



GBC JAPANESE LANGUAGE SCHOOL/NAKAYOSHI YOCHIEN

September &amp; October 2013

# SCHOOL-PTC NEWSLETTER



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

Layout/ Word Process: Madoka I. Hull  
 Word Process, Print: Eri Nelson

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

「染めあへぬ

尾のゆかしさよ赤蜻蛉」  
 与謝蕪村

“Someaenu ono yukashisa yo  
 akatonbo” by Buson Yosa

This haiku poem is about a red dragonfly and season of autumn. Yosa Buson, the poet, felt arrival of autumn when he found a dragon fly with a red tail. Japanese people associate red dragonfly with autumn season. Tonbo (dragon fly) is one of Kigo, the word or code phrase that denotes season of fall for creating haiku poems. Some examples of Kigo for the fall season are the moon, cosmos, fog, sunset cirrocumulus clouds, long fall night, fallen leaves and bell crickets.



The fall semester is going well. I was very moved to see so many parents at the New School Year's beginning assembly. It was nice to see so parents who were very enthusiastic about their children's education.

As some of you already know, Ms. Keiko Damiata has assumed the preschool director's position this past July. She has a B.A degree in early

childhood education obtained at the California State University, Dominguez Hills, and currently is pursuing a master degree in the field at CSULB. She taught at a various American preschools. Applying her ample knowledge and experiences, she has been working diligently with our preschool teachers from day one. She is a very positive, sincere, studious and hard working person. We are all happy and very lucky to have such a wonderful and qualified director. Every morning, she goes out and greets preschool children and parents with a big smile. Welcome to our school, Ms. Damiata!

In September, Ms. Kimiko Ichikawa joined the faculty as a Saturday adult class teacher. She is originally from Osaka. She has also a cheerful and up-beat personality. She graduated from U. C. L. A. majoring in Hebrew. Currently, she is getting ready to apply for a graduate school. We have received favorable reviews about her teaching from the adult students. If you know anyone who is interested in learning Japanese, please refer them to this class.

We have opened a new Japanese class for young children, as well. This is a JFL (Japanese as foreign language) class for the children who are learning the language for the first

time. The class contents include Hiragana, Katakana, vocabulary, short phrases and sentences, conversation, manga, anime, J-pops, culture, games and much more. If you know any children who are interested in learning Japanese and the culture, please refer them to this class. Ms. Okada, who is teaching the daily upper division class, is in charge.

We have a wonderful high quality program with great teachers. Every one of our teachers from kindergarten to high school class is outstanding and passionate about language education. However, it is very difficult for them to conduct a good class if students are disruptive. It is not only unfair for teachers but also for other classmates. Please, discuss the reasons and importance for your children to learn the language, importance of being a good class citizen and striving to acquire the language with your children at every occasion.

Let us, the school, teachers, and parents together help our children improve their skills in every area of learning the language; speaking, writing, reading and listening. We appreciate your full cooperation this year again.

Madoka I. Hull, Principal

## JAPANESE CLASS FOR ADULTS

Target students: Adult, high school & college students

Days: Saturday

Time: 1) Beginners - 9-10:30 AM

2) Intermediate - 1:45 AM - 12:15 PM

## JLS JAPANESE CLASS FOR CHILDREN

Target students: 8-13 years old

Days: Tuesdays & Thursdays

Time: 5-6 PM



## AWARD RECIPIENTS OF GRADUATE CLASS OF 2013

### ■ *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  
Yuta Nakamura (Sat. Div. 9th Grade)

☆ JCOM Award  
Koichi Kurokawa  
(Sat. 10th Grade)



### ■ *Scholastic Effort Awards:*

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

☆ Yoshikazu Hirose (Sat. Div. 6th Grade)  
☆ Mitsuki Ishii (Sat. Div. 6th Grade)  
☆ Hikaru Washiya (Sat. Div. 8th Grade)  
☆ Lily Kawaoto (Sat. Div. 8th Grade)

## SERVICE AWARD OF TEACHERS 2013

☆ **5 years** Ms. Akemi Kaneshiro  
☆ **15 years** Ms. Yuko Yokota  
☆ **20 years** Ms. Hisano Magome  
☆ **41 years** Ms. Yoshiko Morohoshi

We would like to express our sincere appreciation to the Union Bank and JCOM for providing our students with scholarships and their support on our various events for

last many years.

Congratulations to all the award recipients!

## REQUEST

1) When you pick up your children, please come to the designated area to meet your children, especially, lower grade students. Teachers cannot bring your children to your cars. The parking lot is dangerous for small children to look for their parents alone. We appreciate your cooperation.

2) We wish to have an oven toaster (a clean and relatively new one). If you have an oven toaster that you are not using at home, please donate it to the office.

## APPRECIATION

1) JLS received a monetary donation by Dr. & Mrs. Tamotsu Ikeda upon graduation. Thank you, Ikeda Sensei.

2) At the beginning of this school year, 3 and 4-years old preschool students received drawing pads and Pentel crayon sets. Two years old children received play-dough sets. The children will use them in their classes throughout the year and bring them home at the end of the school year. Thank you.

3) The building maintenance gents did the following work for us:

Ken Nishida constructed 5 special stools for preschooler's bathroom use. Wallace Yuki, John Nakamura and Joe Nishihira fixed sprinklers at the preschool backyard.



## 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.



## PTC NEWS

Welcome back to Japanese School as the weather slowly starts to cool down . . . We hope that everyone enjoyed their summer and the students have transitioned nicely into their new classes. We also would like to welcome any new families to the GBC-JLS.

