

SCHOOL-PTC NEWSLETTER



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NEWSLETTER FALL-2015

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

"Run" by Yoshio Toui

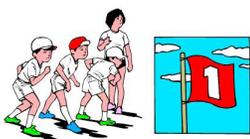
Japanese Poem translated into English

I think that children ready to run at a starting line look so beautiful and nice. They look beautiful like rose buds with sparkling dewdrops.

They don't have any sign of arrogance of crowing over his rivals.

They don't have disappointment or servility of failure.

Humbleness, a bit of anxiety, fresh and youthful hope, and strength to face challenges in the future all come together and burning in each runner.



I think that the children at the starting line are so nice.

They are beautiful.

Running children

Their energy is blazing strongly.

Depend on each runner's physical ability, there comes the 1st, 2nd, 3rd,,,, 6th runner.

Yet, the order is not determined by how each child burns their energy.

The 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th runners are all blazing balls of fire.

Fire is beautiful after all.

Oh, I see the last boy runner grins.

He grins at the 10 meters before the goal line.

He is resisting every spectator's eyes looking at him.

He is resisting and telling them "I don't care."

But, he is expressing his deep sadness.

The sadness that can be emphasized only by the ones who have experienced what it is like to be the last runner.

We must not judge the boy as if he is lazy or not trying hard.

It has been a month since children lined up at the starting line of the new school. Children who have no problem learning and children who are struggling all need to keep in step and learn together for a year. Life is a marathon not a short race. Each runner needs to keep their own speed and keep on running. In order for our children to attain their short and long-term goals, not only do they need to do their part but also need surrounding adults' support from parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles and teachers. Since the time to study Japanese is very limited, it is crucial for parents to help their children to prepare for and review class lessons, and complete homework.

Whether a child learns Japanese well does not indicate his/her intelligence. (Of course some children are very talented with languages.) Their home or parents' spoken language is one of the big factors. However, we often see children suffer from inferiority complex when they are not learning well. Some children even end up disliking it. So, please express your appreciation to your children for their effort and help them keep up with the class as often as possible. They need a lot of help and encouragement.

I often heard my mother saying "Confidence helps people work well." People, who have strong confidence in themselves, can be understanding of other's pain, can be thoughtful and not self-centered. Confident people can face challenges well. They get along with friends and colleagues. When they run into a problem, they reflect upon themselves rather than blame on others and try to solve the problems. There is a word in English: "insecure." We hear people say, "He is very insecure." Insecure people tend to criticize others quickly and try to justify themselves, so they can feel at ease. I think that the home environment, the way parents deal with children, and the way parents talk to them all affect children. So, among adults, many insecure people exist in this world. The feeling of parents' disapproval often affects people badly for rest of their lives. Even some people with a high level of education, or who work for top-notch companies, or who are in a fine status in the society are insecure.

For that reason, let's shower our children with a lot of love. Praise them when they do well and scold them when they misbehave. Let's give them much encouragement even when they are not doing well at school. Let's not compare your child with other siblings or friends, but appreciate and approve of who they are. Let's help them become very secure confident adults. Studying Japanese is difficult for many children. So, it is OK to learn it at their pace.

Let us work together so everyone can enjoy studying Japanese with a bright smile, whether being number one in the class or the last one.

—— Madoka I. Hull, Principal

About the author of the poem, Yoshio Toui (1912 - 1999)

Yoshio Toui is a Japanese educator and Buddhist priest. He was born in the family of Toko Buddhist Temple, Jodo Shinshu sect in Toyooka, Hyogo prefecture. After graduating from Ehime University, he became an elementary school teacher and practiced "Education to build a village." Published numerous educational books. He received the Johann Heinrich Pestalozzi Award, Heiwa-Bunka (Peace-Culture) Award, Tadayoshi Sasaoka Award, and Distinguished Service Award of Ministry of Education (Currently - Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science & Technology)

References:

<http://www.surugaya.com/sensuji/etc/poem/#jk11>

Takemori sensei no "Suteki na shi yo yomitai"

<https://ja.wikipedia.org/wiki/東井義雄>

<http://www.tanshin.co.jp/zaidan/1hito/29tooi/index1.html>

APPRECIATION

1) JLS received monetary donations from Rev. & Mrs. Nobuo Miyaji, the GBC head minister and Dr. & Mrs. Tamotsu Ikeda, GBC board member for a celebration of graduation back in June, 2015. Thank you very much.

2) Currently, a big project is taking place at the preschool back yard. The grassy area was removed. The area will be replaced with a rubber ground cover. The JLS school board chairperson, Dr. & Mrs. David Nakatani donated a large sum of money toward the project. Thank you very much.

3) 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:

Wallace Yuki, John Nakamura, Ken Nishida, Joe Nishihira, Hiro Kawai, Daniel Iwamoto, James Yokota Tom Sasaki, Tom Fukukman, & Charlene Hirotsu

AWARD RECIPIENTS OF GRADUATE CLASS OF 2015

■ *Scholarship Award from Banking Institution:*

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:

- ☆ JACOM (Japanese American Community Credit Union) Award
Akina Jaimee Hamasaki (Sat. Div. 10th Grade)
- ☆ CA Bank & Trust Award
Mayumi Lauren Irie (Sat. Div. 10th Grade)
- ☆ Nikkei Credit Union Award
Nina E. Levinson (Sat. Div. 9th Grade)
- ☆ Union Bank Award
Shia Nioka (Sat. Div. 11th Grade)

(Nina and Shia are going to universities.)

