

NIHONMACHI LITTLE FRIENDS After School Program

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

MONTHLY UPDATE - October 2014

Curriculum: The theme for the month of October will be Halloween. The ASP will hold its annual Halloween party on Friday, October 30. As the Rosa Parks Elementary School will hold its annual Halloween Dance Party also on October 30, the children who will attend the Dance Party will miss the school bus to come to the ASP. Therefore, the ASP staff will walk to ASP from the Rosa Parks afterwards. A sign-up sheet for this service will be on the parents table soon.

October Birthday Celebration: We will celebrate the birthdays of children born during the month of October on Friday, October 16th. The children will help the teachers prepare a special snack to mark the occasion.

Columbus Day: The ASP will be closed on Monday, October 12th in observing Columbus Day. The NLF staff will have a professional development workshop on dual language acquisition.

Chocolate, Cookie Dough & Gift Wrap Sales: NLF's first major fundraiser of the school year has just ended, and we would like to thank everyone for their help and participation, as well as remind those few families who haven't yet turned in their chocolate money to do so as soon as possible. If you placed any online orders, please be sure to let Maya sensei know so you can be credited for your sales. The catalog items will be delivered on Friday, Oct. 23 to the ASP for pick up.

Family Picnic: We enjoyed a fun day of good food and even better company at our annual "get acquainted" family picnic at Julius Kahn Park. Many thanks to all the families who participated and helped make this such a successful outing. Thank-you, as well, to Lisa sensei and Eli sensei for their participation and help in organizing the day.

NLF's 40th Anniversary Celebration Dinner: NLFs 40th Anniversary Capital Campaign Fundraiser will be on **Friday, November 20**. This year, we are celebrating our big 40th anniversary at Hotel Kabuki. The invitations to the event will be placed in parents' mailbox soon.

We are hoping to see your strong support in these exciting fundraising events. If you have not yet contributed to the Capital Campaign this year, we hope you will consider making a donation and/or pledge to support this important effort for the future of NLF. Any amount you can comfortably afford would be very much appreciated, and being able to demonstrate that we have wide spread support from the families we serve will help us as we appeal to funders for larger donations.

We had our ground breaking celebration on Oct. 9 at 11:00am. The pre-K children from both pre-schools performed a few songs and we had an interfaith blessings for this exciting even with ministers from Konko Church, Christ United Presbyterian and the Buddhist Church.

Dance Performance Sign-Ups: A sign-up sheet for our annual *Dowa no Omatsuri* theater performance fundraiser on February 28, 2016 will be posted at the Parents' Table soon. We need to know who will be making the commitment to perform, so that we can get the cast list to our choreographers before the end of the year. That way we will be ready to start our rehearsals as soon as the children return from the winter holidays. Please write "yes" or "no" in the space next to your child's name by Friday, October 30th. We will assume that children who have not responded by then will not be performing.

Halloween: The annual **Halloween Party** will be on Friday, October 30th, from 3:30-4:30pm. There will be an interesting variety of games and arts and crafts activities, as well as special snacks for the children to enjoy. A sign-up sheet for party donation items and volunteers to help during the party will be posted at the Parents'

Table soon. Children who do not regularly come on Fridays are welcome to come that day and attend the party, but please let Maya-sensei know in advance.

Parents Guest Speaker Project: We are encouraging the ASP parents to come and join us for the group time to share their world of occupations. Since the 3rd-5th grade children expressed interest in building, we asked Ed (Naima's dad) to talk about his work as an architect. They learned the new words "Blue Print", and also the children were interested in looking at the REAL drawing that Ed did for his house and other projects. THANK YOU Ed, for your time. We are looking for others who can come and share their world of work. If you think you have time to join us, please let Maya sensei know.



STEM project: Thanks to Yuko (Hiro and Hitomi's mom) who introduced us to Maggie. We will have 2 sessions of "FUN with Biology" on **Friday, October 16 and 23**. On October 16, we are going to focus on learning about plant and animal cells. The following week will focus on the function of DNA and we will extract DNA from some plant cells. It will be more hands-on fun biology sessions!

Reminders: Please remember to call **ASP at (415) 346-5064** and leave a message if your child will not be attending on a regularly scheduled day so that the teachers do not need to contact you to make sure your child is ok.

Now that it is getting dark earlier in the evenings, we would also like to remind you to please be aware of your surroundings when walking in the Japantown area. Robberies and muggings tend to increase during this time of year. Never leave packages or other valuables visible from inside your vehicles as windows are often smashed for that reason, even in broad daylight. And of course, you should never leave your babies and younger children unattended in your car when you come to pick your children up from the ASP!

We would like to remind parents to please write their children's names inside their jackets and sweaters so that we will be able to return them to their rightful owners if the children misplace them. Also, please check the "lost and found" clothing rack for any items your child may have left at the ASP.

Please remind your children that they should not bring toys from home to the ASP. We will not be responsible for any toys that get lost at the ASP.

Acknowledgements: The staff would like to express their heartfelt thanks to all of the parents who have helped with the Friday afternoon clean-up. Special thanks, as well, to Shewoo and family for the tart and ice cream for the staff, Kazuma and family for the buttons and crayons, Hannah and Kei & family for the bag of cheese sticks and the brand new "Playstix", and Lauren and Camden & family for the small boxes and scratch paper. Thank you very much for your support!

DŌMO ARIGATO! どうもありがとうございました。