

SCHOOL-PTC NEWSLETTER



JLS Article: Madoka Hull, Principal
Preschool Article: Keiko Damata, Director
Translation: Madoka Hull, Hiroco Ames
Layout: Hiroco Ames
Word Process, Edit, Print: Eri Nelson

NEWSLETTER SPRING-2017

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

POEM TO SHARE

*There is no other season
that has the affect,
much like a burst of energy,
on the world at large more so
than Spring.*



*Whether one lives in the North or
the South,
it is thanks to this season for
the renewal of life that it brings.
Birds, children and adults have a
new pep to their step,
and once again start to sing.
The foliage awakens and blossoms,
giving way to a wondrous new
playground,
all thanks to the welcomed arrival
of our Spring.*

Joanne Ramirez

<http://www.inspirationpeak.com/spring>
© Copyright 2000, Inspiration Peak.
All Rights Reserved.

The peach tree at the church is in full bloom with sweet scent. This winter, it is great to have so many rainy days here in southern California. According to weather information, the 5-year drought condition has improved in Nor Cal due to

so much snow and rain this winter. Severe problems still continues on in the southern region.

There are also major political developments recently with the newly elected President. In less than a month, so many executive orders have been issued. Many demonstrations are occurring not only in the U.S. but also Europe and many parts of the world. Some Japanese are concerned about unpredictable moves and the influences on Japan.

I heard this one religious leader saying that even if one man prays for world peace, his prayer will have a big impact. Whether one believes the power of prayer or not, human thought is energy. Our prayer, thought, belief, and words impact different things and our life, either positively or negatively. When a bright and cheerful person enters into a room, the atmosphere brightens up. When we see someone with a smile, we feel pleasant. A person, who always laments her own circumstances or is critical of others, can affect others negatively. The other day in the school office, some teachers and I were chatting about how an experiment with smiley face affects our brain. By holding a pencil in the mouth sideways between teeth and making a smiley face, the action actually helps activate the area of brain that feels pleasure.

In Japan, we have proverbs like "laughing is man's medicine" or "laughing brings your home happiness." Nowadays, we use words like "positive thinking." "Magic of Believing", "Power of Awareness", and "Think and Grow Rich" are a few examples of books that talk about how positive thinking brings good

results in one's life or ways to realize one's dreams.

There are many motivational or inspirational speakers such as Les Brown, Zig Ziegler, Dale Carnegie, and Tony Robbins. They all talk about successes brought by positive attitude, bright way of thinking, and focus on positivity. Although we are surrounded by gruesome news now, let us find something to laugh about. Let us concentrate on goodness of people, things, our experiences and so on, and make 2017 a fantastic year!

————— Madoka I. Hull, Principal

RECOMMENDED JAPANESE TED TALK SITE

Have you listen to TED TALK on You-tube?

There is a great talk presented by Tsutomu Uematsu, and the title is "Hope invites." English subtitle is available. The speech is so moving and inspirational. It also has a helpful hint for child rearing. Everyone, please listen to this site!

[Holding a pen between teeth]

by Dr. Ryunosuke Kobayashi (Dr. of pharmacology, Associate Professor of Tokyo University)

This is an English translation of the Japanese site.

Experiments of reading a comic book with holding a pen in mouth two different ways.

(1)Holding a pen tip vertically between teeth

(2)Holding a pen horizontally between teeth and making a smiley face and the partici-



pants give scores on the comic book how funny it is. Although the participants of the experiment read the same comic book, average score of the comic with (1) was 4.7, and the average score with (2) was 6.6.

The key seems to be the use of the muscle. Holding a pen between teeth horizontally uses the same facial muscle when people smiling or laughing. So, even though, your smile is artificially or forcefully made, your brain perceives a pleasure out of things you are looking at. Studying the brain reaction during the experiments, the brain's "reward system" area is activated, and the neural circuit disperses dopamine. As a result, the experiment has proven that lifting both side of mouth make you happy.

