

# Mid-Session Newsletter 2010

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## Principal's Message

Dear Parents,

What a great first week at Nakayoshi Gakko! As I walk around, I see and hear lots of great things happening. In the morning, all grades gather for Taisho exercises. Then, the Ryu and Tsuru classes are off to learn Taiko, followed by lessons and special activities (cooking and sumi-e) in their classrooms. All other classes are busy learning about Japanese and

Japanese-American culture and working on a wide variety of projects, from creating a "me" t-shirt (the Panda class) to making a bento box for the rice (the Tora class). During the afternoon, the students rotate through a variety of specialty classes, including origami, music, and cooking (sushi, shabu-shabu, and other yummy dishes) and odori. A special daily demonstration ends a very busy day!

Many thanks to all the volunteers who have helped with the preparation of a myriad of projects to get the classes up and running. Also a big thanks to the classroom volunteers who have helped with driving, in-class projects and more. You all help to make Nakayoshi Gakko a great experience for the children!

Sincerely,  
Marian Endo  
Principal, Nakayoshi



**NAKAYOSHI GAKKO**  
FRIENDSHIP SCHOOL

## Panda Class



It has been a fantastic first week in the Panda Class! All the students are enjoying their first time at Nakayoshi Gakko. We are getting to know each other and having fun making new friends. All the students had a chance to share a little something about themselves with their "ME" Boxes.

We start each morning doing taisho. The Panda Class has done a great job learning

taisho! We even won the gold star this week! When we are done with taisho, it is time for language class with Tahara Sensei. The students have learned many phrases and vocabulary words in Japanese. We are doing our best to practice our Japanese when we can. We are working on days of the week, colors, numbers, body parts and simple phrases, such as; thank

you, I'm sorry, goodbye.



As our morning continues, we have done a variety of projects around our themes. This week the Panda Class focused on "All About Me", "Family and Traditions",

*Continued next page*

### IMPORTANT INFO:

- Please wear your red Nakayoshi Gakko t-shirt on the day of your field trip.
- Using cell phones or electronic devices during school hours is prohibited. Please use the Nakayoshi Gakko office phone number: 650-793-8253.
- Lost & Found box is in the office.

## Panda Class continued

“Rice”, and even talked about Pandas. Here are some of our highlights of this week! The students have been able to make a doll of themselves and a scroll with their picture on it. We talked about the importance of family and all the special things we do with our families. The students were able to make a clay sculpture of each member of their family. We also made a

family tree. We have also been learning about rice. The students planted rice seeds and learned how rice grows. We figured out that rice could be used for many things, such as eating, making instruments and even art.

In the afternoon, the students get to enjoy all the specialty classes and demonstrations. It is a fun filled day!

Next week the Panda Class will be talking about respecting elders and manners, Boy’s Day, Girl’s Day, Kokeshi dolls, and children toys and games in Japan. We will be taking a field trip with the Saru class to Yu Ai Kai (senior center in San Jose Japantown).

Thank you to all of the parent volunteers! We hope to see everyone at Open House.

## Saru Class



The Saru class is off to a wonderful start! We won the star during Taiso on the second day of Nakayoshi Gakko. We are hoping to win the star again! The students are enjoying each other’s company while learning about the Japanese culture and language. They are having fun making the many special projects and working hard to learn the Japanese language from Sensei Tahara. Sempai Nicole, Jr. Sempai Kameko, the parent volunteers, and other Jr. Sempais have been a great help in preparing projects and assisting students in various activities.

The students and I began the summer session by discussing the flag of Japan and map of Japan. They learned about the four main islands of Japan, the oceans, and some facts about the geography. The students particularly enjoyed learning about the snow monkeys that live in Japan. Everyone thought it was funny how some snow monkeys learned to take baths in the hot

springs to keep warm in the cold winter months. They also enjoyed reading a story about a monkey in “Up and Down” and making their monkey photo frame. We are now moving on to learn about family, community,



and the importance of the mon. The students learned that each mon is very special and is used to identify an individual or family. After looking at various mons, the students looked closely at their own mon to see if it consists of a plant, animal, geometric shape, natural object, etc. They were also very enthusiastic about making a wall hanging with their mon on it.

a n d  
m a -  
tsuri.

