



GBC JAPANESE LANGUAGE SCHOOL/NAKAYOSHI YOCHIEN

September & October 2009

SCHOOL-PTC NEWSLETTER

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

Eng./Jpns Word Process/ Layout: Ms. Hiroco Ames,
Ms. Reiko Tokioka
Edit, Print: Ms. Akemi Sato,

Principal's Message

JLS parents and students, welcome back to the school.

It has been a little over a month since the new school year started. I hope everyone is enjoying their work, hobbies, study, sports and other activities in this fantastic fall weather.

Last August, Ms. Ando and I participated in the seminar for Japanese teachers held at CSULB. For six full days, we studied hard, learned and received a lot of information.

The main topic of the seminar was how to adapt the "Standards for Foreign Language Learning" to our Japanese heritage schools. To teach foreign languages in America, including Japanese, public high schools and colleges have to follow standards.

First of all, teachers need to assess each student's level at the beginning of the school year with *ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines.

Second, teachers should set long-term and short-term goals for each student for the year. It is crucial for

a teacher to create effective lesson plans that can raise the students' level of the four language skills, i.e. reading, writing, listening and speaking. Lessons should be planned with specific context and theme. Having fun and hands-on activities with various themes such as culture help students learn better. Just having students memorize vocabulary or teach them grammar and sentence patterns cannot make them proficient in speaking outside their classrooms. Materials should stimulate their imagination and make them think. Students should be able to use the language skills in real life. They should be able to understand other school subjects in Japanese.

Teachers should also understand the child's physical, social, emotional and cognitive development so that teachers can have age-appropriate teaching materials. Reviewing the theories on child development stages by Piaget and Vygotsky is helpful for creating curriculums. For heritage schools such as ours, we should design multi-age and multi-level curricula since there often are several levels in one class. In this type of class setting, students can

not only learn from the class teacher but also learn from each other.

The seminar was very helpful and interesting. The big task is to adapt and incorporate all the things we learned into our curriculum. We would like to have study group and exchange our ideas and opinions for school improvement and enhancement.

We appreciate your continued support.

Madoka I. Hull, Principal

(*ACTFL ..The American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Language.)



Award Recipients of Graduate Class of 2009

Superior Scholastic Achievement Awards:

Graduates who had outstanding records in academics, citizenship and attendance and will be attending universities or colleges:

- ★ Gardena Buddhist Church Award
William Wataru Kojima
- ★ Kiyoshi Ota Award
Ryan Hikaru Noro
- ★ Henry Hiroshi Miyazono Award
George Terada
- ★ P.T.C.Award
Sakura R. Ando

Scholarship Awards from Banking Institutions:

Graduates who had outstanding records in academics, citizenship and attendance and were in the High School Division and High School Advanced courses:

- ❖ Union Bank of California Award
Samantha Ayumi Koda

- ❖ California Bank & Trust Award
Shota Anthony Yamanaka
- ❖ Nikkei Credit Union Award
Christine Shoko Elegino
- ❖ Japanese American Community Credit Union
Carey Ann Fujii

Scholastic Effort Awards

Graduates above 6th grade who had good record in citizenship and attendance and made a great progress academically:

- ◆ Saturday Divisions 8th Grade
Sho Nioka
- ◆ Saturday Divisions 6th Grade
Tyler Koichi Kurokawa
- ◆ Daily Divisions 6th Grade
Maile Risa Kamada
- ◆ Daily Divisions 6th Grade

Emily Yoshie Takeuchi



**Congratulations to
all the recipients !!**

New Teachers



As of September, 2009,
the following teachers have joined the JLS:

Ms. Chiharu Mizoguchi will teach the Saturday 8-12th combined class. Ms. Mizoguchi has taught at Seiai Gakuen, Kyodo System at Orange Coast, and Asahi Gakuen. She has Japanese teaching credential and also taught English at Seibudai High School in Japan. Her hobby is playing the Japanese instrument, koto. She has played it seriously since high school. Her motto is "Enjoy fun things and hassle with hardships, but don't carry them over to the next day."

