



SCHOOL-PTC NEWSLETTER



JLS Article: Madoka Hull, Principal
Preschool Article: Yoshiko Morohoshi, Director
Translation: Madoka I. Hull, Hiroco Ames

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

Principal's Message



Welcome and welcome back to the newly enrolled students and returning students.

New School year has begun. JLS slogan for this school year is "Let's speak Japanese!"

Students are taking Japanese lessons at JLS; so, of course, they are supposed to speak Japanese. However, language learners tend to focus on reading and writing and often shy away from speaking. It is so easy for students to speak in English when they are conversing with their friends, answering back to their teachers, or responding to their parents. Therefore, I would like to ask all the JLS parents to encourage their children to speak Japanese at home and JLS as much as possible. Parents themselves need to speak to their children in Japanese and teach them many words. Since students have a very limited exposure to Japanese through everyday life, it is crucial for parents to introduce many different words to their children daily. As a result, their vocabulary will grow naturally.

After many years of living in America, we Japanese adults sometimes mix Japanese and English in our speech. This mixing happens to Spanish speakers, Japanese speakers and many other foreign language speakers. We jokingly call this mixing "Spanglish" or "Japan-english". Even in Japan, the language of young people today as a debased form of Japanese is often talked about. We must conscientiously try to speak proper and correct Japanese for our children.

Yet, we don't have to take it too seriously. We can approach speaking Japanese like a game. We can try using old classic Japanese words, difficult big words, and modern Japanese slang. Enjoy conversing. Try using famous lines from well-known Japanese plays and poems to share with your children. Children naturally acquire language by listening to adults speaking to them. People who have a large vocabulary and speak eloquently impress others. We recommend English-speaking parents learn hira-



gana, katakana, words and simple phrases with your children. You also can learn Japanese simultaneously.

Let us all "participate" in Japanese education. Play with words and have fun learning.

————— Madoka I. Hull,
Principal

Our New Teachers

● Ms. Fumiko Ito, Saturday, 1st Grade

Ms. Ito graduated from Miyagi Kyoiku University and received a teaching credential for elementary school education. She taught at elementary schools in Miyagi prefecture for 10 years. She is hoping to "make Japanese learning fun for her students." Her hobby is traveling. She claims herself "Kenko Otaku" which means "Health nut." She likes to collect all sort of health related articles and information.

● Ms. Kayoko Akin, Saturday 4th Grade

Ms. Akin graduated from Kyoto Gai-kokugo (Foreign Language) University majoring in French. She taught

Kokugo (Japanese as 1st language) and mathematics to middle school students at the Japanese school in San Antonio, Texas and Asahi Gakuen. "I enjoy learning Japanese with my students," says Ms. Akin with a smile. Her hobby is playing piano. She is busy raising her 3 lovely daughters of 2, 4 and 7 years old.

Building Maintenance

As soon as summer school ends, we normally have a brief moment before new school year starts.

This time, the following building maintenance projects were implemented:

- 1) The entire asphalt of the parking lot was resurfaced after filling up the subsided areas. The new parking space lines were drawn.
- 2) Annual clean up and waxing of the entire school buildings were done.
- 3) Glass windows were placed in all the doors of pre-school classrooms.

GBC volunteers, who are in charge of the building maintenance, not only take care of big projects like these to enhance the school and church but also they work diligently around the premises everyday. The work includes repairing, changing light bulbs, tending the garden and many other things.

The church and school are supported by so many dedicated volunteers. As a result, we can run a very nice school here. Thank you everyone.

• Maintenance crew:

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

Volunteer Request for Obon Carnival

The church holds two big fund raising events of the Fuji Matsuri and the Obon Carnival. These events are very important to help defray the cost of running the church. Teachers of JLS and Nakayoshi Preschool and office staff help the event each time.

Lately, a shortage of volunteers for the events has become a serious problem. Operating the church and the school requires enormous costs to maintain buildings and parking lot, heating and lighting expenses, labor cost and other numerous expenses. Shortage of volunteers will hinder fund raising events.

Therefore, we would like to request all the JLS and Preschool parents to help at the Obon Carnival which normally takes place on first Saturday and Sunday of August every year. (There may be an exception.) The date and time we especially need your help is on Sunday, from 3-6 PM at the Sushi booth. For 2013, the carnival has been scheduled on Saturday, August 3rd and Sunday, August 4th. We will send a request letter to all our parents when the event gets closer. It would be truly helpful if we can get help from our parents. Thank you for your support.

