

南山だより



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Acknowledging Others Valuing Yourself

February is “*Fureai* Month.” This time, the students will think about valuing themselves and others, and putting it into practice. While maintaining proper measures for preventing infections, I have been eating lunch with the 6th graders. It is only a very limited time, but the conversation has been very satisfying. The theme for this year’s lunches together is “Dreams for the future.” Confidence and hope can be seen in the expressions of the 6th graders as they speak about their dreams.

Even as adults, we strongly hope that it will always be the case that “dreams come true so long as you do not give up on them.”

【The Self and Rivals】

When I was an elementary school student, I recall that I spent a lot of time playing baseball for fun. At that time, Hank Aaron had hit over 700 homeruns, and along with Sadaharu Oh, he was a professional baseball player that I admired.

The other day, Hank Aaron passed away. My younger self was completely unaware of the racism that Hank Aaron had suffered under. He face criticism from all around, but Hank Aaron turned that criticism into power, maintained his composure, and broke the record for number of homeruns. This is the reason why he was known as the “quiet hero.” Later on, when Sadaharu Oh broke Hank Aaron’s homerun record, Aaron showed his gentlemanly nature by praising Oh as a “Superb batter” and sending him a stuffed flamingo (Oh used one leg in his stance in what is called flamingo batting form).

Hank Aaron stuck to his own principles, and was a person that was proud and confident in himself, and through baseball, I feel like I learned the importance of living in good faith.

【The Struggle Within】

After her acute myeloid leukemia went into remission, Rikako Ikee returned to professional swimming, and at a swim meet the other day that also serves as the competition for selecting representatives for the Tokyo Olympics, she broke the standard record for participating in the Japan Championship. It can be assumed that this has raised everyone’s expectations. During an interview after the match, Ikee spoke about “Having a keen sense of the demanding nature of the competitive world.” She also spoke about “Being committed and focusing on winning,” as she put her physical condition first and foremost throughout practice.

This comment made me think, “Will Ikee aim for the Tokyo Olympics? Or will she aim for the Paris Olympics? I wonder which one she had in mind when she made that comment.” I believe that Ikee will continue to make steady efforts, and aim to accomplish her next goal while building upon her strength. I will be cheering for her while watching over her warmly.

Because of the Novel Coronavirus pandemic, it is even more important for the school and families, along with the community, to steadily aim at making the students’ dreams into reality. The school will implement the lessons learned from the response over the past year into the 2021-2022 Academic Plan. The results of the Parent Survey will be distributed in the second half of February, and information about the 2021-2022 Academic Plan will be included in the March School Newsletter and will also be given at the Parent-Teacher Conference. Thank you for your support.

Open Morals Lesson and Lecture

Head of Morals

In regards to the children's mental growth and the state of moral education at school, home, and in the regional community, and with the aim of deepening mutual understanding, the school held the Open Morals Lessons and Lecture.

This year's theme was "matters of the self." The "Minato City Elementary School Supplementary Morals Textbook *Furusato ~Minato~*" and the textbook were used, and the students considered topics such as determining good and evil, hope and courage, hard work and a having a strong will. The students took the contents of the materials as if the issues were their own, valued each other's opinions, and the classes were full of lively exchanges. The students recognized each other's ideas, and were able to broaden their values.

The topics that each grade learned about were as follows. "Receiving support from friends and family in order to follow through without getting discouraged. (G1)" "The importance of working hard without giving up in order to make dreams come true. (G2)" "A strong heart is important in order to work towards your goals. (G3)" "Hard work and continuous effort will become strength to follow through with a commitment without becoming discouraged. (G4)" "In order to create a peaceful world, it is important to have an awareness of others and try to understand others. (G5)" "In order to grow into the adult you imagine yourself to be, it is important to get involved with others and make oneself grow. (G6)" The lecture meeting and open classes were cancelled, but scenes from the classes of each grade are posted on the school's website, so please take a look.

Going forward, the school, families, and community members will continue to work together on moral education. Thank you for your support.



Hyakunin Isshu • Traditional Games (December • January)

Head of Traditional Culture Education

At our school, the students engage in playing the game *Hyakunin Isshu* in order to familiarize them with the classical works, poems, and language of traditional Japanese culture. The students have already begun playing this year as well. The students practice 20 of the poems each year so that they can learn 100 poems in 5 years' time. Even the 1st graders can be heard humming the tunes of the poems to themselves with a grace like that of the people of the Heian era.

Also, the students are playing traditional games during recess. The season is chilly, but they are fervently enjoying the *koma* and *hanetsuki*. The knocking of shuttlecocks against battledores echoes across the playground. It is charming how the skilled students, regardless of grade, share their techniques and tricks for wrapping the string on the *koma*.



February Calendar

- 1 (Mon) Nanzan ES SNS Rules Presentation
- 12 (Fri) Kanji Level Test
- 15 (Mon) New Grade 1 Parent-Teacher Conference
- 19 (Fri) Programming Education (G5, 6)

※The February Evacuation Drill will be conducted without prior notice.

February Goal

Listen carefully until the end