



GBC JAPANESE LANGUAGE SCHOOL/NAKAYOSHI YOCHIEN

November & December 2009

SCHOOL-PTC NEWSLETTER

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Principal's Message

*Do you "Read aloud"
to your children?*



This semester, I am taking the Language Art class as a part of child development study. Time and time again, I hear the importance of reading aloud to children. Then the question comes up: How old should children be before parents start reading aloud to them? The answer is 0 year old. Parents can even read to the baby in the mother's abdomen. The experts say that if parents wait until a child is 5 years old before reading to him, it is almost **"too late."** The reading affects children's language development to a great deal. "Children, who have not developed some basic literacy skills by the time they enter school, are three to four times more likely to drop out in later years, according to the National Adult Literacy Survey conducted by the U.S. Department of Education."

(Parents Reading Guide by L.A. Times)

According to the study done by a graduate school in Canada, what students with weak reading skills have in common is the fact that parents hardly ever read to them when they were small. There aren't many books in the house either. On the contrary, students who have strong reading skills have parents who often read to them. Adults reading aloud to children help them develop several abilities: 1) to stay focused and listen; 2) to think and to imagine and 3) to predict what will happen next. Reading does not mean to read each word accurately. It is like a game of feeling for the underline meaning of the content. Being able to guess or predict what will happen is one of the most important factors of reading skills. Reading aloud activity also gives children a chance to physically get close to their parents. Children can sit on a parent's lap, they can feel parents' heart beat and breathing, their warmth, and their smell. It is a valuable time for children to be with their parents. Parents reading aloud to their children is an irreplaceable experience for them. When children look forward to this time and ask parents to "Read more," the children will begin to read alone."

(Translated from Method of Bilingual Education: What teachers and parents can do for their children until 12 years old. by Kazuko Nakajima)

For both Japanese as a foreign language (JFL) and Japanese as a heritage language (JHL) students who are a little older in our school, parents still should read aloud to them with Japanese books. It helps children to understand difficult content, and it also encourages children to read by themselves later. In American high schools and even in colleges, some teachers still read aloud to their students. It is helpful especially for the ELS students to improve their reading skills in English. More text and prints children see, the better they are. Discussing with children what they read enhances their ability to think. JLS parents, not only for young children but also older children, please enjoy reading to them.

———— Madoka I. Hull, Principal

Recommended Book

Reading Magic--

Why Reading Aloud to Our Children will Change Their Lives Forever

by Men Fox

A Harvest Original Harcourt, Inc.



PTC News



After a bit of a heat wave in early October, we seem to have finally settled into “fall-like” weather. We had our annual Sawakai on October 17th, which was enjoyed by our teachers and PTC room representatives. It was a nice treat to informally get together, and we also enjoyed the attendance of special guests, JLS Board member, John Murakami, and GBC Rev. and Mrs. Shindo. A special thank you to those PTC members who helped with the set up and clean up for the sawakai.



The Daily and Saturday divisions of the Nakayoshi Pre-School recently enjoyed decorating Halloween jack-o'-lanterns for their very own festive “Pumpkin Patch”, which was sponsored by the PTC.

We had the first of our two major fundraisers -- the fall chicken curry and cookie sale, which was held on November 21st. The annual curry sale is a major fundraising endeavor and the PTC would like to acknowledge the assistance and collaboration from all of the Pre-School, Daily, and Saturday moms and dads. We could not accomplish this every year without everyone's help.

Our next event will be our annual mochitsuki, which will be held on December 18 and 19. The students always enjoy pounding mochi and it is a new, cultural experience for our younger children.

The PTC would like to acknowledge our corporate sponsors, Marukai and Mutual Trading Company for their discounts and/or donations for our curry sale and mochitsuki. A special thank you to Mrs. Nobuko Ajifu and Mrs. Atsuko Kanai for helping coordinate these sponsors.

As we approach the end of the year, the PTC thanks you for your generous support and assistance, which benefits all of our children as they continue their Japanese education. Thank you.

— Nancy Hamasaki

Reminder:

Next PTC meeting will be held on Saturday, February 6, 2010 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 Rev. Shindo 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 (buckwheat noodle soup). Please come and join us at the New Year's Eve service.



SCHOOL CALENDAR

December

4th	Fri	P.S. Birthday Party
12th	Sat	P.S. (Sat. Div.) Fun Party
17th	Thu	P.S. (Daily Div.) Fun Party
18th	Fri	JLS/P.S.(Daily Div.) 1st Quarter ends PTC Mochitsuki
19th	Sat	JLS/P.S. (Sat. Div.) 1st Quarter ends PTC Mochitsuki
21th~Jan. 4th	Mon.~Mon.	Winter Break

January

5th	Tue	JLS/P.S.(Daily Div.) 2nd Quarter begins
9th	Sat	JLS/P.S.(Sat.Div.) 2nd Trimester begins
15th	Fri	Photo Session (P.S. Daily only)
18th	Mon	Martin Luther King Jr. Day No School
28th	Thu	JLS/P.S.(Daily Div.) Class Observations
30th	Sat	JLS/P.S.(Sat. Div.) Class Observation



Notes from



Nakayoshi Preschool



Director's Message

There is only one page left in this year's calendar. The preschool rooms are decorated with Christmas and New Year theme. Many fun and exciting events are on the way.

