

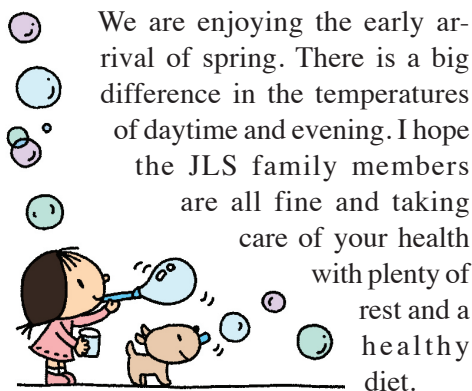
## SCHOOL-PTC NEWSLETTER



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### NEWSLETTER SPRING-2015

#### PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



In January, for the class observations and teacher-parents conferences, we had a very good turnout of parents. Although it was only a one-hour observation, the parents seemed to enjoy watching their children study Japanese. In one class, parents were even dragged into the class lesson. But, from the laughter I heard from the classroom, they must have been having a good time studying Japanese with their children. We appreciate all the parents taking their time to participate in the event and show their interest in their children's Japanese education.

On Saturday, February 14th, JLS teachers and some preschool teachers attended the annual seminar held by CAJLS (California Association

of Japanese language Schools.) The theme of the seminar was "Curriculum and Lesson Planning Using Backward Design." Traditional teaching starts with curriculum planning with activities and textbooks. But, with backward design method, teachers set up class learning objective and outcome, and create assessment first. Teachers then plan curriculum, class lessons and activities. In the morning, there were keynote lectures given by Prof. Kataoka and Prof. Douglas of CSULB and three sample class demonstrations based on the backward curriculum. In the afternoon, attendees actually created curriculum with reviewing what we learned in the morning session. The teachers were divided into some groups based on JSL (Japanese as Second Language) and JHS (Japanese as Heritage Language.) We all had a good time.

Currently, all the classes are planning and preparing for the Class Presentations scheduled in late March, and soon will they be practicing. Japanese songs, recitation, skits and various other programs will be performed on the stage. We tend to focus on how well students perform on the stage. However, this kind of hands-on learning method gives our students valuable experiences. Coming up with ideas for a presentation, making stage sets or necessary items for their performance, working with their peers, solving problems, and giving respect to each other's opinions are all important things to learn during the process of preparation and practice for the big event. Planning the event for teachers is a big ordeal too. Every student has his/her role or part, so everyone needs to show up otherwise such an absence affects the presentation. This event takes place once every other year. We need parent's cooperation to avoid absence.

Our high school students will present "Shodo Performance (Performance Calligraphy.)" For the performance, calligraphers use various size brushes with a huge brush about 130 cm long and write letters on a large canvas placed on the floor. Performance calligraphy was conceived by Kenji Kiyohara who was Shodo Club adviser of Seiho High School in Buzen city, Fukuoka prefecture. Since 2008, a national tournament of performance calligraphy called Shodo Performance Koshien has been held in Japan, and there has been a shodo boom for the last several years. One of the instigators of this tournament and shodo boom was female students of the calligraphy club of Mishima High School in Shikokuchuo, Ehime prefecture. They started holding performances in order to help the declining industry of processed paper in the city regain its vigor. The paper industry of the city used to have the biggest production in Japan before a drop of the economy. The students started performing at local shopping malls, and they caught a great deal of attention by local and national broadcasting companies. Documentaries and even a movie of this shodo club story were created. It led to the national tournament of performance calligraphy, Shodo Performance Koshien. Performers create a big canvas of shodo art with dancing with J-pop. We are looking forward to see how our high school students will perform. We anticipate many parents to come and see so many wonderful programs done by kindergarten to the upper grade students.



—— Madoka I. Hull, Principal

## APPRECIATION:

Mrs. Uehara's class is doing a Shodo performance, and she needs a very big special brush, a large canvas and a lot of sumi ink. They are very costly. She needs to obtain the brush from Japan. So, she applied for a grant to JBA (Japan Business Association of Southern California) and received \$565.00 successfully. Applying a grant is time-consuming and requires filling out many forms, writing a request letter, and explaining about the project. We are happy that she got the money. I was informed that a representative of JBA is coming on the day of Gakushu Happyo-kai. We thank JBA for the grant.

## PTC NEWS

Welcome back to the school after ushering in a new year. We hope that you all enjoyed the holidays and had a restful winter break. The PTC would like to thank all of the parents that came out to help at our fall chicken curry and cookie sale and our annual mochitsuki. The students and parents all had a great time!! Parent participation is crucial in order for these events to continue every year, so we appreciate everyone's support and participation.

The PTC would also like to extend our thanks to Mutual Trading Company and Marukai for their generous contribution and support.

As spring approaches, the PTC is preparing for our spring chicken teriyaki sale, and the Yochien division will be having their annual Undokai event. Please be on the lookout for school notices for further information. We look forward to seeing you all soon.