Ms. Ichikawa helps two classes of Nyumon and 1st grade on Saturdays. After she graduated from college in Kobe, Japan, she came to U.S. She studied film and TV production at De Anza College in Cupertino, CA. She was employed at JAL but due to the birth of her baby, she resigned from JAL. She has an one-and-a half year old girl named Mizuki. On Saturdays, her husband takes over the important task of child rearing so that Ms Ichikawa can go back into the working world. Her hobby is watching movies and reading as well as making scrapbooks. Her motto is "Live each day in a way that you won't regret."

We are happy to have you both, Ms. Mizoguchi and Ms. Ichikawa!



SCHOOL CALENDAR

October

- Sat. 17 PTC Tea Party 1 PM
in GBC Social Hall
- Fri. 30 Pre School- Halloween Parade

November

- Fri. 6 Daily Photo Sessions
- Sat. 7 Sat. Photo Sessions
- Wed. 11 Veteran's Day **No School**
- Fri. 20 & Sat. 21
PTC Cookie & Curry Sale
- Thu. 26 ~ Fri. 28
Thanksgiving Holiday
No School



Notes from



Nakayoshi Preschool

Director's Message:

Welcome back to Nakayoshi Preschool.
Even children perspire while they play, I can see arrival of fall by looking at cosmos swayed with cool breeze.

Annual Halloween parade has been scheduled for Friday, October 30th. We appreciate the parents' cooperation in helping our children change into costumes and decorating the Social Hall. Parents are welcome to join the parade with their costumes.

Yoshiko Morohoshi,
Director



Introduction of

Daily Class Teachers for the New School Year

Hiyoko Class -	Ms. Akemi Kaneshiro
	Ms. Kae Miyoshi
Mikan Class -	Ms. Kumiko Hiraizumi
	Ms. Yoko Kasami
Melon Class -	Ms. Kyoko Shima
Bara Class -	Ms. Kimiko Igarashi
Sumire Class -	Ms. Yuka Nayuki
Mommy & Me Class -	Ms. Kyoko Shima
Floor TA	Ms. Hiromi Saito
	Ms. Naomi Inoue

Saturday Class Teachers for the New School Year.

Sakura Class -	Ms. Yuko Yokota
Kiku Class -	Ms. Miyoko Nishiya

Introduction of

Class Mother for the New School Year

Daily Classes

Hiyoko Class -	Ms. Noriko Zaw
	Ms. Kaori Salvatierra
Mikan Class -	Ms. Yukiko Kimura
	Ms. Eri Inoue
Melon Class -	Ms. Mirei Ito
	Ms. Kazumi Kobayashi
Bara Class -	Ms. Chisato Shimizu
	Ms. Jui Ishida-Hebert
Sumire Class -	Ms. Miyuki Honma
	Ms. Tae Aoyagi-Belanger

Saturday Classes

Sakura Class -	Ms. Jocelyn Johnson
	Ms. Yuko Washiya
Kiku Class -	Ms. Ai Nakao
	Ms. Naru Tamada

Thank you very much for volunteering to be class mothers.

News from Piano Classes

On Sunday, September 27th, an annual piano recital was held at Peninsula Community Church in R.P.V. Out of 30 students, 27 participated in the event. Prior to the recital, many trophies were awarded for competitions and auditions held throughout the year. The following students received awards. I would like to give a big applause to my students for their great effort.