Our children in each class are practicing for **Otanoshimi-kai (Christmas event)** scheduled on Thursday, December 17th. We are looking forward to seeing many parents at this event.



This year, for the first time, Mommy and Me class is participating in the event. Santa Claus will sure to visit us at the event.

After Otanoshimi-kai, the year-end event, **Mochi-tsuki (rice pounding)** has been scheduled on Friday, December 18th. Children will have a great time pounding mochi.



The Best Remedy for Cold

Drink lots of water.

Keep the body warm, eat nutritious foods and get plenty of rest to recover from cold.

It is better to avoid strong tasting foods, salty or oily foods and fibrous foods.

◆ For fluid replenishment:

Mugicha-tea (barley tea) and bancha-tea are good to drink for cold. Both are low in caffeine (even baby can drink). Cooled boiled water or freshly made apple juice are another good drinks.

Take small amount at a time throughout the day.

◆ Eat Easily Digested foods:

Okayu (rice porridge), udon noodles in soup and miso soup are recommended. Tofu, tender part of chicken's white meat and flounder are easily digested. Foods with a lot of vitamins such as tofu, potato, pumpkin and egg are helpful to regulate the body condition.



Miso soup with leek and ginger

helps to keep the body warm

Leek ... 1/2

Ginger ... small piece (size of thumb tip)

Miso paste 2 teaspoons

Hot water ... 200 ml

① Chop leek and grind ginger.

② Mix miso with hot water and add the chopped leek and grind ginger.



Appreciation

- "Thank you" to all the parents who helped with cookie and curry sale. The event was a success.
- Mrs. Akiko Swindell is a children's book author and artist. Her daughter Alice Hana is in the Saturday Sakura class. We received 100 of her first published book entitled *Pony the Puppy; Walking in the Garden*. Thank you very much for the wonderful gifts. Our students will enjoy reading them.

Announcement

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

———— Yoshiko Morohoshi, Director

Year of the Tiger



Year 2010 is the Year of the Tiger. People who are/were born in 1926, 1938, 1950, 1962, 1974, 1986, 1998, 2010, are tiger people.

Occupying the 3rd position on the Chinese Zodiac calendar, the Tiger symbolizes such character traits as bravery, competitiveness and unpredictability. Tigers love to be challenged and will accept any challenge if it means protecting a loved one or protecting their honor. They don't worry about the outcome because they know they'll always land on their feet. Don't let their calm appearance fool you though; Tigers will pounce when they feel it is necessary.

Your sign shows you would be excellent as a boss, an explorer, a race car driver, or a matador.

Japanese Calendar

In Japanese, the months are simply numbered from one to twelve. For example, January is the first month of the year, therefore it is called "ichi-gatsu."

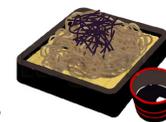
There are also old names of each month. These names date back to the Heian period (794-1185) and are based on the lunar calendar. Today they are not normally used when saying the date. They are written in a Japanese calendar sometimes along with modern names. They are also used in poems or novels.

Here are the names of both old and modern months and also shows the meaning of each old name.

	modern name	old name	meaning
Jan.	ichi-gatsu	mitsuki	Month of harmony
Feb.	ni-gatsu	kisaragi	Month of wearing extra layers of clothes
Mar.	san-gatsu	yayoi	Month of growth
April	shi-gatsu	uzuki	Month of Deutzia (unohana)
May	go-gatsu	satsuki	Month of planting rice sprouts
June	roku-gatsu	minazuki	Month of no water
July	shichi-gatsu	fumizuki	Month of literary
Aug.	hachi-gatsu	hazuki	Month of leaves
Sept.	ku-gatsu	nagatsuki	Autumn long month
Oct.	juu-gatsu	kannazuki	Month of no Gods
Nov.	juuichi-gatsu	shimotsuki	Month of frost
Dec.	juuni-gatsu	shiwasu	Month of running priests

<http://japanese.about.com/library/blqow34.htm>

Toshikoshi Soba



Toshikoshi-soba are buckwheat noodles eaten on New Year's Eve. This custom started in the middle of the Edo period. Toshikoshi-soba are eaten in hope of a thin, but long life, like soba.

Classification of Bilingualism

- Which is your child's type? -

Classification of Bilingualism
by Prof. James Cummins

▼ Balanced Bilingual

Someone who is equally proficient in both languages for his/her age level.



Balanced Bilingual

▼ Dominant Bilingual:

A person being more proficient in one of the two languages.



Monolingual



Dominant Bilingual

▼ Double Limited

Someone who is not proficient in both languages. His/her levels of language proficiency in two languages are below his age level.



Double Limited

Reference:

1) "The Method of Bilingual Education" – Things parents and teachers can do for bilingual children by age 12. written by Kazuko Nakajima

2) James Cummins, Ph.D., University of Alberta
James Cummins is Professor and Canada Research Chair in the Curriculum, Teaching and Learning department at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE) at the University of Toronto. Dr. Cummins teaches graduate courses in the Second Language Education Program. Courses that he recently taught include "Critical Pedagogy, Language and Cultural Diversity," "Research Seminar on Second Language Literacy Education," and "Foundations of Bilingual and Multicultural Education."

<<http://www1.oise.utoronto.ca/depts/ctl/facultystaff/profiles/profile.php?lastname=Cummins&firstname=James>>