



**NAKAYOSHI GAKKO**  
**FRIENDSHIP SCHOOL**

Summer 2012  
Family Orientation Handbook

Located at the Mountain View Buddhist Temple  
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# 2012 HANDBOOK TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>WELCOME TO NAKAYOSHI GAKKO</b> .....	1
<b>HISTORY OF NAKAYOSHI GAKKO</b> .....	1
<b>CURRICULUM OBJECTIVES</b> .....	2
MISSION STATEMENT .....	2
<b>CURRICULUM OUTLINE</b> .....	3
<b>SCHOOL POLICIES</b> .....	5
ENROLLMENT REQUIREMENTS .....	5
<b>PARENT VOLUNTEER COMMITMENTS</b> .....	5
1. <i>Maintenance I or II</i> .....	6
2. <i>Classroom Work Days</i> .....	6
3. <i>Committee Assignments</i> .....	6
4. <i>Obon Festival</i> .....	7
<b>PARENT/FAMILY EVENTS</b> .....	7
<b>ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL</b> .....	8
<b>LUNCH AND SNACKS</b> .....	8
<b>HEALTH</b> .....	8
<i>Illnesses</i> .....	8
<i>Allergies</i> .....	8
<i>Medical Emergencies</i> .....	9
<b>EMERGENCY PROCEDURES</b> .....	9
<b>INSURANCE</b> .....	10
<b>NON-DISCRIMINATION &amp; ANTI-HARASSMENT POLICY</b> .....	10
<b>STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT</b> .....	11
<b>STUDENT CONSEQUENCES</b> .....	11
<b>DISCLAIMER</b> .....	12
<b>CLASSROOM TEACHERS</b> .....	13
<b>SEMPAI</b> .....	17
<b>JUNIOR SEMPAI</b> .....	20
<b>2012 BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND BOARD INFORMATION</b> .....	21
<b>HONORARY BOARD OF DIRECTORS</b> .....	22

## **WELCOME TO NAKAYOSHI GAKKO**

Welcome to the 12<sup>th</sup> year of Nakayoshi Gakko. As we embark on our second decade, we thank the many people who helped make Nakayoshi Gakko an enormous success. We are grateful for the continued support of the Mountain View Buddhist Temple and encouragement from our families and friends.

This year's superb staff of teachers, together with an energetic group of sempai and junior sempai, is looking forward to leading a variety of lessons and introducing your children to the many different aspects of Japanese and Japanese-American culture.

With your help, we know Nakayoshi Gakko will continue to be a wonderful experience for your children.

## **HISTORY OF NAKAYOSHI GAKKO**

The vision of starting a Japanese Cultural Summer School program at the Mountain View Buddhist Temple was initiated by parents who wanted to pass from generation to generation the elements of their own Japanese culture. Armed with their vision, Temple parent Kathy Fujii presented the concept to the Temple board. She received overwhelming support and great enthusiasm from the Temple board and from participating parents.

In September 1999, a small volunteer board was organized comprised of Phyllis Chan, Pat Tomosada, Charlene Temple, Debby Inenaga, Becky Hudson and Kathy Fujii. Staff recruitment began with the hiring of an experienced Curriculum Director: Kit Nishiura, a former teacher and director at Medaka no Gakko. By January 2000, teachers and coordinators were hired. Both board and staff had the objective of putting on an exceptional program in an effort to make the children, the parents and the community happy and proud. In June 2000, Nakayoshi Gakko opened its doors to 76 students.

# CURRICULUM OBJECTIVES

Nakayoshi Gakko offers a full and rich curriculum. After considerable research, we adopted a three-point mission statement, provided below:

## ***Mission Statement***

- To promote an awareness of Japanese culture in its historical and religious context.
- To gain an appreciation of Japanese-American heritage.
- To encourage friendship and cultivate those values that characterize the Japanese way of life.

The following objectives serve as guidelines to achieve the Mission Statement goals. With the help of experienced, credentialed teachers, students will:

- Learn about different aspects of Japanese culture through various hands on projects.
- Gain an understanding of Japanese-American heritage by participating in enrichment activities and field trips.
- Analyze and interpret Japanese and Japanese-American culture and history through literature and student-produced written and oral assignments.
- Demonstrate their appreciation of Japanese culture and values in school activities, such as Japanese language instruction, undokai (physical education), music, science and cooking classes.
- Develop awareness that these values have importance in how we live and relate to others.
- Provide opportunities to develop a wider circle of friends from surrounding communities.

