

# SCHOOL-PTC NEWSLETTER



JLS Article: Madoka Hull, Principal  
Translation: Madoka Hull,  
Layout, Word Process, Eri Nelson

## NEWSLETTER FALL-2020

### PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Welcome to new students and welcome back to all returning students. It's been over seven months since the school closed in March due to the pandemic. I hope JLS families are doing well.



We are very happy that we could start the new school year! We have completed the first month. The School Board decided to switch the regular classes to on-line classes, so our teachers have spent many hours and much effort to learn the new educational tool, Zoom, as well as adapting lessons to the new format, during the months of July and August. We have had many teachers' meetings and study groups among teachers to exchange new ideas and information for conducting on-line classes.

Learning the Zoom functions is one thing, but engaging with students in a virtual space, and keeping them interested, without human contact in real classroom setting, is another story. Teachers had to come up with effective ways of giving out class work, homework assignments, sharing textbooks, workbooks, various notebooks of hiragana, katakana and

kanji. They learned to incorporate other apps such as Google meet and G-Suite. They had to take in and digest a tremendous amount of information. Coming up with and adjusting their lesson plans are other challenges. I would like to salute to them for their incredible dedication! There are still a lot of unanswered questions, and they will find answers as they go along. However, the six teachers have made the effort and successfully started classes.

Please be understanding and patient with our teachers when they stumble or have difficulties. We welcome good ideas, help and tricks about Zoom, other applications and on-line classes in general. Especially the ideas from those parents who are teachers and knowledgeable about Zoom and Google. We also welcome help from anyone who is tech savvy. All help is very much appreciated. Some teachers know more about tech than other teachers. But, one thing I am certain about. All teachers are experienced, capable and enthusiastic about teaching.

It is regretful to announce that Mrs. Hiraizumi, Mrs. Magome and the lead teacher, Mrs. Sato, are taking a leave of absence for a while because of the switch. They are very experienced and excellent teachers with a lot of passion for Japanese education. Their absence is a big loss for the school. I hope this pandemic will be contained quickly, so that those teachers will come back soon. Some teachers are covering their classes, now.

We would like to express our special appreciation to Mr. Ross Nishimura, GBC board member, for creating students' email addresses connected to the school. He worked very hard,

and gave us so much help. We could not have executed this big project without his help. Thank you, Ross! We received a lot of support from the School Board members. Ms. Nelson, our office staff, did a fantastic job communicating with our parents during the school closure, and preparing for the new school year. We are grateful to all the parents for their strong will to have their children keep learning the language.

I hope for the new school year being successful, and students, parents, teachers and school together will overcome this tough time.

Madoka I. Hull Principal

### ◆ ANNOUNCEMENT ◆

I would like to announce that I am retiring from the Principal position as of September 30th. Since 1997, I started working as an office manager for both the church and JLS/Pre-school offices. I became the Principal in 2006. The Gardena Buddhist Church is not only a temple, but also a community center for Japanese and Japanese-Americans. In such organization, I worked with so many great volunteer people. Some of them are now deceased. I experienced a true selfless volunteer spirit from them. I also learned the Japanese American history and their suffering in the land of America for the first time. I got to work with many fantastic church reverends, got to know so many nice GBC members, the people of the church affiliated organizations, teachers of JLS and Nakayoshi Preschool, many parents and students. I have so many fond memories to take with me. Thank you to everyone! I wish the Church and the School continued prosperity and success!



## PTC NEWS

Welcome back to the new school year of 2020 – 2021 at Gardena Buddhist Church Japanese Language School and Nakayoshi Preschool. It is unique to this year that all JLS classes are conducted online. All of our JLS teachers have spent many days during this summer preparing for teaching classes online. Teachers at Nakayoshi Preschool also prepared for this new school year by creating safe environment for children to return. While we are in this new environment, I hope all students are excited to start the new school year of learning Japanese from our experienced teachers.



PTC is here to provide our students with fun learning experiences and to expose them to the Japanese culture. We generally hold fundraisers and events for the JLS and Nakayoshi Preschool students during the school year. Because of COVID-19 pandemic, unfortunately we do not have any plan to hold fundraisers or events during this school year at this time. We will not collect PTC money from school families either. We would ask your understanding and support to our decision.

