

SCHOOL-PTC NEWSLETTER



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Principal's Message

Introduction of Haiku, a Japanese poem by Akiko Yosano

*"Ware mo iu Shogatsu no Fuji
takaki kana mashioki kana
to kora ni majirite"*



"Fuji 36-kei Kaimusan urafuji"

Translation:

Like a child, I exclaimed in excitement how high and how beautiful is Mt. Fuji covered by snow on a New Year Day.

During the winter break, I go back to Japan every year and take a short trip by Shinkansen with my family. My sister always wants to take pictures of Mt. Fuji through the window of the bullet train. As the train approaches the Yamanashi and Shizuoka prefectures, the beautifully proportioned cone of the mountain appears. Mt. Fuji is loved by Japanese for its symmetrical beauty and its holiness. Throughout history, numerous poems and haiku about

the mountain have been created. It is also a very a popular subject for art and literature, as well as landscape photography.

The oldest painting of Mt. Fuji "Shotoku-taishi Ezuden" was created in 1069 BC. It was an offering to Horyuji Shrine. In the Edo era (1603-1867), Minsetsu Kawamura published a book titled "Mt. Fuji" and introduced a series of painting styles of Mt. Fuji. Hokusai Katsushika also published "Fugoku (Mt. Fuji) 36 views". They were woodblock prints called Ukiyoe. Hokusai published the book of places of scenic beauty in Japan.

Mt. Fuji rises to 12,388 feet (3,776 meters) and is the highest mountain in Japan. It is a volcano. It straddles over the Yamanashi and Shizuoka prefectures and is located in the Fuji-Hakone-Izu National Park. The five lakes of Kawaguchiko, Yamanakako, Saiko, Motosuko and Shojiko surround the mountain.

Mt. Fuji is specified as "Meishoo" one of the most famous



"Gaifukaisei" by Hokusai

scenic sights in Japan. Mt. Fuji is sublime and graceful and is the holiest of Japan's "Three Holy Mountains." It is visible from Tokyo on a clear day. We enjoy seeing Mt. Fuji from the windows of condos or high raise buildings on a nice day.

January is gone, and February is already here. The major Japanese events for February are Risshun (first day of spring by the lunar calendar), Mt. Fuji Day (Feb. 23), National Foundation Day, Kinen-sai (ceremony for good bountiful harvest) at Ise Jingu Shrine and the snow festivals.

At end of January, class observations were held. We appreciate the many parents and guardians who participated in this event. Students behave better during the class observation, so it is actually easier for some teachers. However, parents had a good time observing the classes and meeting the class teachers.

We had good news to share. All the exterior doors of the JLS buildings #1 and #2 were replaced during the winter break. Building 1 was

(continue to back page)

built in the 1950's, and building #2 was built in about 1974. They are getting old, and many parts of the buildings need repairs. The exterior doors are very important for security. For this expensive project, the church building maintenance crew worked very hard during the Christmas vacation. On rainy days, they had to apply many coats of primer and varnish, and spend a lot of their precious time to complete this project. We would like to express our heartfelt appreciation to them and the church. Thank you so very much. The doors look great!

Members of the church/JLS building maintenance crew were:

Wallace Yuki
John Nakamura
Joe Nishihira
Hiro Kawai
Ken Nishida
Daniel Iwamoto



JLS appreciates the continued help and support from everyone.

———— Madoka I. Hull,
Principal

***CAJLS Seminar-
Workshop 2011
Saturday, February 19th***

School - closed

The annual Seminar/Workshop will be held by the California Association of Japanese Language Schools on Saturday, February 19th. The topic of the seminar is “Differentiated Instruction

in Japanese Language Schools: Making the Best of Unlimited Diversity and Limited Resources”. The content of the seminar is “Japanese classes of Saturday schools consist of children with various backgrounds of languages, levels of Japanese and different cultures. Because of the diversity, children can learn from each other. However, one set of lessons for all can not be the most effective for anybody. “ Participating teachers will learn effective way of differentiated instructions. The keynote lecture will be done by Prof. Hiroko Kataoka of CSULB.

