



Notes from Nakayoshi Preschool

More than a month has passed since the start of the New Year. Unfortunately we still have to be cautious about COVID-19 as it continues to spread. Even under such circumstances, the Nakayoshi children's cheerful voice never ceases, and they show growth every day. It makes us feel reassured.

Last December, we were not able to invite our families to the Fun Party (Performance Day) because of COVID-19; however, the teachers made a fun Christmas video instead. I watched it more than ten times! I hope our families also enjoyed watching it.

In January, our children enjoyed the traditional Japanese New Year activities. They made Shishimai (dancing lions), played Karuta (playing cards), Fukuwarai (pin the tail on the donkey), and Kakizome (calligraphy). In February, they made demon masks and played a game by throwing beans made out of paper associated with Setsubun (Bean throwing). We will be also celebrating the Valentine's Day, which is a time to express your caring heart to an important person. We are planning fun activities associated with Hinamatsuri (Dolls' day) in March and the Easter Day in April. We hope the children experience the seasonal transitions and traditional Japanese customs.

Concerning measures to mitigate against COVID-19, the teachers have been working hard in order to keep physical distancing. Regarding masks, the children in three-year-old and four-year-old classrooms are able to wear them; however, it is difficult for the children in two-year-old classroom. The teachers encourage them to wear masks by saying, "Let's wear a mask".

We will carefully watch over your child's safety; therefore, please continue your cooperation for the measures against COVID-19. Thank you.

Director, Keiko Damiata

Preschool Calendar

February 15 (Mon)	Presidents' Day School Closed
March 3 (Wed)	Hinamatsuri (Girls' - Dolls' Day)
April 2 (Fri)	2nd Semester ends
April 5 (Mon)	Spring Vacation
~9 (Fri)	
April 12 (Mon)	3rd Semester begins



Sports Event

Regarding the Sports Event, which is one of our biggest events, we will have it to the extent possible like using YouTube given the present circumstances of COVID-19.

New Teacher

Ms. Nao Aizawa started as a teacher's assistant in the Banana class at the beginning of the new school year. She has been studying early childhood education and dance at college. She has won numerous awards at dance competitions. We anticipate that she will teach dancing to the Nakayoshi children soon. We are happy to have this new addition to our preschool staff.

What had the Nakayoshi children chosen to play during free choice time recently?

Risu Class

- ❖ They loved the songs "Riding on a Bus" and "Big Bus Song". When the music started, they pretended to hold the steering wheel as a bus driver does and sang the songs.
- ❖ They wore a demon mask and pretended to be the demon by saying "Wow!!!"
- ❖ They memorized the names of objects using flash cards. When the teacher said the name of the object, the children selected the picture that matched it. They even knew some difficult words such as "Reizouko (refrigerator)" and "Mushimegane" (magnifying glass).



Banana Class

- ❖ They made dinosaurs by cutting out their shape after the teacher had drawn them. Since they had learned how to use scissors, they now can make the dinosaurs by themselves.
- ❖ Using the Hiragana cards, they had been practicing how to read Hiragana letters since October. They can now read twelve letters without looking at the pictures.

Melon Class

- ❖ They had been excited about playing "Play shop", which was the theme in the curriculum. They said "Irasshaimase! (Welcome to the store!)", "Nani ga ii desu ka? (What is your recommendation?)", or "Ikura ni narimasu ka? (How much?)", among other conversational phrases.

Bara Class

- ❖ They loved to draw pictures. For example, when the teacher asked "What word starts with "Na"?", a child answered "Namakemono! (Sloth)". Then the teacher wrote "Namamemono" in Hiragana and drew its picture. During free-choice time, they drew the picture and the word that they had learned in class.

Sumire Class

- ❖ They practiced how to make origami by following instructions by themselves.
- ❖ They built multi-story car parks, castles, or houses using magnetically shape toys.

What had the Nakayoshi children been playing recently during outside time?

Risu Class

- ❖ They had a race running at full speed. They said "Yo-I-Don" (ready-set-go) by themselves and then ran. Their gestures were so adorable!
- ❖ They loved to play with a hula-hoop and walk/explore around the premises.

Banana Class

- ❖ They enjoyed chasing a hula-hoop or kicking a ball each in his/her own way.

Melon Class

- ❖ They pretended to be cats and dinosaurs.
- ❖ They rolled a hula-hoop and caught it by running.
- ❖ They played "Play shop" during outside time as well.

Bara Class

- ❖ They played "Daruma-doll fell down".
- ❖ They played a game in which the children dodged a ball that was thrown by the teacher. The last survivor was the winner!

Sumire Class

- ❖ They played dodge ball amongst themselves.
- ❖ They loved a balance play. They liked to get their balance and walk on car stoppers or lines when they saw them on the premises.
- ❖ They said "Yo-I-Don" and had a race.



Building Maintenance

During winter break, both the soft mats in the playground and the asphalt between the school buildings were repaired. We would like to say thank you to our families, the Church volunteers including Mr. Alan Miwa and Mr. Brian Imai for making the repairs possible. Thanks to all, our children can play safely as is always our priority.

Thank you very much for your Oseibo donation.

Enrollment

There are some spaces currently available for 3-year-old and 4-year-old classrooms. Please tell your friends who may be interested about the openings!