

NIHONMACHI LITTLE FRIENDS After School Program

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

MONTHLY UPDATE - October 2007

Curriculum: The themes for the month of October will be *Undokai*, (Sports Day), and Halloween. The ASP will hold its annual Undokai on Thursday, October 11, from 4:00pm to 5:00pm in the ASP play yard. During their group times, the children have been helping with preparations for this special and fun event.

The ASP will hold its annual Halloween Party on Friday, October 26th, from 4:15 to 5:15pm. There will be an interesting variety of games and arts and crafts activities as well as a *Haunted House* and special snacks for the children to enjoy. That day, the children should bring their costumes to change into at the ASP. Please watch the Parents' Table for a sign-up sheet for donations and volunteers needed to help during the party.

That same evening, the Japanese Community and Cultural Center of Northern California, (JCCNC), at 1840 Sutter Street, (next to the Sutter Site preschool), will be holding its annual children's Halloween Party from 6:00 to 8:30pm, so children will be able to continue partying into the evening. Flyers with more information about the JCCNC party are on the Parents' Table.

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. We are still calculating results from the sales and will announce them later this month as well as in November's Update. We will let you know in advance when items will be arriving at the ASP for you to pick up.

Entertainment Books: This year NLF is again offering these popular discount coupon books for sale. The price is the same as last year, a bargain **\$25.00 per book**, and NLF will receive 20%, (\$5.00), for each book sold. Books for other regions can also be ordered and will be shipped directly to your home or wherever you specify on the Order Form, available with a sample San Francisco/San Mateo region book, on the Parents' Table.

Family Picnic: We enjoyed a fun day of good food and even better company at our annual "get acquainted" family picnic. This year we were also lucky with the weather as well as with the location, at Julius Kahn Park, which had a playground and a grassy field for the children to play in within steps of our picnic tables and washroom facilities. Many thanks to all the families who participated and helped make this such a successful outing. Thank-you, as well, to Megumi-sensei, Maya-sensei, Mari-sensei, and Cathy-sensei for their participation and help in organizing the day.

AFSC/NLF Celebration Dinner: Many thanks to those parents who supported this special evening and helped make it so successful. We would like to say a special "thank-you" to **Joyce Oishi**, (Tomiyuri's mother), for working with the planning committee and for helping with registration and auction check-out the evening of the event, and also to Tomiyuri's father, **Dii Lewis**, for helping to greet the guests and collect donations during the evening. We would also like to thank the following parents: **Grace and Rodney Suzuki**, (Miya's parents), **Glynis Nakahara and Van Okamura**, (Malia and Ruby's parents), and **Rich Eijima**, (Riki and Tomi's father), for attending the dinner, and **Noelle Poole**, (Alana's mother), for her donation to the event. We would also like to say a special "thank-you" to **Naomi Miura**, (Bryant's mother), for all the work she did in coordinating the silent auction for this fundraiser. In addition, we would like to express our appreciation to **Megumi-sensei** for helping with childcare that evening, to **Mari-sensei** for helping with the planning committee for the dinner, and to **Cathy-sensei** for overseeing the overall coordination of the evening and making it such a successful event. Finally, we would like to say a very special "*doomo arigatoo*" to **Tomiyuri Lewis** and **Riki Eijima** for helping present the awards to the evening's honorees. NLF's portion of the evening's proceeds will go toward our capital campaign.

Standing Committee Meeting: Many thanks to all the families who signed up to help with a standing committee. All standing committees will meet Thursday, November 1st, at 5:30pm at the Sutter Site preschool, (1830 Sutter Street). A sign-up sheet for the committees and childcare for the meeting will be posted at the Parents' Table later this month.

Respite Night: Our first Respite Night of this school year will be on Friday, November 2nd. A sign-up sheet for this popular after hours childcare evening will be posted at the Parents' Table later this month. A brief explanation for those families new to the program and unfamiliar with Respite Night: you can sign up to have NLF watch your child until as late as 10:30pm on the Respite Night for a bargain \$6.00 per child. Siblings are also welcome to participate in the evening if they are toilet trained. The teachers will walk the children on the Respite list to the Bush site preschool that evening where they will enjoy a pizza dinner and can take part in different activities or watch a video until their parents pick them up after their evening out. The list fills fast, and those children on the waiting list will be given priority for our next Respite night in January if they are not able to participate in the November respite.

Library: We opened our ASP lending library two weeks ago, and the children have been excited about being able to check out books to take home. Please help your child remember to bring the books back to the ASP by the due date written on the slip in the book. There are still a number of children who haven't yet returned their signed library slips, and we would like to remind their parents to please send them back as soon as possible so that the children can begin checking out books with their friends.

Reminders: Please do not let your child bring toys or electronic devices such as i-pods, game-boys, etc., to the ASP. They are too easily lost and damaged, and the ASP cannot be responsible for them. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation with this matter.

Japantown Better Neighborhood Plan, (BNP): The BNP is a planning process led by the S.F. Planning Department in collaboration with the community to develop a vision for this unique and historic neighborhood. The BNP will hold a community wide meeting on **Thursday, October 18th at 6:00pm** at the **JCCCNC Building**. We encourage our families to attend this important meeting and contribute their ideas and suggestions, (eg. place for children to play) on how to make Japantown a more child and family friendly place. Another way to contribute your input is to complete the online survey on the BNP website: japantown.sfplanning.org

Kids' Quotes: A teacher was greeting the children as they arrived at ASP on their school bus:
Teacher: "Hi Tomi!"
Tomi: "Hello! Oh! I see you're wearing some more fake earrings again!"
Teacher: "No they're not! They're real, just not pierced."
Tomi: "Yeah, that means they're fake!"

Acknowledgements: The staff would like to thank all of the parents who have helped with the Friday afternoon clean-up. We really need and appreciate your help, so please sign-up at the Parents' Table if you have time to help on a Friday afternoon. We would also like to thank the following children and their families: Hanaki & family for the juice; Alana & family for the minestrone soup, Cesar salad, crackers, and 25 lb. bag of rice; Ethan & family for the stickers, pencils, toys, and case of rice crackers; Ayame & family for the shrimp chips; Lucy & family for the paper party lanterns; Takeru & family for the Japanese *manga* books and magazines; Saika & family for the paper; Matthew & family for the rice crackers and colored scratch paper; Eilse & family for the pack of glue sticks; Jordan & family for the paper, cardstock, and big jar of animal crackers; Hailey & family for the Hawaiian cookies; Bryant & family for the Pirates' Booty, (snacks); Rika and Tomiya & family for the five large containers of water; Tomiyuri & family for the large boxes of crackers; Elaine & family for the books; and Kohki & family for the ABC floor puzzle and Japanese book in celebration of his birthday.

*Doomo Arigitoo gozaimasu!
Your thoughtfulness and generosity are greatly appreciated!*