

SCHOOL-PTC NEWSLETTER



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NEWSLETTER FALL-2016

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Wise Saying to Share:

*You made effort and yielded a good result;
it becomes confidence.*

*You didn't make effort but still yielded a
good result; it becomes insolence.*

*You didn't make effort and didn't yield a
good result; you'll have regrets.*

*You made effort, but didn't yield a good
result, you'll left with good experiences.*

(The writer unknown)



The Indian summer finally is over, and the pleasant season of autumn is here. JLS stu-

dents should be able to concentrate on studying and enjoy playing sports in this cool weather.

After the new school year began, September and October ran by very briskly. Autumn is a season for soccer, volleyball and other sports. Some of our Saturday students have to come to school late, leave early or miss entire classes due to their practices and games. Yet, they try hard to at-

tend the classes as much as possible without quitting school. We are grateful to the students and their parents for their diligence and commitment to this school. However, if students miss too many hours of instruction, it gets harder to keep up with the class. Therefore, parents' support is very crucial. Please help your children study everyday even for 5 to 10 minutes doing homework, and going over the class lessons. For both American regular school and Japanese school, it is very important for students to develop "good study habit." A small daily effort becomes a habit, and studying becomes a daily routine. As a result, studying is no longer a big troublesome chore. Without parents' nagging or other people telling children what to do, being able to make small efforts by themselves is helpful skill for studying, playing sports, getting better at something and work. Tokio Honda says, "Throughout our life, there are so many tasks that appear to be difficult. But, the most of difficult tasks can be done with an accumulation of small efforts."

With an accumulation of small efforts, we can master things that are difficult or we are not good at. We end up liking the difficult things like playing piano, acquiring languages and so on when we become good at it. Please be the biggest cheer leader of your children. Our children need a lot of help and encouragement. We also need to be a good example of our children. Children learn from what their parents do. Perhaps, we as parents also set our own goals to attain or new challenges we try tackling.

The replacements of three teachers who resigned last school year are Ms. Sachiko Sugaya (Kindergarten), Mr. Masaru Yashiro (6th & 7th), and Ms. Kuniko Marquez (Nyumon TA). They are very pleasant and wonderful

people. All the teachers are working harmoniously, and having fun teaching classes. Let us have another successful school year!

————— Madoka I. Hull, Principal

Tokio Honda (July 1956 -) Born in Kanagawa, Japan. A writer and software programmer. After graduating from Denki Tsushin Daigaku (National university of Electro-Communications), he worked on software development. In his late 20's, he started studying human happiness as his life work. 1996, he created his website called "Home page of happiness," published many books about people's happiness.

APPRECIATION

1) All JLS and preschool teachers were invited by PTC to its annual event, Sawa-kai (Tea Party.) We had a good time chatting with room parents and eating delicious foods catered by the PTC. Rev. John Iwohara also joined the party and gave us a short but wonderful sermon.

Thank you very much for the invitation. We are grateful to all the PTC officers, advisors and room parents for supporting the newly elected PTC president, Ms. Godinez and pursue all the events.

2) Mr. & Mrs. Isao Takahashi, JLS parents brought so many boxes of golden kiwis to the JLS office. We gave some boxes to the church to share. They were so sweet and delicious! Thank you very much.



AWARD RECIPIENTS OF GRADUATE CLASS OF 2016

■ *Scholarship Award from Hiroshi Miyazono Fund:*

Graduates who worked hard for learning Japanese for many years. The recipients completed High School Advanced courses and moved onto good colleges:



- ☆ Mayumi Lauren Irie (Sat. Div. 11th Grade)
- ☆ Akina Jaimee Hamasaki (Sat. Div. 11th Grade)
(Mayumi and Akina are going to universities.)

