



GBC JAPANESE LANGUAGE SCHOOL/NAKAYOSHI YOCHIEN

March & April 2014

SCHOOL-PTC NEWSLETTER



JLS Article: Madoka Hull, Principal
 Preschool Article: Keiko Damiata, Director
 Translation: Madoka I. Hull, Hiroco Ames

Layout/ Word Process: Hiroco Ames
 Edit, Print: Akemi Sato
 Word Process, Print: Eri Nelson

Principal's Message



We see signs of spring everywhere, even in the schoolyard. The persimmon tree is growing fresh green leaves; the Japanese wisteria and its fresh young leaves look so pretty in full sunlight. The sweet flag started to bloom too. Spring is here. I hope everyone had a very nice spring break.

On March 29th, JLS conducted the Speech Contest successfully. Twenty-six students were chosen from the entire school, and competed in five groups. Every one of the twenty-six contestants practiced very hard, memorized their compositions completely and gave a great presentation. The contents of the presentations were very well written. The topics of the speeches included family, pets, fun experiences attending an elementary school in Japan, environment issues, woman's rights and many others. The upper grade students in particular, gave fantastic presentations with various topics. All of their presentations were nearly perfect.

High school students are very busy

with their regular schools and swamped with homework and many activities. For that reasons, JLS teachers usually have a difficult time persuading their students to participate in the event that requires much of their time writing compositions, practicing and memorizing. However, all of the older students were very enthusiastic about it. We were very happy to see that. Furthermore, students, who are learning Japanese as a foreign language (not as a heritage language), did very well. They did not grow up in a home where Japanese was spoken. But, their pronunciation was very close to a native speaker's, and they spoke so beautifully. We were very impressed. Contestant's scores were so close that the competition was very tight. Winning and losing were determined by very small point differences. Everyone was practicing hard to win. But, regardless of winning, we hope this experience enriched the students and gave them very nice memories. A special edition of the winner's compositions is included in this issue. Please enjoy reading.



We would like to express our sincere appreciation to the following five companies for their trophy donations, contestant's families and all the parties concerned from JLS and the church for their support on this event.

Sponsors:

1. California Bank & Trust (CAB&T)
2. Union Bank (UB)
3. Nikkei Credit Union
4. Japanese American Community Credit Union
5. A. N. A.

Judges of the Contest:

1. Rev. Nobuo Miyaji
2. Dr. Tom Maeda
3. Ms. Chizuko Mizoguchi (CAB&T)
4. Mr. Tomonari Kawamoto (UB)
5. Ms. Kyoko Hinkly (ANA)

———— Madoka I. Hull,
Principal

Malala Yousafzai's Speech at UN

The theme of the award winning composition for the speech contest was about Ms. Malala Yousafzai. If you have not watched this YouTube site, you may want to watch it. This site has Japanese subtitles, so it is a good study site for the people who are learning English and Japanese. Her speech is very moving and impressive.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ia1X8VedW0>

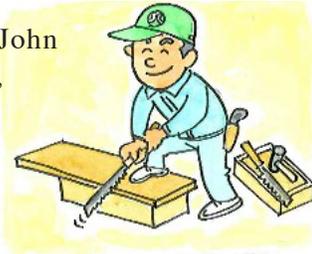
Appreciation

- Upon the Speech Contest, we received monetary donations from Dr. & Mrs. Tamotsu Ikeda, GBC board and Mr. Susumu Maki, GBC board.
Thank you very much.

■ Building Maintening

The baseboard and black fence for the preschool playground next to the garage were fixed.
Thank you very much.

<Crew>Wallace Yuki, John Nakamura, Ken Nishida, Hiro Kawai, Joe Nishihira, & Bill Nishimura



2013-2014 New School Year Enrollment

Registration for the 2014 - 2015 school year will start. The notice and the re-registration form will be distributed in the classes very soon. Please submit the re-registration form to your class teacher, A.S.A.P. The deadline for the enrollment:

- ◆ JLS Daily division ... **Friday, June 6**
- ◆ JLS Sat. division **Saturday, June 7**
- * After these dates, \$20 late fee will be charged.

To Preschool 4-year-old parents:

Please note that for preschoolers who are entering K3 from this fall, the dead line is different.

- ◆ **Deadline - Saturday, June 7**

After the dead line, \$95.00 registration fee will be charged for it is treated as a new registration. Please read the detailed information letter that has been distributed in each class.