In the afternoon, the teachers will be divided into groups by grades and learn more about differentiated instructions, class activities for multi-ages and multi-levels, and limitations of differentiated instructions. Participants also will make actual lesson plans. Prof. Kataoka, Prof. Douglas, Prof. Chinen and Ms. Schricker will lead the groups.

Many schools have this problem of mixing classes of multi-ages and multi-levels. So it is a very practical topic and should be interesting for all teachers.

PTC News

Happy New Year!
Greetings to everyone as we usher in the “Year of the Rabbit.” I hope that you all enjoyed the holidays and



that 2011 is “hopping” off to a great start for you.

In December, the PTC sponsored our annual mochitsuki, which was enjoyed by all of the students, and parents too! We had quite a number of new parents who came out to volunteer for mochitsuki, and I trust that everyone had fun making and eating lots of “homemade” mochi! There is nothing better than eating freshly-made mochi – just sheer happiness!

Thank you to everyone who came to volunteer and help – the children enjoy seeing their parents helping out at school and the parents have a good time socializing as well.

As we start off the second half of the school year, we will be having our spring chicken teriyaki and cookie sale in March. We will need your continued support and manpower for our second fundraiser. So please look for upcoming notices about the spring sale.



Wishing you all a joyous 2011 filled with much health, happiness and prosperity. I look forward to continuing to work together with all of you on behalf of our children.

Best wishes,

———— Nancy Hamasaki

Reminder:

Next PTC meeting will be held on Saturday, February 5, 2011 at 8:45 am in the Hondo Room.

Notes from



Nakayoshi Preschool

Director's Message

*A Happy New Year!*

2011 is the year of rabbit based on the Chinese zodiac.

Once upon a time in China, many animals went on a race to see God for New Year's greeting. The twelve fastest animals in the race were assigned for each year. The rat came in first. He rode on the ox' back sneakily for the whole race without the ox knowing it. The rat jumped down from the ox right at the goal, so he came in first before the ox. He cheated. The rabbit hopped in after the tiger who dashed in the goal line. During cold winter, let us be healthy and energetic like a rabbit who jumps and hops.

Mas Fukai Park has been reserved for Undokai in March. It is such a hustle to reserve it every year for there are many other events taking place. I feel so relieved that we were able to reserve a park for our Undokai. We are now all set to go.

Daily class observations ended nicely, but the coffee maker did not work well on that day. We are sorry that the coffee turned out to be brown colored water. But the parents and children had a blast playing "Osushi, Sushi, Sushi" together in the Social Hall. We are happy to see everyone's big smile and laughter. Please enjoy playing with your children at home, too. No matter how hard teachers work for their students, ~~they can not take parents' place. Parents are the best~~ for their children. Thank you very much for supporting the event.



"Cheers for children's beautiful smile!"

————— Yoshiko Morohoshi, Director

the Chinese Zodiac (Chinese: 中国十二生肖; pinyin: zhōngguó shí èr shēngxiào), is a scheme that relates each year to an animal and its reputed attributes, according to a 12-year cycle. It has wide currency in several East Asian countries besides mainland China and Taiwan. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chinese_zodiac#Zodiac_origin_stories

Calendar:



- ◆ Feb 3 (Thu) ... Birthday Party
Mamemaki - Bean throwing
- ◆ Feb 5 (Sat)... Saturday Class Observation
- ◆ Feb 11 (Fri), Feb. 12 (Sat)... Earthquake Drill
- ◆ Feb 19 (Sat) ... **School Closed**
CA Assoc. JLS Seminar/Workshop
- ◆ Feb 21 (Mon) ... President Day **School Closed**

Announcement:

Kindergarten Cut Off Date - SB1381

Beginning with 2012-13 school year, the December 2nd cut off date will be changed as follow:

- 2012-13 ... Nov. 1
- 2013-14 ... Oct 1
- 2014-15 and thereafter ... Sep. 1

Students who would have been in kindergarten will be offered an optional Transitional Kindergarten class at one of the district elementary schools.