We  
h a v e  
b e -  
g u n  
t a l k -  
i n g  
a b o u t  
f a m -  
i l y

A memorable in-class demonstration with Sensei Moschel Kadokura took place on Wednesday. Sensei Kadokura taught the students about yukatas. They learned about the various layers for the yukata and to wear yukatas with the left side overlapping the right. Akemi and Jason were chosen to be dressed in the lovely yukatas.

There will be many more fun activities during the rest of the Nakayoshi Gakko summer session. We are hoping to brighten the day of those at Yu Ai Kai with our visit on Thursday. The students are also excited about attending more specialty classes in the afternoon. All of the students have put a lot of effort into learning about the Japanese culture and projects that they have completed so far. I hope the students are having as much fun as I am! Thank you for all of your help in making this wonderful program possible. The Saru class is looking forward to showing off their beautiful work and performing at Open House. Look forward to seeing you then!

*By Beyers Sensei*

## Kuma Class



The first week of Nakayoshi Gakko has flown by! Every day was packed full of activities, from our morning sessions to afternoon specialty classes and demonstrations.

During the past several days, we have been talking about the moon festival, Tsukimi, and how Japanese people appreciate nature. We also discussed Kaguya-hime, a princess from the moon who is one of the most famous of all Japanese legends. Another common story told is about the rabbit who lives in the moon! In addition to the moon, we learned about bamboo life cycles and

how it is used for many different purposes. After learning about Shintoism, a religion that originated in Japan, we got to think of fortunes (good and bad!) to pull from omikuji boxes. We also decorated kites with pictures of kumas, in the tradition of each Kuma class before!

On Monday we will be going on a field trip to Nijiya, a local Japanese supermarket, to learn about how a Japanese business is run. We will also be completing a scavenger hunt for items related to the Kuma curriculum! In the coming week, we will be discussing Tanabata (the star

*By Endo Sensei*

festival), Japanese homes, and more exciting tales from the land of the rising sun.

Thank you to all the parent volunteers and our sempais, Ashley and Miyako, who helped the Kuma class grow in our understanding of Japanese culture. We are looking forward to all we will continue to learn!

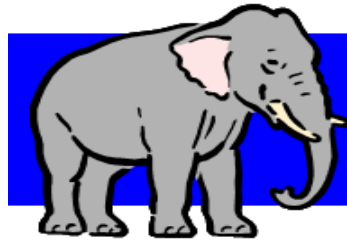


## Zou Class



The Zou class has been busy this week starting many projects, but we have only finished one of them! We have started the washi box, lacquer plate, lion/dragon puppet, name kanji, and zou kanji projects. Many of the projects involve drying time between steps as well as multiple steps to finish them.

The class had a demonstration on fish cleaning by Norman Tanaka. It was not like the fish mom or dad gets from the market which is all clean and fresh.



We had scales flying all over the place! Students were very curious and got to touch the fish's eyes and scales. Some of the students did not have the stomach for this demo and just had to look away! I am sure it made lasting memories on the students.

*By Ikenaga-Clymer Sensei*

Next week we plan to finish all of the projects we started and a few more. We won the class star on Friday as we wore our elephant masks and thundered into the gym! We are looking forward to a field trip to Sushi Tomi in Mountain View for a class in sushi making.

Many thanks to all the volunteers (board members, parents, and students) who help make this program the great program that it is. Arigato.

## Kirin Class



The first week has been full of activity, learning about our family history and the experience of the Japanese and Japanese-Americans during World War II. A theme in the Kirin class is the value of "gaman" or

perseverance. It became very apparent that our ancestors who survived the internment during WWII are a model of perseverance. We also learned a little about the history of Buddhism in Japan

*By Fujikawa Sensei*

and we are currently working on our own Darumas. These Daruma Okiagaris are another reminder of *gaman*... even if you get knocked down, when life gets hard, you can stand up again and persevere. *Continued...*

## Kirin Class continued

Next week, we will be going on a field trip to San Jose Japantown on Tuesday, then welcoming guest speakers Amy Imai and Toshiko Kawamoto on Wednesday to share about their Internment experience. We will also be learning about Obon and

preparing for their performance on Friday. Thank you to all the parents and sempai who have helped our class and I look forward to seeing everyone at Open House!



