



# Notes from Nakayoshi Preschool

This January it rained more than usual. We were fortunate because little rain normally falls in southern California. In spite of the rain, the Nakayoshi children came to school in good spirits, some in their parents' arms and others with umbrellas and rain boots.

It has already been six months since the start of the school year. The children have grown a lot before our eyes. They have become members of the preschool society. By the time they are in a 4-year-old classroom, they will have experienced life in a group, developed relationships with friends and teachers, acquired Japanese language through conversation and picture books, and cultivated their imaginative powers through music, painting, and handicrafts.

I hope that the Nakayoshi children retain Japanese traditional culture and language after they graduate from the 4-year-old classroom. At the fun party last December, for example, all the four-year-old classroom children displayed their dignified appearance as they performed the plays "The Three Billy Goats Gruff", "The North Wind and the Sun", and "The Dinosaur's Children". They had learned manners and discipline, which will aid them in kindergarten.

It is said that children tend to forget Japanese when they begin TK or kindergarten. I recommend that your child should graduate from the 4-year-old classroom and then attend the Gardena Buddhist Church Japanese Language School (GBC-JLS) in order to continue learning about Japanese. The children of several of our teachers who have graduated from the Nakayoshi preschool and the GBC-JLS, have since

gone on to have careers utilizing their dual language skills.

I hope children who come to the Nakayoshi preschool and the GBC-JLS will retain the values of Japanese culture and language.

Director Keiko Damiata



## School Calendar

### February

3 (Fri) Daily Class Observation Mamemaki  
 18 (Sat) Saturday CAJLS Association Annual  
 General Mtng & Seminars

### School Closed

20 (Mon) Daily Presidents' Day **School Closed**  
 Regular Schedule on Lincoln's  
 B'day 2/13)  
 25 (Sat) Saturday Hinamatsuri (Girls' - Dolls' Day)  
 Celebration

### March

3 (Fri) Daily Hinamatsuri (Girls' - Dolls' Day)  
 Celebration  
 10 (Fri) Daily PTC Spring Sale (Cookies)  
 11 (Sat) Saturday PTC Spring Sale (Chicken  
 Teriyaki & Cookies)

### April

7(Fri) 8 (Sat) Daily/Sat. 2nd Semester ends  
 9 (Sun) Daily/Sat. Undokai (Sports Event)  
 10 (Mon)~14 (Fri) Daily Spring Vacation  
 Saturday 4/15(Spring Vacation)  
 17 (Mon) 22(Sat) Daily/Sat. 3<sup>rd</sup> Semester begins



## Notes from the daily and Saturday teachers

### Daily Classes

#### 2-year-old classrooms (Penguin & Risu)

In addition to learning how to put on and take off shoes and wash hands appropriately during the first semester, the children recently have enjoyed how to hold crayons and use scissors. Seeing the children who already mastered these activities teach other children is gratifying to the teachers. It is unique to living in a group environment. Some children started to play with other children in their group.

#### 3-year-old classrooms (Banana & Melon)

The children seem to have enjoyed playing with their close friends. They learned to answer questions regarding days of the week, numbers, and weather after having learned the calendar. Also they practiced how to start a race for the Sports Event. They taught clean-up and rules each other.

#### 4-year-old classrooms (Bara & Sumire)

They continued to learn to care for younger children this semester. Concerning to Hiragana letters, the children were able to copy them. Since they started to play karuta (traditional Japanese playing cards) this January, they became interested in Japanese letters. By June we aim for them to be able to write the numbers 1 through 30.

### Saturday Classes

#### Sakura

The children are able to say in Japanese the names of colors. In January, they made tops and kites (traditional New Year's games) and played outside with them. They tend to play with their friends and not alone.

#### Kiku

The children take turns being helpers every week and present their "favorite foods", "favorite animals", and "favorite colors" in front of their classmates. They performed the first writing of the New Year and wrote "Tori" (the year of the rooster) using a brush in ink.



## New Teachers

This January, Ms. Kae Miyoshi returned to work after having taken a leave of absence for a few years. In addition, Ms. Shoko Cilano joined our teaching staff. We are fortunate to have both of them.

## JLS Volunteers

In addition to John, Wallace, Daniel, Ken, Joe, and James, Brian Imada, Alan Miwa, and Gary & Linda Shimizu started to volunteer for us. The Nakayoshi preschool is appreciative of these volunteers.



## Children's Health

Spring is just around the corner; however, colds and flus are still very common. When your child has symptoms of vomiting or diarrhea but with no fever, please go to see a doctor. Frequently washing hands with soap is the single most effective way to prevent sickness.



## Enrollment for New School Year

We had a long wait list for enrollment this school year. Similar to this year, the number of enrolled students will be limited next school year; therefore, if you plan to enroll your child in September 2017 (including summer), please register your child as soon as possible.

## Birthday Party for children who were born in January and February

The teachers presented a play called "The Battle Between Crab and Ape" to the children.

