

NIHONMACHI LITTLE FRIENDS

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SUTTER SITE PRESCHOOL MONTHLY UPDATE February 5, 2010

Curriculum: At the beginning of this week, the children enjoyed *Mamemaki*, a Japanese traditional custom, and made a mask of an *Oni* as a Japanese lesson. The rest of this week was spent on the Lunar New Year (2/14/10). During the following weeks, the children will learn about friendships and do some activities related to Valentine's Day, and working people/occupations. If you have any resources you would like to share on any of these themes, please let your child's group teacher know. In addition, throughout the month of February, the children will be practicing for the February 28th Dance Performance. Weather permitting, we will usually go on our field trips on Wednesdays. However, please be sure to check the board above the parent mailboxes each week for field trip information in case the schedule changes.

Children's Performance Fundraiser: This annual fundraiser is fast approaching. Please check sign-up sheets for specific tasks and donation posted at the Parents' Table, and please sign-up! Order forms for tickets were put into your mailboxes, and the earlier you return them, the better your seat will be. A more detailed list regarding what your child will need to wear on the day of the performance will be put into your mailboxes soon. We would also like to thank those families who have already donated items for the silent auction preceding the children's performance and remind those families who have not yet brought in their auction items or ads to do so as soon as possible.

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!

PAC Meeting: Thank you to everyone who attended our PAC (Parent Advisory Committee) meeting at the end of January. Many thanks go to **Naomi Mahoney (Kiko's mom)** for the great job co-chairing the meeting.

Family Ice Skating: Tickets for this annual winter family skating outing were distributed to families who signed up, and we look forward to seeing you at the Yerba Buena Ice Skating Center from 1:00 to 2:30pm on Sunday, February 7th. Please meet in front of the ice rink at 12:45pm that afternoon. Don't forget to bring your tickets with you!

School Holiday: NLF will be closed on Monday, February 15th for the Presidents' Day holiday. We will re-open on Tuesday, February 16th.

February Birthdays: We will celebrate the birthdays of children born during the month of February on Thursday, February 18th. The teachers will make hats for the birthday children, and a special dessert will be served that day. If you would like to bring in something for the celebration, please let one of the teachers know.

Annual Fund Drive: Thank you to all 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 the children's programs and staff development activities.

Blanket Cleaning: Blankets will be sent home to be washed on Friday, February 26th. If your child will not be in school that day, please let one of the teachers know so that his/her blankets can be sent

home beforehand.

Birth Announcements: Congratulations to Ian Endrina and his family on the birth of his sister, Aliya, on the 30th of December, 2009 and to Shun Liu and his family on the birth of his brother, Koh, on the 31st of January, 2010.

Class Photos: 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.

Safety Reminder: When you are picking up and dropping off your child, please do not leave any valuables such as purses or handbags in your car where it is visible. It only takes a few seconds for thieves to break in. You are welcome to park in the adjacent parking lot unless you will be running errands or think you might be staying longer. Occasionally, people park in or block access to the lot while attending activities at the JCCCNC building next door or elsewhere in the neighborhood, so we ask that if you notice an unfamiliar car parked in the lot or blocking the driveway for longer than it takes you to pick up or drop off your child, please let one of the teachers know so that we can try to free up the space.

Day of Remembrance (DOR): The DOR will be held on **Sunday, February 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 Chie sensei know. For more information, please call NJAHS at (415) 921-5007.

Acknowledgements: We would like to express our heartfelt appreciation to the following children and their families: Jino & family for the cookies from Korea for the staff; Hana & family for the birthday favors; Maxwell & family for lemons and cookies for the staff; Lauren & family for the envelopes, scratch paper, and cookies for the staff; Kalisa, Talia & family for the birthday favors; Alex & family for the birthday favors and candies from Brazil for the staff; Jordyn & family for the birthday favors and birthday cake; Cena & family for the rice crackers and cream puffs for the staff; Gracie & family for the birthday favors and books; Kylie & family for the book and puzzle; and Kiko & family for the rice crackers and candies for the staff.

As always, your thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated!

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