



# SCHOOL-PTC NEWSLETTER

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## Principal's Message

### *Happy New Year!*

I hope everyone had an enjoyable holiday.

Normally, we are so busy with work, school, sports and other activities that we do not have much time for talking to one another. Will you please consider spending a little extra time to have a family "conference" at mealtime.

For young children, it is great practice for speaking, collecting their thoughts and expressing their opinions or ideas in a relaxed atmosphere. It will improve their conversational skills. Children will learn to listen to other family members when they are talking, and they will learn to wait for their turn to talk. Therefore it improves their "listening skills." In a child development class, teachers learn how to improve young children's listening and speaking skills, and they learn to create a curriculum for it. Teachers need to encourage children to talk and to be a good listener. If family members talk about many different issues, children will naturally learn to see various

things in many different angles. When children are talking, we should try not to interfere with them. Teenagers, especially, often stop expressing their feelings and thoughts. It is crucial for adults to listen to them carefully and keep a communication flowing. If we lecture our teenage children every time we see them, they will close themselves more and more.

We can talk about stupid mistakes we made, happy incidents, comic heroes, recent movies,



American and Japanese politics or economy, President Obama's Nobel prize, current situations in Iraq, Afghanistan or South America, who is the best and the worst president and why or their policies, and etcetera and etcetera. If family members make a point to set a time aside to have a good discussion, we may be able to solve problems that each member has, before they become too big to handle. We are surrounded by too many bad news, such as the bad economy, high unemployment rate, and unprec-

edented tuition increases. Yet, if family has a strong bond, children will be mentally stable and happy in the warm home environment.

I wish everyone a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.

———— Madoka I. Hull, Principal



The Constitution of the United States mandates that a count of the population be conducted every ten years. Our next Census is scheduled for April 1, 2010. Everyone who lives in the United States needs to participate in the Census. Be counted in the 2010 Census. The future is in our hands!

## *Haiti Earthquake*

Let us give our thoughts and prayers to the people at Haiti at this time of tragedy and suffering toward their recovery and better future.



**PTC News**

Happy New Year greetings to you as we usher in the “**Year of the Tiger**”!!!! I hope that you all enjoyed the year-end holidays and celebrated the new year with friends and family.



At the close of the school year, all the students (including Pre-school, Daily and Saturday divisions) enjoyed our annual mochitsuki on December 18 and 19. All 200 lbs. of mochigome was generously donated by Atsuko Kanai of Mutual Trading, Inc. and the children had a great time “making” mochi and eating plenty of it too! Many thanks to all the parents who came out to help . . . as it is a lot of work, but we all have lots of fun each year. We also would like to thank Mr. Alan Kita, the GBC board chairman and Mr. John Murakami, GBC advisor for making rice. Traditional mochitsuki is rarely done now and we are very fortunate to have dedicated



parents who are willing to come out and help each year so that our students can experience this wonderful Japanese cultural tradition.

Our next fund raising event, the chicken teriyaki sale, will be held March 13th this year. We are transitioning slowly and continue to strive to improve the quality of the service that we provide to our supporters.

Your assistance in accomplishing this goal is very much appreciated and please let us know if you have any suggestions.

Please accept my best wishes for a happy, healthy, and prosperous 2010.

———— Nancy Hamasaki, President

**Reminder:**

Next PTC meeting will be held on Saturday, February 6, 2010 at 8:45 am in the Hondo Meeting Room.

**Class Observations & Parents-Teacher Conferences**

Class observations will be held on the dates below. This is a wonderful chance to see how your children learn Japanese and to get to know the teachers. Parents-Teacher conferences will follow right after the observations, so please feel free to discuss questions, requests or concerns about your children or the class. We look forward to seeing many parents. Please see the notice for more detailed information regarding the event.



- JLS (Daily Div.): Thursday, January 28
- JLS (Sat. Div.): Saturday, January 30

**SCHOOL CALENDAR**

**February**

3rd	Wed	P.S. (Daily Div.) Mamemaki Bean Throwing	
6th	Sat	P.S. (Sat. Div.) Class Observation Mamemaki Bean Throwing	
8th	Mon	Lincoln’s Birthday--- <b>No School</b> (preschool - Regular Schedule)	
15th	Mon	President’s day--- <b>No School</b>	
27th	Sat	CAJLS Assoc. Annual Meeting & Seminars-- <b>No School</b>	

**March**

3rd	Wed	P.S. (Daily Div.) Hinamatsuri Celebration	
6th	Sat	P.S. (Daily Div.) Hinamatsuri Celebration	
12th	Fri	PTC Spring Sale (Cookies)	
13th	Sat	PTC Spring Sale (Chicken Teriyaki)	
27th	Sat	JLS Speech Contest 1:00pm	
28th	Sun	P.S. Undokai (Sports Event)	
29th	Man	Make up day-off for Undokai	

★ P.S. --- Preschool  
JLS ---- Japanese Language School

## Notes from



## Nakayoshi Preschool

## Director's Message

## Happy New Year!

With our children's loud greetings of "Happy New Year!" and bright smiles, the second quarter has begun. The hallway walls create a very nice atmosphere with the New Year's theme decorations created by our teachers. All teachers are refreshed and ready to get back to work after the winter break. Many fun events such as birthday parties, Mamemaki (bean throwing) and class observations are on the way. We count on parents' continued help and support along with our teachers' hard work for this year.



