



# NAKAMURA TIMES

Special Edition

October 2023

## A sports festival to which we dedicated our youth

Once a year, Nakamura Junior & Senior Girls' High School holds a sports festival. An off-campus gymnasium is rented as the venue. This year, the sports festival was held in June at Tokyo Gymnasium.

Junior and senior high school students compete in heated battles that transcend the boundaries of school grades every year. The competitions include standard festival sports, such as tug-of-war and bean bag toss, as well as less familiar games such as survival question and bond relay. Approximately nine competitions are held in one day.

Eye of the Storm (Typhoon) is one of the most popular competitions. It is said that bonds between friends are strengthened, because it is an event that requires a lot of teamwork.

In addition to the competitive games, there are performances by the first, fourth and sixth graders and a cheering contest.



The winning cheer battle by the yellow team, June 6, 2023.

In the performances, the first graders danced energetically to "Riding Alone" (a song and dance performed every year), and the fourth graders danced using gauze fabric and hula hoops to create beautiful visual effects.

The sixth graders performed a traditional dance in yukata to the Hanagasa Ondo, showing off the culmination of their 6 years of work.

Many students say that the most

moving part of the sports festival is the cheering match, which is held in the form of dance performances from each team and is centered around the sixth grade students.

Winners of the cheering match receive the Tokonabe cup trophy. This plays an important role in the sports festival, as the team with the highest points overall from both the cheering match and competitive games is awarded



Students participate in club competition relay at the Tokyo Gymnasium, June 6, 2023.

the final competition cup trophy. Each team aspires for the honor of winning both cup trophies.

One junior high school student remarked, "I will never forget the tears in the eyes of the sixth graders after they finished the cheering match that they had prepared for with all their might for the final sports festival."

*Rino Ktou, Hina Enomoto, and Orikasa Natsumi*

## Representing Nakamura with Pride

Our school has volunteers called Nakamura Ambassadors who help at school information sessions and support entrance examinations.

Their main job includes greeting visitors, giving guidance around the school and helping teachers. In addition, they also present Nakamura's attractions

and write messages to encourage students preparing for entrance examinations.

In the questionnaire for visitors at the Open Day briefing, some people said that the Nakamura Ambassadors are good people.

At the school festival, Kiyosumisai, they help with the stamp

rally. We recommend you check out the stamp rally if you come to Kiyosumisai.

Nakamura Times interviewed students who work as Nakamura Ambassadors to find out what being an ambassador is like.

**Q: What is the best thing about working with Nakamura Ambassadors?**

**A:** I feel that I have improved my presentation and speaking skills through this activity. I think it is because I often meet with prospective students and their parents.

**Q: What do you hope to focus on in the future as an ambassador?**

**A:** I would like to continue to improve my presentation and speaking skills while helping with various things around Nakamura. I hope to continue to grow through these activities.



A Nakamura Ambassador presentation given in September.

Anyone can become a Nakamura Ambassador. It does not matter what grade you are in and there is no limit to the number of students who can join.

Nakamura Ambassadors are proud to volunteer as representatives of our school.

*Kyouko Yuda, Risako Tajikara, Saya Suzuki, Noe Matsuo, and Chisato Ota*



Student ambassadors greet visitors at a school open day.

## ABOUT NAKAMURA

# Teachers with a lot of personality

In our school, the teachers and students have a very good relationship. There are also many teachers with distinct personalities, so we conducted a survey to find out more about them.

First, we asked all students in grades one to five, “Who is the most distinctive teacher?”

Out of the responses, Mr.



Mr. Shichinohe sat pensively in the twilight of Kiyosumi Park.

Otoya Shichinohe and Mr. Norio Hayakawa got an overwhelmingly large number of votes. So we organized another questionnaire on those two teachers in particular.

### Mr. Shichinohe

He is a Japanese language teacher. With his unique voice and way of speaking, Mr. Shichinohe is considered so famous that there aren't any students who don't know him.

