

# SCHOOL-PTC NEWSLETTER



JLS Article: Madoka Hull, Principal  
Translation: Madoka Hull, Hiroco Ames  
Layout: Hiroco Ames  
Word Process, Edit, Print: Eri Nelson

## NEWSLETTER 3RD TRIM 2016

**Poem to share** - Japanese Poem translated in English, the Japanese title is "Daisuki." The words in the parenthesis are Japanese onomatopoeia, words which describe the state of feelings and have associated sounds.

" I like you a lot "  
by Shuji Koizumi

When I see him in the distance, I get thrilled (waku waku shimasu).

When he comes near me, I feel my heart beating (doki doki shimasu).

When I had eye contact with him, my heart pains. (zukin to shimasu).

When I get to say " Hi!" to him, I feel dizzy (po otto shimasu).

When he is moving away, there is a moment of silence (shiin to shimasu).

When he is out of my sight, my heart aches (kyuun to shimasu).

### PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

The calendar has tuned to June. June is a rainy season in Japan, and graduation season in America. Many people attend their children's and grandchildren's graduation ceremonies for preschool to college, master degree and doctorate. It is an exciting season for we see many young people with

sense of accomplishment and hope for the future.

I would like to go over the poem " I like you a lot" (Japanese title "Daisuki".) What kind of scene would you imagine from this poem? How about a short clip of TV drama? On a graduation day, in the distance, this girl sees the boy for whom she had a crush for a last several years. She has never told the boy that she likes him. And finally graduation day is here.

This Japanese poem expresses the writer's feelings with "gitaigo" (onomatopoeia) such as "waku waku", " doki doki", "zukin", "po otto", "shiin", and "kyuun." Japanese use many onomatopoeia words when they speak and write. It is quite interesting to study gitaigo. The definition of Japanese gitaigo (onomatopoeia) is "the words to describe the state of affairs and things by vocalizing sensuously." Japanese gitaigo not only mimics actual sounds that are made by animals, people and things, but also describes an action, like a facial expression, or an emotion, or feeling with an associated sound. They also can create new onomatopoeia freely to express what they want to describe. The listener can sense the newly created words easily. Anime is full of expression with onomatopoeia.

This poem is also vague. This poem has no subject, nor object. I inserted "I" and "him" during the translation, otherwise I cannot make English sentences with this poem. I don't know the subject is a girl nor the object is a boy. Japanese often omit subjects and even objects in both speech and writing. So, listeners or readers have to guess who and what the speaker or the writer is talking about. On the other hand, readers can expand their

sense of imagination freely. This poem has no first person, second person nor third person. This poem has no specific verbs even, and the poet's emotions and feelings are described with gitaigo (onomatopoeia) only. To describe the state of writer's heart leaping for joy, the writer uses "waku waku", "doki doki" for quick heart beating, and uses "zukin" for the pain from strong adoration. It is very difficult to translate this poem into English without losing the essence of it, and characteristic of Japanese. However, this poem is very interesting to read for it has many onomatopoeia words, and they make the poem very rhythmic and shakes our emotion strongly.

Learning foreign languages is fun for me too. I enjoy watching dramas aired on BBC. One of the popular series I watched recently was a TV series titled "Downton Abby." This is a story of a British aristocratic family and their servants before and after the World War I. Watching TV dramas is a fun way to learn a language. It is interesting to find British English pronunciation and intonation being so different. It is also fascinating to learn about their way of thinking, value system, and the culture at that era. Learning any language is not limited to mastering grammar, neither reading and writing, nor increasing vocabulary. Words are packed with people's emotions. We need to discover their way of thinking, custom and culture, total value system, moral concept, ideas commonly accepted by the society and many other things. It is a long process to master languages.

Learning Japanese here at this school is just an introduction. But, with the introduction, I hope our students keep discovering many pleasure and interesting facts about the language and Japan.



At the end of the school year, we would like to express our sincere appreciation to JLS parents and guardians for their support of their children's language education. Language is so easy to lose unless you continue studying. I hope our parents and their children continue cherishing this wonderful opportunity of learning the language for many years to come.

———— Madoka I. Hull, Principal

## FIELD TRIP TO DISNEYLAND

Twenty-eight students from grade 6th to 11th went on a field trip to Disneyland on May 28th. The trip had been scheduled for May 14th, yet, we needed to change the date due to the park's circumstances. Although it was the Memorial Day weekend, the park was not too crowded, and all the participants had a wonderful time together. We thank PTC for providing the students and the chaperons with admission tickets and spending money. The transportation was provided by the church. Thank you very much to all the parents and guardians who supported the two fundraising events last fall and spring.

The chaperon were Ms. Akin, Ms. Uehara, Ms. Nelson and Ms. Pitre (mother of two students.)

