



SCHOOL-PTC NEWSLETTER



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Principal's Message

思いやり

(Consideration, Compassion)

This year's motto for our Japanese Language School is: "Let's speak Japanese." I think that no matter what language, the most important desire and goal for foreign language learners is to be able to speak that language fluently. However, we must be aware that the words (language) - by their usage, choice of words, the way it is said, tone of the voice, attitude, gesture, facial and eye expressions - convey feelings of



the speaker to the listener. A person may regret that what he said may have angered or hurt the other party, saying, "I didn't mean the way you interpreted what I said." Once spoken, words cannot be retracted, and may cause an argument, such as, "I didn't say such a thing." "Yes, you did." As such, from the standpoint of a Japanese language

instructor, I would like to stress that we must always be careful how we use words. We must not forget to be aware of the listeners' feelings and position. At the same time, it is important to try to interpret what others say in a friendly and broadminded way.

To improve relationships with others, and conduct daily activities in a smooth way, it is very important to communicate properly with others. In this respect, isn't it necessary to understand the others' feelings, be considerate of others and approach others with consideration?

When we research the word "思いやり = omoiyari = Consideration, compassion" on the internet, we are overwhelmed by the various interpretations and meanings in the Japanese language.

For instance, if one looks from the standpoint of "Consideration for the family, surroundings," the word "omoiyari" means:

- 気くばり kikubari = attentive
- 心づかい kokoro zukai = concern
- 親切 Shinsetsu = kindness, thoughtful
- 厚情 kō-jō = kindness
- 厚意 kō-i = kind intention
- (こ)芳情 (go) ho-jō = kind intention

- 心配 shimpai = concern
- 配慮 (tasha e no) hairyo = consideration (to others)
- 親心 (kantoku no) oyagokoro = (director's) parental affection
- 豊かさ (kokoro no) yutakasa = generously
- 利他的な ritatekina = altruistic (thoughtful of the welfare for others)
- 温かい atatakai (kimochi) = warm (feeling)
- こまやかさ komayakasa = tenderness
- 心くばり kokorokubari (wo shimesu) = (to show) concern/care
- 心尽くし kokorozukushi = consideration, care

From the standpoint of "The weak, Consideration for the Society," "omoiyari" means:

- なさけ nasake = sympathy, compassion
- 慈しみ itsukushimi = love, affection
- 哀れみ awaremi = pity, compassion
- 温かみ atatakami = warmth, warm-hearted
- ぬくもり nukumori (no aru) = warmth
- いたわりの気持ち itawari no kimochi = compassionate
- 同情の気持ち dō-jō no kimochi = sympathy, compassion
- 親切心 shinsetsushin = kind heart
- 善意 zen-i = good intention
- 誠意 sei-i = sincerity
- 献身的な kenshintekina = devoted, self-sacrificing
- 自己犠牲 jiko gisei = self-sacrifice, self-renunciation, self-abnegation
- 愛 ai = love
- 慈悲 ji-hi = benevolence

恵み megumi (wo ataeru) = to bestow blessing
 博愛精神 hakuai seishin = spirit of philanthropy, charity
 好意 ko-i (wo shimesu) = to show good will

Finally, meanings associated with “Criminals and Repentant Criminals” are listed:

寛大な kandai na = lenient generosity, broadmindedness
 情け深い nasakebukai = compassionate
 温情ある on-jō aru = warm heartedness
 人間味のある ningen aji no aru = humanness
 花も実もある hana mo mi mo aru = judicious
 人情 ninjo = human(e) feeling, kindness
 情味 jo-mi = human(e) feeling
 人情味 ninjōmi wo shimesu = show warm heart
 慈悲の心 ji-hi no kokoro = feelings of benevolence
 理解 (e no) rikai (wo shimesu) = show understanding
 粹な計らい iki na (hakarai) = lenient response

In addition, further definitions of “omoiyari” concerning “Consideration Concerning Personality” include:

優しい女性 yasashii (josei) = graceful, gentle (lady)
 気のいい kino ii = good natured
 気立ての良い kidate no yoi = kind - hearted, tender-hearted
 デリカシーのある derikashii no aru = have delicate feeling
 心の豊かな kokoro no yutakana = broad-minded
 たしなみのよい tashinaminoyoi = prudent, modest, discreet
 ゆかしい心(- e no) yukashii kokoro = admirable feeling (for)
 気をつく (yoku) kino tsuku = considerate
 好意的な反応 ko-i tekina(hanno) = friendly (reaction)
 心 kokoro = heart

There are so many words to convey consideration for other warm-hearted individuals. If we keep these words in mind when we call out to others and approach them with wonderful human love, perhaps many quarrels/wars will disappear from this world.

With society rich with advances in technology, methods of conveying thoughts and feelings diversified. Nowadays, instant communication is occurring worldwide with e-mails, texted messages, Facebook, and Twitter. During the recent presidential election, hundreds of thousands, millions of people exchanged opinions. In contrast, it is interesting that the regularly mailed/delivered mail is called snail-mail (slow (mail) like a snail). On the other hand, cyber bullying is becoming an increasing problem. It is said that there is an increasing number of people who are unable to face each other and talk, people who are unable to come face-to-face with

other people regarding disagreements, people unable to say “Thank you,” “Thank you for your help,” “I’m sorry for the problem I caused”- one wonders “what’s going on?”

The words/language change with time and era, and young people play with various words- in any age, the scholars lament the disarray - “butchering” - of words by the young people; however, when one looks at the changes in word usage, one feels a deep interest. Dale Carnegie, in his work, “How to Win Friends and Influence People”, states: “Pass the days by spreading the words of gratitude coming from deep consideration (of others) - this is the secret of how to win friends and influence people” (Sorry-this is the work of the translator, and it’s not his real quote).

Should we not begin each morning with smiling “Good morning” and say “thank you” for someone’s kind act? When appropriate, should we not apologize by looking straight at people? Let’s try to have discussion with other people when we have problems instead of avoiding them. Let us also try to understand why other people did what they did instead of blaming them.

In many different languages, there really are beautiful words of greetings. Let us as adults set a good example for children/students by using/speaking good, clean words, greet people cordially, and demonstrating good manners.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding classes, children/students, or have any problems with the parents/guardians, please feel free to come in and discuss with the Yochien Director, Mrs. Morohoshi, or with me, the Principal, Mrs. Hull.

——— Madoka I. Hull,
Principal



Appreciation

We received a monetary gift from Dr. David Nakatani & Mrs. Lily Nakatani who are JLS and GBC Board members for a purchase of a DVD player.





Notes from

Nakayoshi Preschool

Director's Message

While we worried about the cold rain, this year's "Cookie shopping" ended in success. It is very pleasant to hear children practicing in earnest for the various up-coming programs. The kids have been busy with Thanksgiving, birthday parties, and preparing for the year-end party, followed by the mochi-tsuki (rice-ball pounding).



The year-end parties are scheduled for December 15th for the Saturday Division, and December 19th for the Daily Division - on these days we would like to see all parents/guardians come and enjoy the program with the students. Detailed information will be forwarded at a later date.



There will be mochitsuki on Friday, December 21st (Daily) and Saturday, December 22 (Saturday). We would like to ask the room mothers to help with the activities.

The winter vacation starts on December 24. We hope all the students will have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. We'll see you next semester.

Calendar:

- ◆ Winter Break
Dec. 24th (Mon) ~ Jan. 5th (Sat)
- ◆ Second 2nd Trimester begins
 - Daily Class... Jan. 7th (Mon)
 - Sat. Class... Jan. 12th (Sat)



Appreciation:

- ✿ We are truly grateful to the volunteer parents who helped the Curry and Cookie Sale. Because of your warm help, the sale was a big success.
- ✿ Thank you to the parents who gave us generous donations of toys, books, videos and first aid goods.