Appreciation

1) Every year, we receive various support and monetary donations from the PTC. At the end of last school year, JLS received \$500.00 for a purchase of flat screen TV. This TV will be placed in our library. Our sincere appreciation goes to PTC.

2) For a celebration of graduation, we received the monetary gift from Dr. & Mrs. Tamotsu Ikeda who are both the church board members. Thank you Dr. & Mrs. Ikeda.



SCHOOL CALENDAR



October

20th Sat	PTC Sawa-kai Tea Party
26th Fri	P.S. (Daily Div.) Haloween Parade at Social Hall
26th Fri	JLS (Daily Div.) Photo Sessions
27th Sat	JLS/P.S. (Sat. Div.) Photo Sessions

November

2nd Fri	P.S. (Daily Div.) Photo Sessions
12th Mon	Veteran's Day--- School Closed
16th Fi	PTC Autumn Sale (Cookies)
17th Sat	PTC Autumn Sale (Curry & Cookies)
22nd~24th	(Thu ~Sat) Thankgiving Holidays-- School Closed



Notes from



Nakayoshi Preschool

Director's Message

It was very cool during this past summer, yet the heat waves are being with us for a quite some time now. Luckily teachers and children are comfortable in the air-conditioned classrooms. We are grateful to have nice air conditioners.

Halloween is coming soon. The detailed information will be distributed at a later time. The new school year is filled with many fun activities and events for our children. We are grateful to all our parents for their continued support and help through out the year.



———— Yoshiko Morohoshi,
Director

■ INTRODUCTION OF Class Teachers and TAs for the New School Year:

Daily Classes

- Penguin Class Ms. Kyoko Shima
Ms. Toshie Kimoto (TA)
- Banana Class Ms. Akemi Kaneshiro
Ms. Naomi Inoue (TA)
- Melon Class Ms. Yuka Nayuki
Ms. Yoko Kasami (TA)
- Mikan Class Ms. Kumiko Hiraizumi
Ms. Ryoko Nakawake (TA)
- Bara Class Ms. Kimiko Igarashi
Ms. Emiko Hasegawa (TA)
- Sumire Class Ms. Tomoko Nakagawa
Ms. Kae Miyoshi (TA)
- Afternoon Day Care & substitute teacher
Ms. Yoshiko Wanibuchi

Saturday Classes

- Sakura Class Ms. Miyoko Nishiya
Ms. Yuka Nayuki(TA)
- Kiku Class Ms. Yuko Yokota



■ INTRODUCTION OF Class Representatives:

Daily Classes

- Penguin Class Ms. Ai Inoue
Ms. Aya Murray
- Banana Class Ms. Kimika Nakashima
Ms. Mayuko Imagawa
- Melon Class Ms. Keiko Murakami
Ms. Yumiko Sanders
Ms. Mikako Nakanishi
- Mikan Class Ms. Ai McCoy
Ms. Cathy Ashikawa
- Bara Class Ms. Yoriko Villalobos ☆
Ms. Tomoko Kawanishi ☆
Ms. Sayuri Bonilla
- Sumire Class Ms. Kaori Takeda
Ms. Haruko Froeb ★
Ms. Kathy Tokuda

Saturday Classes

- Sakura Class Ms. Azusa Lazarov
Ms. Patricia Shimano
- Kiku Class Ms. Sumiko Chung ☆

★ Ms. Froeb, Ms. Villalobos, Ms. Kawanishi, and Ms. Chung are the representatives and liaisons of the Preschool for the PTC.

News from the Piano Class

As usual, piano recital was held on September 23rd. Prior to the recital, award trophies were handed to the following JLS students:

For the Piano Audition, November, 2011:
Winners: Tamae Aratani, Yuuki Inoue, Megumi Williams & Yuka Yamane

For Certificate Merit, March 2012:
Successful Candidates: Megumi Williams, Yuka Yamane, Yuuki Inoue

Congratulation to
every player!