■ *Scholastic Effort Awards:*

Graduates of Elementary (6th) and Middle School (8th) divisions who had good records in citizenship and made a great progress academically:

- ☆ Mio Grace Kurokawa (Sat. Div. 6th Grade)
- ☆ Sarah Kaori Nelson (Sat. Div. 8th Grade)

SERVICE AWARD OF TEACHERS 2016

- ☆ *5 years* Ms. Emiko Hasegawa
- ☆ *5 years* Ms. Toshie Kimoto
- ☆ *5 years* Ms. Ryoko Nakawake
- ☆ *10 years* Ms. Kyoko Shima
- ☆ *20 years* Ms. Kumiko Igarashi

We would like to express our sincere appreciation to the Gardena Buddhist Church for providing our students with scholarships and their support on our various events. We also thank the teachers for their many years of dedication.

Congratulations to all the award recipients!

AP TEST

Last May, our high school students, Mitsuki Ishii and Raichi Haneda, passed the AP Test with the high score. *Congratulations, Mitsuki & Raichi!*

They have made a great effort studying Japanese here since they were little. We are all proud of their accomplishments.

◆ What are AP classes and AP tests?

The Advanced Placement program offers college level courses at high schools across the United States and Canada. Advanced students can take many AP subject courses such as math, English, foreign languages, science and others throughout the year. At the end of the year, they need to take AP tests and pass to get college credits. Grading is done through a rubric with a score of 1 to 5. Above 3 is passing and 5 is the highest passing grade.

AUTUMN SALE

PTC FUND-RAISING

■ Daily Cookie Sale Friday, November 18

■ Curry & Cookie Sale Saturday, November 19 \$5 / ticket

Tickets are
available
NOW!

We NEED
your heeeelp!



SCHOOL CALENDAR



November

- 11th Fri Veteran's Day-JLS/P.S.-**No School**
- 18th Fri PTC Autumn Sale (Cookies)
- 19th Sat PTC Autumn Sale (Curry & Cookies)
- 24th~26th (Thu ~Sat)
Thanksgiving Holidays--**School Closed**

December

- 16th Fri JLS/P.S.(Daily Div.) 1st Trimester ends
PTC Mochitsuki
- 17th Sat JLS/P.S. (Sat. Div.) 1st Trimester ends
PTC Mochitsuki
- 19th~Jan. 3rd (Mon~Tue)
Winter Break

PTC NEWS

Welcome back to the new school year of 2016-2017 at Gardena Buddhist Church Japanese Learning School and Nakayoshi Preschool! I hope all of the students find the beauty of Japanese language again this year, through their hard work under the guidance of our experienced teachers.



This year, I feel like being a new student as well – Ms. Nancy Hamasaki, who has been the heart and soul of the PTC organization for many years has retired from her presidency and passed the baton to me. Although it is too big of a shoe to fill, I will try to do my best. I'd like to ask all of you to support PTC more than ever so that we can continue on our contribution to the school.

The PTC will be coordinating our usual events again this year: fall chicken curry sale, mochitsuki, spring sale, and year-end parties/activities for both daily and Saturday division students. All of our events require a lot of manpower and parental support. We hope you'll come to help with these events for our kids – it is a great opportunity to get to know other parents, too.

If you haven't done so, please fill out and return the green PTC information form as soon as possible, so that the class representatives can send emails with various information to you in a timely manner. If your class doesn't have the class representatives, please consider becoming one!

The PTC meeting is to be held on the first Saturday of the month except for January and May. Please make sure to attend the meetings if you signed up as a class representative,

On October 22nd, we held the "Sawa-kai (tea party)" with class representatives and teachers. Everyone had a good time. We thank all the parents who helped prepare for the event.

I'm looking forward to working with you!

———— Yoko Godinez, PTC President

Next PTC Meeting:

- Saturday, Nov. 5th at 8:45 am in the Cooling Room.
- Saturday, Dec. 3rd at 8:45 am in the Cooling Room.