■ *Gardena Buddhist Church Award, for superior Scholastic Achievement:*

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

- ☆ Gardena Buddhist Church Award
Karen Leina Ishii (Sat. Div. 11th Grade)



■ *Scholastic Effort Awards:*

Graduates of Elementary (6th) and Middle School (8th) divisions who had good records in citizenship made a great progress academically:

- ☆ Miyo Stephanie Ajifu (Sat. Div. 6th Grade)
- ☆ Raichi Ray Haneda (Sat. Div. 8th Grade)

SERVICE AWARD OF TEACHERS 2015

- ☆ *5 years* Ms. Harumi Uehara
- ☆ *5 years* Ms. Yuki Layton
- ☆ *5 years* Ms. Tomoko Nakagawa
- ☆ *5 years* Ms. Eri Nelson
- ☆ *10 years* Mr. Tomonobu Aratani

We would like to express our sincere appreciation to the Banks and Gardena Buddhist Church 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!

PTC NEWS



Welcome back to the new school year of 2015-2016 and Happy Fall!!! 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 will again be coordinating our usual events this year: Fall chicken curry sale, mochitsuki, Spring chicken teriyaki sale, and year-end parties/activities for the both the Daily and Saturday division students. Our two major fundraisers require a lot of manpower and parental support, so we hope that you will come out and support these events for our kids

Please be sure to complete and return the green PTC information forms so that the room representatives have your contact information for the class.

For all class room representatives, the PTC had its first meeting on Saturday, October 3rd The first order of business was to plan for the Sawakai on October 24th, so please make every effort to attend.

I look forward to working with you all this year . . .

———— Nancy Hamasaki, PTC President

Next PTC Meeting:

- Saturday, Nov. 7th at 8:45 am in the Cooling Room.
- Saturday, Dec. 5th at 8:45 am in the Cooling Room.

THANK YOU

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



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.



SCHOOL CALENDAR



November

- 11th Wed Veteran's Day-JLS/P.S.-**No School**
- 20th Fi PTC Autumn Sale (Cookies)
- 21th Sat PTC Autumn Sale (Curry & Cookies)
- 26th~28th (Thu ~Sat)
Thanksgiving Holidays--**School Closed**

December

- 18th Fri JLS/P.S.(Daily Div.) 1st Trimester ends
PTC Mochitsuki
- 19th Sat JLS/P.S. (Sat. Div.) 1st Trimester ends
PTC Mochitsuki
- 21st~Jan. 2nd (Mon~Sat)
Winter Break

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



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.

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 pre-school division. We look forward to your continued support. Thank you so very much to Marukai.



AUTUM SALE

PTC FUND-RAISING

- **Daily Cookie Sale**
Friday, November 20
- **Curry & Cookie Sale**
Saturday, November 21
\$5 / ticket

Tickets are
available
NOW!

We **NEED**
your heeeelp!



THE ORIGIN OF HALLOWEEN:

Halloween Trivia Questions & Answers + FUN Facts
<http://icebreakerideas.com/halloween-trivia/>



The origin of Halloween can be traced back to the Celts, a tribe that resided in Ireland and Northern France. The Celts' lives were dependent upon farming and thus, they worshipped nature. The Celts were superstitious. They believed that the winter season brought death. The last day of October marked the end of summer because November was the beginning of winter. The Celts celebrated the last day of October and believed the dead would visit them, so they left food and drink outside their homes for the spirits of the dead. Halloween is thought to have originated around 4000 B.C., which means Halloween has been around for over 6,000 years!

THE ORIGIN OF THE WORD "WITCH"

The word "witch" comes from the Old English wicce, meaning "wise woman." The plural for wicce is wiccan. Wiccan were highly respected people at one time. According to popular belief, witches held one of their two main meetings, or sabbats, on Halloween night.

OWLS AND HALLOWEEN

Owls are associated with Halloween because, in Medieval Europe, owls were thought to be witches. To hear an owl's call meant someone was about to die.

JACK O' LANTERNS

Jack O' Lanterns are pumpkins with a lighted candle inside. According to Irish legend, Jack O' Lanterns are named after a stingy man named Jack who, because he tricked the devil several times, was forbidden entrance into both heaven and hell. Therefore, he was condemned to wander the Earth, waving his lantern to lead people away from their paths.

THE HISTORY OF CANDY CORN

Candy Corn was invented by George Renninger, a candy maker at the Wunderle Candy Company of Philadelphia in the 1880s. Candy Corn was originally called "butter cream candies" and "chicken feed" because corn was commonly used as food for livestock. They even had a rooster on the candy boxes. Candy Corn had no association with Halloween or fall, and was sold seasonally from March to November. After World War II, advertisers began marketing it as a special Halloween treat due to its colors that match those of the fall harvest.

THE HISTORY OF TRICK-OR-TREATING

Trick-or-treating has been around for a long time, with versions existing since medieval times. Originally, it was called "guising" and children and poor adults wore costumes and begged for food or money in exchange for songs or prayers during Hallowmas. This practice was also called "souling."

