

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

Reflections on the Term 1 School Evaluation

Tsuyoshi Imamura

September is drawing to a close. Although this season is traditionally known for long stretches of autumn rain, we have had considerably more rain than usual this year. Thankfully, the weather has finally begun to settle, and we can now feel the arrival of autumn.

Our students have been enjoying a calm and fulfilling school life while taking part in a variety of activities appropriate to each grade level, including community exploration, planetarium visits, and social studies field trips. We are also very grateful to our parents and members of the local community for providing our students with so many valuable experiences, including the PTA event on September 5 and the Autumn Festival held on September 12 and 13. I feel that the support and cooperation of our families and local community are among the wonderful traditions and great strengths of Nanzan Elementary School.

Thank you very much for your cooperation with our Term 1 School Evaluation Survey. Overall, compared with last year, there was no significant difference in the percentage of positive responses ("Strongly Agree" and "Somewhat Agree") or negative responses ("Strongly Disagree" and "Somewhat Disagree"). However, seven of the survey items received positive ratings of over 90%.

Looking more closely at the results, for Question 1: "The school provides lessons in which students can feel comfortable speaking and presenting their ideas, through activities such as "learning from one another" and "recognizing and appreciating one another", so that they can develop basic academic skills." The overall positive rating was 92% (93% last year). However, the percentage selecting "Strongly Agree" increased by 7 percentage points, from 53% last year to 60% this year. We believe this reflects parents' appreciation of our efforts to promote collaborative learning in small groups and as a whole class, as well as to provide more opportunities for students to present their ideas. On the other hand, Question 4 asked: "The school does not overlook students' problems, concerns, or conflicts. Teachers listen to students and provide appropriate guidance in order to prevent bullying and school refusal before they occur." The overall positive rating was 79% (80% last year), while the percentage selecting "Strongly Agree" decreased by 8 percentage points, from 46% to 38%. Conflicts and other difficulties do occur at our school, so we will make every effort to observe the students more carefully and respond promptly to any early signs of concern. Question 8 asked: "The school works to improve and strengthen its teaching and support systems according to the individual needs of each student. (Promoting special support classrooms so that everyone can learn, understand, and enjoy their learning.)" The overall positive rating was 78% (80% last year), while the percentage selecting "Strongly Agree" decreased by 9 percentage points, from 53% to 43%. Although there were various circumstances affecting the school, we take these results as an indication that we were not able to fully establish instruction and support tailored to students' individual needs. We will therefore continue working to improve and strengthen our support systems. Finally, Question 10 asked: "The information, notices, communications, and website content provided by the school to parents are easy to understand and appropriate in content." The overall positive rating was 93% (95% last year), while the percentage selecting "Strongly Agree" decreased by 11 percentage points, from 67% to 56%. We will continue to work toward providing information in an even clearer and more accessible manner.

We will continue doing our very best to support the healthy growth and development of the students of Nanzan Elementary School in all three areas of "knowledge", "character", and "physical well-being". We sincerely appreciate your continued understanding and cooperation. (Please see the accompanying document for the detailed results of the survey. ※Japanese Only)

Summer Camp

G5 Homeroom Teacher

The fifth graders went on a summer camp to Hakone on August 17 and 18 during the summer break. Each student took responsibility for their assigned role and enthusiastically participated in their first overnight school trip. Fortunately, the weather was beautiful, and the students enjoyed the bus activities they had planned themselves as they made their way to Hakone.

Our first stop was Oshino Hakkai, where the students gazed in wonder at the beauty of the crystal-clear spring water. We then visited the Lake Kawaguchi Field Center, where students enjoyed the bento lunches that had been prepared by their families in the shade of the trees. After lunch, we visited the lava tree molds formed by an eruption of Mt. Fuji. The students experienced the coolness inside the caves and were amazed by their size, giving them an opportunity to experience firsthand the power of nature and the blessings of Mt. Fuji.



At our accommodation, Niko Niko Kogen Gakuen, we held a campfire. Everyone had a wonderful time singing and dancing, which helped strengthen the bonds among the students. During our reflection session, the students discussed what they had accomplished as well as areas they could improve on, and it was clear to see how much each student had grown.

On the second day, we took a ropeway up Mt. Komagatake and were deeply impressed by the magnificent views of Hakone from the summit. After descending the mountain, they chose souvenirs at Hakone-en. We then visited the aquarium, where the students were captivated by the adorable penguins and seals.

Through this overnight experience, the students learned the importance of respecting one another and seemed to discover positive qualities in their classmates that they had not noticed before. We will continue to guide and support them so that they can apply what they learned from this experience to their future school life. We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to all the parents and everyone else who supported and assisted us in making this experience possible.