Another experiment

A large sheet of paper is given to the participants of this experiment. On the paper, many words such as desk, cup and book are already written. Many positive words like "happiness" and "joy" are included too. The participants are told to find as many positive words as possible. This experiment has shown that the participants with the pen in their mouth and making smiling face, took a lot less time to find many positive words on average. By just making smiling face not only make things look more interesting but also improve one's ability to discover something nice or beautiful in your surroundings.

The doctor also talked about his own experience at the end of this article. When he was waiting at the traffic signal, he was rather restless and felt uneasy. So, he tried to smile. Instantly, his irritating feeling disappeared and felt at ease. As the brain experiment has proven, his smile controlled his state of mind. He suggests we should smile and make ourselves happy for our daily life with difficulties and unpleasant moments.

ペンを口で「笑顔の実験」

<http://open.mixi.jp/user/5089039/diary/1950870882>

Copyright (C) 1999-2017 mixi, Inc. All rights reserved.

CLASS OBSERVATION-TEACHER-PARENTS CONFERENCES

Class observations and teacher-parent conferences were held on January 19 and 21. For kindergarten to high school classes, many parents came for the event, and signed up for the conferences. I was very happy to see so many parents are interested in their children's Japanese education.



One parent, who had her children in both the 6th & 7th grade combined class and in the high school grade combined class, told me that the lessons were so interesting that she even wanted to attend. Whether teaching a lower grade or upper grade, each teacher works very hard for creating lesson plans along with class management. Hurray for our teachers!

I have a request to our parents of lower grades students. Please have your children master hiragana and katakana.

If students have not learned hiragana and katakana by 1st or at the latest, 2nd grade, the teacher will have a very difficult time teaching. At this school, kindergarteners learn hiragana, and nyumon students learn katakana. Saturday students come only once a week. So it is crucial for parents to help their children go over what they learn in the classroom at home. One good way to learn Japanese letters is to learn with flash cards. Parents and children together make flash cards by writing each letter and draw cute picture next to it or back side of the cards. Learning letters with pictures appeals to your brain visually, so it is easier to learn. Can you imagine if your child still cannot write alphabet even they become 2nd grade. I earnestly ask all the lower grade parents to have your children master 2 sets of Japanese letters.

Let's make some flash cards

for hiragana & katakana

Write hiragana or katakana letter 「あ」 or 「ア」 and a Japanese word starting with 「あ」「ア」 such as 「あひる」 (hiragana) or 「アヒル」 (katakana), and Romanized Japanese word "ahiru". Write English meaning "duck" and draw a picture of duck.

Or simply you can buy flash cards or down load from website.

TOY DRIVE

For the Toy Drive, a community project of the city of Gardena during the holiday season last year, we received toys from many JLS and preschool parents. It was very generous and kind of them. Thank you very much to all. Mr. Kishimoto, GBC & JLS School Board member, did such a great job organizing and taking care of this drive. Thank you, Mr. Kishimoto!



PTC NEWSLETTER



Happy New Year! We hope you had a nice holiday season and welcomed the bright Oshogatsu. My family went to the New Year's

Eve Joya-no-Kane service at the GBC and ate mochi we made at the PTC Mochitsuki on the New Year's day – enjoyed the fully Japanese style Oshogatsu.

In December, we had another successful annual Mochitsuki event. The PTC would like to thank all the parents who came to volunteer at the event. The students, teachers, and parents, alike, all of us had a great time, pounding, rolling, and eating the fresh mochi. Volunteering during the busy pre-holiday weekend has never been easy, but it's always worth seeing the kids' happy smile.

The PTC would also like to thank Mutual Trading Company and Marukai for their generous contribution and support again this year. Another big thank you to Mr. Inoue, who volunteered to shave the roughed surface of kine's.

In the new semester, the PTC will have our spring chicken teriyaki sale and the Yochien division will hold the annual Undokai event. Please see the notices from the school office for each event and try to participate as a volunteer as much as possible.

Yoko Godinez, PTC President

Next PTC Meeting:

- Saturday, Feb. 4th at 8:45 am in the Cooling Room.
 - Saturday, Feb. 25th at 8:45 am in the Cooling Room.
- (Please note the March PTC meeting will be held one week earlier since the chicken teriyaki event is on March 11th)

CAJLS SEMINAR

On Saturday, February 18th, preschool and JLS teachers will attend the seminar held by California Association of Japanese Language Schools (CAJLS). In the morning, Dr. Akira Kugaya will speak about children with special needs and ways to support them. In the afternoon, there are three classes that teachers will chose from and attend. The classes are: 1) teaching method with songs and craft making, 2) how to teach Kanji, and 3) teaching method using games and technology. I hope all the teachers will have fun day learning.

