

# JUNE NEWSLETTER

90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Minato City Nanzan Kindergarten

Principal, Harumi Kawai

May 29, 2024

## Towards Children's Development

We were blessed by lovely May weather on Sunny Activity Day. Day by day, the plants the children and parents planted together are growing robustly. The children are having fun observing the mini-sunflower planted by RINGO, edamame by BARA, and summer vegetables by SAKURA and full of smiles as they excitedly report the growth they have noticed.

Within the theme of this year's educational study, "Nurturing children to think independently, deepen relationships, and create enriching learning" we are pursuing "ideas to support teachers for encouraging interaction among children through nature." We will closely observe and consider the relevance of action and words of each child to analyze their development. By sharing our observation among teachers for a common understanding, we will determine new directions for teaching. Last year children interacted with nature and expressed what they discovered and gleaned through their emotions which led to communicating, resonating and sharing with their mates, resulting in an enriching experience. This year, the teachers intend to plan and extend our support in this direction.

The Joint Workshop of Nursery, Kindergarten and Elementary Teachers held on May 15 was an opportunity to share how children in elementary schools of each district are studying and we deepened common understanding regarding the connecting period towards entering elementary school. Kindergarten and elementary school teachers as well as caregivers in nurseries in the local community visited classes in session at Nanzan Kindergarten and Elementary School to observe what children are experiencing, followed by discussion afterwards. We also considered the educational content at each institution for children's development, and confirmed we will continue working to improve towards their growth. We aim to develop the three qualities and ability commonly considered essential for nurturing the "foundation of power to live" \_\_specifically in early childhood they are 'foundation of knowledge and skills', 'foundation of ability for thinking , decision making, and expression', and 'ability to study, human qualities.'

After the outing to Shinagawa Aquarium, SAKURA and BARA absorbed the experience and are enjoying expressing in many ways at kindergarten. Using their imagination freely, some are creating a tunnel in the aquarium for water creatures, pretending to perform a dolphin show. This has triggered further interaction and fun with mates of different classes and age groups.

We will endeavor to consider carefully our educational activities with an open mind from various perspectives for the growth and dynamic development of children at Nanzan Kindergarten.

Photo caption

RINGO: Playing house    BARA: Making and playing w/ octopus    SAKURA: Playing dolphin show