## CURRICULUM OUTLINE

<i>Class</i>	<i>Social Studies</i>	<i>Values</i>	<i>Holidays/Events</i>	<i>Cultural Topics and Terms</i>
Panda	Family	“Me” in my family	(New Year’s Day)	Roles of family members ( <i>chichi, haha, watashi, boku</i> ), Family identity (family crest)
		Pride in tradition	Girls’ Day Boys’ Day	Kimono for boys and girls <i>Ayatori, menko</i> , and other traditional toys
		Respect to the elders	Respect for the Aged Day	Bowing and other forms of showing respect to the elders
Saru	Community (1): Awareness and Responsibility	Notion of <i>Mottainai</i> (appreciation of what we are given)	(Needle Festival)	Reusable items ( <i>furoshiki, kimono</i> ) Reuse of paper Japanese traditional paper ( <i>origami, chiyogami, washi</i> )
		Harmony: Awareness & responsibility as a group	Nikkei Matsuri	House ( <i>zabuton, shoji, fusuma, tatami, tokonoma</i> ) <i>Matsuri (yatai, omikoshi, matoi, happi)</i>
Kuma	Community (2): Connection to the Universe	Nature as gods	Star/Moon Festivals	Summer card & gift giving Calligraphy ( <i>fude, sumi</i> ) <i>Tanabata (orihime, hikoboshi)</i> Japanese mythology
		Mental/physical cleanliness	(New Year’s Eve)	Cleansing of house & self (water and salt), sumo, <i>Shinto</i>
Zou	Oceans & Nations	Ocean and Japanese Lifestyle	New Year’s Day	“ <i>Umi no Sachi</i> ” (food from the ocean, <i>gyotaku, sushi</i> ) New Year’s celebration
		Weather & Life	Obon Relocation War Memorial Day	Weather and kanji characters, <i>teruterubozu</i>
		China and Japan		Tradition from China ( <i>kanji, tango-no-sekku, tanabata</i> )
Kirin	Learn from our past	Perseverance	Relocation	Relocation ( <i>Issei, Nisei</i> )
		Respect to ancestors	Obon	Items from Buddhism (Buddha, <i>Daruma</i> )
		Peace of two countries	War Memorial Day	A-bomb and prayer for peace (paper cranes)

<i>Class</i>	<i>Social Studies</i>	<i>Values</i>	<i>Holidays/Events</i>	<i>Cultural Topics and Terms</i>
Tora	Nature and seasonal symbols	Appreciation of four seasons	Excursions to enjoy cherry blossoms, maple leaves, and snow	Natural beauty in the house (garden, <i>tokonoma</i> , table setting) <i>Haiku</i>
	Heritage of Japanese aesthetic value	<i>Ma</i> (balanced space) and <i>Sabi</i> (elegant simplicity)	(Hakone Matsuri)	Japanese visual art, <i>haiku</i> , tea ceremony
	Identity as “Nikkei-jin”	Pride of being a Japanese American	(Nikkei Matsuri)	How we enjoy our annual events and how people in Japan enjoy their annual events (review: months and seasons)
Ryu	Tokugawa			<i>Bunraku</i> <i>Kamishibai</i>
Tsuru	Migration Immigration			<i>Kabuki</i>

# SCHOOL POLICIES

## *Enrollment Requirements*

### **Eligibility**

Students entering first through eighth grade in September of the upcoming school year are eligible to participate in Nakayoshi Gakko. Tuition and Extended Care At the time of registration, tuition is paid in full (\$375 per child) with the application. If using extended care, full payment must be received prior to the start of the session (please see details in the registration materials).

A 25% late fee is assessed on all late payments. Emergency or unplanned use of extended care is subject to availability and is billed at a higher rate. **All accounts must be settled by the last day of the session.**

### **Refunds**

Payment is fully refundable until April 13, 2012. No refunds will be given for cancellations made after that date. Unused extended care is not refundable.

## **PARENT VOLUNTEER COMMITMENTS**

As a parent cooperative school, Nakayoshi Gakko relies heavily on parent volunteers to support various school programs and curriculum. Parent participation IS critical to the integrity of the program and well-being of the children. Parents are required to assist in four main areas:

1. Maintenance
2. Classroom Work Days
3. Committee Support
4. MVBT Obon Bazaar Support

If a family fails to fulfill their commitments and does not have good cause as determined by the Registrars, then a fee of \$100 will be assessed AND the enrollment priority of the family's returning child(ren) will be lost. The registration of the child(ren) will be considered with the other general pool of first-time applicants.

## **1. Maintenance I or II**

On the Saturday prior to and following the session, parents help with general cleanup and setup of the classrooms, gym, kitchen, and other facilities used by Nakayoshi Gakko. Please arrive at the Mountain View Temple at 9 AM to work your shift.

