

# 南山だより



Tokyo, Minato City, Motoazabu 3-8-15    TEL 03(3403)5773    FAX 03(3408)4532    MAIL:nanzan-es@minato-ky.ed.jp

## Reflecting on the First Term Evaluation

Tsuyoshi Imamura

One month has passed since the start of the second term. There is a Japanese saying, "*Atsusa samusa mo higan made*" (The heat and cold last until the equinoctial week), and true to that, the intense heat has finally begun to subside, allowing us to feel the signs of autumn.

In school life, due to the ongoing turf construction on the schoolyard, students have been spending their recess time in the gymnasium and on the rooftop. For physical education classes, we are using both our school's gymnasium and the grounds and gymnasium of Roppongi High School. Despite these temporary changes, the students are enjoying their school life calmly and pleasantly. Across all grade levels, students are engaging in a wide range of activities such as neighborhood exploration, visits to the planetarium, rice harvesting, and social studies field trips. Additionally, thanks to the support of parents and community members, students have had the opportunity to participate in various events, including the PTA event on September 6 and the Autumn Festival on September 13 and 14. We are truly grateful for the role that families and the local community play in raising the wonderful students of Nanzan Elementary School.

We would also like to thank you for your cooperation with the first term school evaluation. Regarding the results of the questionnaire, overall, there were no major differences from last year in the percentage of positive responses (combining "strongly agree" and "somewhat agree") or negative responses (combining "strongly disagree" and "somewhat disagree").

Looking more closely at the results, for Question 4, which asked whether the school makes efforts to prevent bullying and absenteeism by identifying and addressing student's problems and concerns through counseling and guidance, 80% of respondents gave a positive evaluation, up slightly from 79% last year. Notably, the percentage who answered "strongly agree" rose from 38% to 46%, an 8% increase. For Question 8, which asked whether the school is working to improve and tailor its teaching and support systems to meet the needs of each student—including promoting special support classes and creating an environment where all students can learn in a way that is accessible, understandable, and enjoyable—the overall positive response rate was 80%, up from 78% last year. The "strongly agree" responses increased from 43% to 52%, a 9% rise. We believe this reflects recognition of the increasingly effective collaboration between the school, families, and related organizations in supporting our students. Furthermore, for Question 10, which asked whether the school's communications—such as notices to parents and the school website—are clear and appropriate, 95% of respondents gave a positive evaluation, up from 93% last year. The percentage who answered "strongly agree" rose from 56% to 67%, showing a 9% increase. We will continue striving to ensure our communications remain clear and informative.

On the other hand, for Question 1, which asked whether the school conducts lessons that encourage collaborative learning and mutual recognition, creating a safe environment for students to express themselves and develop basic academic skills, the overall positive response rate was 93%, slightly up from 92% last year. However, the percentage who responded "strongly agree" declined from 60% to 53%, a 7% decrease. This may be due to students still adjusting to the new dual-track lesson model introduced this year in Minato Ward. We will continue to improve and refine our teaching methods in response.

## Application for Placement in the Special Support Classroom (First Term, 2026~27 School Year)

Special Needs Education Coordinator

Our school operates a Special Support Classroom (Step Room) to provide individual support for students who may have developmental concerns. This classroom is designed to help students overcome and improve challenges they may face in daily life or learning. Parents or guardians who wish for their child to attend the Special Support Classroom are asked to consult with the homeroom teacher, the Special Needs Education Coordinator, or the Vice Principal by October 6 (Mon).

※ Parents or guardians who would like their child to continue using the Special Support Classroom in the next school year must also contact the homeroom teacher, the Special Needs Education Coordinator, or the Vice Principal by October 22 (Wed).

