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New Year's Greetings

Tsuyoshi Imamura

Happy New Year. I am pleased to extend my greetings to you as you welcome the New Year with a fresh and uplifting spirit. I would also like to express my heartfelt gratitude for the exceptional support you provided to our school's academic activities throughout the past year.

At our Music Recital held on December 5 and 6, we were delighted to welcome many parents and members of the local community to our school and to have you enjoy the students' singing and instrumental performances. The many words of praise we received from you made them very happy as well. Once again, I was able to truly appreciate the wonderful abilities of our students and the warm support of parents and community members.

As the year turns, people often feel a desire to change themselves or to take on new challenges. I am sure that the students are feeling the same way. At school, we have entered the third term, which marks the time to bring this school year together. Grade six students will prepare for junior high school, while students in grades one through five will look ahead to the next grade level as they complete the studies of their current year. We will continue to guide them so that they can spend each day through March valuing their daily lessons and school events.

Now then, 2026 is the Year of the Horse. The "Horse" is counted as the seventh of the twelve zodiac signs and corresponds to the two-hour period from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., as well as the southern direction. The horse is considered a symbol of growth, success, and prosperity, and is regarded as an auspicious sign. Nanzan Elementary School also marks a major milestone this year, celebrating its 150th anniversary. While cherishing the history that has been built up since 1876, we will continue to grow and adapt to the times, and we will strive to remain a school that is loved and supported by everyone.

A Music Recital Created with United Hearts

Head of the Music Recital Committee

On December 5 and 6, the music recital was held for the first time in three years. The purpose of the music recital is to present the results of students' music learning, to cultivate rich emotional sensitivity through experiencing the joy of musical activities, to develop the ability to appreciate performances and foster a spirit of recognizing both oneself and others, and to share our school's educational efforts with parents and members of the local community.

Through the preparation for the music recital, the students experienced the joy of creating something together while teaching and supporting one another. They were also able to experience the pleasure of listening to each other's instruments and expressing themselves with united hearts. In addition, by appreciating performances by other grade levels, they were able to recognize one another's strengths and inspire each other to grow. The students' growth with each successive practice was truly remarkable, and each child was able to experience a sense of accomplishment, satisfaction, and deep emotion. We hope that they will firmly engrave this experience in their hearts and make use of it in the future.

We would like to sincerely thank all parents for your warm encouragement of the children, for practicing together with them at home, and for the support you provided in so many different ways.



January Schedule

Date	Day	Morning Activities	School Events	Periods/Dismissal Time					
				G1	G2	G3	G4	G5	G6
8	Thu	Opening Ceremony	Opening Ceremony No Lunch All Grades Morning Classes	4	4	4	4	4	4
9	Fri	Opening Ceremony for Kakizomekai	Lunch starts Kakizomekai G1,2,3,5 Committee Step Room Starts	5	5	5	5	6	6
10	Sat								
11	Sun								
12	Mon								
13	Tue	Kanji • Keisan	Kakizomekai G4,6 Measurements G1,2	5	5	6	6	6	6
14	Wed	Safety	Morning Classes School Display of Kakizome G5,6 Lecture on safety by Azabu Police Department School	4	4	4	4	4	4
15	Thu	Keisan • Kanji	Measurements G5,6	5	5	6	6	6	6
16	Fri	Hyakunin Isshu	Measurements G3,4 5 period day	5	5	5	5	5	5
17	Sat								
18	Sun								
19	Mon	Assembly		5	5	5	6	6	6
20	Tue	Kanji • Keisan	Display of Kakizome Ends	5	5	6	6	6	6
21	Wed	Tatewari	Club	4	4	4	5	5	5
22	Thu	Keisan • Kanji		5	5	6	6	6	6
23	Fri	Hyakunin Isshu	G3 Fire Station Field Trip ㊦㊦ G5 Information Morals Lecture ㊦㊦	5	6	6	6	6	6
24	Sat								
25	Sun								
26	Mon	Assembly		5	5	5	6	6	6
27	Tue	Kanji • Keisan		5	5	6	6	6	6
28	Wed	Music Assembly	Research Class 1-2, 2-2	4	4	4	4	4	4
29	Thu	Keisan • Kanji		5	5	6	6	6	6
30	Fri	School Life Questionnaire	G4 Integrated Studies Field Work㊦㊦	5	6	6	6	6	6
31	Sat								

All days are "A Schedule" unless specifically marked as "B Schedule".

Dismissal Times [A Schedule] 3 periods: 11:40, 4 periods: 13:15, 5 periods: 14:40, 6 periods: 15:30

[B Schedule] 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.

January Goal

Greet Others Pleasantly

All-School Notices

◆Regarding the *Kakizomekai*◆

On January 9 (Fri), first- and second-grade students will practice hard-tip pencil calligraphy in their classrooms during the first and second periods. Third-grade students will practice brush calligraphy in the gym during the first and second periods, and fifth-grade students will practice brush calligraphy in the gym during the third and fourth periods. On January 13 (Tue), fourth-grade students will practice brush calligraphy in the gym during the first and second periods, and sixth-grade students will practice brush calligraphy in the gym during the third and fourth periods. Please kindly remind your child to bring all necessary items, such as pencils, the calligraphy set, and the example calligraphy paper, and to ensure that nothing is forgotten.