## **2. Classroom Work Days**

- One parent IS required to assist in the classroom one day per family.
- On your workday, please sign-in by 8:15 AM in the Nakayoshi Gakko office and report to your assigned classroom. Please stay until 4:15 PM when all children have been picked up or escorted to childcare.
- Duties include assisting the classroom teacher as needed, supervising recess and lunchtime for your class and accompanying your class and supporting them during scheduled afternoon specialty classes.
- Please note siblings who are not enrolled in the program are not permitted to accompany the parent on their classroom workday.
- Should you need to change or switch a day, please find another Nakayoshi Gakko parent with whom to trade and let the office know of your day change.

Floater should also report at 8:15 AM to the Nakayoshi Gakko office for assignment to areas as needed.

## **3. Committee Assignments**

- Each family is assigned to help work on one of four committees. Committee meetings are held at the Parent Orientation meetings. If you have a question regarding your committee, please contact the committee chairperson. Brief descriptions of the committees are listed below:

### Arts and Crafts

- Prepare materials for classroom projects and special events. Duties may include cutting paper, gluing, woodworking, sewing, etc.

### Publications

- Assist with school newsletter, take digital photographs of classes and activities, produce classroom binders and nametags, photocopy language and music books and copy music CDs, compile and publish the slideshow for Open House, and post memory slideshow to Nakayoshi Gakko website.

#### Fundraising

- Support fundraising activities.

#### Open House

- Assist in the preparation and execution of Open House. Duties may include setup and takedown of tables, chairs, and art displays; supporting a variety of tasks necessary to put on the open house presentation.

### **4. Obon Festival**

Parents help with Obon in the following ways: prepare food the week before the festival or assist in an assigned booth on the Saturday or Sunday of Obon Festival. Signups are posted the first week of school.

## **PARENT/FAMILY EVENTS**

### **Cultural Demonstrations**

Parents and family members are welcome to attend our daily cultural demonstrations. Unless otherwise specified, these take place in the gym.

### **First Day Welcome Tea**

This occurs just after morning *taiso* (exercise) and is a casual social gathering of parents. Light refreshments are served in the gym lobby.

### **Dine with Nakayoshi Gakko**

Dine at designated restaurants on specified days and Nakayoshi Gakko receives a percentage of sales from Nakayoshi Gakko customers.

### **Book Fair**

This takes place the last two days of the session in the gym lobby. A variety of Japanese and Asian-themed books are available for purchase from Heritage Press. The program receives a percentage of total sales.

### **Open House**

Open House is the last day of the session and is a casual gathering of families and friends to celebrate the end of session and to view the activities completed by the children. We enjoy an *obento* (boxed) dinner and homemade desserts, watch a school-wide musical performance, and visit classrooms.

## **ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL**

School hours are 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM. Classrooms open at 8:15 AM. For your child's safety and protection, please stay with your child until the classroom or gym lobby is open. Please sign your child in on the class-specific signup sheets located in the gym lobby. Please notify the school by 8:30 AM if your child will not be attending that day.

At the end of the school day, students will return to their classrooms to collect their belongings. A parent or authorized person (photo identification may be required) must pick up and sign out the child from their classroom by 4:00 PM or optional Extended Care by 5:30 PM in the Gym Lobby.

A grace period of 5 minutes will be allowed for the 4:00 PM pickup, at which time your student will be moved to extended care and charged automatically. Parents arriving late will be assessed the extended care daily fee of \$20. All late fees will be collected before the last day of session.

## **LUNCH AND SNACKS**

Each student should bring a separately packed morning snack and lunch **free of nuts**. At the start of the school day, lunches are refrigerated and brought out prior to lunch time. No microwave services are available to reheat food, so please plan accordingly. Nakayoshi Gakko provides an afternoon snack and an extended care snack. These snacks generally consist of crackers and fruit and occasionally cookies and frozen treats. If your child has a severe food allergy, please send him/her with a separate afternoon snack.

## **HEALTH**

### **Illnesses**

If your child is ill, please do not send him/her to school. We ask each family's support and cooperation in this matter. We will send your child home for the following reasons: fever, injury, nausea, or suspected contagious conditions. Please notify the school if your child had an infectious disease. We will notify other parents in the class so they can watch for symptoms in their children.

### **Allergies**

All allergies should be listed on the health form and must be brought to the attention of the classroom teacher and school personnel. As mentioned above, if your child has a severe food allergy we ask you to please provide a separate afternoon snack as we cannot guarantee the snacks will be allergy-free for all children.

## **Medical Emergencies**

In the event your child has a medical emergency, the school makes every effort to contact the parents or guardians listed on the registration forms first. If parents or guardians cannot be reached, the school will contact the doctor listed on the medical release form.

