

# NIHONMACHI LITTLE FRIENDS After School Program

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

## MONTHLY UPDATE - April 2015

**Curriculum:** K-2<sup>nd</sup> graders will continue working on the “Sticks” and “Snail” projects. They will expand their lessons by researching several types of tools to cut, curve, and connect the sticks to spark their imagination. The 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade groups will continue their “Box” and “Play putty” projects. Many children showed their interest in making Samurai, Gladiator or Viking inspired armor with cardboard. The older children will also start a new project called “Nihonmachi Big & Little Friends” in collaboration with the two preschools. They will be making reading buddies with the younger preschool children and visit both preschools once a week to help invite them into the exciting world of reading! On **Wednesday, April 29<sup>th</sup>**, there will be a special GEMS ROCK! School Mineral/Geology Program with a show, exhibit and panning for gemstones, from 3:30-4:30pm, for all of the ASP students!

**Cherry Blossom Festival:** There are a few unfulfilled shifts remaining, so if you have not yet signed up for a shift, please do so as soon as possible. Please check the Parent Participation Chart, as the Cherry Blossom Festival will be one of the last chances to make up participation points for the year. Remember that each participatory family is required to participate in a minimum of **6** activities, including all three major mandatory fundraisers, by the end of the school year unless they want to pay the higher non-participatory rate.

The final (typed) lists for both weekends have been posted at the Parents’ Table, and a map of NLF’s booth location is also posted. If you find yourself unable to do a shift for which you had signed up, please let Maya-sensei know. Please **DO NOT** take/ cross out your name from the finalized list or change your shift without letting her know! If you have any questions, please ask one of the teachers. If you are not doing an early morning opening shift, please report directly to NLF’s booth on Webster Street. Please plan to arrive early as some streets will be blocked off for the festival, and parking will be much worse than usual. Please **DO NOT** bring your children to the booth with you as it will not be safe for them to be around the hot grill and other cooking activities going on. If you signed up to help at one of the work nights, please report directly to the Bush Site preschool at 2031 Bush Street, by **5:30pm**. The teachers will take the children signed up for childcare to the Sutter Site preschool (where they will be fed dinner) so parents do not have to worry about dropping their child off at childcare before their scheduled skewering shift.

We are encouraging parents working at the booth to wear our beautiful new ‘Plant a Seed’ Capital Campaign T-shirts during their shifts to help publicize our plans for our new building. If you would like to purchase one, order forms are located at the Parents’ Table.

**April Birthday Party:** We will celebrate the birthdays of children born during the month of April on **Friday, April 24<sup>th</sup>**. Some of the children will help prepare a special snack for this celebration.

**Kodomo No Hi:** NLF will have an *origami kabuto* (folded paper helmet) craft booth at JCCCNC’s *Kodomo No Hi* (Children’s Day) celebration on **Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>**. Weather permitting the event will take place at the **Japantown Peace Plaza**. If it rains that day, the festival will be moved to the **JCCCNC Building**. Please watch the Parents’ Table for more information about this event as well as a sign-up sheet to help staff the table as the date nears.

**Staff Appreciation Luncheons:** Our annual staff appreciation luncheons will be held on May 7<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup>. A detailed letter about this annual event will be placed in your mailboxes later this month.

**Year End Potluck:** The annual Graduation and End of School Year Potluck celebration will be on **Wednesday, May 27<sup>th</sup>**. Please watch the Parents’ Table for a sign-up sheet which will be posted soon. There

will be a short program to celebrate the fifth grade students' graduation from the ASP. The K-2<sup>nd</sup> grade students will open the program with a few songs. We hope to see you there!

**“Dowa no Omatsuri Dance Performance 2015” DVD:** As in past years, a DVD of the entire performance including the GenRyu Arts Performance, the Bush and Sutter Site preschools, as well as the ASP performance, is being prepared. Order forms were placed in you mailboxes if you would like to order one. They will be ready in early May.

**Plant a Seed Campaign (PASC):** Thank-you to all of the families who have supported our “Plant a Seed” campaign for the new addition to our 1830 Sutter Building. Please help us reach our goal of **100% participation** from all of our families as a demonstration of support. We currently have 94% of ASP families contributing to the campaign. We hope to break ground in June.

**Announcement from CUPC:** Are you looking for a summer camp for your child? CUPC Summer Camp has been serving families since 1976 and offers hands-on enrichment and outdoor fun for incoming 1<sup>st</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders. New for 2015, they will be offering an optional Japanese language program taught by teachers from Japan. All NLF parents are guaranteed a spot in our program. We meet at the NLF After School Program site, 1700 Sutter St. Please visit [cupc.org/summercamp](http://cupc.org/summercamp) for more info or call (415) 567-3988.

**Reminders:** Please remind your children that they should not bring toys, games, stuffed animals or electronics from home to the ASP. NLF's tax identification number is: **94-2325686**. Please remember to try and save your receipts to be used for childcare tax purposes.

**Acknowledgements:** The teachers would like to say a special “thank-you” to Elaine (Kalisa & Talia's grandma) for the boxes of individually wrapped snacks for the ASP children.

***We truly appreciate your continued thoughtfulness and generosity!***