



We were blessed with rain due to the storms in our area in January. Although it was a good thing for California that has chronic water problems, I thought it may be tough for our children and families to come to school on a rainy Monday. Contrary to my expectations; however, the children wore rainy boots or carried umbrellas, and they were making merry in the puddles. They knew how to play on a rainy day.

I shared his thoughts about children when I read "Future Little Daruma (a traditional Japanese tumbling doll)" by Mr. Satoshi Kako, who is a picture book writer. He says, "Children may be powerless against adults; however, each child has abilities to think by himself (herself) and feels various things more than adults". When I spend time with children, I am often amazed at how they create fun activities and discover new things.

There is another thing that I agreed with Mr. Kako's book. He made "Daruma" as the main character in his picture book. He thought that making something ethnic Japanese is natural for Japanese picture books. In our preschool, we cherish things that have been popular for a long time among children in Japan. For example, the teachers incorporate "Kamishibai" (picture-card shows) into the curriculum on a daily basis. Furthermore, they introduce traditional games and songs associated with them (eg. Kagome Kagome), and present slideshows of children's fairy tale.

We try to find out what the children like and what they are interested in, and we will continue to strive to make an environment based on them. We hope the

children will cherish the Japanese original.

Director Keiko Damiata

Announcement



In the middle of March, we will distribute the re-registration form as usual. Like last year, we will ask the parents/guardians of the current Daily 2-year-old and 3-year-old classrooms to submit the re-registration form and pay \$150 (reservation fee applicable toward September's tuition) by the deadline to reserve a space for your child. Please read the note about details that will be distributed afterwards. We ask for your kind understanding.

School Calendar



March

1 (Fri)	Daily	Hinamatsuri (Girls' - Dolls' Day)
2 (Sat)	Saturday	Hinamatsuri (Girls' - Dolls' Day)
8 (Fri)	Daily	PTC Spring Sale (Cookies)
9 (Sat)	Saturday	PTC Spring Sale (Chicken Teriyaki & Cookies)

April

5 (Fri)	Daily	2nd Semester ends
6 (Sat)	Saturday	2nd Semester ends
7 (Sun)	Daily/Sat	Undokai (Sports Event)
8 (Mon)~12 (Fri)	Daily	Spring Vacation
	Saturday	4/13(Spring Vacation)
15 (Mon)	Daily	3rd Semester begins
20 (Sat)	Saturday	3rd Semester begins

Notes from the teachers of the Daily and Saturday classes about children's recent school life.

Daily Classes



2-year-old classrooms (Penguin & Risu)

In spite of the two-week vacation, we felt the children's growth because they grew taller or completed a toilet training, and they looked more matured like "big sisters" and "big brothers". In class they played New Year's games such as "Fukuwarai" (a game like "pin the tail on the donkey"), "Koma" (a spinning top), and "Karuta" (traditional Japanese playing cards). Recently they began to play as a group or with particular friends.

3-year-old classrooms (Banana & Melon)

Our children enjoyed playing traditional New Year's games such as "Fukuwarai" and "Karuta". We made "Fukuwarai" and played it blindfolded. Although they did not know initially how to play "Karuta", they were able to get cards and learned new words after playing it several times. We hope that they were able to feel the atmosphere of Japanese New Year.

4-year-old classrooms (Bara & Sumire)

The new semester has just begun. Our children told us about wonderful memories of the winter vacation. We think that the children felt enjoyable and difficult about standing in front of friends in class and conveying their feelings to them. In addition, they seemed to learn about the importance of following rules when they played New Year's games such as "Karuta" and "Koma".

Saturday Classes



3-year-old & 4-year-old classrooms (Sakura & Kiku)

We combined 3-year-old and 4-year-old classes into one class this school year; therefore, the older children took care of the younger children. For example, when a younger child cried, an older child asked, "Are you OK?" then, she said, "Your mom will pick you up later, so don't cry." Furthermore, the older children helped to tie younger children's shoes. We taught five Hiragana letters each month. For example, they made "Onigiri" (rice balls) and ate them

when they learned an "O". Also, they made "Hagoita" (a battledore) when they learned an "H".

Gifts from the PTC

Our children have received crayons, playdough, sketchbooks, markers, and colored pencils from the PTC (different items depending on age group). They are using them in class. Please look at the note about details in the hallways. In addition, the children have received some toys and materials for craft as well. We always appreciate our parents/guardians' supports toward the PTC.



4-year-old class children's visit Hondo

November 2, 2018, our 4-year-old classrooms visited Hondo at Church and listened to Rev. Iwohara (participation with their parents/guardians' permission). At first Rev. Iwohara talked about "When you got lost". He explained as follows. When you get lost, Buddha conveys the message that "I am here" to your dad or mom. Furthermore, he said, "It is very important to greet people properly. Please make sure you always say such things as "ohayou gozaimasu (good morning) and "sayounara" (goodbye) to people.

Donation of Piano



We are in need of a piano for one of the classrooms. If somebody can generously donate it, we would be grateful. Please contact the office. Thank you.

South Gates after 5:00pm

After 5:00pm, the gate facing 166th street is closed due to security purposes. Please use the gates facing Dalton Street. Thank you for your understanding.

