

The Buzz

Bush Site Monthly Newsletter

Happy Year of the Tiger!

February 2010

Kids Focus

Curriculum: We started out the month of February exploring the theme of Lunar New Year and the children enjoyed a Japanese traditional custom, *Mamemaki*, and made an oni mask for Japanese lesson this week. During the following weeks, the children will be learning about friendship and Valentines Day, followed by working people/occupations.

**The children will be practicing for the dance performance Wednesdays and Fridays during the next few weeks followed by a dress rehearsal on Tues., Feb. 23rd and the last practice on Weds., Feb. 24th. A letter with information on what your child should wear the day of the performance will be in mailboxes shortly. Please bring the clothes your child will be wearing the day of the performance by Weds., Feb. 17th. The children will be performing their version of the story, "Ookina Kabu".

The children will be making a friendship card at group time to exchange with each other next Friday, Feb. 12th. **IF you are planning to bring in Valentine's Day cards on Friday, please give them to a teacher directly instead of putting them in the mailboxes. No individual names please, as it takes too long to sort.** We would also prefer NO candy! Thank you.



*The school will be closed on **Monday, Feb. 15th** in observance of President's Day.

Mark Your Calendar

"Dowa No Omatsuri" Fundraiser: NLF's annual theater performance fundraiser will be held on **Sunday, February 28th** at the Palace of Fine Arts Theater. Ticket order forms and flyers about the event were placed in your mailbox. Tickets are on a first come, first serve basis so the sooner you turn in your ticket money, the better your assigned seats.

****Auction committee** is still accepting auction donations. We are requesting that **all families try to donate or solicit at least one donation item and (receive a parent participation point!)** Thank you to those families who have brought in auction items and/or signed up to bring items on the auction wish list!!

Please help where you can on the **logistics sign up which is on the parents' table. This fundraiser can not be successful without the parents' help!

Raffle Tickets: Please return any unsold raffle tickets by Weds., February 17th. If you lost your tickets, please make a \$20.00 donation for them. If you do not return unsold tickets, you will be billed for them at a later date. We have plenty more available for sale!!

The Day of Remembrance will be held on Sunday, Feb. 21st 2:00pm, at the Sundance Kabuki Theater, 1881 Post Street. The program will conclude with an interfaith procession to the JCCCNC building where a reception will follow. Assemblyman Warren Furutani, (D-Torrance) will be the keynote speaker and KTVU anchor, Jana Katsuyama, will MC the program. This is an annual commemoration of President Franklin Roosevelt's signing of Executive Order 9066, which resulted in the evacuation and internment of 120,000 persons of Japanese ancestry during World War II. Tickets are \$15.00 at the door, and \$12.00 in advance and can be purchased at the JCCCNC or National Japanese American Historical Society (NJAHS). NLF has been offered a special group rate of \$10.00 per ticket if ten or more people from our organization attend. If you are interested in taking advantage of this special offer, please let Naomi sensei know. For more information, please call NJAHS at 415-921-5007.

Blankets: Please take your child's blankets home to be washed on Friday, Feb. 26th and returned on the following Monday.

Mark Your Calendar (continue)

Class Photo: NLF's annual class picture day will be on the morning of Wednesday, March 17th. Both individual photos as well as a group class photo will be taken that day.

Ice Skating: Tickets for this annual winter family social were given to families who signed up and we look forward to seeing you this Sunday, February 7th. Please meet in front of the Yerba Buena Ice Skating Center at 12:45pm that afternoon. Don't forget to bring your tickets with you!

Reminders

*Please do NOT allow your child(ren) to write on or take anything from the parents table.

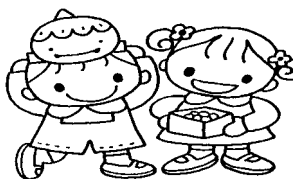
*Please remember to use the **white zone for drop off and pick up only**. If you will be staying for a while, please look for a regular parking space.

* Please remember to return any clothes that your child may have borrowed when he/she had an accident, especially our underwear and pants. Thank you.

* *NLF'S tax identification number is:*
94-2325686

Japanese Lesson: SETSUBUN

February 3rd marked the day of the season change or the end of the coldest season in Japan. They celebrate SETSUBUN with children and adults chasing the Oni out of the house throwing soy beans (mame-maki) at them saying "Oni wa soto" (devil go out) and "Fuku wa uchi" (happiness come in). This bean throwing ceremony is done in most Japanese homes around this time. At school, Laura sensei and Jabali sensei wore an oni mask and the children threw the mame at them saying "Oni wa soto and Fukuwa uchi." The children also ate the same amount of beans as their age.



"Oni wa soto" "Fuku wa uchi"

Thanks For Your Help

PAC meeting: Thank you to Carman Yuen (Alexis' mom) and Maire Sogabe (Brigid's mom) for attending our combined Sutter and Bush sites' PAC (Parent Advisory Committee) meeting at the end of January. Thank you also to Ken Sogabe (Brigid's dad) for co-chairing the meeting.

Annual Donor Fund: Thank you to all of the families who responded to our appeal for contributions toward our annual fund. Thanks to the generosity of 26 families from all three NLF programs, we were able to raise a total of \$2,435 for staff development and other program needs.

Bush Site Lease Update: We finally have a new 5 year lease for the Bush site preschool! Part of the new agreement is the removal of the indoor playhouse structure and allowing the landlords to use the stage area with advanced notice. We will be installing a new playhouse near the science area once a grant has been secured for the purchase of a pre-fabricated one. Our landlords will be using the stage area on March 6th and we will be needing volunteers to help clear the space on the evening of Friday, March 5th and moving items back on Sunday, March 7th. Please mark those days on your calendar and try to come help on one of those days. A sign up will be posted on the parents' table at a later date. Special thank you to Chatchanok Rattanadejsri (Paul's mom), Peter Mei (Reina's dad), and Norman sensei for helping to remove the old playhouse.

Acknowledgements

Special thanks to Ryo Sannomiya & family for the plants and bathroom decorations; Sturdy & family for the oranges, lemons and ice cream birthday cake; Sean & family for the Japanese toys, binoculars, and extra pants; Terry & family for the gallons of milk and cereal; Kelli and Sara & family for the cream puffs to celebrate birthdays and extra underwear; Lily & family for the rose tea from China, apples and oranges; Tyler & family for the Chinese pastries and birthday goodie bags; Paul & family for the apples; Chihiro & family for the many bottles of handsoap, birthday goodie bags, many rolls of paper towel, boxes of crackers, boxes of tea and manju for the staff, and books in honor of her birthday; Penelope & family for the packs of glue sticks and caramel popcorn for the staff; Taihiro & family for the homemade cookies; Collin & family for the cookies from Hawaii; and Alexis & family for the tangerines.

Special thank you to Ken Sogabe (Brigid's dad) for arranging the special performance by children's performer, Van Oodles. The children had a great time listening and participating in the songs. We still have Van Oodles CDs available for purchase at \$10.00 with \$1.00 going back to NLF.

We truly appreciate your continued generosity and support!!