## **EMERGENCY PROCEDURES**

In the event of an emergency PLEASE DO NOT CALL THE SCHOOL. It is imperative we keep our telephone lines open for emergency purposes.

Nakayoshi Gakko IS fully prepared for emergencies and we maintain supplies of food, water, and first aid equipment should students need to remain at school for a substantial period of time. Nakayoshi Gakko has established emergency procedures to ensure the safety of all our students. Fire and earthquake drills are held on the first day of the session.

1. In the event of an earthquake, all children will be kept at school until picked up by a family member or a designated person.
2. For any other reasons, you will be contacted via phone using the number that is listed on the Emergency Form.
3. No student will be dismissed from school unless a parent (or individual designated in writing by parent) comes for him/her. Please ensure that the proper contact information is listed on the emergency contact form.
4. All parents or designated persons who come for students must sign out at the temple gym or at the temporary student release station. Signs will be posted if this alternate location is required.

In the event of an earthquake, prolonged power outage, fire, etc., where it is necessary to close the school before regularly scheduled closing, we expect parents to pick up their children as soon as possible.

If you are not able to reach the school in an emergency, Nakayoshi Gakko will care for your children until you arrive or the person designated by you in writing arrives.

## **INSURANCE**

Nakayoshi Gakko does not carry medical insurance.

### **Liability**

1. Students not officially enrolled in the program are not allowed on the school grounds unless accompanied by an adult.
2. No person shall be personally liable for debts of Nakayoshi Gakko solely because of association with the school.
3. All participating students are required to have a signed photography release and parental consent waiver on file.

## **NON-DISCRIMINATION & ANTI-HARASSMENT POLICY**

Nakayoshi Gakko is committed to providing learning and volunteering environments in which all students and volunteers, both adult and minor, involved in school programs and activities can participate in an atmosphere free from all forms of prohibited harassment and discrimination. All students and volunteers have the right to learn and teach in an environment free of unlawful discrimination and harassment. Harassment or discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, ancestry, citizenship, veteran's status, religion, disability, age, gender or sexual orientation is prohibited.

Prohibited harassment or discrimination includes, by way of example, slurs, verbal or physical conduct of a sexual, harassing or discriminatory nature: unwelcome sexual advances or reference to sexual themes which are deemed offensive, or other discriminatory or harassing verbal, non-verbal or physical conduct based on the recipient's race, color, national origin, ancestry, citizenship, veteran's status, religion, disability, age, gender or sexual orientation.

Any participant at Nakayoshi Gakko (students, volunteers, both adult and minor) who engages in the harassment or discrimination of anyone at school programs or activities shall be subject to disciplinary action up to and including dismissal from the program.

Anyone affected by harassment or discrimination should immediately contact staff if they feel they are being harassed. Within 24 hours, staff shall report complaints to the Principal or Designee. Staff shall similarly report any such incidents they may observe, even if the affected person has not complained. The Principal and the President of the Nakayoshi Gakko Board of Directors will investigate reports of harassment. Upon verifying that harassment has occurred, they will ensure that appropriate action is promptly taken to end the harassment, address its effects on the affected person, and prevent any further instances of harassment.

## **STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT**

The Nakayoshi Gakko Code of Conduct supports our effort to maintain a safe and supportive school environment. Each student is expected to behave appropriately in all activities and accept responsibility for his/her actions. Parents and staff share responsibility for supporting the school's objectives and working together to correct problems when they arise.

### **School Rules**

At Nakayoshi Gakko, students are expected to:

1. Treat Sensei, Sempai, and each other with respect and courtesy.
2. Get Sensei, Sempai or adult permission before leaving the class or group.
3. Use appropriate language and gestures.
4. Refrain from physical and verbal aggression.
5. Maintain a "hands-off" policy with respect to appropriate boy-girl relationships.
6. Remain on the Temple grounds during the school hours unless signed out by a parent or guardian.
7. Respect and take care of Temple property.
8. Refrain from using cell phones and electronic devices during school hours.