Summer School Now Accepting Enrollment



Let's make good use of summer vacation by learning Japanese. The program includes Japanese learning, arts and crafts with summer themes, exercise, cooking, making shaved ice, a field trip and many more fun activities. It is an enriching program and the best chance for your children to review, learn new things and catch up. The registration forms are available at the office.

[Summer School]

- ◆ Daily Class: June 30 (Mon) - Aug 8 (Fri)
- ◆ Saturday Class: July 5 (Sat) - July 26 (Sat)

The Japanese-Language Proficiency Test

Congratulation! to our student who passed the Japanese proficiency test held by Japan Foundation.

- ◆ The 3rd degree:
Mamiya, Hannah Mizuho
(Sat. 5th grd. Ms. Uehara class)

If anybody is interested in taking the test, please refer to the Japan Foundation site.



SCHOOL CALENDAR



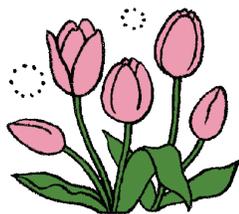
April

4th	Fri	JLS/P.S.(Daily Div.) 2nd Trimaster Ends
5th	Sat	JLS/P.S.(Sat Div.) 2nd Trimaster Ends
6th	Mon	P.S.Undokai (Sports event)
7~12th	M-Sat	Spring Break--- No School
14th	Mon	JLS/P.S.(Daily Div.) 3rd Trimaster starts
19th	Sat	JLS/P.S.(Sat Div.) 3rd Trimaster starts

May

3rd	Sat	GBC Fujimatsuri Bazaar --- No School
5th	Mon	P.S. (Daily Div.) Tango no Sekku Celebration (Boy's/Children's Day)
17th	Sat	5th Grade to 12th Grade Graduation Trip
26th	Mon	Memorial Day --- No School

PTC News



We hope that everyone has returned from spring break well rested and rejuvenated to finish off the last tri-semester of this school year. Thank you to everyone who donated cookies and/or helped out at our annual spring

chicken teriyaki and cookie sale in March. All the tickets were eventually sold and we had more than enough cookies for the students to buy. We were a bit short with the number of volunteers on Saturday, so we may have to look into setting a minimum number of volunteers from each class. However, with the volunteers that we had, we were able to finish all of the orders in time.

The PTC would like to acknowledge and thank Mutual Trading Company for donating the 150 lbs. of rice for the sale – their contributions each year make a significant difference and is very much appreciated.

The Nakayoshi Yochien division had their annual endokai in early April and the weather this year was especially nice! We hope that the all of the Yochien students (and parents) had a good time. The annual ensoku (spring excursion) for the upper grades will be at California Adventure this year. If your child is eligible to go, we hope they will take the opportunity to go with their friends from Japanese School. All students are given an opportunity to eventually go on this special field trip, so we hope that you encourage your child to continue their studies each year.



The PTC will finish off the school year with our annual pizza party on the last day of school for the Daily and Saturday divisions. At this time, the PTC would like to thank you for your support, generosity, and contributions over the past year. We would not be able to continue our annual events without your assistance.

*On behalf of our students and the PTC,
thank you very much.*

———— Nancy Hamasaki

Next PTC Meeting:
Saturday, June undecided 2014 at 8:45 am
in the Hondo Room.

Graduation Field Trip

Thanks to PTC for their fundraisers in fall and spring to support our graduation trip. We are able to implement a field trip again this year for our upper grade students. We appreciate the PTC board members, JLS parents who supported the events and GBC for providing transportation. I hope everyone will have a safe and fun experience with their peers.



For: 5th to 12th grade
Destination: CA Adventure
Date: Saturday, May 17th
Chaperons: Ms Maruyama, Mr. Aratani, Ms Uehara, Ms Mizoguchi & PTC volunteers



For the detailed information, please read the notice and instructions distributed in each class.

FUJI-MATSURI BAZAAR - May 3rd



Date: Saturday, May 3rd -11 AM - 6 PM
Place: Gardena Buddhist Church
Entrance fee: Free

Many booths will be at the Bazaar: vegetable and flower plants, various food booths (sushi, udon noodles, teriyaki chicken, hot dogs, shish kebabs, Okinawa-dango and so on), used goods, crafts, and games for children. Shows will be held for entertainment as well. It will be a fun day for everyone.



The language school and Nakayoshi preschool will be closed on May 3rd.