He is often seen with a traditional Japanese wrapping cloth (furoshiki) and is known for “ceremoniously checking attendance.”

He uses the furoshiki to carry things around school. Its color changes depending on the class and the season.

As for morning attendance, students say he always puts on a grand performance. He calls out the student's full names and puts

on a special voice for each one. It's something that only he does and he seems to do it every day.

One student said: “One of his charms is that he's really funny.”

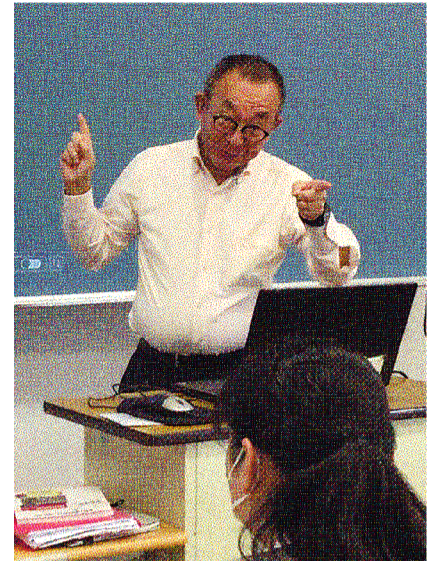
### Mr. Hayakawa

Considered to be very friendly and outgoing person, Mr Hayakawa is a Social Studies teacher who has been at the school for a long time. He is fondly called “Norio” by his students.

Founder of Nakamura's international course, he also lived abroad in Italy for a few years. He is known to converse in English with both students and teachers. One of his habits is saying “okey-dokey”, meaning okay in English.

He once sang “Edelweiss” by himself at a school assembly.

His distinct trait is being “loud.” Students can hear him wherever he is, so they always know where to find him.



Mr. “Big Voice” Hayakawa conducting a class.

One student commented, “His classes are very good and easy to understand because his voice is so loud.”

There are many unique teachers at Nakamura and students think that it is thanks to them, that they are able to have a fun school life.

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*Mio Murai, Saaya Ishimoto, Karen Iwanaga, Miyu Ueno, and Rimi Kiyomatsu.*

## Enjoy the nicest lunch time in Kiyosumi Shirakawa

Kiyosumi Shirakawa was originally a lumber town, but business there has changed over time.

The number of warehouses increased, then more roasting factories were built, turning Kiyosumi Shirakawa into a coffee town.

### Todo Planning Factory

Located 2 minutes from Nakamura High School's nearest station is a cake shop, Todo Plan-



Some cute cake advertisements found near the cafe.  
TODO PLANNING

ning Factory. We were captivated by the cute cake advertisements on the shopping street.

In an interview with the owner, he told us that he had asked local people for their opinions before starting to sell cakes from his home. In order to reduce costs, he sells only whole cakes and not small slices.

There are more temples than convenience stores in the area, so cakes sales increase when local events are held. The store also has connections with Nakamura. Our school orders cakes for class reunions of alumni.

The shop makes many types of cakes. There is even a cake for a people who have a wheat allergy. One of the most popular cakes is the cheese souffle.

It is important to note that the shop closes once all the cakes are sold, so it's best to go early to avoid disappointment.

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*Anna Tanaka, Rina Matsuo, En Shu, and Hikari Kasai*



Left: A Crispy and soft Truffle Croissant. Right: A delicious Sweet Bean Paste & Butter Sandwich. TRUFFLE & BREAD



### Truffle & Bread

We recommend Truffle & Bread bakery, which is a 5-10 minute walk from Kiyosumi-Shirakawa Station.

The bakery adds truffles to its bread goods, so its breads and pastries are quite unique. We tried Truffle Croissant and a Sweet Bean Paste & Butter Sandwich.

The croissant was crispy on the outside and soft and moist on the inside because it is made with butter.

The sweet Bean Paste & Butter Sandwich is the perfect complementary combination of truffle dough and sweet bean paste

There is nowhere to eat in the store but its atmosphere and interior is as luxurious as the truffles. If you are a truffle fan, this bakery is for you, and it's so convenient!