## **STUDENT CONSEQUENCES**

When a student fails to act responsibly and school rules are violated, consequences will occur. Consequences will be assigned based on the severity of the offense and/or the frequency with which a student breaks school rules. The following is a list of potential consequences:

1. **CLASS SUSPENSION** – Teachers reserve the right to send any disruptive student from a class to the office. This kind of suspension requires a phone call or conference between the suspending teacher and parents.
2. **IN-SCHOOL SUSPENSION** – This form of suspension is assigned only by an administrator. The student is allowed to remain in the class provided his or her legal guardian is present to directly supervise the student throughout the entire day for every day the student is under in-school suspension. The length of in-school suspension will be assigned based on the severity and/or frequency of the offense. This kind of suspension requires a conference between the administrator and parents.
3. **OFF-CAMPUS SUSPENSION** – This form of suspension is assigned only by an administrator. The student is temporarily removed or excluded from school and school programs. The length of off-campus suspension will be assigned based upon the severity and/or frequency of the offense. This

- kind of suspension requires a conference between the administrator and parents.
4. **EXPULSION** – This form of suspension is assigned only by an administrator and the President of the Nakayoshi Gakko Board of Directors. An expulsion is a complete exclusion and removal from Nakayoshi Gakko and all Nakayoshi programs from the remainder of the current session. Return of the student in future years will be reviewed on an individual basis.

## **DISCLAIMER**

**The policies listed in this handbook are by no means all inclusive. Not every situation is included or addressed. Nakayoshi Gakko retains the right to alter or vary the application of rules and policies. This handbook is intended as a guide to help students, parents and volunteers, both adult and minor to work together. Every effort will be made to help students and volunteers, both adult and minor, understand what is expected of them.**

## **CLASSROOM TEACHERS**

### **Principal – Marian Endo**

Marian Endo is currently a teacher on special assignment in the Moreland School District, working at both the school site and the district office. Born and raised in Oakland, she attended UC Berkeley, and later obtained her teaching credential from National University. Marian has just been awarded Master's degree in Educational Leadership from San Jose State University. She is married, with three children, and enjoys jelly-making, baking, and raising assistance puppies for the disabled.

### **Panda Sensei – Annette Lowe**

Annette was born and raised in Del Rey, California (which is located in the Central Valley). She received her B.S. in Communicative Disorders at California State University of Fresno. She also received her Multiple Subject Credential and Special Education Credential, while attending Fresno State. Annette currently teaches Special Education at Lincoln Elementary School in Cupertino. This is her 12<sup>th</sup> year teaching the Panda class at Nakayoshi Gakko.

### **Saru Sensei – Doris Lau**

Doris Lau was born and raised in the Bay Area. She is a first grade teacher in the Cupertino Union School District. Doris attended UC San Diego and later on completed her Masters Degree at Notre Dame de Namur University. This will be her fifth year teaching the Saru class.

### **Kuma Sensei – Joanne Endo**

Joanne grew up in Santa Clara and Cupertino, and she attended Cal Poly San Luis Obispo where she received a B.S. in Liberal Studies and a teaching credential. She is a second grade teacher at Baker Elementary School in San Jose. Her favorite subjects to teach are science and art. In her free time, she enjoys reading, paper crafts, guitar playing, and singing Disney songs.

### **Zou Sensei – Grace Ikenaga-Clymer**

Grace was born in Hawaii and educated at the University of Arizona where she received her BA in Elementary Education. She received her Early Childhood Certificate at Louisiana State University and her School Librarian Certificate from Northwestern State University. She has taught fourth grade in Arizona, New Hampshire, and Louisiana. She is currently certified to teach in the State of Washington. This will be her 12th year teaching at Nakayoshi Gakko.

### **Kirin Sensei – Satomi Fujikawa**

Satomi is an elementary school teacher at Vinci Park School in the Berryessa District in San Jose. After growing up in Oakland, attending college at UC Davis, then moving to the South Bay to get her teaching credential and masters at San Jose State, she now considers Campbell her home. Being a teacher brings together many of her favorite things--science, history, arts and crafts, reading, and writing. She has always been fascinated by the experiences of Japanese Americans during World War II. As a Kirin teacher, she can share her knowledge about their struggles and amazing perseverance with the class.

### **Tora Sensei – Doreen Ogata**

Born and raised in Southern California, Doreen relocated to the Bay Area with her family in 1996. She received her B.S. in Business Management from Pepperdine University. After working in the business sector for a number of years, she began volunteering in her son's classroom where she discovered a love for teaching. For the last six years, Doreen has been a substitute teacher in grades K-5. She is excited about being a part of this year's Nakayoshi Gakko program, and can't wait to get to know all her Tora students. Doreen and her husband Hal have two sons, Trevor age 21 and Bryce, 15.

### **Ryu Sensei – Yukiko Hara**

Yukiko Hara was born and raised in Tokyo, Japan. She graduated from International Christian University in Tokyo with BA in Linguistics. After working for All Nippon Airways, she married a Japanese American and resides now in Santa Clara. She is currently working as an aide for Cupertino Union School District, art aide at St. Joseph of Cupertino and started subbing for Japanese classes in local high schools. Her hobbies include drawing anime, ikebana and web surfing. This is her sixth year with Nakayoshi Gakko and she is looking forward to working with the Ryu class.

