

NIHONMACHI LITTLE FRIENDS After School Program

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

MONTHLY UPDATE

September 2017

Curriculum: Our projects have started. The K-2nd grade children are busy making presentation boards and practicing singing for their upcoming visits to Kokoro and Kimochi Home. Our 3rd-5th grade children are excited to plan 3 different projects. One is designing their own obstacle courses. Another is to learn about the armors of the world and plan a competition by using their designs of armors. We also have a Video-making group that is designing characters and making a story to direct a Claymation movie. While they are engaged in their own projects, the children also want to plan for the upcoming Halloween party. They have lots of new ideas to make the party experience thrilling, but how are they going to execute all of these in a limited amount of time? We will see how the children can plan and manage their time!

Fieldtrip: As a way of showing respect and appreciation to the seniors in our community, the children will pay a visit to Kokoro Assisted Living, and the Kimochi Home on **Friday, September 15th** where they will sing a few songs in English and Japanese to entertain the seniors living in those facilities. Prior to that date the children will make some small gifts to give to the seniors when they visit. If you haven't turned in your child's emergency card, please do so ASAP. Your child(ren) will not be able to attend the fieldtrip without the updated emergency cards.

Doorbell: During the construction in the CUPC building, we will use a temporary doorbell. The new button is attached near the ASP old button. 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 their staff by ringing the other doorbells!

General Meeting: Thank you all for understanding our bathroom situation and our decision to not hold our regular annual General Meeting this year. There will be many chances for the ASP parents to get together and get acquainted during the year. Handouts for the cancelled meeting will be placed in the mailboxes and emailed to you soon. If you have any questions about the handouts, please feel free to ask any of the staff. We would also like to introduce the ASP's Board representatives: **Augie**, (Dorothea's father), **Roger** (Raideen's father), **Mie** (Aila's mother), **Jade** (Yuki & Hana's mother), **Joelle** (Owen & Todd's mother) and **Irene** (Ohio's mother). They will also be available to answer any questions you might have in regard to fundraising and upcoming events.

Birthday Celebrations: We will celebrate the birthdays of children born during the month of September on **Friday, September 22**. 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 game for the school. (You can also check with your child's group teacher for other suggestions).

Big Steps for Little Friends 5K Run/Walk: It is very exciting to inform all of you that we are going to hold our 4th "**Big Steps for Little Friends**" 5K Run/Walk on **Sunday, October 22**. This is a mandatory fundraiser that will benefit NLF's programs as well as our "Plant A Seed" Capital Campaign. It's a great chance to reconnect with NLF alumni, families, staff and supporters while raising funds in a healthy way. Please spread the word to your friends and families to participate in this fun event with the chance to win an iPad Mini and other great prizes. We will be distributing and emailing information soon about how to register and donate to the event. We will also have registration forms at the parents' table. We hope to see you all there!

ASP Library Collections: Many children have reading logs as part of their homework this year. The ASP staff wants to promote FUN reading time for all the age groups during homework time. Therefore, we are going through

all the books we have and want to partially renew our library collection. We are discussing this with the children and will be putting out a wish list for books to add to our library. If you have any of the books on the wish list and think you can donate them to us, please sign up on the wish list. We will appreciate your help!

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!
- If you have a few moments to spare when you pick up your child in the afternoons, 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**. You can leave a message if no one is available to answer your call.
- If you move, or any of your contact information changes, please leave a note with your updated contact information in Maya Sensei's mailbox.
- Please check the "Lost and Found" rack if your child is missing a sweater, jacket, or other clothing items.

Acknowledgements: We would like to extend BIG THANK- YOU to the families who donated items on our wish list. We would also like to thank: Sakura J and family for the sweets for the staff, Hannah & Kei and family for the snacks, Raiden and family for the manju for the staff, Kai B and family for the bag of cherries and grapes for snack and Akira and family for the sweets.

We truly appreciate your thoughtfulness!