.....  
*Sara Katagiri, Rin Kanamaru, Yuna Nakagawa, and Mako Fujishiro*

**TODO planning: 135-0021**  
Tokyo, Koto City,  
Kiyosumi-sanchome 2-5-1

**Truffle & Bread: 135-0022**  
Tokyo, Koto City,  
Miyoshi 2-1-6

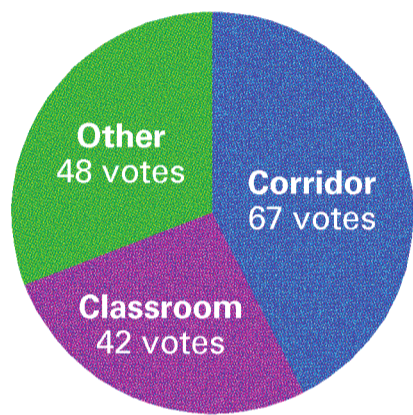
## ABOUT THE CORRIDOR

# Where is your favorite place in Nakamura?

We conducted a survey about students' favorite places at Nakamura Junior High School. Here are the results.

157 students, about 35% of the school total, answered the questionnaire. 67 of which answered the "Corridor", while 42 answered the "classroom." Looking at the graph, you can see that the Corridor is the most popular place.

The Corridor is the library on the seventh floor of the school. Both teachers and students study



The graph expressing the results of our questionnaire.

and work there.

There are about 28,000 books as well as 30 types of magazines, 1,300 viewing materials, and five newspapers.

Through the Corridor's windows, students can see the famous Kiyosumi Garden in front of the school building.

Since it is on the top floor, there is a great view and it feels like you can experience all of nature's seasons while inside.

One student who chose the Corridor said, "The scenery from the Corridor is very beautiful. Each student has their own space and we can read books or study by ourselves, so the Corridor is very comfortable."

However, some students prefer the atmosphere of their classrooms. As seen from the survey results, the second most popular place is the classroom.

Another student said, "I'm more comfortable talking to my friends in the classroom because



Students enjoy studying in the Corridor library. AI MIYADERA

we spend most of our time there. It is familiar and makes me feel safe. The classrooms are also quite spacious."

Whether it's the Corridor or the classrooms, there are many nice places in Nakamura. Please come to visit and find your favorite place!

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Ai Miyadera, Shiori Katou, and Kanna Takahashi



Students having fun chatting in their classroom.

## A library that can be enjoyed in all four seasons

The most popular facility in Nakamura is the "Corridor".

It is also called the aviation library because it serves as a passage connecting the west wing and the east wing of the school.

The scenery through the Corridor's windows is beautiful and considered to be the most attractive feature of the library. To the north you can see Tokyo Skytree, and to the south you can see Kiyosumi Park and Kiyosumi Garden.

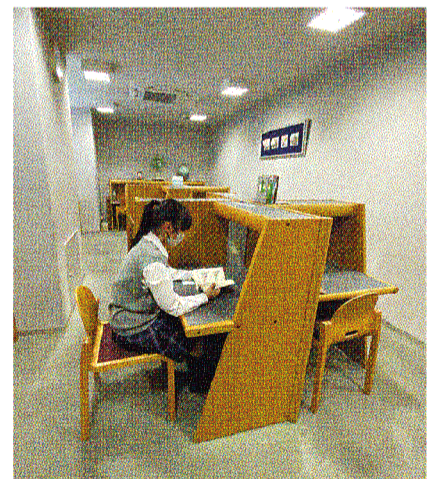
You can enjoy the view of cherry blossoms in spring, and the autumn leaves in the garden are especially beautiful. Students feel like they are in nature just by being in the hallway.

It is easy for students to use the Corridor because it has many resources such as magazines, English newspapers, and computers, as well as multiple learning spaces. With some 28,000 books, it is a convenient space for reading and studying.

There are two types of study spaces in the hallway: A space where you can study while talking and a space called the



Students can enjoy the Corridor Library's open study space.



