

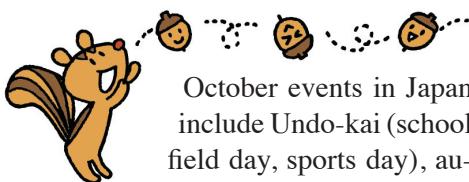
SCHOOL-PTC NEWSLETTER



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NEWSLETTER FALL - 2014

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



October events in Japan include Undo-kai (school field day, sports day), autumn festivals, grape picking, chestnut picking, and excursions for viewing autumn maple leaves.

We find in October cirrocumulus cloud, the seven autumn flowers, moon-waiting parties, rainy weather, the wild geese from the north, mountains covered in autumn colors, and autumn wind called "ironaki kaze" (wind without color.) October is supposed to be cool and a bit melancholy, but this hot weather is lingering here.

The first semester is going well at JLS. Our students are learning well with their new teachers, new class schedules, new extracurricular, activities and their daily routines. The beginning of school year is stressful, especially for lower grade students. Extra parent's support is helpful at this time of year. Even for middle and high school students, parents are their best allies. Please, observe your children carefully, and give them warm supportive words as often as possible. It is difficult to convey our loving thoughts unless we express

them through words, even to our family members. I wish all children to be in a home where children can release their stress and anxiety safely to their parents, and where parents and siblings can share happy times together, filled with laughter. I hear people say, "Going places is great, but going home is also nice." I wish every child to have wonderful home with a supportive environment.

Here at JLS, there are many changes of class teachers. When a teacher is assigned a new grade, s/he has to come up with an entirely new syllabus, create new lesson plans, and set up new short and long-term goals for students. Therefore, taking a new grade requires a lot of time, thought, planning and energy on the teacher's part. Especially for the upper grades, it is tougher since multiple grades are combined in one class due to the number of students. The teachers cannot use the same materials every year. The upper grade students need to be provided with higher-level content. The class has to be intellectually challenging and stimulating, and should be connected with various subjects that are taught at regular schools, as well. So, the teacher has to spend much more time on preparation. We do not use "kokugo no kyokasho", the Japanese textbooks that are created by Japanese Ministry of Education for Japanese natives. We don't teach Japanese as a native language here. However, I feel proud of the high level Japanese education that we can offer. We owe all of our teachers who make such tremendous effort, and contribute their expertise. This year, AP test preparation is included in the high school class curriculum.

Some teachers use hot

news and current events taken online as a part of their lessons. Those are a few examples of what they are doing this year.

For lower and middle grades, the teachers have to hustle not only teaching but also disciplining some students. Excessive talking, disruptive behavior, walking around, and not being able to concentrate are some of the challenges for teachers as well as for classmates. So, please talk with your children to be considerate and respectful to the teacher and their classmates. Let us take pride in Japanese education. This year again, we ask parent's full and sincere support of the school.

— Madoka I. Hull, Principal

APPRECIATION

1) JLS received the following donation from Dr. T. Maeda:

- set of manga books "Tetsuwan Atom (Astro Boy)",
- set of Japanese history books (with manga illustration). 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: Wallace Yuki, John Nakamura, Ken Nishida, Joe Nishihira, Hiro Kawai, Daniel Iwamoto & James Yokota



AWARD RECIPIENTS OF GRADUATE CLASS OF 2014

■ Scholarship Award from Banking Institution:

Graduates who had outstanding records in academics, citizenship and attendance and completed either the High School Division or High School Advanced courses:

★ Union Bank Award

Karen Ishii (Sat. Div. 10th Grade)

■ Superior Scholastic Achievement Awards:

Graduates who had outstanding records in academics, citizenship and attendance and will be attending universities, or technical schools:

★ Gardena Buddhist Church Award

Koichi Kurokawa (Sat. Div. 11th Grade)

■ Scholastic Effort Awards:

Graduates of 6th and 8th grade who had good records in citizenship and attendance and made a great progress academically:

★ Takeru Orre (Daily Div. 6th Grade)

★ Megumi Kurokawa (Sat. Div. 6th Grade)

★ Yuuki Inoue (Sat. Div. 8th Grade)

SERVICE AWARD OF TEACHERS 2014

★ 5 years Ms. Yumiko Ichikawa

★ 5 years Ms. Chiharu Mizoguchi

★ 5 years Ms. Atsuko Okada

We would like to express our sincere appreciation to the Union Bank for providing our students with scholarships and their support on our various events for last many years.

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** to be 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.



REQUEST

When you pick up your children, please come to the designated area to meet your children, especially, lower grade students. Teachers cannot bring your children to your cars. The parking lot is dangerous for small children to look for their parents alone. We appreciate your cooperation.

THANK YOU

We received donations from the parents of graduates the past June. The list is on the page 3 of the Japanese section.



MARUKAI RECEIPT FUND-RAISING

Thank you very much to all the JLS parents and GBC members who have given us Marukai receipts.

This fund-raising is an on-going project.

Thank you to everyone. Periodically, we receive a substantial amount of kick-back from Marukai. We will put this money for a good use for the language division and preschool division. We look forward to your continued support. Thank you so very much to Marukai.

AUTUMN SALE

PTC FUND-RAISING

■ Daily Cookie Sale

Friday, November 14

■ Curry & Cookie Sale

Saturday, November 15

\$5 / ticket

Tickets are available
NOW!

We NEED your help!



PTC NEWS



Welcome back to school everyone and Happy Fall!!! (Although the fall season does not seem to be cooperating very much with the relatively warm weather that has continued into October ...)

All of our students should have settled into their classes and I hope that everyone has transitioned well into the new fall semester.

The PTC had our first meeting of class representatives – all of whom are ready to assist in providing our well-known events for the students – the first of which is the PTC Sawakai for the class reps on October 25; and the Chicken Curry and Cookie sale on November 15. Notices about these events have been distributed, so please be sure to review them and sign up where you can!! The chicken curry sale is a major undertaking and is not possible without parental support. Your cooperation and assistance is very much appreciated.

For anyone who signed up to be a class representative, but did not receive any notice from the PTC, please be sure to contact the office so that we can get your information. There are still a couple of classes that are without a parent representative, and I am hoping that we can resolve this so that all classes are properly represented. Please consider volunteering on behalf of your child. We all look forward to working with everyone this academic year. . .

————— Nancy Hamasaki, PTC President

Next PTC Meeting:

- Saturday, Nov. 1st at 8:45 am in the Cooling Room.
- Saturday, Dec. 6th at 8:45 am in the Cooling Room.



SCHOOL CALENDAR



November

- 10th Mon Veteran's Day--JLS-No School
- 11th Tue Veteran's Day-JLS/P.S.-**No School**
- 14th Fri PTC Autumn Sale (Cookies)
- 15th Sat PTC Autumn Sale (Curry & Cookies)
- 27th~29th (Thu ~Sat) Thanksgiving Holidays--**School Closed**

★ Nov. 10th...regular session for Preschool

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 time.



December

- 19th Fri JLS/P.S.(Daily Div.) 1st Trimester ends
PTC Mochitsuki
- 20th Sat JLS/P.S. (Sat. Div.) 1st Trimester ends
PTC Mochitsuki
- 22nd~Jan. 3rd (Mon~Sat) **Winter Break**

★ P.S. --- Preschool

JLS ---- Japanese Language School