

Mid-session Newsletter

Important Info:

- Remember to wear your Nakayoshi t-shirt on field trip days.
- Using cell phones or other electronic devices during school hours is prohibited.
- If necessary, please use the office phone 650-793-3715.
- Lost and Found is located in the office.

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Principal's Message

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 Taiso 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" doll (the Panda class) to making a bento box with rice (the Tora

class). During the afternoon, the students rotate through a variety of specialty classes, including origami, music, and cooking (sushi, koi cookies, 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 Gakko 2011



Panda Class



By Lowe Sensei

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 taiso. The Panda Class has done a great job learning taiso! We even won the gold star this week! When we are done with taiso, 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, good-bye.

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", "Rice", and even talked about Pandas. Here are

Continued next page

Capital campaign update.

Nakayoshi Gakko is able to keep the tuition for its program at a very reasonable rate because the MVBT donates the use of its facility. The temple has a capital campaign to improve its facilities and bring it into compliance with current earthquake and disability access codes. To show our appreciation, the Board set a goal of raising \$3,500 a year for three years, which the Board will match with its reserves. NG families have donated \$3,127 so far. If you haven't yet made a donation, please help us to reach our goal! Many thanks to the families who have contributed so far.



"The students are enjoying each other's company while learning about Japanese culture and language."

Panda Class continued

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's 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! 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 Tahara Sensei. Sempai Sami, Jr. Sempai Trini, 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 interesting 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 learning about family, community, mottanai, and matsuri.

We discussed the importance of a family's mon. The students learned that each mon is very special and is used to identify an individual or family. They also created a mon hanging with their family's mon.

A memorable in-class demonstration with Sensei Moschel Kadokura took place on Thursday. Ms. Kadokura taught the students about yukatas. They learned about the

By Beyers Sensei

various layers for the yukata and to wear yukatas with the left side overlapping the right. Cassidy, James, and Makena were chosen to wear 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. 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. See you then!



Saru students listen to a story from 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 festival), Japanese homes, and more exciting tales from the land of the rising sun. Thank you to all the parent volunteers and our sempai, Katie, who helped the Kuma class grow in our understanding of Japanese culture. We are looking forward to all we will continue to learn!

By Endo Sensei



Kuma students are working on a sumo wrestling game.

Zou Class



The Zou class has been very busy this week starting many projects, and finishing a few too! 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 definitely

not like the fish you get from the store, all clean and fresh. Some of the students were very interested in the fish while others couldn't bear to watch. I am sure it made some lasting memories.

We even had time to win the star this week. On Tuesday, we made Elephant ears and on Wednesday, we stomped

By Ikenaga-Clymer Sensei

in fashionably late. We made lots of noise but definitely showed our school spirit.

We are looking forward to the Sushi Tomi field trip next week.

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

"Many of the projects involve drying time between steps. . ."



Kirin Class



We had an exciting and busy first week in the Kirin class! The three major themes of the class are respecting our ancestors, *gaman* (perseverance), and the influence of Buddhism in Japan. We started making our own Daruma Okiagaris, which are Darumas that tip over but do not fall down. They are

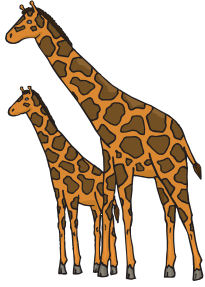
a reminder of *gaman* because, even if you get knocked down, you can stand up again and persevere. We also spent a few days learning about the Obon festival that is celebrated every year in August. It is a time to remember our ancestors and loved ones that have passed away. On Friday,

we started learning about the experience of the Japanese and Japanese-Americans during World War II. Once again, the theme of *gaman* is interwoven through the stories of the families that endured appalling discrimination and internment sixty years ago.

By Fujikawa Sensei

Continued next page

Kirin Class continued



Next week, we will continue to learn about life inside the camps, and what happened after they were allowed to leave. We will also be going on a field trip to San Jose Japantown on Tuesday,

then welcoming guest speakers Amy Imai and Toshiko Kawamoto on Wednesday who will share about their own internment experiences. Thank you to our wonderful sempais Kiana and

Kevin, and all the parent volunteers who have helped our class! I look forward to seeing everyone at Open House on Friday!

Tora Class



Week 1 is in the books, and the Tora class has been extremely productive. We have started our discussion on how the four seasons are represented and appreciated in Japanese culture. The class then reflected on the differences/similarities between those traditions and the ones we treasure as Japanese Americans. Thanks to our hard-working purchasing staff, our ceramics were finished up within the week, and they should be back at the beginning of Week 2. Our completed sashiko bags should also be in next week; I was amazed at the level of sewing skill exhibited by

the students. On Thursday the class had a bonsai demonstration in which every student trimmed and potted their own tree.