◆Regarding the Kanji Level Test◆

The Kanji Level Test will be held on February 6 (Fri). This is a valuable opportunity for students to assess the results of their daily kanji learning. We kindly ask that families also take time at home to work carefully on kanji reading, writing, and stroke order in preparation for the test. * ESC students will take Level 10 of the test. If a student has already passed Level 10, or at the parent's request, the student will take a higher level.

◆Regarding the Evacuation Drill◆

This time, the drill will be conducted without prior notice, simulating a more realistic situation. We encourage families to take this opportunity to talk at home about family rules and plans in the event of a disaster.

◆Regarding *Hyakunin Isshu* Activities◆

This month, *Tatewari* Groups 1–7 will participate in *Hyakunin Isshu* in the gym during the morning activity time on the 16 (Fri), and Groups 8–14 will do so on the 23 (Fri). Students will form mixed-grade groups and compete with one another. We hope this will be a good opportunity for them to demonstrate the results of what they have learned so far.

Notices for Each Grade (January)

Grade 1

○Regarding the *Kakizomekai*

The *Kakizomekai*, which is the main writing session for *Kakizome* will be held on January 9 (Fri). Please make sure that your child's 4B pencil for *Kakizome* is sharpened and placed in their pencil case.

○Regarding the Research Class

This school year, we are implementing a multi-track lesson approach in which students choose their learning methods and content as they work towards their goals. On January 28 (Wed), there will be a research class for Life Studies for the lower-grade students. First-grade will focus on students choosing activities and learning partners that match their own interests. On that day, only class 1-2 will have 5 periods.

Grade 2

○In Life Studies, the unit "Expanding Myself" will begin. Students will engage in activities reflecting on their "current self" and "past self." We would appreciate it if you could answer some interview questions about your child's past—such as stories from when they were younger—that are appropriate for school. This will help students better recognize and appreciate their own growth. Please also take the opportunity to tell your child when you notice they have grown, such as saying, "You've grown so much!" Your cooperation will help students prepare to share about their past and future selves during the "All About Me Presentation."

○We will continue to provide notebooks for the third term. For third-grade students, we will use 5mm square notebooks for math and lined notebooks for ESC student's English studies.

○On January 28 (Wed), a Life Studies research class will be held. On that day, only class 2-2 will have 5 periods.

Grade 3

- On January 23 (Fri), the students will visit the Azabu Fire Station. In their social studies lessons, they are learning about people who protect our lives during disasters. During the visit, they will observe a typical day at the fire station and learn about the vehicles, firefighting uniforms, and other equipment. This will help them think about the ingenuity and efforts of people involved in firefighting. The fire station staff will also answer the questions the students submitted in advance.
- ✕ Since the visit will take place outdoors, please make sure your child comes to school dressed warmly.
- ✕ The visit will take place even if it rains. There is no place to leave umbrellas at the fire station, so students will need to carry them themselves during the tour. For this reason, please provide your child with a folding umbrella rather than a long umbrella, along with a plastic bag to store it.

Grade 4

- In the Integrated Studies unit “Preparing for Emergencies,” students are learning about what can happen during an earthquake and how to prepare for one. On December 3, Mr. Kato and others from the Miyamura Neighborhood Association spoke to the students about the situation in the community and the school’s response during the Great East Japan Earthquake. Later, when an earthquake occurred in Aomori, the students felt the topic even more personally. In January, students will learn about the neighborhood association’s disaster-preparedness warehouse and the city’s initiatives. On January 30 (Fri), during the fifth and sixth periods, they will conduct a fieldwork activity to consider what might happen in the Azabu-Juban area where they live if an earthquake occurs. Because the activity involves group work, we would like to ask parents to volunteer as chaperones. Further details will be provided later via Suguru. We appreciate your cooperation.

Grade 5

- During Integrated Studies, students are discussing the creation of the “SNS Nanzan Rules 2026” based on last year’s Nanzan rules. Recently, they worked on developing grade-level survey questions to understand how students in each grade currently think about and use social media. Through this rule-making process, we hope students will become more aware of how to handle SNS and information responsibly and have the opportunity to reflect on better ways to interact online. In February, during a whole-school assembly, we will share the results of a survey on tablet use and students’ awareness of social media, and clearly communicate the rules each student should follow when using SNS. We encourage families to also discuss SNS rules at home.

Grade 6

- For the graduation ceremony, if your child will be wearing a hakama, please practice at home on how to wear it so that your child can adjust it by themselves on the day of the ceremony. We also ask that you teach them how to fix it if it becomes loose or misaligned.
- As the weather becomes colder, students may wear a long-sleeved sweatshirt over their gym clothes during PE. Please send it in the gym bag, and for safety, make sure it has no hood, buttons, or zippers. Also, students cannot wear long-sleeved shirts, tights, or leggings under their gym clothes because they cannot be removed during class. If your child wears tights to school, please make sure they bring socks to change into for PE.