*By Tamekuni Sensei*

## Tora Class



Another year at Nakayoshi Gakko, and another great start to the session! This week the class has been working very hard on several projects. Our first activities looked at components of a Japanese garden, in preparation for our field trip next week. We also have been discussing the similarities and differences between Japanese culture and Japanese-American culture. Students have studied how Japanese people celebrate/appreciate the four seasons, and compared them to what the four seasons mean to us. These reflections have been ex-

pressed in haiku form, and will be incorporated into a future project. Our classroom sempai (Bobby and Jennifer) have been great with the students, and each parent volunteer has been a great help preparing materials or helping out during work periods.



## Ryu Class



Again we have an awesome group of little Ryus, or dragons. The importance of this class is to have a feeling of togetherness, or "WA". We are together for just 10 days but we can create "Wa" if we work together and show our "Ki" (spirit). Every morning, when I hear Taiko class taught by Gushiken Sensei, I can feel the "Ki" from the Ryu class!

In Ryu class, we focus on the medieval Japan: the Samurai era.

We have studied geographical characteristics of Japan, reviewed Confucianism that underlines the basic code of Samurai still embedded in Japanese culture. We are very fortunate to have Mrs. Temple, our specialty teacher who taught us how to make a Kumi-himo, which is an important part of

Samurai armor. We visited Asian Art Museum and our tour docent really helped us learn many interesting facts about Samurai and Japanese history.

For the first time, Ryu class has a language teacher! Miki Sensei is teaching hiragana and basic conversational Japanese.

*Continued . . .*



## Ryu Class continued

On Friday, kids had a chance to play "Sakura" on her Koto! She performs flute and Koto in Marimo Kai. Since Ryu class missed the afternoon demo because of field trip, she gave us special class. Also, we had Mr. Giang as our guest teacher who taught us some good techniques of drawing anime and kids are really good!

Ryu would like to extend our special thanks to our cooking teacher, Mrs. Nishimoto and her cooking sempai crews for all their hard work. We had a wonderful time. Gochiso sama de-



shita! We will pass out the recipes next week.

We will have another busy week next week. We are making Bunraku dolls and will start practicing for the big day. We hope parents can join us on Thursday to see our bunraku theatre. Thank you for all the

parent volunteers. I do have homework for you (**parent**). Please find your family crest with your child. If you have any story behind it, please let your child know so he/she can share with the class. If you do not have one or do not know, that is all right, too. Kids will create their own Mon with its special meaning and name.

Last but not least, many thanks to my wonderful Laura Sempai and Allison Jr. Sempai! I can't do anything without them! Ganbatte!

<http://www.asianart.org/>

## Tsuru Class



We have had a busy first week of session in our class of 14 students. We began with studying a historical time line from 1776 forward where we highlighted the important events such as immigration, various military actions as well as pertinent laws. We were able to take a field trip to Angel Island, which was the first stop for many Asian immigrants to our new country. We actually saw poems etched into the walls of the barracks at Angel Island which really made history come alive for us.

We've had a number of fabulous guest speakers including Mr. Greg Watanabe, a Los Angeles based actor, (who gave us tips on how to dramatize our acting skills for our upcoming play). We also received a lesson in anime drawing from Mr.

Lamho Giang, and began to sketch some basic animated characters.



Mr. and Mrs. Hikido were kind enough to visit our class to share with us their experiences of being in the 442<sup>nd</sup> battalion and an internment camp, respectively. Next week we look forward to hearing from Mr. Richard Konda who will speak on civil rights.

The specialty classes have added variety and fun as we take to our brushes and try our hand at sumie artistry with Wada Sensei, refresh our memory of basic Japanese language skills with Wakabayashi Sensei and fold some intricate origami figures led by Yamaguchi Sensei.

We are also busy practicing and preparing for our play.

*By Satake-Nakamura Sensei*

Please join us next Thursday, July 1<sup>st</sup>, to see our performance at the afternoon demonstration.

Next week we will be working on our family history booklets which will serve as a great starting point for the students to document their ancestry for future generations.

