



GBC JAPANESE LANGUAGE SCHOOL/NAKAYOSHI YOCHIEN

January & February 2014

SCHOOL-PTC NEWSLETTER



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Principal's Message

The New Year came, and it is already February. Many parts of Japan and America have been struck by big snowstorms this winter. The Niagara Fall even froze due to extreme cold weather. We are lucky that we don't have to worry about removing snow off from roofs, streets or cars.

Here are some Japanese words that relate to the nature of winter; 細氷 (saihyo-diamond dust)、氷霧 (koorigiri-ice fog)、霜夜 (shimoyo-frosty night)、雪解け (yukidoke-thaw, melting snow)、余寒 (yokan-lingering cold of spring)、寒明の雨 (kan-ake no ame-rain at the close of the cold season)、春一番 (haru ichiban-the first strong south winds of the year signaling the beginning of spring)、三寒四温 (sankan shion-cycle of three cold days and four warm days)、東風 (higashi kaze, tofu, kochi – east wind, spring wind.)

One of the interesting words above is "saihyo-diamond dust." According to the Wikipedia, "Diamond dust is a ground-level cloud composed of tiny ice crystals. This meteorological phenomenon is also referred to simply as ice crystals and is reported in the METAR code as IC. Diamond dust generally forms under otherwise clear or

nearly clear skies, so it is sometimes referred to as clear-sky precipitation. It is most commonly observed in Antarctica and the Arctic, but it can occur anywhere with a temperature well below freezing. In Polar regions diamond dust may continue for several days without interruption." You can see images of diamond dust on Youtube. The good one is diamond dust of Frano, Hokkaido. It is so beautiful. I have never seen or experienced diamond dust. "In the silver snowy world, diamond dust appears only when weather turns to be extremely cold. Diamond dust floats, shines and reflects the sun generating gold and rainbow colors. It creates a mysterious and wondrous feeling." says Shinji Kawamura, who filmed the phenomenon of diamond dust.

I would like to visit Hokkaido in winter and hope to see it sometime. From season to season, the earth creates and shows us so many wondrous phenomena. I hope to be continuously conscientious about environmental destruction and be responsible for my actions to contribute protection of environment and further destruction.

Class observation and parent-teacher conferences were held on January 23rd and 25th. It was nice to see many parents came and observed their children's classes from kindergarten to high school students. We

hope all the parents had a good time and got some idea of how their children were learning Japanese. I feel fortunate to have a great group of teachers who are dedicated and spend countless hours preparing their classes, researching and creating their lesson plans. Thanks to GBC, PTC and Marukai Fund that we started having some technological improvements like our new computers, large flat TV, projector and Y-Fi access. Some teachers use websites and You Tube for their lessons now.



Some events for the second semester are the CAJLS Seminar & Workshop, the Speech Contest and the PTC Spring Sale. Let the school, teachers, PTC and parents together to create a fun-learning environment for our students for this semester again.

Madoka I. Hull, Principal



References:

① 日本の行事・暦、二月

<http://koyomigyouji.com/2tsuki.html>

② 美瑛・富良野 Blu-ray ダイヤモンドダスト、抜粋

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WmMrz2TPaMU>

キラキラに輝く季節 -Diamond Dust

③ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CdVHoFK3Lp0>**CAJLS SEMINAR & WORKSHOP**

The annual seminar and workshop will be held by the California Association of Japanese Language Schools (CAJLS) on Saturday, February 15th, and JLS teachers will be attending. The themes of the seminar are "Effective Instructional Approaches to Teach Japanese in the Target Language" and "Reading Strategies." The keynote speakers are Dr. Yoshiko Saito-Abbott and Mr. Yoshiharu Azama. Both of them have impressive backgrounds of the fields. They will demonstrate effective teaching strategies using only Japanese in the beginning classes to advanced levels. Additionally, they will share various engaging reading activities that will promote language proficiency. It should be an intellectually stimulating day for our teachers. They will then incorporate some of the strategies into their lessons.

There will be no Japanese classes offered that day, but there will be regular lessons for the preschool.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:**Dr. Yoshiko Saito-Abbott**

Dr. Saito-Abbott is a Professor of California State University Monterey Bay (CSUMB), and the Chair of the School of World Languages and Cultures at CSUMB. She has been actively involved in Professional Development activities as well as Japanese education regionally and nationally. She has given numerous presentations and workshops. She has published and plays a leading role of the language education.

Yoshiharu Azama

Mr. Azuma taught Japanese at an elementary school, middle and currently teaching at North Salinas High School. Mr. Azuma has published widely in the field of language education and culture, and has given numerous presentations and workshops on teaching Japanese. He was recognized as an outstanding foreign language teacher by some distinguished organizations such as the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Language.

NEW OFFICE LOOK & APPLICIATION

1) Recently, we have been working on rearranging the front office. We removed a large old unused desk and added a small new stylish one. We also rearranged the two desks, metal cabinet and copy machine in order to give the office more functional space. We asked the building maintenance gentlemen to resurface and varnish the counter and to place a base-board at the bottom. The counter now looks great and so clean. Replacing the counter-top will take place at a later time. They also spent quite bit of time assembling the newly purchased desk as well. The building maintenance people can only work on these kinds of big projects during long school breaks. While we are enjoying the breaks, they are willingly and graciously working for improvement of the school. We truly appreciate their kindness and support. Thank you very much!