### **Tsuru Sensei – Brian Tamekuni**

This year will be Brian Tamekuni's sixth at Nakayoshi Gakko. He is also finishing his fifth year as a teacher in Campbell Union School District. Prior to teaching, he spent two years in Japan on the JET Program. He is a Bay Area native, and enjoys the outdoors, traveling and movies. He is looking forward to another fun-filled summer at Nakayoshi helping students discover and explore Japanese and Japanese-American culture.

### **Origami Sensei – Fukiko Rindner**

Fukiko Rindner was born and raised in Japan, and moved to the U.S. in 1991. Since then she has earned an A.A. Degree in Speech Communication from Foothill College, worked at Kumon, and taught as a private Japanese tutor. She is currently taking Early Childhood Education classes at West Valley College. Fukiko teaches an elective subject (crafts) at Tachibana School, where her two children attend. In her spare time she enjoys doing Ikebana flower arrangement and bike riding.

### **Cooking Sensei (Ryu and Tsuru) – Irene Nishimoto**

Irene Nishimoto is a former registered dietitian who decided to change careers and become an elementary school teacher. Irene received her Bachelor of Arts degree in home economics with a dietetics emphasis from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. After working as a registered dietitian managing the food service for senior centers and Meals on Wheels for San Mateo County, she consulted for the Senior Adult Day Care in Palo Alto and Casa MACSA in San Jose. During this time, she decided to pursue her dream of working with children by earning her teaching credentials through San Jose State. She has taught second and mostly third grade for the past 18 years at Country Lane Elementary School in San Jose. When her children were younger, she was a board member of Medaka no Gakko in Palo Alto and taught a combo 4, 5, and 6<sup>th</sup> grade class for one year. This is her 4<sup>th</sup> year teaching cooking for the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade classes at Nakayoshi Gakko.

### **Language (Lower) and Taiso Sensei – Yasuko Tahara**

Yasuko Tahara was born in Kanagawa and raised in Tokyo, Japan. She received her BA in English literature and teaching credential from Jissen Women's college. She started her career in teaching Japanese, English, and Math. After 7 years experience, she moved to the Bay Area in 2000. Since then she is teaching children at several locations including Kumon Center and Tachibana Language School as well as tutoring. In addition, she volunteers for craft class at Yu-Ai-Kai, a senior center in San Jose Japan Town.

### **Language (Upper) Sensei – Lisa Nakamatsu**

Lisa Nakamatsu was born and raised in the South Bay. While in college, she had an opportunity to work in Japan and jumped at the chance. After living in Japan for 10 years, she returned to the Bay Area with her husband from Okinawa and two little girls. She also returned to San Francisco State, but this time to major in Japanese and then to earn her teaching certificate. Lisa did her student teaching at Palo Alto High and can teach PE, Dance, and History in addition to Japanese. She has taught Japanese and Dance at Homestead High for the last 8 years and is the Japanese National Honor Society Advisor. Lisa has been to 17 different countries and loves to hike and bike as much as possible.

### **Cooking Sensei, Panda through Tora – Cathy Nakamura**

Cathy Nakamura is a registered dietitian who brings her cooking expertise and love of cooking to our afternoon specialty class. She was a co-leader of the Mountain View Temple Fuji Club for 12 years. Cathy has her B.A. in Home Economics with a concentration in Dietetics from San Jose State University. Cathy currently works with special education students at Monta Vista High School in Cupertino. This is her 13th year with Nakayoshi Gakko.

### **Undokai Sensei – Kelsey Sawamura**

Kelsey is now a sophomore at UC Santa Cruz college, where she enjoys hanging out with her friends, meeting new people, working out, and hiking around the campus. She attended Nakayoshi Gakko when she was younger and volunteered as a junior sempai for a few years. Kelsey loves kids and that's why she loves NG. Kelsey played basketball in high school and enjoys sports of all kinds, such as hockey, tennis, and basketball. But her favorite sport is definitely basketball. The Golden State Warriors is Kelsey's favorite team and she goes to watch them play at Oracle Arena with her dad. Aside from sports, Kelsey's passion is music; whether it is singing or writing songs, she loves it all. Her dream is to be a successful singer someday and to also hear her music on the radio. Her other dream is to adopt children from all different parts of the world.

