

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 FALL-2018

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

A poem to share:
Lets' read it out loud and enjoy.

"Autumn Leaves"
(author unknown)

*How silently they tumble down
And come to rest upon the ground
To lay a carpet, rich and rare,
Beneath the trees without a care,
Content to sleep, their work well done,
Colors gleaming in the sun,
At other times, they wildly fly
Until they nearly reach the sky.
Twisting, turning through the air
Till all the trees stand stark and bare.
Exhausted, drop to earth below
To wait, like children, for the snow.*

It is getting quite cool in the morning and evening, an autumn atmosphere.

After a long summer vacation, our students have been switched back to a "studious" and "constructive" life



and enjoying their productively.

Throughout the new school year, many students spend much of their time on activities like sports. In sports, as in all things, character and sportsmanship are important.



The final match of US Open Tennis Championship, between Naomi Osaka and Serena Williams, became a big topic recently. It highlights the importance of good sportsmanship, whatever the justifications may be.

In Japan, also the news is filled with controversies in sports.

As our children play sports in the world, we adults might pay attention to our own behavior, comment and actions. Some parents have unreasonable expectations for their children. Some get overly excited about their children's games, scold children for their play, and apply a lot of pressure to win. If parent' behavior become unreasonable, it takes away the fun of playing sports.

Wining and improving skills are important. However, it is also important for children to learn to practice hard, to make their best effort, to play fair, to consider other players, and to focus on teamwork. Some benefits of playing sports are confidence, leadership, body strength, health, endurance, persistence, and mental strength. Also, children should have fun playing. Being humble, respecting other players, respecting umpires and judges, and treating all with care can help.

Adults set the tone for balance and stressing the positive sides of all things, including sports.

I wish all our students another successful academic year and a lot of fun playing sports, music, art and other activities.

Best regards,

Madoka I. Hull, Principal

APPRECIATION

1) JLS received monetary donations from Dr. & Mrs. Tamotsu Ikeda, GBC board members for a celebration of graduation back in June, 2018. Thank you very much.

2) GBC volunteers, who are in charge of the building maintenance, not only take care of big projects to enhance the school and church, but also they work diligently around the premises everyday.

The work includes repairing, changing light bulbs, tending the garden and many other things. The church and school are supported by so many dedicated volunteers. As a result, we can run a very nice school here. Thank you everyone.

The Building Maintenance Crews & other helpers:

Alan Miwa, Brian Imada, Steve Tsuge, Wallace Yuki, John Nakamura, Ken Nishida, Joe Nishihira, Daniel Iwamoto, James Yokota, Tom Sasaki, Tom Fukukman, & Charlene Hirotsu



3) New Macs

We've got brand new Mac computers in the front office! We thank GBC and the volunteer IT people from the church for setting up the computers and all the IT related work that they've done. They are also planning to install an antenna for a better Wi-Fi connection for the school building 2. It will be very helpful for our teachers who are in the building for their lessons.

4) Mrs. Nakatsukasa, the former preschool Director, keeps record of student's tuition every Saturday over many years. Thank you, Mrs. Nakatsukasa for giving up your Saturday and help us.



AWARD RECIPIENTS OF GRADUATE CLASS OF 2018

■ *Scholarship Award from Banks were given to:*

Graduates who worked hard for learning Japanese for many years. They have good records in academics and citizenship. The recipients completed either the High School Division or High School Advanced courses:



■ **CA Bank & Trust Award**

Ella Poppy Pitre (Sat. Div. 10th Grade)

■ **Nikkei Credit Union Award**

Megumi Emily Kurokawa (Sat. Div. 10th Grade)

■ **Union Bank Award**

Sarah Kaori Nelson (Sat. Div. 10th Grade)

SERVICE AWARD OF TEACHERS

- **5 years** Ms. Keiko Damiata
- **25 years** Ms. Hisano Magome

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

Congratulations to all the award recipients!

IMPORTANT REMINDER:

1) **SMOKING IS PROHIBITED** entirely on the school ground. (California State law)



2) **DOGS ARE NOT ALLOWED** 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 on the above matters.

3) The speed limit on the premises is strictly under 5 miles/hour. Please hold your child's hand when you go through the parking lot.

PTC BOARD MEMBERS & ADVISORS

This school is supported by great help of PTC volunteer organization. Every year, PTC organizes a lot of Fun events such as curry and chicken teriyaki sale, mochitsuki, graduate trip and etc.

