from 93% in the first term to 98%. This increase likely results from the many opportunities provided in the second term.

In other areas, there was no significant change in the proportion of positive evaluations. However, for all items, the percentage of "very applicable" evaluations increased. Notably, in question 2, "The school provides lessons that are 'understandable' and 'fun,'" the percentage of "very applicable" responses rose by 15%, from 46% in the first term to 61%. In question 3, "The school places importance on teaching the values of recognizing and caring for others through events, moral education lessons, interactions with the community, and greeting activities," it increased by 12%, from 66% to 78%. In question 4, "The school addresses student's problems, concerns, or troubles promptly, offering advice and guidance to prevent bullying and absenteeism," it increased by 14%, from 38% to 52%. These increases reflect more positive evaluations, likely based on parents observing their children at school or hearing about school life from them at home. We will use this feedback to continue improving our efforts going forward.

Currently, the school is working on creating the curriculum for the upcoming school year. As you may already know, starting next year, a pre-class will be introduced for all new first graders in Minato City. Additionally, the second term will be shortened by two days, ending on December 23. We will continue to ensure the quality and quantity of lessons while also considering the work-life balance of our teachers. We kindly ask for your continued understanding and cooperation.

Regarding the 2025 school year curriculum

<For Minato City>

- The second term will end on December 23 (Winter break will start on December 24).
- The entrance ceremony will be held in the afternoon of April 7.
- A pre-class system will be introduced for new first graders.

<For Nanzan Elementary School>

- The sports day will be held in late May (due to lawn construction on the school grounds).
- During the lawn construction, the rooftop or other locations will be considered for recess and physical education classes.

Regarding Photographs of School Events

For the photography of school events, following Cosmos' withdrawal, we have decided to request Matsuo Photography Studio starting from the 2025 school year.

We will provide further details at the parent meeting in March, so please refrain from contacting Matsuo Photography Studio individually.

This is the initial announcement in writing.

After the New Year's Calligraphy Event (*Kakizomekai*)

Japanese Language

The origin of the New Year's calligraphy event is said to lie in a ceremony from the Heian period. This practice began when documents were presented to the emperor at important turning points, and later evolved in the Edo period to involve writing auspicious kanji with people practicing calligraphy in celebration of the New Year, and became popular among the general public.

Even in today's age of digitalization, I reflected on why "kakizome" (New Year's calligraphy) has remained a long-standing tradition. By writing down goals and resolutions for the New Year, people refresh their actions and feelings, hoping for a good year ahead. This desire may have remained unchanged, both now and in the past.

Watching the students carefully move their brushes, writing each character with precision, it became a day of resetting and trying again when things didn't go well, and wishing for continued progress and success when things went well.



Efforts by the Minna Eco Committee

Minna Eco Head

The Minna Eco Committee is working to solve environmental issues by thinking about what students can do and carrying out awareness activities within the school.

This year, in order to increase greenery throughout the school, students planted seven types of plants: Cosmos, Bellflower, Chinese Spiranthis, Japanese Honeysuckle, Myosotis, Columbine, and Burdock. They have displayed cultivation records in the hallway to raise awareness about the importance of nature throughout the entire school.

Additionally, they have established a "Food Loss Week" to reduce leftover food from school lunches. Classes that reduced their leftover food compared to the past two weeks received certificates or bookmarks made from plants that were planted at the school as gifts. Through announcements and assemblies, students were able to raise awareness across the school and successfully reduce food waste.

Furthermore, each class regularly checks the sorting of trash and the temperature settings of air conditioners. The students are also promoting the 3Rs (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle).

In the third term, the Minna Eco Committee will continue to lead activities to encourage the entire school to think about the environment. We hope that you will also participate in these efforts at home by taking action.

February Events

3 (Mon)	5 period day	17 (Mon)	G6 Mock election lesson
7 (Fri)	Kanji Level Test 5 period day	18 (Tue)	New G1 parent-teacher conference
10 (Mon)	Committee	21 (Fri)	5 period day
12 (Wed)	Club (G3 Observe)	26 (Wed)	Kanji Perfect Test
14 (Fri)	G4 Disability Soccer guest lesson	27 (Thu)	Keisan Perfect Test

※There will be an unannounced evacuation drill in February

February Goal

Find Good Qualities in Everyone