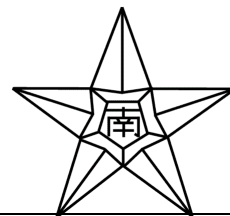


# 南山だより



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## A Professional is...

In Japan, the "seven-minute miracle" refers to the speed at which crews can completely clean the interior of a bullet train from end to end. The phrase was coined by international media, and it is a point of pride for the members of the cleaning teams.

When the train arrives at the station, the team of cleaners will simultaneously clean up garbage, straighten all the seats, and clean the floors, and each member of the team will be responsible for around 100 seats-worth of cleaning in seven minutes. The way that this team works has been praised by the foreign media. This kind of speedy and effective "hospitality" is not just the "act of cleaning," it is a performance of "Shinkansen Theater" through the workers' reformed awareness. Through the workers' desire to create wonderful memories, the train becomes the stage, the guests are the main characters, and the workers fill in the supporting roles. Underlying this is the idea that "customer satisfaction cannot come without employee satisfaction," and this has become the way of thinking of the cleaning company (and staff).

So, I wondered if the academic activities of Nanzan Theater are developing feelings of "joy towards learning" in the students, "a sense of comfort knowing the children are in good hands" from parents and community members, "a sense of satisfaction in working at Nanzan" from the faculty and staff. The mission statement of our school is "Nanzan Elementary School, where every child grows through learning," and the following 2 points highlight our priorities this year.

**Standards for Students** 【Children who can learn, think, make decisions, and express themselves independently】

Our school encourages mutual learning among students in class and emphasizes more independent and interactive learning. Our research hypothesis states that "If students can accurately grasp study topics and accumulate problem-solving skills through mutual learning exchanges, they will be able to improve their thinking, judgment, and expressiveness," and we are continuously verifying the successes and issues around this approach.

For grades 3~6, math instruction is done in small groups, with 3 levels for grades with one class, and 4 levels for grades with two classes, which allows for engaging in more detailed learning by proficiency level, and has resulted in 96% of students indicating that they either "Understand" or "Understand well" when it comes to mathematics studies. Going forward, tablets and other such resources will be incorporated into classes so that students can continue to expand their ideas and dive deeper into their studies. "Creating a class with stability and discipline" is indispensable for establishing and improving academic ability. Under the Standards of Study, the faculty are devising systematic methods of instruction such as level-based learning and team teaching, all of which are aimed at providing the students with feelings of "accomplishment," "understanding," and "enjoyment."

**Standards for the School** 【A school where the faculty learn and improve together】

In the "Nanzan Style" of classes, studies are developed based from point of view of "the ability to solve problems on one's own," "the ability to expand and deepen studies through mutual exchanges with others," and "the ability to recognize one's own learning." Teachers carefully plan their board writing, and devise the development of a lesson so that if you were to look at the blackboard, you can easily understand what content has been covered during the 45 minute class.

There have been numerous difficulties caused by Covid-19, but by intentionally, systematically, and continuously utilizing local educational opportunities and human resources (guest teachers and instructors), we are building and implementing high-quality education for each student and every class that enhances their academic abilities. In June, we conducted community exploration, the Ball-Throwing Lesson, heat stroke prevention classes, and safety classes in cooperation with affiliated entities.

In July we will conduct the school evaluation "Parent Survey" and "Student Survey." As an educational professional, our school will continue to create an ever more fulfilling and progressive Nanzan Theater for students, families, and members of the community. Thank you for your support.

<Construction Notice>

Construction on the exterior of the school will take place June ~ August. Look forward to a beautiful new exterior from the 2<sup>nd</sup> term.

## Efforts to Improve Physical Fitness

Athletics Committee Head

At our school, we are implementing various initiatives in order to improve the students' physical fitness. According to the results of the Athletics Test, throwing ability is one of the areas for improvement at our school. This year we are continuing to emphasize throwing ability. In June, members of the Yakult Swallows baseball team conducted a "Ball-Throwing Lesson" for the students. In order to throw the ball farther, they explained that it is important to stand facing to the side and look in the direction that you are throwing. The students listened earnestly to the instructions, and practiced what they learned.

Also, starting from this year the "Athletics Committee" has been created at our school as a new committee. The Athletics Committee plans and manages the activities for the weekly *Tairyoku* Up Time. They think of level-appropriate explanations for each grade, and give easy to understand instructions. A monthly theme is chosen, and the exercises are conducted by committee members during recess times. In May the theme was side-steps, which was done in preparation for the Athletics Test. In June, they did various exercises using hula-hoops. In July they will practice jump rope to try new techniques and see how long they can jump continuously.

We would be delighted if you can find time to try different kinds of sports and exercises with your children at home as well.

## Fureai Month

Chief of School Life Affairs

"Fureai (bullying prevention) Month" is conducted in June, November, and February each year as an initiative for addressing problematic behavior related to bullying, swiftly identifying and handling truancy issues, and taking a proactive approach towards bullying prevention.

At our school, in addition to day-to-day bullying prevention instruction, all of the classes conduct "lessons on bullying prevention" in June. The students discuss with each other about language that makes others feel good (*fuwa-fuwa kotoba*) and language that make others feel down (*chiku-chiku kotoba*). From there they imagined different situations involving bullying, thought about the necessary kinds of actions to take and words to say from different perspectives. Each of these lessons was developed according the varying conditions of each class.

Bullying is something that should never happen. To value each other, and to create a school environment that is cooperative and enjoyable, we will consider what values are necessary and continue instructing students so that they will be able to do the right thing.



## July Calendar of Events

1 (Thu)	Keisan Perfect Test	16 (Fri)	Clothed Swimming (G3~6)
5 (Mon)	Committee		School Lunch Ends
7 (Wed)	Kanji Retest	20 (Tue)	Closing Ceremony
8 (Thu)	Keisan Retest		
12 (Mon)	Evacuation Drill	21 (Wed), 22 (Thu)	Summer Camp (G5)
15 (Thu)~21 (Wed)	Individual Parent-Teacher Meetings		

## July Goal

**Keep Things Neat and Tidy**