Application for Placement in the Special Support Classroom (First Term, 2027~28 School Year)

Special Needs Education Coordinator

Our school has been operating a Special Support Classroom (Step Room) to provide individual support for students who may have developmental concerns since the 2016 academic year. This classroom is designed to help students overcome and improve challenges they may face in daily life or learning. In the Step Room, students receive individualized instruction or instruction in small groups based on their individual needs and challenges, such as having difficulty managing or expressing their feelings.

Parents or guardians whose child is not receiving the above mentioned support but would like 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).

Regarding the 150th Anniversary of Nanzan Elementary

Anniversary Committee Head

Thank you to everyone who responded to our request for volunteers to help with the 150th Anniversary commemorative events. We are continuing to accept volunteer applications through the survey on Suguru, and we greatly appreciate your continued support and cooperation.

Applications to attend the ceremony rehearsal on October 29 (Thu), as well as the school grounds activities on November 7 (Sat), can also be submitted through the Suguru survey. If you have not yet responded, please consider signing up for these events as well.

Beginning in October, a variety of events will be held in preparation for Nanzan Elementary School's 150th anniversary. With the November ceremony approaching, our 5th and 6th grade students in particular are busy preparing and rehearsing for the celebrations.

As a whole school community, we look forward to reflecting on Nanzan Elementary School's history and building an atmosphere of celebration as we mark this important milestone.

October Goal

Think and Take Action Independently

October Events Schedule

Date	Day	Morning	Event	Periods/ Dismissal Time					
				G1	G2	G3	G4	G5	G6
1	Thu		Tokyo Citizens Day						
2	Fri	Safety	Safety Instruction 6 Periods	5	5	5	6	6	6
3	Sat		Azabu Kindergarten Sports Day 8:00~1:00						
4	Sun		(Azabu Kindergarten Make-up day)						
5	Mon	Assembly	Committee@	5	5	5	5	6	6
6	Tue	Kanji Keisan		5	5	6	6	6	6
7	Wed	Class	G6 Intra-city Sports Meet (National Stadium)	5	5	5	5	5	6
8	Thu	Keisan Kanji	Dental Check (G135)9:00	5	5	6	6	6	6
9	Fri	Reading	Evac. Drill (Secondary Evac.) 5 Periods	5	5	5	5	5	5
10	Sat		Minato Citizens festival Azabu Juban Chitose Kindergarten Sports Day8:30~12:00						
11	Sun		Minato Citizens Festival						
12	Mon		Sports Day Minato Citizens Sports and Athletics Festival						
13	Tue	Kanji Keisan		5	5	6	6	6	6
14	Wed	Music	4 Periods	4	4	4	4	4	4
15	Thu	Keisan Kanji	Dental Check (G246) 9:00	5	5	6	6	6	6
16	Fri	Reading	Evac Drill Make-up Day	5	6	6	6	6	6
17	Sat		Nanzan Kinderagarten Sports Day Field Used (Rain: Gym)						
18	Sun								
19	Mon	Assembly	Open School Day 1 G6 Drug Use PreventionLesson 5 Periods PTA Representative Meeting10:00~	5	5	5	5	5	5
20	Tue	Kanji Keisan	Open School Day 2 School Explanatory Meeting 6 Periods	5	5	6	6	6	6
21	Wed	Class	Club@	4	4	4	5	5	5
22	Thu	Keisan Kanji	150th School Anniversary Tatewari Games (all grades)	5	5	6	6	6	6
23	Fri	1 Questionnaire 2 Tatewari	5 Periods	5	5	5	5	5	5
24	Sat								
25	Sun								
26	Mon	Assembly	Committee@	5	5	5	5	6	6
27	Tue	Kanji Keisan		5	5	6	6	6	6
28	Wed	1 Tatewari 2 Questionnaire	5 Periods	5	5	5	5	5	6
29	Thu	Keisan Kanji	Ceremony Reharsal (G5・6) G1~4 4 Periods G5・6 6 Periods	4	4	4	4	6	6
30	Fri	Reading	(Reharsal Make-up Day)	5	6	6	6	6	6
31	Sat								

Any day that is not marked as "B schedule" is an A schedule.

Dismissal Time			【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 detailed dismissal times, please also check the notifications from each grade and class.						

Notice to All Grades

◆School Hats◆

October 2 (Fri) is the day we switch to our fall attire. In accordance with this change, the school hats will change from white to navy blue. Please make sure to have a navy-blue hat ready. Please check to make sure the strap is not stretched or broken and that the hat is labeled with your child's name. There is no change for first-graders' hats.

