

STUDENT'S ESSAYS & NOTICES



DECEMBER-2016

NEWSLETTER DEC-2016

PTC FUNDRAISER "AUTUMN SALE"

The PTC sponsored "Autumn Sale" was held successfully on November 18th and 19th. From cutting vegetables to cooking curry, many room parents came out and worked together. The curry turned out to be very tasty. Thank you very much to all the parents who helped shopping, baking, bagging and selling cookies; preparing and cooking curry; and selling and buying curry tickets. We are very grateful to the church members for their support as well. The profits will be donated to the school for educational purposes such as the graduation trip and purchasing teaching materials for the JLS and preschool.



OSEIBO CANDIES

This is year-end again. JLS, Nakayoshi Preschool and the church Dharma school students will receive Oseibo candy bags from the Gardena Buddhist Church (GBC). Mrs. Imogene Imada, the GBC Board Member was in charge of candy shopping, and the JLS teachers were in charge of bag-

ging candies. The JLS and preschool teachers take turn to do this task every other year. We made about 400 bags of 10 different candies and other goodies. Buying many boxes of candies and making so many candy bags are a big job. I hope our students will enjoy this nice little gift from the church with gratitude.



MOCHITUSKI TAIKAI

- Daily Div. Friday, December 16
- Saturday Div. ... Sat., December 17

SECOND SEMESTER BIGINS:

- Daily Div..... Wed., January 4
- Saturday Div.... January 7



OSEIBO REMINDER

Every year, all the teachers receive Oseibo, the year-end gift money from the church. We are still welcoming donations from our parents. The entire donation is used solely for this purpose. Please kindly bring your donations to the JLS office.

HAPPY NEWS

Mrs. Kay Inose received the Kyokujitsu-sho, the Rising Sun Award Silver Medal on November 3rd, 2016, from the Cabinet Office of the Japanese government. The award ceremony was held on December 1st at the residence of Japanese Counsel General. Mr. and Mrs. Akira Chiba, the Counsel General, Rev. Miyaji and Rev. Iwihara of GBC, Ms. Kakimoto, GBC Chairperson, Mrs. Inose's

family and friends were all there for the celebration. I also attended the ceremony representing the school.

Mrs. Inose is a long time member of the Gardena Buddhist Church, and she is a master of Omote Senke School tea ceremony. Last year, our high school students received a wonderful tea ceremony lesson. She has been an active member and driving force of several Japanese American organizations such as the Japanese Women's Society of Southern California, the Japanese American National Museum and the Omote Senke Domon-kai Southern Chapter. She has been a community leader and Japanese culture advocate. Congratulations, Mrs. Inose! We are so proud of you!



BUILDING MAINTENANCE

The base of the faucets in the school bathrooms was very dirty from calcium build-up. But Mrs. Linda Shimizu and Mrs. Christine Miwa, church members cleaned it up completely. They sprayed the area with white vinegar and left it for a while. Then they carefully chiseled the area and removed the build-up. Thank you for the good job cleaning. All the faucets are sparkling clean!

Mrs. Shimizu also calculates the Marukai receipts every month for us. The school is supported by many unsung heroes and heroines. Thank you for your kindness.

Volunteers for Building Maintenance...

Thank you to Wallace Yuki, John Nakamura, Joe Nishihira, Ken Nishida, James Yokota, Daniel Iwamoto, Brian Imada, Alan Miwa and Michael Tsuge

JYOYA NO KANE-TSUKI

Tolling the big bell will be officiated by Rev. Miyaji and Rev. Iwihara after the year-end service held at 7 PM on December 31st at the Gardena Buddhist Church. Toshi-koshi soba (Japanese noodle in soup) will be prepared and served by the BWA (Buddhist Women Association).



Please come and join us at the New Year's Eve service and tolling the bell.

SEIJIN-SHIKI COMING-OF-AGE CEREMONY

The Gardena Buddhist Church will hold a Coming-of-Age Ceremony (Seijin-shiki.) Anybody who turned 20 years of age during the year 2016 are welcome to attend this event. Young adults who are around 20 years old, but missed the ceremony, are welcome to join us as well.



Date & Time:

January 15, 2017 at 11 AM

Dead Line: December 24, 2016

Application: GBC office

Cost: \$35.00

TRIVIA-JAPANESE GIFT GIVING CUSTOMS OSEIBO & OCHUGEN

In Japan, it's customary to give gifts periodically to certain people, such as co-workers, bosses, parents, relatives, teachers, and so on. These gifts are given to express gratitude. The end of year gifts are called o-seibo and the midsummer gifts are o-chugen. On each gift package, the giver put a thin paper called noshi, on which the word "o-seibo" or "o-chugen" is written.

O-seibo are usually sent from early to mid December, and it's good to be delivered by around December 20. Despite the timing, oseibo gifts are different from Christmas presents. O-chugen gifts are usually sent from early to mid July.

Gifts range widely in prices, but the average is about 3,000-5,000 yen (\$30-\$50) per gift. The type and price of gifts depend on the relationship with the recipient. Popular items are condiments, beer, tea, canned food, fruits, desserts, gift certificates, and lots more. Department stores display many types gifts at the end of the year and in midsummer.



Most people ask the store to deliver gifts to recipients. Online stores and convenience stores also carry many gifts for o-chugen and o-seibo. It's also common for people to bring their gifts to recipients' homes.

About Travel by Shoko Mishima, Japan travel expert

<http://gojapan.about.com/cs/tradition-custom/a/oseibo.htm>

TRIVIA-SEIJIN SHIKI, COMING OF AGE DAY - JAPAN

Seijin Shiki, also referred to as the Coming-of-Age day or the Adult Ceremony, is held on the second Monday of January of every year. This holiday honors people who have reached or will, the age of twenty within the current year.

Throughout most of Japan, twenty is the age where people are subjected to adult laws, gain the right to vote, and to drink, thus making the age of twenty is the age of adulthood in Japan.

THE CELEBRATION

Usually, the ceremony takes place in the morning and all the "new adults" in area are invited. They can be celebrated at local and prefectural offices and include the families and friends of the new adults. During these ceremonies, government officials tend to give speeches in honor. Small presents are also given to the new adults.

Since Seijin Shiki is a national holiday, it is relatively standard to find women dressed up in beautiful furisode, a type of kimono purchased by the parents of the daughter(s) who will turn twenty. It is made out of very fine, brightly colored silk and are easily distinguishable by their long sleeves. The name literally translates to swinging (furi) sleeves (sode). They are generally worn for major social events such as tea ceremonies or wedding ceremonies for relatives. A furisode normally costs about ¥100,000-300,000 (roughly 1,000 to 3,000 USD) for the whole outfit, so generally it is rented or inherited for such occasions.

Due to their intense difficulty to put on, help is mandatory and women commonly go to beauty salons to get ready. Ironically, sometimes these women are accompanied by their already-of-age boyfriends, who wear normal street clothing. Meanwhile, men who are coming of age, have far less expensive needs; they usually wear business suits, though, finding men dressed in hakama (dark traditional kimono) is fairly common as well.

<https://www.jappleng.com/culture/articles/jp-festivals/167/seijin-shiki-coming-of-age-day>