## Thank you:

- We thank the fathers who became Santa Claus, and the fathers played musical instruments for the Christmas event.
- We appreciate the parents who helped Mochitsuki. Thank you.
- Thank you very much to the parents who gave us donation of Oseibo.

———— Yoshiko Morohoshi, Director



## Camellia, how beautiful it is.

Camellia has been very much loved by Japanese people. It is mentioned in "Izumo Fudoki", a document written in Nara era (710-784 AD). The way the flowers of camellia fall is an entire flower falls on the ground at once instead of each petal falls one by one. The way the camellia falls is called "Ochitsubaki", and it signifies a spring season for creating Haiku. During a winter walk with your children, let's find beautiful camellias.

February 3rd ...  
Mamemaki

In Japan, Setsubun (節分) is the day before the beginning of each season. The name literally means "seasonal division", but usually the term refers to the spring Setsubun, properly called Risshun (立春), celebrated yearly on February 3 as part of the Spring Festival (春祭 haru matsuri?). In its association with the Lunar New Year, Spring Setsubun can be and was previously thought of as a sort of New Year's Eve, and so was accompanied by a special ritual to cleanse away all the evil of the former year and drive away disease-bringing evil spirits for the year to come. This special ritual is called mamemaki (豆撒き, lit. bean scattering).

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Setsubun>

Mamemaki is done at our school as a part of birthday event. Children throw beans at teachers who are pretending to be bad Oni (demon or ogre). Parents are welcome to join in this ritual of pushing out misfortune and bad health and bringing in good luck.


 News from Piano Class

A piano audition was held on Sunday, November 15, 2009 at Cal State University, Dominguez Hills. The California Association of Professional Music Teachers sponsors the audition. The Association divides California into 9 blocks, and each block has it's own activities. The L.A. area belongs to district 3. A few of our students participated in this audition, and Megumi Williams passed the audition. Out of forty participants, only thirteen students passed the audition, and Megumi was one of the thirteen. She will be able to perform in a concert held by the Association in February. Megumi had been practicing so hard for this event that brought her a great result. Megumi makes me realize that making effort for one's goal is very important. We are so happy for you, Megumi!



———— Kazuko Yasukawa,  
Piano Instructor



## Oseibo Donor List

*Thank you very much for your generosity!*

Ajifu, Masanobu	\$10	Kikuchi, Helen	\$10	Pemberton, David	\$30
Ando, Yoshinobu	\$20	Kimura, Brandon	\$25	Puglia, Frederick	\$25
Aratani, Tomonobu	\$20	Kobayashi, Seiji	\$15	Rodriguez, Earl	\$10
Ashikawa, James	\$20	Kohrogi, Acey	\$20	Saiki, Manami	\$20
Atagi, Keith	\$20	Kurokawa, Johnny	\$25	Saito, Ryosuke	\$20
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Burke, Christopher	\$20	Leah-Sugino, Chris	\$20	Sato-Hagedorn, Marc	\$20
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Fukumoto, Mark	\$20	Matsumoto, Norman	\$20	Takahashi, Tetsunami	\$25
Fukunaga-Yagyu, Mayumi	\$10	Mimaki, Alan	\$20	Takeda, Ichiro	\$20
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Hamasaki, Dwight	\$30	Miyamoto, Seiji	\$20	Tanaka, Christopher	\$50
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Higa, Shane	\$20	Morimoto, Kerry	\$10	Ucimiya, Ryo	\$10
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Hirai, Thomas	\$100	Nagata, Mikito	\$50	Wada, David	\$20
Hirose, Eiji	\$10	Nakajima, Tsukie	\$10	Washiya, Nicholas	\$70
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Igawa, Yuji	\$25	Namiki, Toshiyuki	\$30	Williams, Anthony	\$10
Irie, Andy	\$40	Natori, Yuichi	\$10	Yanagi, Gene	\$10
Ishikawa, Junko	\$10	Nelson, John	\$20	Zaw, Steven	\$50
Ivie, Phillip	\$30	Ngo, Ken	\$40		
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Jones, Greg	\$20	Noguchi, Steve	\$50		
Kane, Rick	\$25	Nouchi, Wayne	\$20		
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Kawano, Seiji	\$30	Orre, Erik	\$15		
Keating, Kacey	\$20	Osako, Eugene	\$20		
Kikuchi-Vazquez, Yoshimitsu		Oyakawa, Denis	\$25		
	\$10	Partain, Geoffrey	\$10		



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

敬称略に付きご了承下さい。