



GBC JAPANESE LANGUAGE SCHOOL/NAKAYOSHI YOCHIEN

January & February 2013

SCHOOL-PTC NEWSLETTER



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

Layout/ Word Process: Hiroco Ames
Word Process, Print: Eri Nelson

Principal's Message

Happy New Year!

New Year always seems auspicious and hopeful.



Last year, Japan had a lot of problems such as the unsolved issues related to the Tohoku disaster along with the nuclear power plants, the Senkaku Island dispute and the change of the government administration. Those problems make even us as Japanese who live abroad, feel very uneasy. Recently, I hear of news and websites regarding Japanese politics and other issues from my brother in Japan. Among them, I find one site that is very encouraging and heartening for me. I would like to share it with you. Below is an extract from the book titled "Totetsu nai Nippon" (Stupendous Japan) written by Taro Aso. This book was first published in 2007. But, the book has been in limelight again and its sales have been picked up. I am sure some of our parents have read this. You can take a look at the YouTube as well. With the nice images, his messages are very moving. It is a good material to give a fresh look at Japanese, our culture and our value.

This year again, as a Japanese from overseas, I would like to send a big cheer to Japan. I would also like to be a good model of our students and continue teaching our wonderful culture and language together with our teachers.

— Madoka I. Hull,
Principal

"Totetsu nai Nippon"
(Stupendous Japan) by Taro Aso:
The Extract of the Book -English Translation



December, 2005, I had a chance to visit India as the Minister of Foreign Affairs. While I was staying in New Delhi, I inspected the subway that was just completed. I still remember the episode told by the Indian people who worked on the construction of the subway. This inspection of the subway was scheduled because the subway was constructed with Japan's ODA (Official Development Assistance). At the station we visited, Japanese and Indian flags were hoisted, and the sign said, "This subway system was created by Japan's aid" with a large letters. At the ticket barrier, a circular graph was posted. Part of the graph was colored with blue that indicated, "70 % of construction cost was paid by Japan." I was deeply moved by the displays, and expressed my

appreciation to the president of the public subway corporation. Then, the president thanked me and started telling me the following story:

I was the chief engineer. At the initiation meeting at the construction site, I arrived at the site a little earlier than 8 AM. But, all the engineers sent from Japan had been lined up with working clothes. It took more than 10 minutes for our Indian engineers to gather from the time I arrived. All the Japanese engineers kept standing without any complaints. When I reported "everyone is here," I was told that "8 o'clock assembly means start working at 8. That is a matter of course." It was vexing for me, so I went there at 8:45 AM next morning. But, all the Japanese were already there. Since then until the completion of the project, the Japanese repeatedly said the word "Nooki" (deadline.) We were told over and over again that we must meet the deadline of the every aspect of work schedule in order to complete the project on time. That meant we finish the project on time and not even one day late. We, the Indian staff, learned the word "nooki" naturally. Such a huge project was accomplished two months before the deadline. Of course such a thing had never happened before in India. The very next day after the completion, the people in charge of subway operation came this time. What they had in their hands were stopwatches. We were told that we must operate the subway accurately with the stopwatch. We received very strict training everyday so that we could operate the subway with faultless

precision. As a result, among all the public transportation in India, the subway is the only one that runs with an error of less than a few minutes. In India, an hour late is nothing out of the ordinary. But, the subway is the only one that is operated with such accuracy. This is phenomenal. The monetary and technological assistance were not the only things we gained through this project. Rather, what impacted us the most was the value of working and the virtue of labor. Our concept of labor was overturned from the ground up. The Japanese culture itself was the biggest gift to us. Now this subway is called "The Best Ambassador."

This episode impressed me very much. The attitude and diligence of the Japanese toward the project played a role of excellent ambassadors. They didn't show the Indian workers anything extraordinary. The Japanese worked just as diligently as they did in Japan. However, their work ethic was such a big shock to the Indian workers that their values toward work were changed.

