

SCHOOL-PTC NEWSLETTER



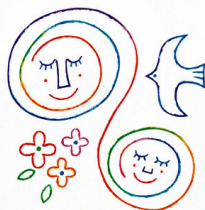
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NEWSLETTER 3RD TRIM 2017

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

QUOTATION TO SHARE

The family. We were a strange little band of characters trudging through life sharing diseases and toothpaste, coveting one another's desserts, hiding shampoo, borrowing money, locking each other out of our rooms, inflicting pain and kissing to heal it in the same instant, loving laughing, defending, and trying to figure out the common thread that bound us all together.



— Erma Bombeck

Dad, you are not an anchor to hold us back, nor a sail to take us there, but a guiding light whose love shows us the way.

My mom is a lifelong smile in my heart, her voice a comfort to my soul, her hugs my ladder to the stars.

— Terri Guillements, U.S. Quotation
Anthologist (b. 1973)

Happy Mother's & Father's Day!

I would like to express my sincere appreciation and admiration to all parents who are “practicing” parenting. The lives of fathers and mothers are super busy and hectic with the multiple tasks of child-rearing, house-keeping, jobs and much more.

Some time ago in Japan, fathers “fought with seven enemies once stepping out of the door” (A Japanese expression of how fathers work hard in a stressful and competitive work world) and mothers defend home. Fathers and mothers each fulfill his/her own roles and duties. But now, many more mothers work. So, fathers and mothers have to do many different things together with good teamwork. Juggling many tasks along with child rearing is sometimes very stressful.

With June and summer vacation approaching, not only teachers, but also parents, feel a bit of relief. Parents can take a short break from “nagging” children for their homework and juggling their own and children’s busy schedules during the summer.

When I had my first son, I simply believed that I would have more time to myself and could start working once he started going to kindergarten. I realize now how ignorant I was back then. I was naive about being a parent. I know now that children are the parents’ concern for their entire life until the parents leave this world. Through dealing with children on a day-to-day basis, parents spend a lot of time pondering on the nature of the family and parents. They keep seeking the best way of parenting. Parents often reconsider, get disheartened and get distressed. Even after the children have grown up, parents’ worries continue.

Parents affect their children’s lives in big ways. They have tremendous responsibilities. On the other hand, they experience so many joyful mo-

ments watching their children grow. The spirit and humanity of people develops by raising children. Parents are less selfish people because they always think about their children first. Parenting is a noble occupation. Japanese people say that repay what you have received from your parents to your children. We can never pay back to our parents for what they have done for us.

But we can pay it forward not only to our children but also to everyone around us.



We have a few weeks left in this school year, and will complete the year with a graduation/completion ceremony and pizza parties. Our teachers take great part in raising our children.

— Madoka I. Hull, Principal

DISNEYLAND TRIP

The PTC sponsored graduation trip to Disneyland was held on May 13th, again this year. Twenty-nine students from 6th to 11th grade participated. For the last couple of years, many days including Saturdays in April and May, are blocked out for high school grad nights at Disneyland. So it is getting more difficult to make a reservation, but luckily the 13th was available. A few events, such as children’s race, were happening that day, so the park was extremely crowded,

and the wait for rides were so long. Yet, the students enjoyed



the day with their classmates.

We truly are grateful to all the parents who work hard and support the annual fundraisers twice a year. Thank you very much.

Chaperons:

Our big "Thank You!" goes to Ms. Uehara, Mr. Yashiro and Ms. Nelson for chaperoning the students. Because of their hard work, our students had a safe and fun time.

SHAMISEN CONCERT

On the same Saturday, May 13th, the shamisen (Japanese instrument) master, Mr. Baisho Matsumoto, visited the JLS and held mini concerts for our students. Unfortunately, due to a big church event, the Social Hall was unavailable. So, we held 3 mini concerts in the hallway and classrooms. Mr. Matsumoto brought 3 shamisens and shakuhachi (Japanese flute.) One of the shamisen was about 150 years old, and another one was over 550 years old. They are very well maintained and sounded marvelous. We were very lucky to see such instruments and to hear such wonderful music. Mr. Matsumoto also sang along with the instruments. He had an incredible voice. The older grade students were on the Disneyland trip and sadly missed the concerts. But, Mr. Matsumoto comes to America every year and visits high schools, colleges and other places to hold concerts and



introducing Japanese instruments and the culture. We look forward to seeing him and listening to his music again. Thank you, Mr. Matsumoto.