The Building Maintenance Crews:

Wallace Yuki, John Nakamura, Ken Nishida
Joe Nishihira, Hiro Kawai, Daniel Iwamoto
& James Yokota



2) JLS received a donation of \$200 from the family of the late Mr. Ben Masao Shimizu. Mr. Shimizu was a long time GBC board member and was one of the advisors. We wish to express our most sincere appreciation for this generous donation. JLS extends its heartfelt condolences to the Shimizu Family.

SCHOOL CALENDAR**February**

1st Sat	P.S. (Sat. Div.) Mamemaki Bean Throwing
10th Mon	Lincoln's Birthday (PS Regular Session / JLS No Classes)
15th Sat	CAJLS Seminar / Workshop... School Closed
17th Mon	President's day... School Closed (PS/JLS)

March

1st Sat	P.S. (Sat Div.) Hinamatsuri Celebration
3rd Mon	P.S. (Daily Div.) Hinamatsuri Celebration
14th Fri	PTC Cookie Sale
15th Sat	PTC Spring Sale (Cookies/Teriyaki Chicken)
29th Sat	Speech Contest



PTC Newsletter

Happy New Year greetings to everyone!!! I hope that you all enjoyed the holidays and the welcomed break from school as we ushered in the Year of the Horse. In December, the students all had a great time at our annual mochitsuki as we successfully made 200 lbs of mochi! We would like to thank ALL of our of parent volunteers who came out to help – especially to all of our new parents!! We hope that you enjoyed the experience with our kids and continue to come out and join us each year.

The PTC would like to thank and recognize our corporate supporters, Mutual Trading Company and Marukai Corporation. We would also like to extend special thanks to Mrs. Fukue Kurokawa, who took the time to make a sampling of New Year's osechi ryori for our exhibit for the students to see and enjoy.

Our next fundraiser will be the chicken teriyaki sale in March, and we would, again, like to request everyone's help in March. Wishing you and your family for a happy and healthy 2014 from the GBC Japanese Language School PTC.

Nancy Hamasaki, President

The next PTC meetings:

Saturday, February 1, & March 1, 2014
@ 8:45 AM in the Cooling Room

TRIVIA - DO YOU KNOW ... ?

Takeda Castle Ruins Appears to Float in the Sky

Japan is famous for its castles, a large majority of which were constructed in the 16th century as strategic sites during the sengoku (warring States) period. But one particular castle is known, not for its high stone walls or golden roof tiles, but lack thereof: its ruins. Built in 1441, Takeda Castle, or what's left of it, sits at the summit of a mountain that towers more than 1100 ft., hence earning it the nickname, "castle in the sky."

Indeed, the sight is one that is reminiscent of Machu Picchu. Except one needn't hop on a flight to Peru or hike the Inca trail



almost 8000 ft up. All one needs to do is plan a day trip from Kyoto. It's about 3 hours away. It's a must-see for fans of the movie Laputa.

The Takeda Castle constructed on the mountain is one of one hundred famous castles in Japan. Its base was constructed in the 15th century and the scale is 400m from north to south and 100m from east to west. Even now it has a grand and dignified appearance and a magnificent view.

Place: Takeda, Wadayama-cho, Asago City, Hyogo Prefecture, Japan

About Hyogo Prefecture

Hyogo Prefecture, located near the center of Japan, faces the Japan Sea in the north and the Pacific Ocean via the Seto Inland Sea in the south. One hundred thirty-five degree east longitude fixes Japan Standard Time and runs through the central part of the prefecture. Hyogo is blessed with an abundance of wonderful resources and the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Himeji Castle is just one representative of history and culture. Nature on Mt. Rokko; the prosperous Arima, Kinokawa, and Yumura hot springs; Kobe beef and Izushi soba; and snow crab and local sake are some of the other representatives.

Hyogo's World Best-Japan Best

- ❖ Himeji Castle —UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1993. National Treasure
- ❖ Akashi Kaikyo Bridge —World's longest suspension bridge with a total length of 3,911m. The center span is 1,991m and the main tower is 297m tall. It first opened in 1998.
- ❖ The Oriental White Stork —The first time a once extinct species was returned to the wild
- ❖ Spring 8 —The world's largest synchrotron radiation facility
- ❖ Naruto ocean current —The world's largest whirlpool current
- ❖ Nishi-Harima Astronomical Observatory Telescope Nayuta With a diameter of two meters, Nayuta is the largest public telescope in the world
- ❖ Takarazuka —The largest girls' theater troupe in Japan
- ❖ Yumura Hot Springs —The hottest water source in Japan: 98°C, 470 liters per minute
- ❖ Sweets —The largest consumer of breads, cakes and black tea in Japan
- ❖ Japanese Sake —Nada-gogo (Imazu, Nishinomiya, Uozaki, Mikage, Nishi) has a 26% share of the Japanese market
- ❖ Handmade Somen Noodles —39% share of the Japanese market

References:

<http://www.spoon-tamago.com/2013/06/27/takeda-castle-ruins-appears-to-float-in-the-sky/>
<http://www.hyogo-tourism.jp/english/about/index.html>

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