



南山小学校 School Newsletter

July Edition

July 1, 2017
Minato City Nanzan ES
Principal Terumi Aketagawa



“Japanese-style” in the Internationally Diverse Roppongi



Principal Terumi Aketagawa

Thank you to the many parents and neighborhood members for attending the Open School, School Health Committee, and the Neighborhood Emergency Drill in June. The students were at ease and happily engaged in their studies as they were under the warm and attentive gaze of the participating visitors. With all the encouragement and words of support, the students' academic ambition appears to be on the rise.

The second half of June has been overflowing with liveliness, as we have many new friends with 22 short-term students and 5 transfer students joining the school.

From June 20th to the 23rd, Grade 6 embarked upon their school trip to Hakone. The students were met with good fortune, as Mr. Yasuhiro Aoki, the Minato City Board of Education Superintendent of Education, joined with the Nanzan students for the duration of their activities from the second day onward.

Through our various academic activities, we want to encourage the growth of students' sense of self-affirmation and self-worth by continuing to acknowledge, praise, and draw out the qualities of each individual.



June 10 (Sat)
At Roppongi Hills Arena

The core is cherry wood, and the sides are horse leather. The *tsuzumi* hand drums are taken apart and reassembled each time before use. There were precious *tsuzumi* from the *Muromachi* period as well.



The Roppongi neighborhood, which is adjacent to our school, gives a strong impression of being “lively” rather than “quiet,” and “Western” rather than “Japanese.” The students received a unique chance when Roppongi, with its flashy image, became a stage for our school to promote traditional Japanese culture. This chance to perform was called “*Nippon Genki Project 2017 Super Energy*,” produced by Mr. Kansai Yamamoto. Aimed at supporting the reconstruction of the areas affected by the Great Eastern Japan Earthquake and the Kumamoto Earthquake, the intent of the project is to spread vitality across Japan.

With over 10,000 people in attendance, 20 students from grades 4 to 6 gave a magnificent performance while adorned in *happi* coats designed by Mr. Kansai and with instruction from the *Noh* master Mr. Shonosuke Okura on how to play the *tsuzumi* hand drum. The internationally diverse Roppongi was colored with in the essence of “Japan” as the students displayed admirable mastery of the Japanese instrument “*tsuzumi*,” which is a part of Japanese traditional culture. The students of Nanzan are brilliantly talented.

The audience became fascinated as the pleasant sound of the *tsuzumi* and the well timed calls from the students rang out amidst an ambiance so still that it was as if time had stopped. As the soothing sensation of the performance penetrated their hearts and minds, many people could experience the quality of traditional Japanese culture.

Also, some students lined up an hour and a half early, while others brought homemade cheer-fans to help support their friends. Seeing the kindness and power of these children brought me to the verge of tears.

Nanzan elementary school has students from various countries around the world, and we hope to continue creating a school life in which the qualities of everyone are mutually accepted, and where everyone lives together peacefully hand-in-hand. We have a premonition that one day these students will play important roles on the world stage when they become fine adults. Students of Nanzan: do your best!

July Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Tatewari assembly Club
2	3 Morning assembly Clothed swimming Committee School counselor	4 Safety instruction Social Studies field trip (G6)	5 Kanji “Perfect Test” School counselor	6 Tokyo Achievement Test (G5) Summer Trip explanatory meeting (G5) Parent-Teacher Conference	7 Calculation “Perfect Test” Art study field trip (G3)	8
9	10 Morning assembly School counselor	11 Tatewari assembly Body measurements (G4, 5, 6)	12 Body measurements (G1, 2, 3) Kanji re-test	13 Evacuation drill Calculation re-test Roppongi High Planetarium (G4)	14	15 Open morals lesson, lecture Nanzan Science Fest.
16	17 Marine Day	18	19 School lunch finishes School counselor	20 Closing ceremony	21 Individual parent-teacher meetings	22
23	24 Individual parent-teacher meetings	25 Individual parent-teacher meetings	26 Summer swimming Summer study day 1	27 Summer swimming Summer study day 2	28 Summer swimming Summer study day 3	29
30	31 Summer swimming Summer study day 4					