Nowadays, some people bring up the instances of Karo-shi (deaths from overwork) and say Japanese work too much, and our way of working is wrong. Yet, denying our value of hard work is self-tormenting and disparaging, isn't it? Our quality of hard working or sincerity of trying very hard to meet the dead line is way more wonderful virtue than we think. Since I was appointed as the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the third Koizumi Cabinet and the Abe Cabinet, year and half has passed. During this period, I visited 23 countries, and by attending both international and domestic conferences, I met leaders of over 100 countries. I truly appreciate the opportunity to be the Foreign Affair Minister because I could recognize the position of Japan in the world by visiting many countries and talking with VIPs. I could feel their expectations toward Japan. Becoming the Minister was a valuable experience for me since I could realize the ability and power of Japan objectively.

Japan is truly an interesting country. Since the World War II, we have never had a war and have kept peace and stability. Over several decades of effort, we materialized an economic prosperity that is a rare achievement in the world. However, when you open the newspaper, we see negative articles about Japan being

a stratified society with declining birth rates and collapsing education. TV news reports nothing but cruel murders and dreadful incidents. On TV, well-informed people are often discussing, "Why Japan became so aggravated?" Watching TV programs and reading newspapers almost makes you wonder if Japan will crumble away tomorrow. But, please wait a minute. Is Japan such a bad country? Do we have such awful future ahead of us? I don't think so at all. On the contrary, Japanese economic standard are higher than many other countries. Japan has a great reputation with many countries way more than we think. As matter a fact, it has much potential. After the bubble economy collapsed, many argued that Japan should bring in more global standards. But, in my opinion, if anything, Japanese style has become global standards in reality. Toyota, Sony, Karaoke, Manga, Nintndo, J. pops are some of the examples. I wonder how much the concept of "nooki" (strict dead line) and "kaizen" (improvement) have contributed to the world. How many people's lives have instant ramen and cup-ramen saved? Japan is not as bad as our media portrays. In contrast, Japan has much more potential. Of course, we have many challenging issues to take care of. With decreasing birth rates and an aging population, the structure of the population is definitely changing. We need to change our policy for that. Along with keeping the vibrant society, it is essential to build a larger safety net. Societies always transform. With transformation, we can take measures suited to the situation. Taking a pessimistic view of Japan does not help improve the situation.

I wrote this book because I wanted to try thinking about "Japanese potential" again.

I would like you not to take it too seriously and read it with a little flexible mind. In order for us to think about the future of Japan, if this book triggers everyone to have an active discussion, I would be more than happy. My grandfather, *Shigeru Yoshida used to tell me this when I was a young boy: "Japanese energy is stupendous. Japan will definitely be a better country. Japan is indeed a stupendous country."

*Note ... Shigeru Yoshida (22 September 1878 – 20 October 1967) was a Japanese diplomat and politician who served as Prime Minister of Japan from 1946 to 1947 and from 1948 to 1954.



SCHOOL CALENDAR

February

- | | |
|----------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1st Fri | P.S. (Daily Div.)
Mamemaki Bean Throwing |
| 2nd Sat | P.S. (Sat. Div.) Class Observation
Mamemaki Bean Throwing |
| 11th Mon | Lincoln's Birthday(JLS no school)
* P.S....Regular Sessions |
| 16th Sat | CAJLS Seminar workshop... School Closed |
| 18th Mon | President's day... School Closed (PS/JLS) |

★ P.S. --- Preschool
JLS ---- Japanese Language School

March

- | | |
|----------|-------------------------------------------------|
| 1st Fri | P.S. (Daily Div.) Hinamatsuri Celebration |
| 2nd Sat | P.S. (Daily Div.) Hinamatsuri Celebration |
| 8th Fri | PTC Spring Sale (Cookies) |
| 9th Sat | PTC Spring Sale (Cookies/Teriyaki Chicken) |
| 23rd Sat | JLS Students' Achievement Presentations |
| 24th Sun | P.S. Undokai (Sports Event) |
| 25th Mon | School Closed (PS/JLS) (Make up day-off) |



Notes from



Nakayoshi Preschool

Director's Message

A HAPPY NEW YEAR!



This is the "Year of Snake". The kanji for snake "巳" is created from a hieroglyph and signifies a human embryo or snake crawling out of the earth after its hibernation. A Snake is believed to be the god of harvesting rice and god of money. It is also believed to be a god that brings you wisdom and fortune. Along with America, many countries in the world have been facing severe economic problems for many years. I strongly hope that the world economy will turn around to be in a healthier situation in the Year of Snake.

Class observations were successfully completed with many parents and guardians' participation. We canceled the afternoon daycare program on that day for our big meeting to discuss Undo-kai and other important issues. We apologize to the parents for the inconveniences.



