

NIHONMACHI LITTLE FRIENDS After School Program
1700 Sutter Street, San Francisco, CA 94115 (415) 346-5064

MONTHLY UPDATE - January 2018

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

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 2018!

Doorbell: The original ASP (top) doorbell is currently working in the lobby, and the staff can generally hear it, but it is not sounding in the social hall. Therefore, please ring both ASP doorbells for now. Thank you for your understanding!

Staff Change: We are very sad to inform you that Sara-sensei's last day will be on Friday, January 19th. She was offered a position with the SF 49ers organization as a STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art & Math) educator. It is a great opportunity for her and we congratulate her on this career move. We truly appreciate Sara's dedicated work with us and wish her all the best. We will be looking for a new teacher, so feel free to refer possible candidates to us!

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 25th**. Rehearsals will start on Thursday, January 11th, and copies of the rehearsal dates and times were placed in mailboxes and on the parent table. Copies have also been e-mailed so hopefully you have them! This year, the choreographers will come to the ASP on **some Thursdays and 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.

Holiday Observed: The ASP will be closed on Monday, January 15th in observance of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday.

Respite Care Night: The sign-up sheet for our next respite care night on **Friday, January 19th from 5:30pm-10:30pm** at the Preschool Site (1830 Sutter 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 16th. 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 Preschool where parents can pick them up **by 10:30pm**.

Mochitsuki: Thank-you to all the families who attended our winter family social *mochitsuki* potluck, and also to the staff, (**Yukie sensei, and Lisa 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 held on Saturday, January 6th at the JCCNC building. As usual, NLF sponsored two arts and crafts booths, *fukuwarai*, (funny face game), and *koma*, (spinning tops). Some of the ASP students entered their drawings into the Year of the Dog Art Contest. Hope you were able to attend.

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 25th. 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 19th**. 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 4th, from 12:30 to 2:00pm** at the Yerba Buena Ice Center. The sign-up sheet will be on the parents table soon.

Items we are in need of year round include: Costco size crackers, 5oz. & 3oz. paper cups, scratch paper, and 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. It is also printed on all of your ASP fee receipts.

Acknowledgements:

We would like to thank Jacob and family for the boxes of Ritz crackers; Kai B. and family for the 5oz. paper cups; Colter and family for the 5oz. paper cups; Rami and family for the pizzas; Jacob and family for the pineapple buns; and Dorothea and family for the change of clothes for emergency use.

The staff would also like to express our thanks for all the 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.*