- ◆ The students who participated in three recitals:
Tamae Aratani, Yuki Inoue, Joe Takeuchi, Shingo Saito
- ◆ The students who participated in five recitals:
Alisa Hathaway, Yuka Yamane, Natalie Williams
- ◆ Students passed the Bach Audition:
Emily Lennon, Tsukiko Hijikata, Takeshi Yamane
- ◆ Students passed CM: Alisa Hathaway, Sonoma Saito, Emily Lennon, Erika Hathaway
- ◆ Sonata-Sonatine Competition (MTAC):
 - o Honorable Mentioned: Manaka Yoshizawa, Tsukiko Hijikawa, Erika Hathaway
 - o Elementary Division - 1st place: Emily Lennon
 - o 6 to 7 years old Division - 3rd place: Joe Takeuchi
 - o 9 to 10 years old Division - 3rd place - Emily Lennon
 - o 8 to 9 years old Division - 1st place - Alisa Hathaway

Southwestern Youth Music Festival

- o Under 5 years old - 2nd place - Bijou Douglas
- o 5 to 6 years old Division - 2nd place - Mai Takahashi
- o 9 years old Division - 2nd place - Emily Lennon
- o Baroque Division - 2nd place - Emily Lennon

After the awards were given, everyone participated in the recital, and we had a marvelous time together. They say music is soothing to people and touches people's heart. Our pianists certainly touched the audience heart deeply. Even though it was a hot day, it was such refreshing and pleasant day for us. I would like to thank Mrs. Morohoshi and Mrs. Igarashi for coming to support the event. I also thank JLS secretaries for making a nice program.

Kazoko Yasukawa,
Piano Instructor



Greetings from GBC-JLS PTC

Welcome back to school as we embark on a new school year. My name is Nancy Hamasaki and I am the new, incoming president for the Japanese Language School (JLS) PTC. At this time, please join me in thanking Mrs. Lisa Kuwabara for carrying the helm of the PTC for the past five years -- we truly appreciate her ongoing guidance and counsel.

For those of you that are new to our school, the main purpose of the PTC is to solely support the financial and educational components of events for all students of the Daily and Saturday divisions of the JLS **and** Pre-School through the annual fees that are collected and two major fundraisers each year. All monies earned by the PTC are funneled back to benefit the students. With the current economy, we know that it is a difficult time for everyone, however, it is the PTC's goal to try **not** to diminish any of the annual events for the children. The PTC is only as strong as the volunteers that support it. We would sincerely appreciate your support, assistance, and donations this year. I look forward to meeting you all sometime in the near future.

Nancy Hamasaki,
PTC President



Next Meeting:

Saturday November 7th - 8: 45am

@ Hondo meeting Room

Agenda: Mochitsuki

AP TEST



Congraturation!!

Last May, our high school student, Ms. Shoko Elegeno, passed the AP Test with the highest score of "5." Congratulations, Shoko! Shoko has made a great effort studying Japanese here since she was little. We are all proud of her accomplishment.

What are AP classes and AP tests? The Advanced Placement program offers college level courses at high schools across the United States and Canada. Advanced students can take many AP subject courses such as math, English, foreign languages, science and others throughout the year. At the end of the year, they need to take AP tests and pass to get college credits. Grading is done through a rubric with a score of 1 to 5. Above 3 is passing and 5 is the highest passing grade.

FREE T-SHIRTS



JLS 80th Anniversary T-shirts are available in the office. We only have 11 T-shirts for 2-4 years olds. First come first serve, so people who wish to have the T-shirts, please come to the office quickly!

GBC Japanese Language School Supports U.S. Census 2010



Your support for 2010 Census is very important. Here's why:

- * Every year, more than \$300 billion in federal funds are awarded to states and communities base on census data. That's more than \$3 trillion distributed over a 10-year period.
- * Census data guide local decision-makers in important community planning efforts, including where to build new roads, hospitals and schools.
- * Census date affect your voice in Congress. The census determines how many seats each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives as well as the redistricting of state legislatures, county and city councils, and voting districts.

The goal of the Census Bureau's partnership program is to combine the strengths of local governments, community-based organizations, faith-based organizations, schools, media, businesses and others, to ensure a complete and accurate 2010 Census. The Census Bureau will provide promotional materials, regular updates and data assistance to partners to assist in this effort. Together, through this partnership, we can ensure the 2010 Census message is delivered to every corner of the nation.

Achieving a complete and accurate 2010 Census is our hands.

