

NIHONMACHI LITTLE FRIENDS After School Program

1700 Sutter Street, San Francisco, CA 94115 (415) 346-5064

MONTHLY UPDATE - January 2017

HAPPY YEAR of the ROOSTER!

Welcome back to the ASP! We hope all of you enjoyed your winter holidays. We are looking forward to working with you and your children in 2017!

Curriculum: Our main focus for the next two months will be our annual “Dowa No Omatsuri” dance performance fundraiser which will be held at the Palace of Fine Arts Theater on **Sunday, February 26th**. Rehearsals started the week of January 3rd, and rehearsal dates and times are posted on the Parents’ Table, along with extra copies for parents to take with them. Copies have also been e-mailed to parents. This year, the choreographers will come to ASP on **FRIDAYS**. Please make every effort to have your children at the ASP on their scheduled rehearsal days especially Fridays. Children with more than three unexcused absences from rehearsals might not be able to participate if it is too difficult or disruptive for their dance groups to accommodate them. Because of the rehearsal schedule, children may not have as much time for their homework, but we are committed to make every effort to help them finish.

Martin Luther King, Jr Day: The ASP will be closed on Monday, January 16th in observing Martin Luther King, Jr Day. Enjoy your extra day off with your family!

Respite Care Night: The sign-up sheet for our next respite care night on **Friday, January 20th from 5:30pm-10:30pm** at the Bush Site preschool (2031 Bush St.) is posted at the Parents’ Table. Children on the waiting list who are not able to participate are guaranteed a spot at our next respite night on Friday, March 11th. The cost is \$6.00 per child, and dinner will be provided. The teachers will walk the children signed up for the respite night to the Bush site preschool where parents can pick them up **by 10:30pm**.

Lunar New Year Extended Day: SFUSD will be closed to observe Lunar New Year Holiday on Friday, January 27. Unfortunately, the ASP will not be able to offer Extended Day this time. Please enjoy the long weekend.

Mochitsuki: Thank-you to all the families who attended our winter family social *mochitsuki* potluck, and also to the staff, (**Yukie sensei, Lisa sensei and Sara sensei**), for helping with the event. We hope you enjoyed the special day as well as the delicious fresh *mochi*!

Oshogatsu Matsuri: The annual community *Oshogatsu Matsuri* (Japanese New Year Festival) celebration was Saturday, January 7th at the JCCCNC building. As usual, NLF sponsored two arts and crafts booths, *fukuwarai*, (funny face game), and *koma*, (spinning tops). The preschool children also sang some songs related to the New Year.

Auction Donations Needed: We are requesting that all families try to donate or solicit at least one item for the silent auction to be held at the Dance Performance Fundraiser on February 26th. Great auction items are gift certificates from restaurants or stores, airline tickets, hotel stays, computer games, kitchen goods, children’s toys, small electronic items, as well as any new items that can sell for \$10 or more. If you’re unsure of an item, please ask Maya Sensei. Alternatively, (or in addition), parents can also take out an advertisement in our program booklet. We would like to request that all ads and auction items be submitted by **Friday, January 27th**. Forms for ads and auction donations are on the Parents’ Table.

Family Ice Skating: This year our annual family ice skating will be held on **Sunday, February 5th, from 12:30 to 2:00pm** at the Yerba Buena Ice Center. The sign-up sheet will be on the parents table soon.

Plant a Seed Campaign: We would like to express our heartfelt appreciation to all of the families who responded so generously to our appeal for donations toward our “Plant a Seed/Tane Maki” capital campaign for the new addition to NLF’s Sutter Site preschool building. Having 100% participation from our families will demonstrate to potential funders that we have strong commitment from our base. If you haven’t contributed yet, you can still make a donation.

Items we are in need of year round include: Costco size crackers, 5 & 3 oz. Dixie paper cups, scotch tape, scratch paper, liquid hand sanitizer.

NLF’s Tax I.D. Number: Parents claiming a childcare credit on their income taxes will need to know that NLF’s federal tax identification number is: **94-2325686**. This same number can be used if you itemize donations made to NLF.

Acknowledgements: The ASP staff and children would like to express our appreciation to Kazuma and family for the glass jars and scratch paper; Nobu and family for the box of chocolates for the staff; Elaine (Kalisa & Talia’s grandma) for the almond cookies for the staff and the Pirate Bootie for the children; Mari and family for the box of cookies for the staff; Shogo and family for the glass jars; Camden and family for the pastries for the staff; Dorothea and family for the box of chocolates for the staff; Hiro & Hitomi and family for the home baked goods for the staff; Rami and family for the chocolates for the staff; Hana & Yuki and family for the box of chocolates, salami and cheese for the staff; Remi and family for the box of manjyu and cookies for the staff; Raiden and family for the boxes of chocolate mochi for the staff; Akira and family for the box of Japanese Jelly for the staff; and Sakura J and family for the box of chocolates for the staff.

The staff would also like to express our thanks for all the other holiday gifts and sweets from the many ASP families. We thoroughly enjoyed them during our break!

*We truly appreciate your continued thoughtfulness and generosity!
We’re very sorry if we left anyone off the acknowledgements.*