### **Anime and Manga Drawing Sensei – Michiyo Suzuki**

Michiyo Suzuki was born and raised in Toyota, Japan. She graduated with a B.A. in Fine Arts from Nagoya University of Arts in Nagoya. She moved to the US in 2008. She currently teaches Anime, Manga, and Painting at Japanese Art & Cultural Center in San Jose. She enjoys many arts and craft activities and looks forward to teaching Summer Classes at Nakayoshi Gakko.

### **Taiko Sensei – Geoff Noone**

Geoff Noone is from Torrance, CA and received his B.S. in Economics from the University of California, Irvine. While attending UCI, he began playing taiko with Jodaiko, the taiko ensemble on campus. During his third year in Jodaiko, Geoff served as the Executive Director of the organization. After graduating, he took over as lead instructor for Isami Taiko at the Gardena Buddhist Church and began performing with Progressive Taiko in Los Angeles. Geoff currently performs with San Jose Taiko and is a member of San Jose Taiko's Artistic Staff.

### **Sumie Sensei – Ami Wada**

Born in Yokohama, Japan, Ami Wada attended Yamate Gakuen in Yokohama and the Azuma Art School in Kyoto. She studied privately under artists Shoso Azuma and Shutei Ota. Ami exhibited her work through Japan and in numerous Bay Area galleries and prestigious department stores. She taught sumie at Foothill College for over 20 years and currently teaches privately in the Bay Area.

## **SEMPAI**

### **Head Sempai – Jennifer Adachi**

Jennifer will be a senior at Mountain View High School in the fall. She has played the alto saxophone in her school's marching band for the past 3 years. She is an active member of the Mountain View Buddhist Temple and YBA as well as various on-campus clubs such as Uniclos! and Mock Trial. Jennifer has been in Nakayoshi Gakko for many years as a student. This is her second year as a Sempai.

### **Panda Sempai – Kiana Ariyama**

Kiana attends Mountain View High school and will be a junior. She loves and adores her dog, loves to dance, and loves to listen to music. She has been in the Nakayoshi Gakko program since Panda class and says that Nakayoshi Gakko will always be a part of her.

### **Saru Sempai – Emiko Vasquez**

Emiko Vasquez is going to be a freshmen in college this fall. She attended Nakayoshi Gakko for 8 years and has been a junior sempai/sempei for 4 years. She enjoys playing volleyball and going out with friends in her free time.

**Kuma Sempai – Miyako Vasquez**

Miyako will be an incoming junior at Mission San Jose High. She loves playing volleyball, singing, and being around those she loves and cares about the most. She enjoyed being a student at Nakayoshi Gakko from Panda through Tsuru, and has been a Junior Sempai the last two years. She really enjoys working with children and loves how much Nakayoshi Gakko teaches children about Japanese culture and brings them all together each summer, which is why she loves being a Sempai.

**Zou Sempai – Kameko Oshiro**

Kameko attends Homestead High School will be a junior. She was a student at Nakayoshi Gakko, and during the past two summers she was a Saru classroom Sempai and a Tsuru/Ryu Cooking Sempai. She plays high school and Zebraette basketball. She loves to read and play basketball in my free time.

**Kirin Sempai – Alec Matsumoto**

Alec will be a junior at Homestead High School in the fall. He has attended Nakayoshi Gakko for all 8 years, and will be his third year as a Sempai. Alex likes to play baseball, volleyball, and basketball in his free time.

**Tora Sempai – Nick Kikuchi**

Nick is a student at Prospect High School, where he will be a junior. He enjoys basketball, volleyball, participating in student leadership, and reading. He attended Nakayoshi Gakko since he was about five or six, and for the past two years he has been a cooking sempai for the Ryu and Tsuru classes.

**Ryu Sempai – Tommy Koyama**

Thomas Koyama is graduating from Mountain View High School and will be a freshman in college in the fall of 2012. He enjoys playing basketball, hanging out with friends, and going to the beach. He has been a Sempai for the Zou and Tsuru classes in previous years.

**Tsuru Sempai – Allison Tani**

Allison is graduating from Lynbrook High School this year, and will be entering college as a freshman in the fall. At school she is a “marching band geek” who also loves running 8-mile track workouts and showing up to school with a daily cup of coffee. At home she loves watching Food Network and NCIS with her family and partaking in occasional cooking experimentation along with her little sister. This will be Allison’s 5th year volunteering as a Sempai.

**Cooking Sempai (Upper) – Jaimie Nishimoto**

Jaimie Nishimoto will be a senior at Homestead High School in the fall. She is a member of the Mountain View Buddhist Temple YBA. Jaimie has been a student in Nakayoshi Gakko since Panda class and has also been a junior sempai for one year and a cooking sempai for the past two years. She enjoys playing high school basketball, cooking, and hanging out with her friends.