We really appreciate their support and warm volunteer spirit towards our school and students. we would like to thank all members, and the President, and board members.

Also our special thank you goes to PTC advisors. Even though their children are no longer in school, but they are still helping and advising PTC organization.

We would like to introduce the PTC board member here with great appreciations.

- President: Ms. Yoko Godinez
- Vice President: Ms. Noriko Morimoto
- Board Member: Ms. Fukue Kurokawa
Ms. Jocelyn Johnson
- Advisor: Ms. Nancy Hamasaki
Ms. Lisa Kuwabara
Ms. Frances Hikido



PTC NEWS



Welcome back to the new school year of 2018-2019 at Gardena Buddhist Church Japanese Learning School and Nakayoshi Preschool! I hope all students to

enjoy learning the beautiful Japanese language and culture under our experienced teachers.

This is my third year as the PTC president. Again this year, our dedicated PTC board members and advisors – Mrs. Morimoto, Mrs. Kurokawa, and Mrs. Johnson as the board, Mrs. Hamasaki, Mrs. Kuwabara, and Mrs. Hikido as the advisors – are back on board. We are looking forward to meeting the fresh faces as well as the familiar ones at the PTC meetings and events.

The PTC will be coordinating our regular events: fall curry sale, mochitsuki (rice cake pounding), spring chicken teriyaki sale, and year-end parties/activities. All PTC events require a lot of manpower and parental support. As a full-time working mother, I understand many parents are too busy to volunteer – but I hope you'll come to help with at least one of these events for our kids this year. Please remember that the proceeds from the fundraisers benefit all students of the JLS and preschool. It is a wonderful 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 six times a year. On

October 13th, we are going to have the “Sawa-kai (tea party)” with class representatives and teachers. If you signed up as a class representative, please make sure to attend the meetings and the “Sawa-kai”.

I'm looking forward to working with you!

Yoko Godinez, PTC President

Next PTC Meeting:

- Saturday, Oct. 27th at 8:45 am in the Cooling Room.
- Saturday, Dec. 1st at 8:45 am in the Cooling Room.

Graduation Donor List

*Thank you very much
for your generosity!*

Aratani, Tomonabu
Fukumoto, Mark
Hagedorn, Marc
Haneda, Atsunori
Kurokawa, Johnny
Nelson, John
Okubo, Hidehiro

Saito, Jun
Takamoto, Ryo
Watanabe, Toshio



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



SCHOOL CALENDAR



October

13th Sat PTC Tea Party
19th Fri (Daily Div.) Photo Sessions
20th Sat (Sat. Div.) Photo sessions

November

9th Fri PTC Autumn Sale (Cookies)
10th Sat PTC Autumn Sale (Curry & Cookies)
12th Mon Veteran's Day **School Closed**
(JLS/PS)

22nd~24th (Thu ~Sat)

Thankgiving Holidays--**School Closed**

December

14th Fri JLS/P.S.(Daily Div.) PTC Mochitsuki
15th Sat JLS/P.S. (Sat. Div.) PTC Mochitsuki
21st Fri JLS/P.S.(Daily Div.) 1st Trimester ends
22nd Sat JLS/P.S.(Sat. Div.) 1st Trimester ends
24th~Jan. 4th **Winter Break**
(Saturday Div. 12/29, 1/5)

TOKYO CENTRAL RECEIPT FUND-RAISING

Thank you very much for giving us Tokyo Central (TC) receipts for the fund-raising. After collecting receipts, we sum up the amount and bring them to the TC office. They then send back a check (2% of the total amount before tax) to this school. We really appreciate everyone for bringing receipts to the school.



When you bring receipts to the office, please pay attention to the following things:

1) We are asked to bring receipts monthly.

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

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

3) Receipts they don't accept:

- 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.)

Your continued support and cooperation will be greatly appreciated.

※ Ms. Linda Shimizu, a GBC member organizes and calculates Marukai receipts. Thank you very much, Linda-san!

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 Ms. Linda Shimizu, a GBC member organizes and calculates Marukai receipts. Thank you very much.



AP Test

Last May, Sarah Nelson and Daichi Ito in the high school class, passed the AP Test with the high score of "5". **Congratulations, Sarah & Daichi!** They made a great effort studying Japanese here for many years. 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 9
- Curry & Cookie Sale
Saturday, November 10
\$5 / ticket

Tickets are
available
NOW!

We NEED
your heeeelp!