◆Report Cards◆

We distributed report cards on September 30 (Wed). Please take this opportunity to praise your child's hard work and use it to foster their future growth. The report card is contained in the designated folder, the first page is the cover page, the second page contains the subject-specific evaluations and comments (printed on both sides), and the third page is a blank sheet—for a total of three sheets. Please remove only the second page—the subject-specific evaluations and comments—and keep it at home. (Please keep it in a safe place, as we cannot reissue it.) Please return the folder and cover page to the homeroom teacher by October 2 (Fri).

◆Open School◆

Open School Days will be held on the 19 (Mon) and the 20 (Tue) which will include a school information session. We know you are very busy, but we hope you will take this opportunity to see how your child is learning and participating in school life. Please refer to a letter from the school to be sent at a later date for further details.

◆Evacuation Drill◆

There will be an evacuation drill on October 9 (Fri). This evacuation deals with the scenario of a fire near the school which requires students to evacuate to Roppongi High School. Please be sure to talk with your child about what to do in the event of a disaster.

Grade Level Notices (October)

Grade 1

○Making a Morning Glory Wreath

In mid-October, the students will make wreaths using the vines from their own morning glory plants. If you have any pinecones, acorns, ribbons, large beads, or other items that could be used to decorate the wreath, please keep them aside for your child to bring to school.

○Autumn Toy Land

As part of their Life Studies class, the students will make toys using things found in nature during autumn and will also participate in a pretend "shop" activity. If you have any pinecones or acorns, please have your child bring them to school. Also, on October 5 (Mon), during the second period, the students will go to Roppongi High School for an "Autumn Nature Hunt." Please have your child bring a plastic bag for collecting the items they find. Please write your child's name clearly and in large letters on the bag.

○Regarding the Second Volume of Textbooks

The students will be given the second volume of their textbooks. For Japanese Language, they will begin using the second volume textbook once they have finished studying the first volume. Please keep the first volume textbook at home until the end of the school year. The second volumes for Life Studies and Arts & Crafts will also be used in second grade, so these textbooks will be kept at school.

Grade 2

○Textbooks・Kanji Drills・Keisan Drills

The Japanese and math textbooks are now the second volumes. Please keep the first volumes your child used until now at home for the duration of second grade. We will also distribute the second volumes of the kanji drills and keisan drills. To help solidify your child's kanji and math skills, please use the first-volume drills at home for review.

- On October 2 (Fri) we will go on a town exploration. By interviewing shop owners in the Azabu-Juban Shopping District, we will learn how our daily lives are connected to the various people and places in our community.

Grade 3

- On the 13th (Tue) we will be holding a haiku class with a guest instructor. The activity of condensing one's discoveries and emotions into the limited space of 17 syllables helps enrich students' vocabulary and expressive abilities. Please try asking your child to compose a haiku at home as well. You might be surprised by a fresh, vivid masterpiece that even adults would find striking.
- **Notebooks**
Recently, we've seen many instances where students tell us they've used up their notebooks and don't have a spare one on hand. We apologize for the inconvenience, but we would appreciate it if you could please prepare a new notebook at home before they run out. Thank you for your cooperation.

Grade 4

- **Regarding the Science Unit "Observing the Moon and Stars"**
In science class, students will learn about changes in the positions of the moon and stars. During times when observations cannot be made at school, students will take observation assignments home to conduct their own observations. While the school will provide instructions on how to conduct the observations, we ask that you please supervise your child and observe together, taking safety precautions during evening and nighttime observations. Thank you for your cooperation.
- **Regarding Kanji Tests (non-ESC students)**
During Kanji Time every Tuesday morning, we will administer a short kanji quiz. The questions that will appear on the quiz will be distributed as practice worksheets on the previous Friday. We would appreciate it if you could help your child with these at home. Thank you for your cooperation.

Grade 5

○Minato My School PR Competition

Every December, our fifth-graders participate in the "My School PR Competition," held at the Minato Ward Assembly. At this event, elementary schools from across the city gather to present on their unique initiatives. On the day of the event, two student representatives from each grade level will present on behalf of the school.

This year, as we celebrate our school's 150th anniversary, we plan to present on initiatives such as the community cleanup we conducted to express our gratitude to local residents and the revitalization of the biotope passed down to us by the alumni.

This month, we will hold our second neighborhood cleanup on Monday, the 5th. Afterward, with the cooperation of the Azabu-Juban Shopping District, we plan to display a tapestry celebrating our 150th anniversary. The students are looking forward to celebrating this milestone year together with the local community.

We may ask for your cooperation in future activities as well. We appreciate your continued understanding and support.

Grade 6

○Regarding the Intra-city Sports Meet

Thank you for preparing the practice clothes and other items. The big day is finally here—Wednesday, the 7th. Please be sure to offer your child some words of encouragement on the day of the event.

Please wash the bibs from the gym uniforms that your child brought home and have them bring them along.