The Parent Teacher Council (PTC) provides fun Japanese cultural events for our students throughout the academic year, and your support and assistance is crucial for the PTC to be able to continue providing these events. Each class requires a parent class representative to attend monthly PTC meetings and keep the parents updated with these scheduled events. Please consider being a parent rep for your child's class. The position is not demanding, does not require a lot of time – and you do not have to be bilingual.

The first half of the school year is very busy with our upcoming Sawakai for the teachers and class room representatives, and our Fall Chicken Curry and Cookie sale. Parent volunteers will be needed for the chicken curry sale, which is our first major fund raiser for the year. Please be on the lookout for notifications regarding ticket sales and volunteer opportunities. I hope that I can count on your support and look forward to working with all of you.

Nancy Hamasaki, PTC President

Next PTC Meeting:

Saturday, November 2nd at 8:45 am in the Cooling Room.

## AUTUMN SALE

### PTC FUND-RAISING

- **Daily Cookie Sale**  
Friday, November 15
- **Curry & Cookie Sale**  
Saturday, November 16  
\$5 / ticket



Tickets are available NOW!

We NEED your heeeelp!

## MARUKAI RECEIPT FUND-RAISING

Thank you very much to all the JLS parents and GBC members who have given us Marukai receipts. **This fund-raising is an on-going project.** Thank you to everyone. Periodically, we receive a substantial amount of kick-bak from Marukai. We will put this money for a good use for the language division and preschool division. We look forward to your continued support. Thank you so very much to Marukai.



## ARTICLE TO SHARE

### “Red Dragonflies are not red when they are young.”

Japanese Book title: 「日本人なら知っておきたい、  
名句・季語・歳時記の謎」

<http://www.shinkosha-jp.com/etail/others/4-86081-056-2.html>  
(English translation of the book title: “If you are Japanese, you want to know the mystery of well-know adages, seasonal words for haiku composing, and grocery of traditional events and customs”)

The following article is a portion of the book that is translated in English.

\*\*\* .....

In the Japanese myth, Japan is called “Akitsu Shima.” “Akitsu” means dragonfly. So, the direct translation of Akitsu Shima is the Island of many dragonflies. Even now, in the Okinawa Islands and east northern regions in Japan, “tonbo” (dragonfly) is called “akezu.” There are many different kinds of tonbo (dragonflies) in Japan, but we refer Aka-tonbo (red dragonfly) to tonbo (dragonflies) in general.

“Aki tonbo (fall dragonfly) landing on my shoulder, how friendly it is!” by Soseki Natsume, Japanese author. There are Natsu-akane (summer dragonfly) and Aki-akane (autumn dragonfly) in red dragonfly group. They look very similar, but Aki-akane (fall dragonfly) emerges in June and all fly away. Their destination is the mountains. They sometimes fly up to 3,000 meter (9,842 feet) high mountains. When the height of summer passes and cold air starts to cover the mountains, the Aki-akane come down to villages. Natsu-akane does not travel very much, and they stay in the forest and woods. Among the red dragonflies, only

matured males are red. The bodies of females and young males have orange color. If their bodies are real red, that means they are fully matured because they come down from mountains when they became full-matured adults. "When I pause a moment and look around, I notice many dragonflies around me" by Teijo Nakamura. For some reason, when you notice one red dragonfly, we realized there are so many dragonflies around us. When one swarm of dragonflies comes down from the mountains, and large swarms of dragonflies appear everywhere in towns, we know that we are deeply into autumn season.

\*\*\* ..... \*\*\*

## THANK YOU

We received donations from the parents of graduates the past June. The list is on the page 3 of the Japanese section.

## HOT JAPANESE TV PROGRAMS

Let's improve your listening skill by watching Japanese TV Programs! One of the best ways to improve your listening skill for language learners is to watch TV programs. You should watch programs with simple stories. Even you cannot understand what actors and actresses are saying, at least you can follow the stories, learn current way of speaking, slangs, phrases and more. You can rent DVDs at one of the Japanese video stores or view dramas and silly variety shows on Youtube sites. Some of the current popular TV programs are as follow:

- ☺ *Hanzawa Naoki*
- ☺ *Ama-chan*
- ☺ *Namonaki doku*
- ☺ *Summer Nude*
- ☺ *Legal High 2*

Japanese You Tube sites:

- Kimamani Youtube
- Youtube Drama Dogakan

## RULES FOR RECEIVING PERFECT ATTENDANCE & 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.



## SCHOOL CALENDAR



### October

- |      |     |  |
|------|-----|--|
| 25th | Fri | P.S. (Daily Div.)<br>Halloween Parade at Social Hall |
| 25th | Fri | JLS (Daily Div.) Photo Sessions                      |
| 26th | Sat | JLS/P.S. (Sat. Div.) Photo Sessions                  |
| 26th | Sat | PTC Sawa-kai Tea Party                               |

### November

- |           |            |   |
|-----------|------------|---|
| 1st       | Fri        | P.S. (Daily Div.) Photo Sessions            |
| 11th      | Mon        | Veteran's Day--- <b>School Closed</b>       |
| 15th      | Fi         | PTC Autumn Sale (Cookies)                   |
| 16th      | Sat        | PTC Autumn Sale (Curry & Cookies)           |
| 28th~30th | (Thu ~Sat) | Thankgiving Holidays-- <b>School Closed</b> |