

Notes from Nakayoshi Preschool

Welcome to the New Year. Nakayoshi children have grown up by leaps and bounds during the winter vacation. They are "full of beans" even on cold or windy days when most adults tend to be less energetic. Children who may seem to be a bit sad or grumpy upon arrival go home with a big smile after spending time with friends and teachers. Nakayoshi children entertained parents and guardians at a Fun Party in December by presenting songs, dances, and plays. At Mochitsuki, they each pounded mocha with a millet in a mortar while their moms and dads were watching. At the class observation, parents and guardians observed how the children spend their time while at school. During the 2nd semester, we will have the PTC Spring Sale and Undokai (Sports Event). Hopefully, you will all be able to attend.

Even energetic children sometimes catch a cold, have a fever, cough, or have a runny nose during winter time. Especially young and new children tend to get sick because their resistance and immune system are not fully developed. If your child becomes sick, please keep him/her at home until he/she recovers. Washing hands with soap and water helps prevent the spread of infection. Please have your children wash their hands often.

Director Keiko Damiata

February Themes and Songs

Let's play with friends together. (Promote friendship through play)



Ton-ton pachi-pachi, Akushu de konnichiwa, Ureshi i hinamatsuri, Dashite hikkomete, Yagi no yubinya-san, Kobutanukitsuneko



March Themes and Songs

Let's learn seasonal changes in spring through nature and activities.

Ganbari man, Tulip, Choucho, Haru ga kita, Tentoumushi, Kawaii kakurenbo, Bunbunbun



April Themes and Songs

Let's take care of a living creature (Being interested in animals and plants and thankful to be alive).

Ohisama ga waratta, Marry Had a Little Lamp, Ai ai, Gorilla no uta, Otamajakushi, Koinobori, Katatsumuri



School Calendar

February

February 13 (Sat)

Sat. classes CAJLS. Association Annual
General Mtng & Seminars
School Closed

February 15 (Mon)

Daily classes Presidents' Day **School Closed**

February 27 (Sat)

Sat. classes Hinamatsuri (Girls' - Dolls' Day)
Celebration

March

March 3 (Thu)

Daily classes Hinamatsuri (Girls' - Dolls' Day)
Celebration

March 18 (Fri)

Daily classes PTC Spring Sale (Cookies)

March 19 (Sat)

Sat. classes PTC Spring Sale (Chicken Teriyaki
& Cookies)

April

April 1 (Fri) 2 (Sat)

Daily/Sat. 2nd Semester ends

April 3 (Sun)

Daily/Sat. Undokai (Sports Event)

April 4 (Mon)~8 (Fri)

Daily classes Spring Vacation
Sat. classes 4/9(Spring Vacation)

April 11 (Mon) 16(Sat)

Daily/Sat. 3rd Semester begins

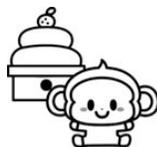
April 30 (Sat)

GBC Fuji Matsuri Festival (GBC Event)
School Closed

Appreciation

Thank you parents and guardians for your Oseibo donations. The names of donors are listed in the Japanese Language School's newsletter.

We enjoyed our traditional event, the PTC Mochituki in December due to the efforts of Nancy Hamasaki (the PTC president), Risa Kuwahara, Marie Clarke, class representatives, and parent volunteers. Thank you all very much.



New Teacher

Ms. Kana Mukai has been working as an assistant teacher since last October. She is full of energy and welcomes the children with a big smile. We are happy to have such a wonderful teacher.

Kindergarten Preparation

As you know, children who will be five years of age on or before September 1 have been eligible for public school kindergarten since 2014. Therefore, some public elementary schools now offer Transitional Kindergarten (TK). Not only Nakayoshi Preschool but also other preschools have been affected because children who are eligible for TK are enrolled in a TK class without having to complete a four-year-old class. At Nakayoshi Preschool, we make an effort to expose children to the wonderful Japanese culture and language. Once children go to kindergarten, they speak and write in English and tend to forget Japanese. In our preschool, we have created curriculum along with kindergarten readiness. Furthermore, we have incorporated music, art, and sports fully in the curriculum, which is often not the case for elementary schools. We would like your child to enjoy our wonderful preschool environment and graduate from a 4-year-old class. According to a kindergarten teacher in the Torrance school district, there are four basic things children can prepare for; 1) recognition of upper-case letters, 2) recognition of lower-case letters, 3) number concepts (1~10), and 4) write their own name. Your child will be prepared for kindergarten by learning the above basic items in addition to having an enriched school life by exposure to Japanese language and culture. We look forward to having your child enrolled in a 4-year-old class and graduating from our preschool. Thank you.