Next week we will finish our discussion of the four seasons, and complete projects regarding this topic. On Wednesday we will have our field trip to Hakone Gardens, where the students will observe a tea ceremony and have the opportunity to try green tea. If you haven't turned in your permission slips, please send them in Monday or Tuesday. Our other big project is preparing for the play. A story has been selected and the parts have been

cast, so the only things left are rehearsals and costume production. I will be sending out a wish list of props/clothing we would like to borrow for Friday.

All in all, it's been a wonderful start to the session. The students are very focused and enthusiastic about all our activities. Our sempai Bobby has been great with the class, and as always, I am very indebted all the parents volunteers who have given up their time to help in and out of the class. Without you none of this would be possible. Here's to a super Week 2, and I look forward to seeing all of you at Open House on Friday!

By Tamekuni Sensei



Tora students trimming and potting a bonsai tree.

Ryu Class



First of all, I would like to thank everyone for donating money for the school in Japan. In Ryu class, we studied about the geography of Japan and we know how the ocean can be a bounty of food but its strength can be deadly.

Ryu class focuses on medieval Japan; the

Samurai era. We are learning who the Samurai were and how they were important in Japanese history and how the basic code of the Samurai is still embedded in Japanese culture. We are very fortunate to have Mrs. Temple, our specialty teacher who taught us how

how to make a Kumihimo, and will be teaching us Makie. Both are important arts in Samurai era. We would like to truly thank our chaperones who drove us to the Asian Art Museum. Mrs. Lee, Mrs. Nishimoto, and Mrs. Whall, Domo arigato

Continued next page

Ryu Class continued



gozaimashita. Otsukare sama deshita!

We also had Manga/Anime class with Tsuru. Suzuki sensei is a great anime teacher and our talented students created their own characters. Our language teacher is Akiko sensei and she is so much fun! She is teaching Japanese writing and basic conversational skills through games and fun activities. Students are learning quickly and she is very pleased. Our Taiko teacher, Koyama sensei is amazing. Their sound of Taiko every morning is so energetic. I am truly looking forward to the open house performance.

Ryu would like to extend our special thanks to our cooking teacher, Mrs. Nishimoto and her cooking sempai, Nick and Kameko for all their hard work. It is my favorite time! Gochiso sama deshita!

We will have another busy week. One of the afternoon demonstrations had to be cancelled, so we will be performing Bunraku, puppet doll theatre on Wednesday. We will do our best. Many thanks to all the parent volunteers. I do have homework for you (**parents**). 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.

Last but not least, many thanks to my wonderful Brendan Sempai. He is awesome and great with the children. Ryu class can't function without him! Ganbare!

Link to the Asian Art museum: <http://www.asianart.org/>

Link to Japanese Art and Cultural Center (anime class): <http://www.jpnants.org>



Ryu students listening to last minute instructions before their field trip.

Tsuru Class



The Tsuru class primarily focuses on immigration, picture brides, immigration laws, Japanese relocation and internment camps, questions of loyalty and reparation. In addition, as a cultural aspect, kabuki, calligraphy, and craft making with washi paper are also studied. The students also took a field trip to Angel Island and had two homework assignments: a family oral history and a reading assignment. We also asked the students to bring any family items or infor-

mation passed from generation to generation to share with the class. It is called "chiebukuro." The class is also looking forward to sharing what we learned at Open House!

By Sasaki Sensei



Ryu Tsuru Language



I had a fun first week teaching Japanese to Tsuru and Ryu. We studied how to introduce ourselves, how to greet in Japanese and Hiragana. For the second week, we are going to study Katakana and some Kanjis.

We play language games every day. We are having fun and learning at the same time.

By Hubbard Sensei

Panda – Tora Language

By Tahara Sensei



Tahara Sensei reviewing colors with the Kuma class.

Our first week made a great start for the language class. Every student is doing great so far. After the morning *taiso*, we start with exchanging a proper greeting like “*Ohayo-gozaïmasu*” or “*Kon-nichiwa*”. Then, we warm up with singing an “*aiueo* song”. Most students love this song! I’m very glad to

see how much the returning students have remembered from last year! I feel confident in the growth of them and repeat is very important as well even though the class is short. We are learning *hiragana* which is a Japanese alphabet, *katakana* (another type of letters), *kanji* (Chinese characters), colors, numbers, useful Japanese expressions,

and more depending on each class. Some of the students ask me to learn more, so I feel sorry for them to go to the next class on time. For the second week, I’ll try to teach as much as I can. In addition, many thanks to the parent volunteers and sempai!

Music Class

By Williams Sensei



It has been a great start for the music class. We have been singing various Japanese songs, including ANIME songs. We also sing and play with Otedama bean bags . We love them!

This year the children have been introduced to the word “Mottainai”, which is the Japanese common phrase meaning “Don’t waste”. I have read “Mottainai-Grandma” picture book, and after that, we sing and dance “Mottainai-Baasan Ondo”. Children have learned Japanese eco study in a fun way.