July's Goal

“Keep things tidy and in order”

- Return items to where they belong
- Keep the area around you clean

Nanzan's Olympic and Paralympic Education

Head of School Affairs

Olympic and Paralympic education goals for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics

- ① Be a person that sets personal goals, has a positive self-image, and has the ambition to strive for one's best.
- ② Be a person that is familiar with sports, and establish a harmony of "Knowledge," "Virtue," and "Health."
- ③ Be a person that is aware of and takes pride in their heritage, can learn on one's own and has an international awareness.
- ④ Be a person that respects diversity, and contributes to the development of a peaceful international society and the realization of a unified society.

Leading up to 2020, Tokyo is engaged in Olympic and Paralympic education. "Foster a value for Japanese traditions and culture as well as the culture of other countries" is a goal at Nanzan Elementary School. There are many plans in place to achieve this goal through various activities and experiences.

Traditional Culture Education

- Japanese traditions • Promotion of cultural education
- Traditional Culture Club (newly established this year)
- Exchange with the Roppongi High English instructor (speaking on the qualities of Japan)
- Traditional games assembly
- *hyakunin isshu*



Flower arrangement (Traditional Culture Club)

Paralympic Sports

Students deepen their understanding of para-sports, have a goal and learn about having the engaging attitude and the joy of the athletes. It is designed to raise a caring heart and mutual understanding.

- Wheelchair basketball
- Wheelchair boccia ball



2016-17 Deaf soccer

Stamina Training

Teaching students to be motivated to engage in good health and physical activity.



- *Tairyoku* up time
- Ball throwing lesson
- Encouraging play outside
- Enrichment of P.E.

World Tomodachi Project

Understand the necessity of respecting various systems of values and learn about the diversity of the world.

- Canada, Austria, Republic of Chad, Micronesia, Bangladesh



G6 visiting the Austrian embassy.



Music assembly (Austrian folk music)



School lunch menu (6/14 Canada)

Subjects • Fields of study • Events



Support (*tatewari* activities)



Community service (neighborhood cleaning)

Neighborhood Emergency Drill

Head of Life Guidance

The Neighborhood Emergency Drill was held on June 17 (Sat). Differing from the usual emergency drills we have had this year, students, parents, and neighborhood members were able to participate in various activities intended to improve disaster awareness, and to give individuals knowledge that can be of use in the event of a disaster such as a large earthquake.

Grades 1~4 divided into groups based on their town/neighborhood council, and went around to the different activities with the councils members. During this time the 4th graders took on the role of leaders, and had a greater sense of cooperation than ever before. The 5th graders learned how to set up and use gas burners, and made rice balls using dry-packed rice along with parents and guardians. The 6th graders, following instructions from members of the fire department, received a short course on using an AED. Parents and guardians split into teams and raced against the clock to see how quickly they can setup manhole toilets and cardboard houses.

Large earthquakes as well as other disasters can occur without warning. It is not enough to only prepare for disasters in our daily environs, so we must think outside the box and consider "What we should do," and as adults it is necessary to teach this knowledge to the children. We offer our deepest thanks to the many people who helped make this experience possible.



Hakone School Trip

6-1 Teacher

For 4 days and 3 nights, from June 20th to the 23rd, grade 6 embarked on their school trip to Hakone. Before departing on the trip, every student researched about the geography, history, unique products of the Hakone area, and presented their findings to their fellow classmates, thereby broadening their knowledge ahead of time.

The students gained a valuable opportunity to experience the history of society first-hand when they visited Odawara Castle and Sekishoato. Also, the students learned the value of maintaining traditional crafts, and of the beauty and quality of these works they came to know through the refined techniques of crafting *yosegi zaiku* (wooden mosaic), which they had to the opportunity to create.

More than anything though, the students cooperated with their classmates throughout these 4 days, and learned that being aware of timeliness is an important life lesson, not to be forgotten. Without forgetting their gratitude to all the people who have helped them along, we hope that the students will continue to make use of the lessons they learned throughout their lives.