Award Recipients of Graduate Class of 2011

■ *Scholarship Awards from Banking Institutions:*

Graduates who had outstanding records in academics, citizenship and attendance and were in the High School Division and High School Advanced courses:

❖ Union Bank Award

Ayaka Nicole Hamazaki
Saturday Division 10th Grade

■ *Scholastic Effort Awards:*

Graduates above 6th grade who had good record in citizenship and attendance and made a great progress academically:

❖ Saturday Division 6th Grade

Mayumi Amanda Higa

❖ Saturday Division 6th Grade

Takumi Bryan Snyder



Service Award of teachers 2012

■ 5 years

Ms. Naomi Inoue
Ms. Kae Miyosi
Ms. Miyoko Nishiya

■ 10 years

Ms. Yuka Nayuki

■ 20 years

Ms. Kumiko Hiraizumi
Ms. Akemi Sato



Important Reminder:



1) **SMOKING IS PROHIBITED** entirely on the school ground. (California State law)

2) **Dogs are NOT ALLOWED** to be on the school ground. (any time and for any length of time)

Please do not bring your dog to the school or even keep your dog in the car while you are bringing/picking up your child/ren.

We appreciate your full cooperation on the above matters.

Report on Summer School

Every year, JLS opens Summer School for 6 weeks and day care for 8 weeks. This past summer, about 70 students participated. The daily class, especially, is a very

effective way to improve student's Japanese efficiency. Besides studying, we offer arts and crafts, cooking, field trip to make our program more enjoyable. The last day of summer school, we hear students telling their parents how fun the summer school was. Creating a wonderful summer curriculum, taking care of the students and keeping them safe for many hours each day for 6 to 8 weeks require teachers' tremendous efforts. Thank you to all the teachers who were in charge of the summer school.

Summer School Teachers ... Ms. Sato, Ms. Magome, Mr. Aratani, Ms. Aimi Shima (English Class), Ms. Mizoguchi and Ms. Layton



Rules for Receiving Perfect Attendance and Good Attendance Award

〈Saturday Classes〉

◆ **Perfect Attendance Award: Zero absences, Zero late arrivals, Zero early leaves**

◆ **Good Attendance Award:** Up to one absence on one Saturday **OR** up to 3 late arrivals **OR** 3 early leaves (up to 4 hours)

〈Daily Classes〉

◆ **Perfect Attendance Award: Zero absences, Zero late arrivals, Zero early leaves**

◆ **Good Attendance Award:** Up to 5 absences (5 days) **OR** up to 5 late arrivals **OR** 5 early leaves (total of 5 arrivals and early leaves, **NOT** 5 late arrival and 5 early leaves)

● Students **MUST** attend the graduation ceremony in order to receive perfect attendance award.

● In case of mourning and a funeral for a student's **parents and siblings ONLY:**

Saturday students can miss one Saturday, and daily students can miss up to 3 days.

● The above rules have been applied last many years, and they are not newly created.

Some students are so eager to get perfect attendance awards. We do appreciate those very enthusiastic students. However, if students get sick, please have them stay home. We want them to get good rest and recover quickly. Sick children do affect others too. Everyone's health is very important to us. When students have to miss Japanese classes because there are more important things that should be taken care of, please be absent. There is always a next time.

PTC News

Greetings from the GBC Japanese Language School Parent Teacher Council (PTC) as we begin the new school year. We hope that everyone has transitioned smoothly into their new classes together with their Senseis.



Right out of the gate, the PTC is busy planning for the annual Teacher-Parent Sawakai on October 20th. This annual event is an informal get-together for the teachers and class room representatives. The Yochien students for both Daily and Saturday classes will be preparing for Halloween crafts, and other gifts from the PTC will be provided.

The PTC's first major fundraiser, our famous chicken curry sale will be held on November 17th and we will need a lot of parents to come out and volunteer. Please be on the look out for future notices with information details. The ticket order form for the curry sale has already been sent home, so we would appreciate everyone's support of this event. Our chicken curry is actually quite good!

We kindly ask for everyone's support this coming year. Everything we do is to provide fun cultural activities for our students to enhance their Japanese education. I hope that I can count on your support and help.

———— Nancy Hamasaki

Next PTC Meeting:

Saturday, Oct 27th, 2012 at 8:45 am
Saturday, Nov 3rd, 2012 at 8:45 am
in the Hondo Room.

There will be TWO meetings in preparation for the chicken curry sale. It is very important for all class room representatives to attend!

Marukai Receipt Fund-Raising

Thank you very much to all the parents who have given us Marukai receipts. This fund-raising is an on-going

project. From July to September, the total amount of donation was \$1884.55. We will put this money for a good use for the school. We look forward to your continued support. Thank you so very much to Marukai.

Donations to TOHOKU

Mrs. Mizoguchi's Daily (3~6th) and Saturday (8th~12th) classes (last school year) gathered \$4.91 for the Tohoku disaster victims. Thank you very much!