I look forward to seeing each and every one of you at Open House. I have sincerely enjoyed working with this group of students. They continue to amaze and surprise me on a daily basis with their talent, creativity and enthusiasm. Our two sempai, Tommy Koyama and Teresa Li are such awesome helpers!



## Music Class



What a joy to see students that are smiling, listen to their singing and hear their laughing! We have been singing Japanese children songs, traditional songs, J-POP and anime songs. This year we are also working on dance and shout style exercises at the end of every session. We love them! The younger students

have started to practice for their performance. They are showing good progress. More J-POP and anime songs are coming up for the older students!

Open House performance selections:

Panda "Genkotsuyama no Tanuki-san" CD track #2 (song B)

Saru "Pin Pon Pan Taiso" CD track #3 (song C)

*By Williams Sensei*

Kuma "Rock de odorou Kid's Soran" CD track #22 (song V)

Zou "Do Re Mi no Uta" CD track #7 (song G)

Please play your music CD's and ask your children to sing their class songs for you. It's a great way for them to practice their songs before Open House.

We look forward to performing these energetic Japanese children's songs for you!

## Cooking Class

Panda, Saru, Kuma, Zou, Kirin and Tora classes.

We had fun this week making *chirashi* (sweet vinegar rice with vegetables shaped like a *koi* (colorful good luck fish), *umani* (a Japanese stew), *tepposushi* (cucumber in a cannon-shaped vinegar rice roll), panda or monkey face *obento* (lunch boxes) and spiral



*sushi* (colorful swirling rice/vegetable rolls). The students love to crack and beat eggs, peel carrots, make sauces, and do it themselves.

Thanks to the sempai for washing dishes. Next

week we will continue learning the Japanese names for ingredients and dishes and how to make them. I plan classes so a child will have "no repeats" in eight years. Next week, we will make *tonkatsu* (pork cutlet), *chi chi dango* (sweet rice dessert), *manju* (red bean pastry, and *dora yaki* (pancakes with sweet red bean paste).

*By Nakamura Sensei*

## Japanese Language Class

Ryu and Tsuru classes.

On the first day, all students introduced themselves very well in Japanese and moved on to review the 50 Japanese sounds. This first week, Ryu class learned the body parts vocabulary, some verbs, and Japanese greetings for different occasions. Tsuru class tried to guess some kanji characters from pictures. They wrote some advanced kanji

- which have cool meanings like Love, Respect, and Courageous, etc. Both classes learned to read Japanese national instrument (koto) music note (It's written in Japanese kanji numbers.) They played



*By Wakabayashi Sensei*

「Sakura Sakura」 very well with koto! They also learned to write numbers in kanji to more than 1,000,000!!

I am really excited to contribute my talent and knowledge to these young smart students. Looking forward for next week's session!!!!!!

## Origami Class

Hi Nakayoshi Gakko,

Thanks to the great helping hands of Sempais and in-class parents, Origami class has started with a lot of excitement again this year!

Panda, Saru, Kuma and Zou have almost finish their annual fairy tale project. This year we make a frame for Hanasaka Jisan.

(<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k5t6QWcsvHo&feature=related>)

We will make some toys after this project. Something easy to

make and fun!

Kirin and Tora enjoys making origami toys. We did a blow spin and Kaiten Uma (summersault horse). Will make more next week!

Tsuru made (and Ryu will make....) a difficult mini book in the first class! (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dXLhjYgMZ68&feature=related>)

They also tried a blow spin toy, and a chopstick holder. (<http://d.hatena.ne.jp/video/niconico/sml176403>)

*By Yamaguchi Sensei*

Everyone, stay healthy and I look forward to seeing you all in the second week!



## Japanese Language Class

*By Tahara Sensei*

Panda, Saru, Kuma, Zou, Kirin and Tora classes.

It has been an exciting week for Language class and I'm pleased to see the lively students back to learning Japanese again!! Every morning after our morning *taiso*,



we start the class with “*Ohayo gozaimasu*” which means “Good morning” in Japanese. Then every student in the class loves to sing an “*Aiueo*” Japanese song. We are learning to count numbers, a lot of colors,

basic and useful sentences, and practicing to write hiragana, katakana and some kanji (Chinese characters). I'm impressed by their enthusiastic attitude and spirit of inquiry even though they meet some difficult challenges. We will continue our study on Japanese learning the second week. Thanks for helping to make the class a success!

