

NAKAYOSHI PRESCHOOL NEWSLETTER

1st term 2020-2021



DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

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

Excited voices of the children saying, “Good morning” and “I am good” and their big smiles are back although our Preschool was closed for more than six months due to COVID-19. We were looking forward to seeing the children and their families again. Due to COVID-19, we have devised daily activities and events, and created curriculum so that the children can have a safe and fun preschool environment.

It is difficult for the children to maintain social distance per the new guidelines. To help keep distance, we have created individual “play spaces” by outlining the floors in the classrooms with blue tape. Like older children, even the two-year-old children can play within their designated spaces. Morning activities in the classrooms are based on weekly themes just like before the shutdown. Our October themes are “My Body and Feeling”, “Friends” and “Halloween”. Each grade has age-appropriate curriculum based on those themes. In free-choice time in the morning as well as afternoon, the children choose their favorite baskets with toys that the teachers have prepared in advance. After the children finish playing with the toys, they put them back to the designated area. Furthermore, when the children line up in the hallways or outside, they stand on the yellow and blue stickers that are on the ground and spaced six feet apart.

Like the classrooms, we have created individual play spaces that are outlined blue tape at the playground. We prepare baskets with toys on the wagons outside. Besides baskets with toys, the children have a variety of choices to

play. They can ride on tricycles, play hopscotch, or balance on a beam. Furthermore, we have “Chalk Art on the Ground Day” and “Bubble Day”. After the children play in their individual spaces, they can move to the Exercise Area (there are ten big circles outlined with chalk) where they can dance  to music or exercise in each circle. After playing at the Exercise Area, they take a walk to other areas of premises, run a race, or move their bodies. For the two-year-old classroom children, it is difficult to play in the individual spaces outside; however, they dance, run a race, ride on a tricycle, or take a walk. Outside time in the morning and afternoon (9-5:30 program) lasts for about forty minutes.

Regarding the cleaning regimen, toys are sanitized every day. For the bathroom, two children at most use it at one time. After use, the toilet seat and handle are sanitized. We keep doors and windows open to allow for ventilation. In addition, all the classrooms are sanitized by the janitors after the children leave.

The children have become used to having their temperature taken every morning and waiting until the measurement is finished. Surprisingly, almost all of them wear  their masks all day except during meal and nap time. For the most part, they follow the new rules and play vigorously and learn. For the parents/guardians, thank you for taking your child's temperature at home and having him/her wear a mask. We will continue these safety measures for the foreseeable future; therefore, we kindly ask for your cooperation.

Keiko Damiata, Director



ANNOUNCEMENT

Ms. Madoka Hull, Principal, who had worked for the church and Japanese Language School for twenty-three years retired at the end of last September. She worked on Japanese language education for long time with ideals and passion. She also participated in Preschool events and supported us in general. Likewise, Ms. Hisako Takamura and Ms. Miyoko Nishiya (Saturday program) retired at the end of June. They had a great deal of experience on early childhood education and took good care of the children. Thank you for supporting the Preschool, Ms. Hull, Ms. Takamura, and Ms. Nishiya. We pray for their health and continued success.

HALLOWEEN PARADE ON OCTOBER 30 (FRIDAY)

We plan to have a Halloween Parade this year. Trick-or-Treating will be done by class while maintaining social distancing. Unfortunately because of COVID-19, the parade will be held without parents/guardians' participation. If your child wants to wear a costume, please have him/her wear it from home. Please have a costume that is easy to move around in (no sandals, no holding small items in his/her hand). Also please bring extra clothes for those children in the all-day program.

APPRECIATION

While the Preschool was closed, we received a lot of support from the Building Maintenance Crews and other helpers. They placed stickers in the hallways to mark out physical distance, installed shelves in the bathrooms for disinfectant bottles, installed new canopies in the playground, and took general care of the premises. We would like to say thank you to the following people: Alan Miwa, Brian Imada, Wallace Yuki, John Nakamura, Ken Nishida, Joe Nishihira, Daniel Iwamoto, James Yokota, Tom Sasaki, Tom Fukuman, Linda Shimizu, Christine Miwa, and Cathy Uyemura.

SERVICE AWARD OF TEACHERS

~10 years~

Ms. Tomoko Nakagawa (Preschool)

Ms. Harumi Uehara (JLS)

Ms. Eri Nelson (Office)



Congratulations on receiving the service award. We appreciate your hard work for the Preschool.

IMPORTANT REMINDER

- 1) **WEAR the MASK and KEEP the SOCIAL DISTANCE** while you are in the school grounds. 
- 2) **SMOKING IS PROHIBITED** entirely on the school grounds. (California State law) 
- 3) **DOGS ARE NOT ALLOWED** on the school grounds. (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. 
- 4) The speed limit on the premises is strictly under **5 miles/hour**. Please hold your child's hand when you go through the parking lot.

We appreciate your full cooperation on the above matters.

SCHOOL CALENDAR

October 30 (Fri) Halloween Parade

November 11 (Wed) Veteran's Day
School Closed

November 26 (Thu) Thanksgiving Day
November 27 (Fri) School Closed

December 18 (Fri) 1st Semester ends

December 21 (Mon) ~January 1 (Fri) Winter Vacation