【Matsumoto Baisho】 Matsumoto Baisho is a renowned master of both Akita and Tsugaru Shamisen as well as other styles of folk music. With more than 35 years performing throughout Japan and the world in countries such as Belgium, France, and the United States Matsumoto Baisho is a truly skilled performer. His most notably performance was the "Soul of Japan"

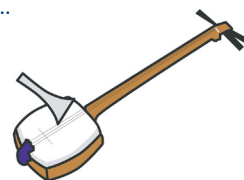


Shamisen Concert held at Jubilee Hall in march 2010 and organized by the Japan Creative Centre, Embassy of Japan. (<http://www.jask.org/event-864427>)

Mr. Matsumoto also play shakuhachi, a Japanese end-blown flute which is usually made of bamboo. Its unique, deep, and calming sounds fascinate many people.

【Shamisen】

Shamisen is an old Japanese musical instrument. It looks like a banjo with a long neck. You might have heard of shamisen music in connection with geishas, the kabuki theater or the Japanese bunraku puppet theater.



SCHOOL CALENDAR



June

12th	Mon	(Daily Div.) Fun Jump- afternoon for JLS
16th	Fri	(Daily Div.) 3rd Trimester Ends PTC Pizza Party for JLS
17th	Sat	(Sat. Div.) 3rd Trimester Ends (Sat. Daily.) Graduation Ceremony (9am) PTC Pizza Party for JLS
26th	Mon	(Daily Div.) Summer School Begins

☆ Regular class schedule on 16th (Fri) and 17th (Sat). Please make sure not to be late.

July~August

7/4th	Tue	School Closed (Independence Day)
7/8th	Sat	(Sat. Div.) Summer School Begins
8/12-13th	Sat, Sun	Obon Carnival (GBC)
8/14th	Mon	School Closed (Obon Clean up)

September

7th	Thu	(Daily Div.) First Trimester Begins
9th	Sat	(Sat. Div.) First Trimester Begins



PTC NEWS



The end of the school year is rapidly approaching – time flies, indeed! Thanks to the strong support from many parents and guardians, we could successfully complete various PTC events, such as the Curry Sale in October, the Mochi-Tsuki in December, and the Chicken Teriyaki Sale in March. I personally would like to thank all of you for helping the novice PTC president, especially the capable and dedicated PTC board – Mrs. Kurokawa, Mrs. Morimoto, and Mrs. Johnson – and the knowledgeable advisors – Mrs. Hamasaki, Mrs. Kuwabara, and Mrs. Hikido. I couldn't have done this without their diligent support.

In March, we glimpsed the fruit of children's learning through the fun and interesting presentations at the Gakushu-Happyokai (Students Achievement Presentation event). The event made me appreciate the value of Japanese language and culture education this school provides.

In May, PTC sponsored the annual Disneyland field trip. Twenty-nine children from 6th grade above enjoyed one full day at the "Happiest Place on Earth". I'd like to thank the teachers who chaperoned the children from early morning till late night, and the GBC for taking care of the transportation of this trip.

In June, we are going to have the last PTC event, pizza party, to conclude this year's activities. For daily kindergarten pupils, we are going to rent a jumper to have the "Fun Jump" day. I hope the children would enjoy these events as part of the fun memories of Japanese school.

Have a safe and memorable summer! See you in September!

—— Yoko Godinez, PTC Presiden



✽ Please see Japanese page 4 for more field trip pictures.

APPRECIATION

We received donations from the followings:

- Dr. & Mrs. Tamotsu Ikeda
- Mrs. Tamiko Takao



We appreciate their support to the school and the teachers. Thank you very much.

2017-2018 NEW SCHOOL YEAR ENROLLMENT

We are still accepting fall registration. If you have not submitted the registration forms to your class teachers, please do so A. S. A. P. Please, tell your friends and relatives about the summer and regular school programs.

LOST AND FOUND



The cubby hole in the JLS office is full with lost-found-items.

Please come and check the items that may belong to you before we throw them out at the end of June.

HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN SUMMER SCHOOL ENROLLMENT?!

If you study Japanese daily during summer school for 6 weeks, your Japanese will improve tremendously. If you are not confident in Hiragana, Katakana or Kanji, summer school is a great place to review. Art & Crafts, field trip, Fun Day (watermelon breaking and other games), cooking, warmup exercise and many more fun events will be offered.

Please come to the office and enroll TODAY!

