Anpanman is Watching!

Anpanman is everywhere in Kōchi. You'll often find him, or his friends and enemies, smiling at you from unexpected places, such as the stairs at Kōchi Station. Kami City, the hometown of Anpanman's creator Takashi Yanase, might be the epicenter of this Anpanman phenomenon. Anpanman buses run through the area, Anpanman adorns Tosayamada Station, and Anpanman is featured at Kami City's Yanase Takashi Memorial Hall.

Anpanman is even hiding in Yamada High School's gymnasium. Looking at this photo, his big nose and cherubic cheeks come to mind. Whether this is an illusion I see as a result of living under the gaze of Anpanman or it genuinely looks like him, I'll leave it to you to decide. For me, thinking of Anpanman's face hidden in plain sight puts a grin on my face. It's fun to imagine him watching over the students as they exercise, protecting their dreams. If only he could also defeat any germs in the gym.