Nancy Hamasaki, PTC President

Next PTC Meeting:

- Saturday, Mar. 3rd at 8:45 am in the Cooling Room.
- Saturday, April. 4th at 8:45 am in the Cooling Room.



## 2014-2015 NEW SCHOOL YEAR ENROLLMENT

Registration for the 2014 - 2015 school year will start. The notice and the re-registration form will be distributed in the classes in april. Please submit the re-registration form to your class teacher, A.S.A.P. The deadline for the enrollment:

◆ JLS Daily division ... Friday, June 5

◆ JLS Sat. division ..... Saturday, June 6

\* After these dates, \$20 late fee will be charged.

### To Preschool 4-year-old parents:

Please note that for the preschoolers who are entering the kindergarden class of the Japanese language division from this fall, the dead line is different.

◆ Deadline - Saturday, May 16

After the dead line, \$100.00 registration fee will be charged for it is treated as a new registration. Please read the detailed information letter that will be distributed in each class at a later time.

## SUMMER SCHOOL NOW ACCEPTING ENROLLMENT

Let's make good use of summer vacation by learning Japanese. The program includes

Japanese learning, arts and crafts with summer themes, exercise, cooking, making shaved ice, a field trip and many more fun activities. It is an enriching program and the best chance for your children to review, learn new things and catch up. The registration forms are available at the office.



Let's enjoy  
Summer with us!



### [Summer School]

- ◆ Daily Class: June 29 (Mon) - Aug 7 (Fri)
- ◆ Saturday Class: June 27 (Sat) - July 25 (Sat)

## VOLUNTEER VIDEO CAMERA-MAN NEEDED:

We are looking for a volunteer cameraman who can take video of all the performances of Gakushu-Happyo-kai (Class Presentations) on March 28th. The work for the cameraman is to take video and burn DVD.

The volunteer needs to use his/her own video camera.

If anyone is willing to take video for us, please inform the office. Thank you.



## THANK YOU

- We received donation of many books from Swindell Family. Thank you very much.



## CAN YOU BUY LUCK?!



## FUKUBUKURO OR LUCKY BAGS, A NEW YEAR'S SPECIALTY SHOPPING

Hatsuuri is the first sale where red and white bags are displayed in stores and is a scene you can only see in Japan. "Fukubukuro" or lucky bags, said to be filled with luck, are a special New Year's treat for Japanese people.

One of the special and fun New Year's activities in Japan is the bargain sale called Hatsuuri or the first sale. The highlight of Hatsuuri is the sale of "Fukubukuro" or lucky bags, which is a very popular custom in Japan. The idea behind Fukubukuro originates from a bag that God carries which is filled with luck. Fukubukuros are limited in number, but the assortment of items in the bags is always worth several times more than the price of the bag and they are mainly sold from January 1st to 3rd, during Hatsuuri.

Fukubukuro used to be sold mainly by department stores and fashion stores, but has become more diverse these days to include food, cosmetics and electronic appliances. In 2004, the Apple store in Ginza also sold Fukubukuro, which generated some buzz in the news. There are also unique Fukubukuro, such as the one which will be sold for 20,150,000 yen to match the year 2015 and contains ex-

pensive items including a diamond and a round-the-world trip ticket. There are also Fukubukuro that contains tickets for a limousine tour and hotel stay and ones filled with rare selections from famous beef brands.

At popular stores, you will sometimes see people lining up outside the store for several days before the sale and these Fukubukuro are often sold out within minutes. If you have a brand you want to get, you will need to confirm the date, time, and place of the sale in advance.

Traditionally, the contents of a Fukubukuro are a mystery, and it is fun to choose something unknown and enjoy the thrill of peeking inside the bag. These days, however, they also sell Fukubukuros that you can see inside to show you what a bargain they are. How you enjoy this experience is up to you; you can enjoy buying a Fukubukuro as if it is a lottery or go for one that is a clear bargain. Why not buy one as part of the New Year event?

[http://japan-magazine.jnto.go.jp/en/1411\\_luckybag.html](http://japan-magazine.jnto.go.jp/en/1411_luckybag.html),  
JAPAN Monthly into Web Magazine



## SCHOOL CALENDAR



### MARCH

- 20th Fri PTC Spring Sale (Cookies)
- 21st Sat PTC Spring Sale (Cookies/Teriyaki Chicken)
- 28th Sat JLS Students' Achievement Presentations

### APRIL

- 3rd Fri JLS/P.S.(Daily Div.) 2nd Trimaster Ends
- 4th Sat JLS/P.S.(Sat Div.) 2nd Trimaster Ends
- 6~11th M-Sat Spring Break--- **No School**
- 13th Mon JLS/P.S.(Daily Div.) 3rd Trimaster starts
- 18th Sat JLS/P.S.(Sat Div.) 3rd Trimaster starts