October Schedule									
Date	Day	Morning Activities	School Events	Periods/Dismissal Time					
				G1	G2	G3	G4	G5	G6
1	Wed		Tokyo Citizen Day						
2	Thu	Keisan・Kanji	Tatewari Activities Groups 13 and 14	5	5	6	6	6	6
3	Fri	Reading	Tatewari Make-up Day・Evac. Drill (Secondary Evacuation)	5	6	6	6	6	6
4	Sat								
5	Sun								
6	Mon	Assembly	Committee	5	5	5	5	6	6
7	Tue	Kanji・Keisan		5	5	6	6	6	6
8	Wed	Class	G6 Intra-city Sports Meet	5	5	5	5	5	6
9	Thu	Keisan・Kanji	Dental Exam (G1,3,5) G2 Town Exploration ㊤㊥	5	5	6	6	6	6
10	Fri	Safety	5 Period Day Kissport Viewing	5	5	5	5	5	5
11	Sat		Minato City Citizens Festival						
12	Sun		Minato City Citizens Festival						
13	Mon		Health and Sports Day						
14	Tue	Kanji・Keisan		5	5	6	6	6	6
15	Wed	Music Assembly	Morning Classes	4	4	4	4	4	4
16	Thu	Keisan・Kanji		5	5	6	6	6	6
17	Fri	Reading		5	6	6	6	6	6
18	Sat								
19	Sun								
20	Mon	Assembly	149th School Foundation Day Open School Day 1 G6 Drug use prevention lesson	5	5	5	6	6	6
21	Tue	Kanji・Keisan	Open School Day 2 School Explanatory Meeting G5・6 Safety Lesson G5・6 Coordination Training	5	5	6	6	6	6
22	Wed	Class	G1 Art Field Trip (Mori Art Museum) Club	4	4	4	5	5	5
23	Thu	Keisan・Kanji	G2 Art Field Trip (Mori Art Museum) Dental Exam (G2,4,6)	5	5	6	6	6	6
24	Fri	School Life Questionnaire	5 Period Day	5	5	5	5	5	5
25	Sat								
26	Sun								
27	Mon	Morning Assembly	No Cleaning Schedule G3・4 Coordination Training	5	5	5	6	6	6
28	Tue	Kanji・Keisan	G6 Civics Lesson㊤㊥	5	5	6	6	6	6
29	Wed	Tatewari		5	5	5	5	5	5
30	Thu	Keisan・Kanji	G5 Halal Lunch	5	5	6	6	6	6
31	Fri	Reading		5	6	6	6	6	6

All days are "A Schedule" unless specifically marked as "B Schedule".				
Dismissal Times		<b>[A Schedule]</b> 3 periods: 11:40, 4 periods: 13:15, 5 periods: 14:40, 6 periods: 15:30		
		<b>[B Schedule]</b> 4 periods (with lunch): 12:55, 4 periods (without lunch): 12:10, 5 periods: 13:55		
※For details regarding dismissal times, please refer to the notices from individual grades and classes.				

October Goal

Think and Take Action Independently

# All-school Notice

## ◆School Hats◆

October 2<sup>nd</sup> (Wed) is the seasonal uniform changeover day. In accordance with this, students will switch from wearing white caps to navy caps. Please prepare a navy cap for your child. We kindly ask that you check the cap to ensure the strap is not stretched out or broken, and that your child's name is clearly written on it. There will be no changes to the yellow caps worn by first-grade students.

## ◆Report Cards◆

Report cards were distributed on September 30<sup>th</sup> (Tue). Please take this opportunity to recognize your child's hard work and encourage their continued growth. Each student received a designated folder containing three items: the cover page (page 1), the subject evaluations, and teacher's comments (double-sided, page 2), and one blank sheet (page 3). Please remove only the second sheet (subject evaluations and comments) and keep it at home for your records, as reissues are not possible. The folder and the cover sheet should be returned to your child's homeroom teacher by October 3<sup>rd</sup> (Fri).

## ◆Open School◆

We will have Open School on the 20<sup>th</sup> (Mon) and the 21<sup>st</sup> (Tue), with a school explanatory meeting also scheduled for the 21<sup>st</sup>. We understand that you may be busy, but we hope you will take this opportunity to observe your child's daily learning and school life. Further details will be provided in a letter from the school at a later date.

## ◆Evacuation Drill◆

There will be an evacuation drill on October 3<sup>rd</sup> (Fri). We will evacuate to Roppongi High School using the simulation of a fire close to the school. Please take this opportunity to talk to your child about what to do in the event of a disaster.

