

NIHONMACHI LITTLE FRIENDS After School Program
1700 Sutter Street, San Francisco, CA 94115 (415) 346-5064
MONTHLY UPDATE - August & September 2017

*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 approach 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 **Eli sensei** who moved to Japan to teach English, and another farewell to Joseph Sensei who decided to follow his dream of working in the Animation industry. We wish them all the best and thank them for their great work at NLF. We warmly welcome **Nicholas Sensei** and **Asuka Sensei** as our 3-5th grade teachers!

Curriculum: During the month of August we will be doing activities to reinforce the ASP rules and schedule. This year, there are a lot of enthusiastic and creative older children. Therefore, we are planning to make “CLUB” activities on Fridays. For example, cooking, sewing, basketball, or soccer...we are hoping that those interested, will take a part in organizing the CLUB activities.

CUPC building under renovation: As all of you will soon see, Christ United Presbyterian Church building is under renovation construction. They are remodeling the children’s bathrooms as well as the main kitchen. The expected completion of the remodel will be in 6-7weeks for the bathrooms and in 8-10weeks for the kitchen. During the construction, the children will use the two bathrooms located on the west wing of the building (Sturge building). There is one more restroom located upstairs, therefore we would like to ask adults to use that one. Thank you very much for your understanding and cooperation in this matter.

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. 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 the doctor’s note. Please note that we cannot keep the medicine without the doctor’s note/prescription label at the ASP.

ASP mailbox: This year, we tried 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: We hope all of you will be able to attend our “back-to-school” general orientation potluck meeting on **Thursday, August 31, from 6:00 ~7:30pm**. Childcare will be provided for ASP children and their siblings. Please sign-up on the sheet at the Parents’ Table so we know what dish you will be bringing. Easy finger foods are preferred. If you will not be able to attend the meeting, please let Maya sensei know. As usual, bringing food without participating in the meeting cannot earn participation points.

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 months of July and August on Friday, August 26th. 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).

George Washington H.S Volunteers: We are pleased to have the George Washington High School (GWHS) Japanese National Honor Society (JNHS) students volunteering in our program once again. Special thanks to their teacher, Morikawa sensei, for arranging this program.

Labor Day Holiday: The ASP will be closed on **Monday, September 4th**, in observance of Labor Day. Enjoy your long weekend!

Save the Date!: Please save the date for NLF’s 4th Big Steps for Little Friends’ 5K Run/Walk event on **Sunday, October 22nd**. This event is one of our mandatory events, as it replaces our Chocolate and Gift Catalog Fundraiser. Mark your calendars and 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)

Amazon Smile: If you shop on-line at Amazon.com, you can designate a portion of your purchases go to NLF by signing up at AmazonSmile.com (same account as your Amazon.com) and select for 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 [2017 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.

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!
- The ASP doorbell is **brass with a black button in the center**. It is located to the left of the front doors at the top of the row of doorbells. Although a teacher always greets the children as they arrive on their school buses, later in the afternoon circumstances may prevent us from posting a teacher by the door to answer the bell right away. You can try ringing the bell again if no one answers after a reasonable time has passed; however, please do not disturb the church offices and staff by ringing the other doorbells!
- 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 truly appreciate your thoughtfulness!