If your student will be a kinder next year, s/he will not be affected because the law does not take affect until Sept 2012.

The above message was provided by Sherry Hohn, Assistance to Dr. E. Don Kim, Sr. Director, Elementary Torrance Unified School District

For any other districts, we do not have any information.

If you have any further questions about this matter, please contact the local elementary school in your area.

Year of the Rabbit!



Year 2010 is the Year of the Rabbit. People who are/were born in 1915, 1927, 1939, 1951, 1963, 1975, 1987, 1999, 2011, 2023 are rabbit people.

Occupying the 4th position in the Chinese Zodiac, the Rabbit symbolizes such character traits as creativity, compassion, and sensitivity. Rabbits are friendly, outgoing and prefer the company of others. They also prefer to avoid conflict. In confrontational situations, Rabbits approach calmly and with consideration for the other party. Rabbits believe strongly in friends and family and lacking such bonds can lead to emotional issues.

Classy, sophisticated, expressive, well-mannered and stylish, those born under the Sign of the Rabbit enjoy leaning about cultural issues and learning about people from other countries. Rabbits are most comfortable being home, and their homes are always neat and organized. Home is also where Rabbits prefer to entertain. Rabbits are conservative in their decorating tastes.

Although generally calm, gentle and loving, Rabbit people can be very ambitious and intuitively know how to get ahead in the world.

<Famous Rabbit People>

Albert Einstein, Leon Trotsky, Frank Sinatra, Pope Benedict XVI, Angelina Jolie, Brad Pitt, Johnny Depp, David Beckham, Tiger Woods, Whitney Houston.

<http://www.chinesezodiac.com/rabbit.php>

Japanese Class for Adults & Teens

*Beginning conversation,
writing, listening, culture and
many more.*

Japanese class for adults and teens has started on February 5th. If you and your friends are interested in learning Japanese, please come and join.

Age Group: Adult, Middle/High school students

Instructor: Ms. Yu

Starting Date: February, 5th

Day of Week: Saturday

Time: 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM

Class Schedule: 2/5, 2/12, 2/26, 3/5, 3/12, 3/19, 4/2,
4/16, 4/23, 4/30, 5/14, 5/21, 5/28,
6/4, 6/11, 6/18

Monthly Tuition: \$45 (3 lessons/month)

Registration Fee: \$30

*Textbook and workbook
(separate fee)



PCT Fund Raise, Spring Sale 2011

Saturday, March 12

Daily Cookie Sale ... Friday, March 11

Chicken teriyaki tickets (\$5.00/pc) are now available at classrooms and JLS office.

Chicken teriyaki pick-up schedule:

Fri., Mar. 11 ... 11:00 - 11:30 AM and 4:30 - 6:00 PM

Sat., Mar. 12 ... 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM



SCHOOL CALENDAR



February

3rd Thu	P.S. (Daily Div.)	
	Mamemaki Bean Throwing	
5th Sat	P.S. (Sat. Div.) Class Observation	
	Mamemaki Bean Throwing	
14th Mon	Lincoln's Birthday--Only JLS no school	
19th Sat	CAJLS Assoc. Annual Meeting & Seminars-- No School	
21th Mon	President's day--- No School	

March

3rd Thu	P.S. (Daily Div.) Hinamatsuri Celebration
5th Sat	P.S. (Daily Div.) Hinamatsuri Celebration
11th Fri	PTC Spring Sale (Cookies)
12th Sat	PTC Spring Sale (Chicken Teriyaki)
26th Sat	JLS Student's Achievement Presentations 1:00pm
27th Sun	P.S. Undokai (Sports Event)
28th Mon	No P.S & JLS (due to Undokai & Gakushu Happyo-kai)



Oseibo Donor List

Thank you very much for your generosity!

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 Yoshihara, Bob
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 Zegler, Robert



☞ 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。