## Notices for Each Grade (November)

### Grade 1

#### ○Morning Glory Wreaths

We will be using the morning glory vines that the students have been growing to make wreaths for decorating at home during the holidays. We plan to ask for your help in removing the stakes and vines. More details will be provided at a later date. Also, if you happen to find items such as pine cones or acorns that could be used to decorate the wreaths, please feel free to collect them while playing at the park or during walks.

#### ○Art Museum Field Trip

On October 22<sup>nd</sup> (Wed), we will be going on a field trip to the Mori Art Museum to view the exhibition "*Sou Fujimoto: Architecture — Primitive Future Forest.*" Students will have the opportunity to appreciate the artworks while listening to a talk by a museum curator. Please have your child come to school wearing comfortable clothes suitable for the outing.

#### ○Volume 2 of the Textbooks

We will be distributing the second volume of the textbooks. For non-ESC students, Japanese language studies utilize the second volume once they have completed the first. Please keep the first volume at home until the end of the school year. For all students, the second volumes of the Life Studies and Arts & Crafts textbooks will also be distributed, but since these will continue to be used in second grade, they will be kept at school.

## Grade 2

### ○Plant Pot

Please keep the mini tomato plant pot that was brought home before the summer break at home for now. After October, we may discuss with the students the possibility of using it to grow spring flowers. If we decide to use it, we will inform you in advance. Even if it is not used in second grade, it will be needed for science class in third grade, so please make sure to keep the pot (plant pot only) stored safely.

### 《Textbooks · Kanji Drill Books》

The textbooks for Japanese language (non-ESC students) and math will now switch to the second volume. Please keep the first volumes that have been used so far at home throughout the second grade. We will also distribute the second volume for kanji study, and we ask that you review the kanji from the first volume at home.

## Grade 3

○Students explored the surrounding area on September 16<sup>th</sup> for the purpose of making a safety map.

Students paid special attention to find safe and dangerous places on their school routes. They summarized their studies on a map and gave a presentation. Thank you to those who helped chaperone.

○Study Supplies

Please review the list of necessary items once again and prepare any that are missing or need to be replaced. Additionally, please be sure to label all belongings, not just writing instruments.

## Grade 4

○In our integrated studies unit, "The Town Where Everyone Lives," students experienced using wheelchairs and white canes to better understand the daily lives of people with disabilities. They realized how scary and unsettling it can be to navigate stairs with a white cane and how challenging it is to push a wheelchair. We hope this experience will encourage them to become people who are willing to lend a helping hand to those in need.

○For our science lesson, we visited the planetarium. The students were amazed to learn that there are actually many stars in the night sky above Nanzan Elementary. In October, we will study how the positions of the moon and stars change. Please take some time to enjoy the autumn night sky with your child.

## Grade 5

### ○Halal School Lunch

"Halal" is an Arabic term meaning "permitted" and refers to foods and preparation methods allowed under Islamic teachings. At Nanzan Elementary School, we view school lunches as a valuable opportunity to deepen students' understanding of different cultures. In an increasingly diverse society, understanding and accepting halal food is an important step toward creating a multicultural and inclusive community.

### ○Minato City My School PR Competition

Every December, fifth graders participate in the My School PR Competition held at the Minato City Council, where elementary schools from the city gather to present their school activities. On the day of the event, two representatives from the grade are selected to participate. This year, we decided to present a project showcasing the strengths of Nanzan Elementary School, which will celebrate its 150th anniversary next year. This month, we are collecting ideas for a mascot character from within the school to create a unique character for Nanzan Elementary. We also plan to create posters highlighting the school's appeal. We may ask for your support as parents in some of these activities, so we appreciate your continued cooperation.

## Grade 6

### ○Intra-city Sports Meet

Thank you for preparing the practice clothes and other items. The big day is finally the 8<sup>th</sup> (Wed). Please be sure to offer your child warm encouragement on the day of the event.

Also, please wash the number tags on their P.E. clothes that were sent home and have your child bring them back.