One point Japanese Lesson

The word "Otaku"

The traditional meaning of the Japanese word Otaku is a house, a residence, or your house or home.

Currently, people use the word Otaku differently as slang.

Otaku (おたく / オタク ?) is used as a term to refer to people with obsessive interests, particularly (but not limited to) anime, manga or Japanese video games. (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Otaku>)

AUTUMN SALE

PTC FUND-RAISING

■ Curry & Cookie Sale

Saturday, November 17
\$5 / ticket

■ Daily Cookie Sale

Friday, November 16

Please come and help the event and purchase tickets, everyone!



THANK YOU
FOR YOUR GREAT
HELP!

Language and Me

(RE: LANGUAGE/ EXPRESSION)

By:Hiroshi Senjyu

A. Re: Language/Expression

To an artist, the art is the language of expression

In a similar way, to a musician, the sound becomes the language of expression.

For a movie director, the film becomes his expression.

To the cooks/chefs, their creation on the plate becomes their expression.



In other words, language/ expression is a message, The language is born when one wants to convey a message. In the final analysis, the language of expression is a tool of communication.

In ancient times, when one somehow wanted to express his feelings, and to convey somewhat impossible imagination to others, language was born among the people. Thus, the Japanese word “ningen=people”, which is written with “hito=person” and “aida=in-between”, came into being. One can say that the history of language began when one had a will to convey to others, of his existence. When we think this way, then one can say that when the Stone Age people pounded on the wall of his cave with an animal bone, or made a picture of his hand by blowing mud onto a hand-print sketched on the cave wall, they were means of language of expression.

I recently re-viewed a French documentary movie about the 30,000 year old cave wall drawing, and was astounded to realize anew how they had calmly expressed, in place of the language, the way they visualized the movement, appearance, and the behavior of the animals they had observed. I also wondered if a language can develop as expected, seeing how they had “captured” the objects directly and delivered them en masse.

However, after a while (gradually), people developed a language, and the primary meaning of making sound or drawing on the (cave) wall as means of communication changed, and they gradually forgot that the music (sound) and pictures were really the roots of the language/ expression.

B. Japanese Language

Now let us think about our (own) language, the Japanese language.

I frequently feel that the present-day Japanese language has become weakened tremendously. By this I mean the

Japanese language has always been a difficult language. Because its structure requires high degree of sensitivity, I feel that the present Japanese cannot keep up with its requirement. When it comes to English, after the subject and the verb, one connects adjectives and explain things. However, in the Japanese language, by the grammatical rule, one must convey a feeling of adjectives first, so instantaneous sense becomes important.

As an example, we frequently see TV personalities on television programs - when they eat something and it is good, even though they may wish to convey something other than “oishii - it is good”, they don’t have any other words, and thus they just say “oishii” over and over. In reality, at this point, when they suddenly encounter good tasting food, they are not aware of the miniscule sensation, other than “oishii”.

As people try to convert the sensation to a language, the brain nurtures the sensitivity, begins to move, fractionate the information based on experience, able to visualize the previously unseen, and able feel the things unfelt before. In the English language, such process is in the grammatical rule. While thinking one can feel this way or that way-such swaying margin exists. However , in the Japanese language , there is no such margin; here lies the difficulty of the Japanese Language.

Japanese is for those who are adept to describe their feelings and perceptions quickly and yet gracefully. Stories are often laden with teller’s emotions which are shared by listeners as well.

That apex (height (of perfection) is the Japanese poetry - here for sure is the essence of the Japanese culture.)

The Japanese think in the Japanese language - the definition of a Japanese is a person who thinks in the Japanese language and who speaks the Japanese language. The reason the Japanese are sensitive and impulsive, and have suggestive (charming) concepts, is because the Japanese think in the Japanese language. In this respect, the Americans are different. The reason is they think in the English language. First comes the subject and the verb - who (did what), (do) what, how - and the sentence continues. One can say it is structured logically. Because they think in terms of SVOC (subject, verb, object, complement), when people meet and then part, unlike the Japanese who look back repeatedly and acknowledge (you), they say “Bye” and without any afterthought, almost never look back.

Hiroshi Senju

Hiroshi Senju is a Japanese style painting artist and the Chancellor of Kyoto Zokei Geijutsu (plastic arts) University. Senju has received many awards, and is active in giving lectures and writing.