Yoshiko Morohoshi,
Director



For Runny Nose

When a cold virus gets into our body, the nose mucous membrane gets inflated, and we have a runny nose. At the beginning of a cold, we have clear mucous. Yellow mucous means our body is combatting with a flu virus. Let's eat plenty of nutritious foods, get lots of rest and try not to catch a cold.



Hoiku to curriculum--anuary issue

Announcement

February

- Fri., 8th ... Birthday Party
- Fri., 15th ... Earthquake Drill
- Sat., 16th ... School Closed for CAJLS seminar
- Mon., 18th ... School Closed for Presidents day
- Sat., 23rd ... Staff CPR & First Aid training

Class Opening

We have some spaces available for new students in the following classes:

◆ **Mommy & Me Class** : (Tuesdays) 10-11:30 AM
Children need to be 1-year-old and older, and are able to walk.

◆ **Saturday Classes** : 8:30 AM - 12 PM
2 and half to 4-years-old

Piano Class

(private lesson, Tuesdays from 12:10 PM)
Students need to be 4-years-old and older.

Appreciation

With the PTC's donation, we purchased 2 tricycles. Even in cold weather, our preschoolers are having a good time riding the brand new tricycles. Thank you very much.



Useful Health Hints

Root vegetables such as carrots, renkon (lotus roots), gobo roots have an effect to warm up our body. Vitamin C and E that are contained in winter vegetables improve our recuperative power. When we eat stew or soup with a lot of vegetables, our body feels warm. It will be fun to try different recipes with various vegetables.



PTC News



Happy New Year greetings to everyone as we assemble back into second half of the school year. We hope that you all enjoyed the holidays and ushered in the “Year of the Snake” with much anticipation of hope and joy in the new year.

I would like to thank all of the divisions for coming out to help at mochitsuki so that we could continue this long-time tradition for our students. Congratulations to the Daily Division parents for coming out in numbers so that their students could continue mochitsuki this year. An extra “thank you” goes to the Daily Yochien Division parents that assisted the Daily Division with preparing more than half of their komochi, in addition to the 50 lbs. for their own division. This alone made the load for the Daily Division much easier. And thank you to all of the Saturday Division parents for another successful year. We hope that your children had fun making and eating the mochi, in addition to yourselves.

Please understand that your active participation is crucial and will directly impact whether or not these PTC activities will continue for any of the divisions. These events are not mandatory, but they are traditions that have been maintained by the JLS-PTC for many years – and it is our goal to continue having them each year for our students. At graduation each year, these PTC events are reflected upon as happy “memories” for the students, in addition to the benefit of learning the Japanese language at the JLS. Please do not jeopardize those memories for your children, as it came close this past year.

The last two PTC-sponsored events in which we will need parent volunteers and support will be the chicken teriyaki sale and the year-end pizza party for the JLS divisions and the fun jumpers for the Daily Yochien division. I look forward to seeing everyone at these events. Best wishes for a happy and healthy 2013.

— Nancy Hamasaki

Reminder:

The next PTC meeting is scheduled for Saturday, March 2, 2013 at 8:45 am in the Hondo Room.

Class Observation

The annual class observations for both the daily and Saturday divisions took place at the end January. Many parents observed their children’s classes. I hope everyone enjoyed seeing their children study Japanese. Thank you very much to the parents and guardians who participated in this event.



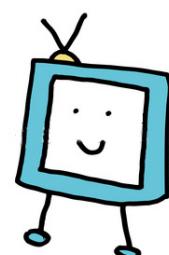
Seminar held by CAJLS (California Association of Japanese Language Schools)

Our teachers will attend the seminar held by CAJLS on February 16th. Over the last several years, lectures were given by Prof. Kataoka and her group of professors of CSULB. But, for this year, we have three lectures for elementary, middle and high school. The lecturers will be Ms. Aya Taylor and Ms. Chie Fujie (Verdugo Woodlands Elementary School) for elementary, Ms. Freda Yoshioka (Campbell Hall Middle School) for middle school and Ms. Rie Tsuboi (San Dieguito High School) for high school. The themes of the lectures are “Class management and Engaging Strategies,” “Activities and Strategies to Motivate Students,” and “Using pop culture to motivate students” All the themes sound interesting and useful for our teachers. The school will be closed on this day.

