

NIHONMACHI LITTLE FRIENDS After School Program

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

MONTHLY UPDATE - December 2018

Dates to Remember:

- Sunday, December 9 Mochitsuki Family Social at the Preschool
- Wednesday, Dec. 19 Holiday Party & December, January BD
- Friday, Dec. 24-Friday, January 4 Winter Holidays

December & January Birthdays: We will be celebrating our December and January birthdays during our annual Holiday Party on Wednesday, December 19th.

Mochitsuki: A sign-up sheet has been posted at the Parents' Table for this popular annual winter family social and potluck on **Sunday, December 9th, from 11:00am to 1:30pm at the Preschool (1830 Sutter St.)**. The program will open with a few songs by the preschoolers and any ASP children who wish to join in the performance. The *mochi*, (sweet rice) pounding, by *Kagami Kai*, (a group including many NLF alumni families that demonstrates *mochi* pounding throughout San Francisco), will follow. There will also be an opportunity for those who wish to participate in the actual pounding of the rice to make *mochi* as well as for everyone to sample the tasty results. A delicious potluck lunch will conclude the event.

Holiday Party: The ASP will host our annual Holiday Party on **Wednesday, December 19th**. We will setup several game stations based on different holiday themes (Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Diwali, etc) and will serve special holiday snacks.

Winter Holidays: The ASP will be closed for the Winter Holidays from **Monday, December 24, 2018** through **Friday, January 4, 2019**. We will re-open on **Monday, January 7, 2019**.

Silver Bells Holiday Arts & Crafts Fair: Kimochi Inc., an organization devoted to providing services for seniors in our community, will present its annual Holiday Arts and Crafts Faire on **Saturday, December 15th from 10am to 4pm**. This year the Fair will again be held at the Event Center at St. Mary's Cathedral, 1111 Gough St. (at Geary St.). Kimochi will provide free shuttle service between St. Mary's and the Japan Center Garage. Arts and crafts made by the seniors in the Kimochi programs as well as other hand crafted items by talented artists and craftspeople will be offered for sale at this Fair. We encourage families to check out this unique shopping experience and support an important community service organization as they shop.

Dance Performance Fundraiser: We will start dance rehearsals with the children for their *Dowa no Omatsuri* performance (Sunday, February 24th) on Thursday, January 10th. The dance groups and practice schedule will be posted on the Parents' Table soon. If you need to change the dance groups for any reason, please let Maya sensei know by Friday, December 14th.

We are also in need of items for our silent auction preceding the performance as well as advertisements for the printed program, and we encourage all parents to help solicit *at least one* auction item and/or advertisement. Auction items should be new. We hope you will keep us in mind if you should receive any item(s) over the holidays that you are unable to use but think others might. Electronic items such as a Kindle or any brand tablets as well as vouchers for hotel stays or airline tickets are some of the most favorite items and would be especially welcome. Gift cards to shops, restaurants, movie theaters, etc. are also always popular.

Raffle tickets are available. Please try to sell as many books as possible to family, friends and co-workers. The grand prize is an Apple iPad Pro!

Please sign your name to join a Committee on the sign-up sheet posted at the parent's table. All the committees, especially the Auction Committee, need more parents to help make this fundraiser a success!

Oshogatsu Matsuri: The date for the *Oshogatsu Matsuri*, a Japantown community New Year's Festival will be on Saturday, January 5th, 2019. The time, from **11:00am ~ 3:00pm**, and place, the JCCCNC building, 1840 Sutter Street remain the same. NLF will again sponsor a couple of arts and crafts tables, and the preschool children will also perform some songs related to the New Year. The ASP children will begin work on their "Year of the Boar" pictures for the Art Contest. Flyers with more information about the event will be out later this month or at the beginning of the New Year.

Sushi Social: Thanks to all the parents, staff and committee members who volunteered at, and/or joined our 43rd Anniversary event. We ended our Sushi Social with great success, raising over \$20,000 for the programs and new building!

Reminders: Please remember to call 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. Unfortunately, the ASP phone line sometimes does not work. In that case, please e-mail us or call the Preschool at 415-922-8898 to leave a message.

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, so you should also avoid leaving packages or other valuables on your car seats that might encourage thieves to break your car windows in order to steal the items inside. Of course you should *never* leave your babies and children unattended in your car when you come to pick your children up from the ASP! When eating out, do not have your purse or bag on the back of your chairs as it is a target for thieves.

Strangers sometimes come into the church. Please be aware of who is following you in and if you don't recognize the person, please let a teacher know.

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

Your thoughtfulness and generosity are greatly appreciated!

We wish all of you a Joyous Holiday Season and a Happy & Healthy New Year!