Panda, Saru, Kuma, and Zou classes have started to practice their performance songs for the Open House. They are showing good progress. More interactive songs and Otedama-Asobi are coming up for the Kirin and Tora classes!

Open House performance selections:

Panda “Nakayoshi Medley” (CD track #2)

Saru “Kamome no Suihei-san”(CD track #10)

Kuma “Mottainai Baasan Ondo”(CD track #20)

Zou “Kimi wo Nosete” CD track #18)

Please play your music CDs 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. (The music booklet is in their binder and they can bring it home and practice the songs.)

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

Anime/Manga Class

By Suzuki Sensei



Panda, Saru, Kuma, Zou, Kirin, Tora, Ryu, and Tsuru classes, we had fun this week creating our own Anime characters. The students are very interested in Japanese manga. They are energetic and are full of fresh ideas! We are going to start the next assignment which is making a story. I expect them to create a funny short story using manga.

I hope your children are enjoying the class as much as I am! See you at Open House!

Ryu Tsuru Cooking

By Nishimoto Sensei

For the first week of Nakayoshi Gakko, the Ryu class chefs had fun making lots of Japanese foods. On Monday, they made seasoned vegetables and salmon steamed in individual foil packets with onigiri. On Tuesday, the class made two dishes. The first was Nasu no Shigi-yaki which was eggplant with a meat and miso topping and a dessert dish, ohagi which is sweet



rice balls covered with “an”, a sweet bean paste. On Wednesday, we made a very popular dish, oyako donburi. This was a combination of chicken, mushrooms, green onions, and eggs served over rice. In addition to this, students were able to feast on fried mochi with shoyu and sugar. The mochi was given to us by the Mountain View Buddhist Temple. Because of a field trip, the Ryu class did not have a cooking class on Thursday. Finally on Friday, the students created works of art with Plum Crest Sushi.

Everybody’s turned out beautifully!

Next week the Tsuru class will put on their chef hats and try their hand at these same dishes with the addition of ozoni, a mochi soup.

Students from both classes will be getting their recipes at the end of each week of cooking via email from their sensei.

Many, many thanks to my hardworking sempai, Nick Kikuchi and Kameko Oshiro. I would be lost without their help. Also, I would like to thank all the junior sempai for helping with the clean up each day.



Undokai

By Sawamura Sensei

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

This week has been a lot of fun in Undokai. The kids have enjoyed playing games, like soccer, capture the flag, dodgeball, beanbags, and of course everyone's favorite; splashball tag. This class allows the kids to have a good time playing outside while also staying active. Throughout this week I've witnessed all of their competitive sides, their teamwork abilities, and their skills in each of the different activities. It's been a pleasure so far to work with everyone and, I'm looking forward to another exciting week!



Kids at play

Odori

By Iwanaga Sensei (Hanayagi Reimichi)

The first and second graders were told a story on my Kamishibai, thereby seeing a traditional Japanese storytelling 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.

The third and fourth grade classes 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.”

For the fifth and sixth grades, 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 step. We all had lots of fun!



Nakayoshi Gakko
FRIENDSHIP SCHOOL
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silicon valley

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*Open positions

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 above. Arigato!

Origami

We had quite a few artists in the first week of origami class. The students used the same materials, but somehow the origami all looks different when they finished!

So far this year we've made dolphins and dogs with watermelons (Panda and Saru), fruit baskets and fishing boats (Kuma and Zou), hydrangeas

with snails (Kirin), morning glory (Tora), and next week, lotus (Ryu) – many different themes for many little hands.



By Rindner Sensei

It was a pleasure to meet so many new students, and to show them how to make something fun from just a few pieces of paper. I hope the students are enjoying it as much as I have, and I look forward to seeing you all next week!

WEEK TWO REMINDERS

- Raffle tickets are on sale now - we have even more great prizes! - It's ok to sell to friends and family - we request that you bring in a check/cash when you pick up tickets.
- Open House bento orders due Monday, 6/27.
- Field trip permission slips and driver forms are due to the teachers please.
- Please bring flowers on Thursday for Ikebana demonstration on Friday.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| 6/27: | Kuma Field Trip to Nijiya Store. |
| 6/28: | Kirin Field Trip to San Jose Japantown. |
| 6/28: | Zou Field Trip to Sushi Tomi. |
| 6/28: | 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. |
| 6/29: | Tora Field Trip to Hakone Gardens. |
| 6/30: | Panda and Saru Field Trip to Yu Ai Kai. |
| 7/1: | Heritage Source Book Fair: 3:00pm to 8:00pm |
| 7/1: | Last day of School: Open House is from 5:00pm to 8:30pm. Obento dinner starts at 5:00pm. Program begins at 5:45pm. |
| 7/2: | Maintenance II is from 9:00am to 12:00pm, please make sure to attend if you are assigned to this group. |
| 7/16 - 7/17: | Mountain View Buddhist Temple Bazaar and Obon Festival. Please make sure to sign-up for your Obon shift. |