2017-2018 NEW SCHOOL YEAR ENROLLMENT

Registration for the 2017 - 2018 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 dead-line for the enrollment:

JLS Daily division ... Friday, June 2
JLS Sat. division Saturday, June 3

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 13

After the dead line, \$130.00 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.



SCHOOL CALENDAR



FEBRUARY

13th Mon Lincoln - **Only JLS closed**
 18th Sat CAJLS Seminar - **School closed**
 20th Mon President Day - **School closed**

MARCH

10th Fri PTC Spring Sale (Cookies)
 11th Sat PTC Spring Sale (Cookies/Teriyaki Chicken)
 25th Sat Daily & Sat
 Student's Achievement Presentations

27th Mon **School closed**
 (due to make up for the
 Student's Achievement Presentations)

APRIL

7th Fri Daily Div. 2nd Trimester Ends
 8th Sat Sat Div. 2nd Trimester Ends
 10~15th M-Sat Spring Break - **School closed**
 17th Mon Daily Div. 3rd Trimester starts
 22nd Sat Sat Div. 3rd Trimester starts



SUMMER SCHOOL SOON 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.

[Summer School]

- ◆ Daily Class:
June 26 (Mon) - Aug 7 (Fri)
- ◆ Saturday Class:
July 8 (Sat) - July 29 (Sat)

Let's enjoy
Summer with us!



SPRING SALE

PTC FUND-RAISING

- Daily Cookie Sale
Friday, March 10
- Chicken Teriyaki
& Cookie Sale
Saturday, March 11

Tickets are
available
NOW!

We NEED
your heeeelp!



OSEIBO DONOR LIST

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

Ajifu, Masanobu
Akai, Greg
Anegawa, Yutaka
Asahina, Kinji
Asai, Hajime
Baca, Joseph
Bilbrey, David
Chun, Lester
Clemente, Roberto
Cooper, James
Daimonji, Shaun
Denem, Julius
Duron, Jesse
Elkner, William
Enyart, Scotty
Fujimoto, Gary
Fukumoto, Mark
Fukunaga, Robert
Fushimi, Kuni
Godinez, Albert
Hahn, Garrett
Haneda, Atsunori
Harrison, Shane

Hashimoto, John
Hashimoto, Masaki
Homma, Taiki
Ichiyana, Nana
Igarashi, William
Ikeuchi, Mark
Inoue, Hisashi
Itani, Daniel
Johnson, Kenji
Kanai, Kousuke
Kau, Ryan
Kenyon, Lee
Kurokawa, Johnny
Lee, Donghyun
Lin, Eric
Lin, Nobel
Liu, Tony
Maeda, Alexander
Magee, Anthony
Manios, Emmanuel
McCall, Malik
Michitsuji, Dai
Morimoto, Kerry

Nelson, John
No, Jason
Norioka, Takeshi
Nouchi, Wayne
Okubo, Hidehiro
Olszewski, John
Onoue, Manabu
Reed, Michael
Rowe, Tamayo
Sargent, Matt
Scallon, Philip
Seato, Adrian
Shimizu, Jason
Shoho, Lance
Suzuki, James
Swindell, Robert
Takahashi, Isao
Takahashi, Supasit
Takeuchi, Minoru
Tani, Ron
Taniguchi, Kojiro
Toshimitsu, Andrew
Toth, Stephen

Uchiyama, Masato
Wagle, Naveed
Wakayama, Ryo
Wasiel, Mark
Watanabe, Toshio
Wooster, Andrew
Yamada, Mariko
Yamada, Zachary
Yamaguchi, Koji
Yanagisako, Jason
Yasuo, Atsuomi
Yick, David
Yoshida, Derek
Yoshida, Eric
Yoshida, Yumi
Young, Rich

Thank you so much!



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