Thank you for taking care of the students all day.



\* Please see Japanese page 3 for the field trip pictures.

## TEACHERS, RESIGNING AND RETIRING

As of the end of this school year, Ms. Layton who's in charge of the 1st grade, and Ms. Akin who's in charge of the 6th & 7th combined class, are resigning. Ms. Layton has been with us for 6 years, and Ms. Akin has been with us for 4 years. Ms. Igarashi who teaches the preschool and kindergarten is retiring after 20 years of teaching. They are very hard working and dedicated teachers. We are truly grateful to them for their devotion to Japanese language education. We wish for Ms. Layton, Ms. Akin and Ms. Igarashi continued health and success.



## PTC PRESIDENT, RESIGNING

Mrs. Nancy Hamasaki is resigning from the PTC Presidency at the end of this school year. Mrs. Hamasaki has lead the organization with strong leadership and great communication with the representatives of the daily language division, daily and Saturday preschool divisions throughout her presidency. She even used her vacation days to carry out big fundraising events. She is a very responsible, conscientious and genuine individual. We express our sincere appreciation to her. Thank you, Mrs. Hamasaki!



## SCHOOL CALENDAR

### June

6th	Mon	(Daily Div.) Fun Jump- afternoon for JLS
17th	Fri	(Daily Div.) 3rd Trimester Ends PTC Pizza Party for JLS
18st	Sat	(Sat. Div.) 3rd Trimester Ends (Daily Div.) Graduation Ceremony (9am) PTC Pizza Party for JLS

☆ Normal class starting time on 17th (Fri) and 18th (Sat). Please make sure not to be late.

### June~August

6/27th	Mon	(Daily Div.) Summer School Begins
7/4th	Mon	<b>School Closed</b> (Independence Day)
7/9th	Sat	(Sat. Div.) Summer School Begins
8/15th	Mon	<b>School Closed</b> (Obon Clean up )

### September

3rd	Sat	(Sat. Div.) First Trimester Begins
6th	Tue	(Daily Div.) First Trimester Begins



## PTC NEWS



With the last couple weeks of school in sight, this will be the last PTC newsletter for this school year. Thanks to our parent volunteers, we were able to successfully carry out our two, fall and spring fundraisers again – and the children enjoyed the usual cookie sales!

Twenty-eight upper division students went to Disneyland for their spring ensoku (excursion) the last Saturday in May, and everyone had a great time! We would like to thank the teacher chaperones for taking the time to accompany the students . . . as we all know that it is not an easy task to keep a large group under control. The JLS and PTC would also like to acknowledge and thank the GBC for providing the bus transportation to Disneyland.

The last event for the students will be the end-of-the-year pizza party. Pizza, potato chips, and drinks will be provided to the students on June 17 and 18. The Daily Yochien division will have had their fun jumper day on June 6 in lieu of a pizza party.

This will then conclude the events for this school year . . . and will also conclude my term as President of the PTC with my daughter's graduation from the JLS. I would like to sincerely thank all of you for your support, donations, generosity, and volunteerism to help ensure that we can continue these PTC events for our kids. And I hope that you will continue your support for the next leadership.

In addition, I could not have fulfilled this position without the assistance of the PTC Board – Lisa Kuwabara, Frances Hikido, and Fukue Kurokawa . . . I owe these ladies a debt of gratitude for their friendship, support and always being there for me. But most importantly, I would like to thank all of YOU, the PTC members, for upholding the core mission of the Parent Teacher Council (PTC). Our purpose is to provide these fun events for our students during the school year, and the goal is to be able to continue doing so each year. Thank you very much . . . . Have a great summer and the Senseis will be awaiting your return in September.

—— Nancy Hamasaki, PTC President

## 2015-2016 NEW SCHOOL YEAR ENROLLMENT

We are still accepting fall registration. If you have not submitted the registration forms to your class teachers, please do so A. S. A. P. Please, tell your friends and relatives about the summer and regular school programs.

### LOST AND FOUND



The cubby hole in the JLS office is full with lost-found-items.

Please come and check the items that may belong to you before we throw them out at the end of June.

### APPRECIATION/APOLOGY

We apologize the following donors for failing to list their names in the Spring (Jan/Feb) issue of school news letter.

- Ms. Hamasaki, Nancy
- Mr. Hashimoto, John
- Mr. Fukumoto, Mark



*Thank you for your generouisty!*

## HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN SUMMER SCHOOL ENROLLMENT?!

If you study Japanese daily during summer school for 6 weeks, your Japanese will improve tremendously. If you are not confident in Hiragana, Katakana or Kanji, summer school is a great place to review. Art & Crafts, field trip, Fun Day (watermelon breaking and other games), cooking, warmup exercise and many more fun events will be offered.

Please come to the office and enroll TODAY!