RULES FOR RECEIVING PERFECT ATTENDANCE & GOOD ATTENDANCE AWARD

《Saturday Classes》

- ◆ **Perfect Attendance Award:** Zero absences, Zero late arrivals, Zero early leaves
- ◆ **Good Attendance Award:** Up to one absence on one Saturday **OR** up to 3 late arrivals **OR** 3 early leaves (up to 4 hours)

《Daily Classes》

- ◆ **Perfect Attendance Award:** Zero absences, Zero late arrivals, Zero early leaves
- ◆ **Good Attendance Award:** Up to 5 absences (5 days) **OR** up to 5 late arrivals **OR** 5 early leaves (total of 5 arrivals and early leaves, **NOT** 5 late arrival and 5 early leaves)

- Students **MUST** attend the graduation ceremony in order to receive perfect attendance award.
- In case of mourning and a funeral for a student's parents and siblings ONLY: Saturday students can miss one Saturday, and daily students can miss up to 3 days.
- The above rules have been applied last many years, and they are not newly created.

Some students are so eager to get perfect attendance awards. We do appreciate those very enthusiastic students. However, if students get sick, please have them stay home. We want them to get good rest and recover quickly. Sick children do affect others too. Everyone's health is very important to us. When students have to miss Japanese classes because there are more important things that should be taken care of, please be absent. There is always a next time.

IMPORTANT REMINDER:

- 1) **SMOKING IS PROHIBITED** entirely on the school ground. (California State law)
- 2) **Dogs are NOT ALLOWED** to be on the school ground. (any time and for any length of time)
Please do not bring your dog to the school or even keep your dog in the car while you are bringing/picking up your child/ren.

We appreciate your full cooperation



MARUKAI RECEIPT FUND-RAISING

Thank you very much for giving us Marukai receipts for the fund-raising over the last many years. After collecting receipts, we sum up the amount and bring them to the Marukai office. They then send back a check (2% of the total amount before tax) to this school. Mr. Matsu, the former owner of Marukai, kindly agreed to do this fundraising. Even after Mr. Matsu sold Marukai to Don Quixote, its President has agreed to continue supporting our school. We are so grateful to Mr. Matsu and the President of Don Quixote. We also appreciate everyone for bringing receipts to the school.



Recently, Marukai has made certain requests. Please pay attention to the following things:

1) We bring receipts monthly and not keep them for many months.

So, please bring your receipts as soon as possible, ideally within the same month of shopping.

2) The dates of any receipts need to be within 6 months. Please check your receipt date before bringing them to school.

3) Receipts they don't accept:

- Tokyo Central receipts
- Receipts for gift certificate purchases
- Receipts without dates (If you are worried about the last 4 digit credit card number, please black out with a black marker pen.)

Sorry for your trouble, but your continued support and cooperation will be greatly appreciated.

REQUEST

When you pick up your children, please come to the designated area to meet your children, especially, lower grade students. Teachers cannot bring your children to your cars. The parking lot is dangerous for small children to look for their parents alone. We appreciate your cooperation.



Graduation Donor List

*Thank you very much
for your generosity!*

Fukumoto, Mark
Hanada, Atsunori
Kurokawa, Johnny
Aratani, Tomonobu
Nelson, John
Nishio, Ken
Saito, Jun
Hamasaki, Dwight

Thank you !



If your name is omitted from the list or any correction, please report to the JLS office. Thank you.

WORLD TSUNAMI AWARENESS DAY - NOVEMBER 5



The In December 2015, the UN General Assembly designated 5 November as World Tsunami Awareness Day.

World Tsunami Awareness Day was the brainchild of Japan, which due to its repeated, bitter experience has over the years built up major expertise in areas such as tsunami early warning, public action and building back better after a disaster to reduce future impacts.

The date for the annual celebration was chosen in honor of the Japanese story of "Inamura-no-hi", meaning the "burning of the rice sheaves". During an 1854 earthquake a farmer saw the tide receding, a sign of a looming tsunami. He set fire to his entire harvest to warn villagers, who fled to high ground. Afterwards, he built an embankment and planted trees as a buffer against future waves.

The UN General Assembly has called on all countries, international bodies and civil society to observe the day, in order to raise tsunami awareness and share innovative approaches to risk reduction. It also asked the UN office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) to facilitate the observance of World Tsunami Awareness Day in collaboration with the rest of the United Nations system.

The debut World Tsunami Awareness Day focuses on education and evacuation drills.

<http://www.un.org/en/events/tsunamiday/>