Appreciation:

- ✿ There are some openings in the 3-year-old daily classes, and 3-year-old, 4-year-old Saturday classes. If you know anybody with preschool age children, please let them know about our program.

———— Yoshiko Morohoshi, Director

Let us thoroughly warm our bodies

When the weather gets cold, we really want to get thoroughly warm, don't we? At this time, let us really plan our meals well. Root vegetables are examples of body-warming foods. Meals using Satsumaimo (Japanese sweet potato), kabocha (Japanese pumpkin) and carrots, such as stew and soup, are easy to eat/digest and are popular menu. Please give it a try.

Yuzu and kabocha

(Japanese citrus and pumpkin)



On the first day of winter, (in Japan) one takes a bath with yuzu in it, and eat kabocha, wishing for a healthy life. Yuzu is high in Vitamin C, and when one consumes it, one gets resistant to colds, it improves blood circulation, and it also serves as a pain-killer.

Kabocha is high in Vitamin E and beta-carotene and is anti-aging and improves immunity. In the past (in Japan), when there was shortage of vegetables in the winter, it is said that people saved the kabocha harvested in the summer for winter use.



PTC News



On behalf of the PTC, we would like to thank ALL the parents who came out to volunteer and donated cookies for our annual fall chicken curry and cookie sale. Despite the threat of rain, all 450 orders were made on time for pick up. The Daily Yochien and Nichigobu divisions worked tirelessly on Thursday and Friday with the preparation, and all the Saturday parents completed cooking, packing, and bagging the orders. The children had lots of cookies to choose from and had fun buying bags and bags of cookies! None of this is possible without your active participation – thank you very much.

We also would like to thank Mutual Trading Co. for their generous corporate contribution and to Marukai Corporation for their continued support of the PTC.

Our next big event will be mochitsuki in December. This event also takes a tremendous amount of manpower in order to make/process 200 lbs. of mochi over two days. Without volunteers committed to come out and help, the prospect of continuing mochitsuki will seriously be impacted for each respective division. Mochitsuki is a favorite of most the students – and adults! So please be sure to come out and help so that we can continue this tradition for all of the students. Information will be forthcoming so please be sure to look out for it.

This will be last PTC newsletter for 2012 – wishing your family a joyous holiday season and a great 2013!!

I look forward to working with you in the New Year.

———— Nancy Hamasaki

Reminder:

Next PTC meeting will be held on Saturday, February 2, 2013 at 8:45 am in the Hondo Room.



“Joya no Kane-tsuki”, the Bell-ringing Ritual

On New Year’s Eve, tolling the Big Bell will be officiated by a reverend immediately after the service held at 7 PM at the Gardena Buddhist church. Tolling the Bell 108 times means removing 108 worldly desires within us. We hope that you can see the New Year with a clear mind after tolling the bell. GBC will serve Toshikoshi-soba. Please come and join us at the New Year’s Eve service.

Year of Snake



Occupying the 6th position in the Chinese Zodiac, the Snake symbolizes such character traits as intelligence, gracefulness and materialism. When it comes to decision-making, Snakes are extremely analytical and as a result, they don’t jump into situations. They are effective at getting the things they want, even if it means they have to scheme and plot along the way.

Snakes are very materialistic creatures, preferring to surround themselves with the finest that life has to offer. This is especially evident in the home, where luxurious furnishings and surroundings help Snakes seek the peace they need in order to thrive.