I want to take an opportunity to thank all of our class reps and volunteers who supported our events during last school year. Our events such as Curry Sale and Mochitsuki were very successful because of your dedication and hard work. We miss all of you and look forward to seeing you when the school reopens.

Lastly, Principal Mrs. Hull is retiring. She worked many years for JLS and Nakayoshi Preschool with her dedication and great leadership. She was always generous supporter to PTC's activities. I would like to represent school families and express our sincere appreciation to Hull Sensei. Thank you for everything you have done for this school and we wish you all the best in your next phase of your life!



Noriko Morimoto,  
PTC President



## APPRECIATION

During the school closure, it would be very helpful if you send the receipts with the tuition every month.

Thank you for your cooperation.



### 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, Linda Shimizu, Christine Miwa, Cathy Uyemura, Ross Nishimura & Elaine Nishimura.

## 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.)

During the school closure, it would be very helpful if you send the receipts with the tuition every month. Your continued support and cooperation will be greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your cooperation.

- ✳ Ms. Linda Shimizu, a GBC member organizes and calculates Tokyo Central receipts.  
Thank you very much, Linda-san!





## AWARD RECIPIENTS OF GRADUATE CLASS OF 2020

### Graduates:



Daily Div. 6th Grade: **Momoko Honey Katsuta**  
**Kiara Hinami Yoshida**

Sat. Div. 6th Grade: **Hanna Asai**  
**Kaela Nanako Hashimoto**  
**Yaya Eika Ichiyanagi**  
**Aya Nagaya Olszewski**  
**Anthony Rikimaru Takahashi**  
**Takashi Alexander Zaw**

Sat. Div. 8th Grade: **Atom Rikiya Hashimoto**

Sat. Div. 10th Grade: **Alata Hugo Haneda**  
**Mio Grace Kurokawa**  
**Malindy Flores Pitre**  
**Waka Margaret Takamoto**

Sat. Div. 11th Grade: **Stephanie Miyo Ajifu**  
**Camille Kiyono Fujimoto**  
**Leon Daichi Ito**  
**Alexis Ray Kimura**

### Scholastic Achievement Award:

These scholastic achievement awards are granted to students who are completing the elementary and middle school divisions. The students made an extraordinary effort to acquire skill in the Japanese language and improved their knowledge very much for the school year:



- \* **Scholastic Achievement Award**  
Momoko Honey Katsuta (Daily Div. 6th Grade)  
Kiara Hinami Yoshida (Daily Div. 6th Grade)  
Anthony Rikimaru Takahashi (Sat. Div. 6th Grade)  
Atom Rikiya Hashimoto (Sat. Div. 8th Grade)

### Scholarship Awards:

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:

- \* **PTC Award**  
Alata Hugo Haneda (Sat. Div. 10th Grade)  
Malindy Flores Pitre (Sat. Div. 10th Grade)
- \* **Nikkei Credit Union Award**  
Mio Grace Kurokawa (Sat. Div. 10th Grade)
- \* **Union Bank Award**  
Waka Margaret Takamoto (Sat. Div. 10th Grade)

- \* **Hiroshi Miyazono Award**  
Stephanie Miyo Ajifu (Sat. Div. 11th Grade)  
Camille Kiyono Fujimoto (Sat. Div. 11th Grade)
- \* **Kiyoshi Ota Award**  
Leon Daichi Ito (Sat. Div. 11th Grade)  
Alexis Ray Kimura (Sat. Div. 11th Grade)

## SERVICE AWARD OF TEACHERS

- \* **10 years**  
Ms. Tomoko Nakagawa (Preschool Div.)  
Ms. Harumi Uehara (JLS Div.)  
Ms. Eri Nelson (Office)

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

*Congratulations to all the award recipients!*

## AP-ADVANCED PLACEMENT TEST

Last May, Vivien Aira Nouchi and Toranosuke Matsuda in the high school class, passed the AP Test with the highest score of "5", and also Malina Misora Au passed score of "4". They made a great effort studying Japanese here for many years. We are all proud of their accomplishments.

*Congratulations,  
Vivian, Toranosuke and Malina!*

### ▲ 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.

## School Calendar

October Class 3, 10, 17, 24, 31  
November Class 7, 14, 21  
December Class 5, 12, 19

November 28 Thanksgiving  
School Closed  
December 19 1st trimester Ends  
26 Winter Break  
School Closed