The Karel: A quiet place to study.

Karel next to the hallway.

The Karel is the ideal space for students who want a quiet area in which to concentrate on their studies.

Furthermore, parents and volunteers organize and manage the books. It is a place where people who have an interest in books can discuss them together, and students can get the books that they want.

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Yuua Kaneko, Aoi Kamo, Natsuno Yanagibashi, Ako Yokoyama, and Yui Murakami



A beautiful autumn view of Kiyosumi Garden from the Corridor window.

## ABOUT INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

# Summer School in the United States

Some second and third grade students went to Denver, Colorado, to study English this August. They did a volunteer project, attended English lessons and met the Consul-General of Japan. Each host family took the students on trips to different places. Students also chose their own theme and researched different topics.

### A comparison between an American school cafeteria and Nakamura's.

Unlike in Japan, school lunches in America are not a bento, but a sandwich and an apple or potato chips.

Nakamura has an impressive school cafeteria, but the American school we visited had a cafeteria that was bigger. There was also a Subway (fast-food shop) nearby, so it was possible to go off campus and have a meal. It was a very good experience for us.

### Differences in personality between Japanese and Americans.

Everyone was cheerful and

treated me very kindly. This kind of behavior may be commonplace in America, but a lot of those actions really helped me.

I was worried about various things in Japan, but the Americans were very bright and unique, and their positive attitudes helped me overcome my worries.

Through 11 days, I came to realize that the world was much larger than I thought. That's why my way of thinking has changed since I returned to Japan.

I am very grateful to the American people for changing my way of thinking in a good way and helping me grow. I achieved my goal to learn more things abroad. It was a great experience.

### 'Popular Summer Culture differences between Japan and America'

In Japan, during summer, we often go to 'Natsu matsuri' (Japanese summer festivals) and enjoy many things such as eating snacks at stalls, playing mini-games, and dancing "Bon odori."



Students smile with their host family.



Left: A typical American school lunch consisting of sandwiches, cucumbers and cheese. Right: Nakamura students pose with their American school friends.



However, in the U.S they go to summer camps. There are many kinds; for example, PC camp, sports camp, and art camp.

I think it was a very precious

experience and I hope I will make use of it in the future.

.....  
Momoko Nakatsuka, Aina Kubota, and Rio Oppata

# The best memories of a precious experience in Cambodia!

During the summer vacation, 13 Nakamura High School students and two teachers went to Cambodia for six days, from August 6-12.

We visited an elementary school for two days and what we saw there certainly opened our eyes. The classrooms had no electricity

and no walls. It was so hot during class that we sweated a lot. We felt it was an environment greatly influenced by the weather.

We were also surprised that there were no flush toilets. Water had to be manually poured into the toilet bowl to wash the waste

away. The stark difference between Japanese and Cambodian educational environments shocked us.

We volunteered to teach Japanese and English to the Cambodian students. Standing in front of class for the first time made us feel uneasy and nervous. Cambodia's main language is Khmer, and we were worried whether we would be able to communicate well because of the language difference.

However, we could feel the children's motivation and were moved by their attitudes. For example, when we taught Japanese, the students read and spoke confidently.

During recess, we played ball with the children, walked hand in hand with them and jumped rope. We were able to deepen our relationship by activity interacting

with each other.

In the afternoon of the second day, we held a sports festival in addition to classes. We took part in a three-legged race, and 'true-false' quizzes.

The children's smiles were sparkling with joy. We didn't think we could get along so well in just two days. It was sad to say goodbye and some of us shed tears. We hope that what we taught the children will have a positive effect on them.

Through this volunteer work, we discovered a lot about the education, school facilities and learning in Cambodia.

It was an incredibly fulfilling experience. If given the opportunity, we would like to participate in this program again.

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Mako Fujishiro, Sakurako Tsunagawa, and Hiyori Ochiai



Nakamura students and teachers create a happy photo memory before saying farewell to Cambodia.