We express our appreciation to the following:

① Flat Screen TV and DVD

We finally got a 46” flat screen TV and DVD with the donations from PTC and Dr. and Mrs. David Nakatani. The TV and DVD have been set up nicely in the library. Students will enjoy watching Japanese movies, animation and educational program with the large screen now. Mr. Wallace Yuki, Mr. John Raynon, his son-in-law and his friend Mr. Shane de la Cruz bought and set up the machines for us. Thank you very much.



② School Bell

We use the school bell for evacuation drills. But, the sound of bell did not reach well to some of the classrooms. So, Mr. Hiro Kawai, Mr. Ken Nishida and Mr. John Nakamura worked on putting in an extra bell. They had to place 100 feet long metal pipe on the surface of the wall for electric cord. It was a lot of work. Thank you very much for completing the big project.

③ Purchased a Projector

We purchased a projector with the help of GBC. It should be useful for our teachers for class instruction.

Wish List:

We have many children's video tapes in the library, but do not have a VCR player. If anyone has used VCR recorder (relatively new one) at home, please donate. Thank you.



Thank you very much for your generosity!

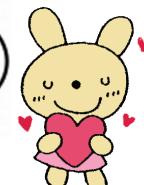
Ajifu, Masanobu
Asai, Hajime
Ashikawa, James
Au, Kenneth
Brown Saito, Eric
Canales, Melvin
Chow, Carter
Chun, Lester
Coopur, James
De La Riva, Raudel
Dzindzio, David
Escobar, Rafael
Esquibel, Gary
Froeb, Gordon
Fukumoto, Mark
Fukunaga, Robert
Gale, John
Gamino, Philip
Godinez, Skip
Gonzalez, Christopher
Gueron, Emerly
Hamasaki, Dwight
Haneda, Atsunori
Harrison, Shane
Hashimoto, John
Higa, Shane
Huang, Ben
Ichiyama, Nana
Ikeda, Kazumi
Imagawa, Mark
Inoue, Hisashi
Inoue, Yukiyoishi

Irie, Andy
Ishida, Norio
Itani, Dan
Johnson, Kenji
Jones, Gregory
Kawada, Tsuyoshi
Keating Kacey
Kikuma, Derrick
Kimura, Takeshi
Kino, Masaaki
Kinoshita, Brian
Konishi, Yasuaki
Kurokawa, Johnny
Lanter, James
Leach Sugino Chris
Levinson, Allen
Lin, Nobel
Mannan, Sam
Masaoka Stan
Mato, John
Matsumoto, Naruki
Mimaki, Alan
Miyagawa, Jay
Miyajima, Takanobu
Miyata Darren
Morikawa, Nobuyoshi
Nakamura, takeshi
Nakashima, Sei
Natori, Yuichi
Navratil, Frank
Nelson, John
Ngo, Ken

Nioka, Sadayuki
Noguchi, Steve
Nouchi, Wayne
Okamoto, Satoshi
Olson Frederick
Olszewski, john
Onodera, Ryo
Orre, Erik
Pemberton, David
Pineda, Bert
Riddle, Christopher
Rummell, Brent
Saito, Keiji
Sakimura, Keith
Sanders, Gary
Sesto, Adrian
Shao, David
Shigehisa, Tetsuya
Shigenai, Hiroyuki
Shimosaki, Koichi
Shiokawa, Keiichi
Sugimura, Kevin
Summers, Greg
Swindell, Robert
Takahashi, Isao
Takanezawa, Jason
Takeda, Ichiro
Takeuchi, Minoru
Takeuchi, Minoru
Tamae, Patrick
Tamura, Shawn
Tanaka, Christopher

Tanaka, Paul
Tani, Ron
Tomizawa, Andy
Tosho, Atsushi
Tsuchikawa, Ryusuke
Uchida, Chris
Uchida, Robert
Ukita, Norihiko
Vela, David
Villalobos, Candelario
Wada, David
Washiya, Nicholas
White, William
Yamada, Shuji
Yamaguchi, Koji
Yamane, Gene
Yick, David
Yogi, Takeshi
Zaw, Steven

**Thank
You!!**



If your name is omitted from the list or any correction, please report to the JLS office. Thank you.