<http://www.chinesezodiac.com/snake.php>



SCHOOL CALENDAR



December

15th Sat P.S. (Sat. Div.) Fun Party
 19th Wed P.S. (Daily Div.) Fun Party
 21st Fri JLS/P.S.(Daily Div.) 1st Trimester ends
 PTC Mochitsuki
 22nd Sat JLS/P.S. (Sat. Div.) 1st Trimester ends
 PTC Mochitsuki
 24th~Jan. 5th **Winter Break**

January

7th Mon JLS/P.S. (Daily Div.) 2nd Trimester begins
 12th Sat JLS/P.S.(Sat.Div.) 2nd Trimester begins
 21st Mon Martin Luther King Jr. Day
No School
 23rd Wed P.S. (Daily Div.) Class Observations
 24th Thu JLS (Daily Div.) Class Observations
 26th Sat JLS (Sat. Div.) Class Observation

Language and Me

(RE: LANGUAGE/ EXPRESSION)

(Continuing from last issue)

C. Big Hitsuji (Sheep)



At this time, I would like to dwell a little about the Japanese writing (Kanji).

For instance, there is a kanji called/read as “bi = beauty”. Beauty is the most basic of human senses; however, in kanji, it is written as “big sheep”

Why is this so? Why is it “sheep”?

It indicates that when this kanji was first “invented” 3300 years ago in China, sheep was already in existence along with the humans. This kanji encompasses the lives of the nomads raising the animals in the great plains, along with an image of the great outdoors. If one contemplates (thinks about) the co-existence of man and sheep – man eats its meat, drinks its milk, and when cold uses its pelt/skin/hair to keep warm – by living together sheep gives comfort to man, and they are precious and adorable companions. To say such existence with sheep is great, implies wealth. In other words, “bi = beauty” implies wealth, and to live in wealth means the ideal (life). “Bi = beauty” implies happiness at being alive, that it’s great to be alive, it’s great to have been born; thus one can understand that the word expresses instinctively beautiful (great) feeling.

Although “oishii = delicious” is written in kanji and hiragana as “beautiful taste”, “oishii” is also beauty. What kind of feeling is “good taste” feeling? As an example, let’s assume we just ate a bowl of delicious ramen. When one feels, “oh, it was delicious”, a bowl of ramen fully satisfies various elated/joyful feeling, such as “I feel more energetic”, “the

tired feeling disappeared”, “I feel like doing/accomplishing something”, “now I can put more effort in to my afternoon work”, “it’s great to be alive”. In this way “oishii = delicious” like “bi = beauty”, is the ideal (way of) living, and gives an “aesthetic sense” of “I’m glad I’m alive”.

At the Kyoto Formative (Plastic) Arts University where I am the Dean, each year I speak to the incoming new students about what is this “bi = beauty”. Since I have been the Dean for the past six years – it means that all the students who have been graduate students for two years know the word “bi = beauty”, and comprehend the essence of the kanji “bi = beauty”.

What happens when one understands the essential meaning of the word “bi = beauty”? In reality, the things the students produce/create change.

When they realize that “aesthetic beauty” is instinctive, and it lets them look straight ahead at living, their individual sense of beauty deepens, and allows them to be able to produce a (great) creation, without going through the rudimentary maze.

Incidentally, we frequently hear what is the difference between “utsukushii = beautiful” and “kirei = clean, pretty, tidy, neat”. “kirei” means to neatly put things in order, or to tidy up, and to tidy up means to erasure, re-arrange or consolidate, polish, leave out or omit. In other words, in contrast to “utsukushii”, meaning instinctive sense, “kirei” means willful or volition type of sense; thus I feel that as a language, separating the usage of “utsukushii” and “kirei” is important in order to deepen the aesthetic sense.

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.

Reminder

The request letters for Oseibo donation have already been sent to JLS & Nakayoshi Preschool families. We are currently accepting Oseibo, monetary gift from parents for our teachers. **All** the money received from our parents will be given to our teachers along with the money from the church as a year-end gift. Your donation in any amount will be greatly appreciated. Please write your full name and address on the envelope for a list of all donors will be acknowledged in the January issue of School News letter in lieu of individual letter of appreciation and receipt.

It is requested that no individual gift be given to any teacher by the students of JLS and Preschool division.

If you wish to give a personal gift to your child class teacher, please do so at the end of the school year.

Thank you for your generosity.

