

MAY Newsletter

Minato City Nanzan Kindergarten

Principal, Harumi Kawai

April , 2024

Into a New World

Two weeks have passed since we have welcomed newcomers and continuing mates from the previous year to Nanzan Kindergarten. We are guiding and encouraging children promoted to BARA and SAKURA to feel confident in their new classes while RINGO is being supported so they can accept what they encounter step by step with confidence. The start of the new term is a busy time but I hope children will feel the gentle breeze flowing through young foliage, enjoy looking up at the clear blue sky and notice butterflies fluttering about.

Various settings for play are available for RINGO. They have been engaging in play by selecting and trying on their own, stimulating curiosity. "Hmm let me try" "how does this work?" When given a toy or object and a few words of encouragement, they are inspired to play at their own pace. They also observe their mates and mimic how to play. They are exploring and expanding their own world dynamically.

BARA have grown since last year and now express their desire to 'try' but are still a bit timid. With a nudge of encouragement *daijobu* (it's OK) *iigo* (go ahead), they become confident and try. Through success coupled with a sense of security being with their mates, they are venturing on to new challenges.

SAKURA is sharing what's 'fun' as a class. If someone remarks "oh, that's cool!" their mates react positively, are receptive and appreciative. The individuality of each child is the key element for new and enriching ideas to develop.

We tend to become reluctant to move forward when faced with change to our environment and surroundings, but let's take a deep breath and draw in new energy! Children dynamically use their internal energy to accept and create a new world. The teachers and staff will watch with patience and support each child to develop at their own pace.

Photo Captions

(L) RINGO_We love the sandbox!

(C) BARA_Hurdle race challenge

(R) SAKURA_Enjoying lunch under *yaezakura* (double-petal sakura)