

NIHONMACHI LITTLE FRIENDS After School Program

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

MONTHLY UPDATE - August & September 2018

*We hope that all of you had a very enjoyable summer and would like to extend a warm **WELCOME** to all of the new and returning children and families!*

New Groups: This year we will continue working on an in-depth long-term project for our group time. The ASP teachers will present some interesting themes to explore, and children will choose the group to work with, based on their interest.

Staff Changes: We had to say a sad “sayonara” to **Jack sensei** who is moving to Japan to teach English, and another farewell to **Asuka sensei** who decided to explore her career path in a different field. We wish them all the best and thank them for their great work at NLF. We warmly welcome **Susan Sensei & Kristen Sensei** as our K-2nd grade teacher, and **Lateisha Sensei** as our 3rd-5th grade teacher!

Curriculum: Our projects have started. The K-2nd grade children are busy making presentation boards and practicing singing for their upcoming visits to Kimochi Home. Our 3rd-5th grade children are excited to plan the Halloween Party. They are currently investigating how different cultures around the world celebrate Halloween and “Day of the Dead”. We will see how they showcase the information attained from their research in the activities they prepare for the party.

Fieldtrip: As a way of showing respect and appreciation to the seniors in our community, the children will pay a visit to Kimochi Home on **Friday, September 21st** where they will sing a few songs in English and Japanese to entertain the seniors living there. Prior to that date the children will make some small gifts to give to the seniors when they visit.

Emergency Card/Allergy Information List & Medication: Thank you to the families who have already turned in all the necessary paperwork to start the new school year. If you have not returned your emergency card yet, please do so ASAP. Your child(ren) will not be able to attend fieldtrips without the updated emergency cards.

We also keep your child’s allergy medicine upon request. If you want the ASP to keep your child’s Epi pen, Allergy medication, or inhaler, please bring it in along with a doctor’s note. Please note that we cannot keep the medicine without the doctor’s note/prescription label at the ASP.

Osaka Festival 2018: The K-2nd grade children are invited to perform a dance at the Osaka Festival, to be held on Saturday, September 29th in the Peace Plaza at the Japan Center. The children are scheduled to perform at 2:50pm and there will be a sign-up for the performance posted at the parents’ table very soon.

ASP Mailboxes: We are trying to consolidate the space of family mailboxes. If you have a child in NLF’s preschool, your ASP mailbox is combined with the preschool mailbox. Therefore, you will not see your name on an ASP mailbox. All the info and handouts from the ASP will be found in your preschool mailbox. We hope you don’t mind.

General Meeting: Thank-you to all of the parents who attended our general orientation meeting, and a special “*doomo arigato*” to **Joelle** (Todd & Owen’s mother) and **Augie** (Board member & father of an alum) for the great job they did chairing the meeting. Handouts from the meeting were placed in the mailboxes of those families who did not attend. If you have any questions about the handouts or any part of the meeting, please feel free to ask Joelle or one of the teachers.

Birthday Celebrations: Every month we will choose a date to celebrate the birthdays of children born during that particular month and serve a special snack that day. We will celebrate the birthdays of children born during the month of **September on Friday, September 21st**. Parents will not need to bring in any treats for the celebration as the children will help prepare a special snack at the ASP. If you wish to contribute something in recognition of your child’s special day, we would like to suggest that you bring a book or small snack for the school. (You can also check with any staff for other suggestions).

Save the Date: Please save the date for NLF’s 5th Big Steps for Little Friends’ 5K Run/Walk event on **Sunday, October 14th** in Golden Gate Park. This event is one of our mandatory ones, as it replaces our Chocolate/Gift Catalog & Cherry Blossom Fundraisers. The registration is open, so just go to www.nlfchildcare.org and click on the 5K Run/Walk banner to register and/or donate. Please join us for this fun event!

WISH List: As the ASP children continue to show their interest in building multifaceted structures, we are in need of following items to make their creations more complex, as well as general items that we need year-round.

- Hand Sanitizer (32oz +)
- Scratch Paper
- Snacks (Costco Size and no nuts please)
- Sharpies (black and colors)
- Brawny Paper Towels
- Scotch Tape Refills
- Tether balls
- 3-4' tall indoor plants (Please ask staff for details)

Amazon Smile: If you shop on-line at Amazon.com, you can designate a portion of your purchases to go to NLF by signing up at AmazonSmile.com (same account as your Amazon.com) and select the charity: Nihonmachi Little Friends

United Way: We would like to let families who contribute to United Way through their workplace know that they can designate NLF as a direct recipient of their contributions by contacting their United Way representative and completing a 2018 Campaign Pledge form. NLF's code number is **3251**, and we use our main office address: 1830 Sutter St., San Francisco, CA 94115, for this campaign.

Good Eggs: If you grocery shop online, please go to school.goodeggs.com and enter the code, **NLF**, and click on "Shop Now". New Good Eggs customers get \$15 off their first order with the **NLF** school code and NLF receives a portion of the orders.

Reminders:

- Parent mailboxes are located **UNDER** your name.
- Please check the Parents' Table for notices and sign-ups for upcoming events.
- We hope all families will be able to help with at least one weekly Friday clean-up shift. A sign-up sheet will be on the Parents' Table throughout the school year. We need at least 2 parents to help us clean the bathrooms, the back kitchen, sweep inside, and move the indoor furniture. Because you will receive one participation point each time you help with a Friday clean-up we ask that you commit to the entire time and do not bring additional children, (including siblings), with you. Your help would be greatly appreciated!
- We have noticed some of our books are missing. So if you find any books at home stamped with ASP, please return them as soon as possible.
- Please help the staff by answering the door in the afternoons. For security purposes, please let the teachers know if you see someone you do not recognize to be part of the program.
- If your child will be absent from the ASP, please remember to call us in advance. The phone number is **415-346-5064** and you can leave a message if no one is available to answer your call. You can also call the main office number (415) 922-8898 or email us at nlfchildcare@gmail.com.
- Emergency Information—if you have not returned your emergency card for this school year, please do so as soon as possible.
- If you move, or any of your contact information changes, please leave a note with your updated contact information in Maya Sensei's mailbox or email the information to nlfchildcare@gmail.com.
- We have noticed some of our books are missing, so if you find any books at home stamped with "ASP", please return them as soon as possible.
- Please closely supervise your child when picking him/her up. We do not allow the children to open the front door themselves, so please reinforce this rule and exit the door first. Some children have been opening the door before their parents are with them, and this is a serious safety concern.

We truly appreciate your thoughtfulness!