## Odori Class

*By Iwanaga Sensei (Hanayagi Reimichi)*

Thanks for all your help to make the class a success!!

First and Second graders were told a story on my Kamishibai, thereby seeing a traditional Japanese story-telling device. We then did Doyo Buyo, dance motions to children's songs (a few taught by my father-in-law probably to their great-grandparents years ago!). We followed that with “Wonderful

Ondo” and then the classes created their own Ondos – Panda Ondo and Saru Ondo.

Third and fourth grades were shown dance wigs for men and women with a brief discussion of odori principles. We danced “Pokemon Ondo” and “Janken Ondo” and then created our own steps to “Janken

Ondo.”

Fifth and Sixth grades were taught by my friend, Gail Sueki, because of my leg injury. They danced “*Ei Ja Nai Ka*,” the San Jose Taiko number, and other dances. They then divided into 2 teams to create dances. I wanted an interactive environment and so focused all classes on designing their own dance steps.





**Nakayoshi Gakko**  
FRIENDSHIP SCHOOL

Located at the Mountain View Buddhist Temple  
575 North Shoreline Boulevard  
Mountain View, CA 94043  
www.nakayoshigakko.org

*Special Thank You to:*



**Funded in part by a grant from Arts Council of Silicon Valley, in partnership with the County of Santa Clara, California Arts Council, and the National Endowment for the Arts**

We welcome new members to join the board to keep this great program going. If you are interested in finding out more information about the various positions, please see one of the Board members below. Arigato!

### Executive Board

Todd Hironaka (2nd yr)	co-President
Hope Nakamura (2nd yr)	co-President
Karen Tang (2nd yr)	Treasurer
Gloria Yamauchi (2nd yr)	Secretary
Kelly Tsudama (2nd yr)	Registrar
Bob Matsumoto (2nd yr)	Facilities

### Working Board

Grace Doll (2nd yr)	Special Events
Yuki Kita (1st yr)	Special Events
Joni Tsukimura (2nd yr)	Purchasing
Dana Nakagawa (1st yr)	Purchasing
Sachi Itagaki (1st yr)	Jr. Registrar
Miki Bellon (1st yr)	Fundraising

## Cooking Class

*By Nishimoto Sensei*

Ryu and Tsuru Classes.

For the first week of Nakayoshi Gakko, the Ryu class chefs had fun making seasoned vegetables and salmon steamed in individual foil packets with onigiri, okonomiyaki pancakes over soba noodles, over 14 differently decorated dragon roll sushi, an appetizer called Buta no Hikiniku no Mochigomemushi (pork balls rolled in sweet rice) with various garnishes, and finally beautiful plum crest sushi.

Next week the Tsuru class will put on their chef hats and try their hand at these same dishes. Students will be getting their recipes at the end of each week of cooking.



## Important Dates to Remember

- 6/28: Kuma Field Trip to Nijiya Store.
- 6/29: Kirin Field Trip to San Jose Japantown.
- 6/29: Zou Field Trip to Sushi Tomi.
- 6/29: Armadillo Willy's of Sunnyvale will donate 20% of the proceeds it receives from Nakayoshi Gakko families on this date from 5pm to 9pm. The location is at 161 E. El Camino Real, Ph# (650) 245-5300.
- 6/30: Tora Field Trip to Hakone Gardens.
- 7/1: Panda and Saru Field Trip to Yu Ai Kai.
- 7/1: Heritage Source Book Fair from 3:00pm to 4:30pm (a portion of the proceeds will be donated to NG)
- 7/2: Heritage Source Book Fair: 3:00pm to 8:00pm
- 7/2: Last day of School: Open House is from 5:00pm to 8:30pm. Obento dinner starts at 5:00pm. Program begins at 5:45pm.
- 7/3: Maintenance II is from 9:00am to 12:00pm, please make sure to attend if you are assigned to this group.
- 7/17 - 7/18: Mountain View Buddhist Temple Bazaar and Obon Festival  
Please make sure to sign-up for your Obon shift.