**Cooking Sempai (Upper) – Brendan Boon**

Brendan recently graduated from Cupertino High School. He enjoys playing video games and breakdancing with his friends. He has participated in Nakayoshi Gakko for many years, starting in the Kuma class. He has been a junior sempai and a classroom sempai and hopes to be a positive role model for the kids. He is excited to be back at Nakayoshi Gakko and hopes to see many familiar faces.

**Cooking Sempai (Lower) – Alex Minagawa**

Alex will be a junior at Ann Sobrato High School. He plays basketball for his school and for the San Jose Zebras. He has been a sempai for the past two years and has attended Nakayoshi Gakko since the Saru class.

**Cooking Sempai (Lower) – Cori Nishimoto**

Cori will be a junior at Mountain View High School. Nakayoshi Gakko has been a big part of her life since kindergarten, and she has also volunteered as a junior sempai for the past two years. She plays on the Mountain View High School varsity basketball team and on the San Jose Zebraettes. For fun, she enjoys snowboarding, hanging out with friends, listening to music, swimming, and playing volleyball. She is proud to have participated in Nakayoshi Gakko for all these years.

**Baris Demirilolu**

Baris will be a senior at Monta Vista High School. He plays soccer outside of school and on the school soccer team. He attended Nakayoshi Gakko in the fourth grade with one of his Japanese friends. Baris says that even though he didn't know much about the Japanese culture or language, it was okay because he was allowed to learn it here. Now, he has finished Japanese in high school, and is looking forward to returning the favor to the other young, aspiring students at the Nakayoshi Gakko.

**Jackie Yee**

Jackie will be attending Monta Vista High School as a junior in the fall. She enjoys playing volleyball and basketball. In her free time she enjoys hanging out with friends. This will be her third year as a Sempai at Nakayoshi Gakko.

## **JUNIOR SEMPai**

### **Kaylyn Arima (Panda Class)**

Kaylyn Arima attends Mission San Jose High School, where she is going into her sophomore year. She is a soccer player for both a club team and her high school team. She is also on the track and field team, running the 400-meter sprint. Kaylyn attended Nakayoshi Gakko from the Panda level to the Tsuru level, and enjoyed her experience so she is back as a Sempai.

### **Braden Wong (Saru Class)**

Braden is going to be a sophomore at Homestead High School in the fall. He is in the Homestead High School Marching Band and was a part of the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York City last year. He enjoys studying Tae Kwon Do, playing the piano, playing basketball, volleyball, and golf, and spending time with his friends. He also enjoys playing with my dog, Koga.

### **Erin Kobashigawa**

Erin will be a sophomore at Mountain View High School in the fall. She was busy this past year as the Freshman V.P. & playing on the school basketball team. She also is active playing on her Ninja basketball team. She is very familiar with Nakayoshi Gakko since she has attended all 8 years of the program. Erin loves kids and she is looking forward to working with the students.

### **Joanna Acevedo**

Joanna is an incoming sophomore at Gunderson High School. She enjoys shopping at thrift stores, writing short stories, and going on outings with her friends in her spare time. She has been at Nakayoshi Gakko since the Panda class, and is excited to carry on this experience as a Sempai.

### **Sydney Hiroto**

Sydney will be a sophomore at Mission San Jose High School in Fremont this fall. She is active in sports and plays on both basketball and volleyball teams for her high school and club teams. She has worked with children and worked on many community service projects through her ten years as a girl scout. Sydney is a former Nakayoshi Gakko student and continues to enjoy learning about her Japanese-American heritage, the culture, traditions and the language.

## 2012 BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND BOARD INFORMATION

An organizational chart along with job descriptions of the Executive Board, Working Board, and Committees are available at:

<http://www.nakayoshigakko.org/contact.html>

### Executive Board

Co-President 1	Naomi Nakano-Matsumoto (2 <sup>nd</sup> yr) president@nakayoshigakko.org
Co-President 2	Amy Furukawa
Registrar	Kerrie Utsumi (2 <sup>nd</sup> yr)      registrar@nakayoshigakko.org
Secretary	Junko Bryant (2 <sup>nd</sup> yr)
Treasurer	Matt Mukoyama (2 <sup>nd</sup> yr)
Facility Coordinator	Debbie Kitani (2 <sup>nd</sup> yr)

### Working Board

Special Events	Lisa Yee (2 <sup>nd</sup> yr) Yosh Nishimura
Purchasing	Joan Takenaka (2 <sup>nd</sup> yr) Susan Kimura
Jr. Registrar	Janice Mizota
Fundraising	Vacant
Curriculum Director	Julie Endo Uyekubo
Ex-Officio	Hope Nakamura

## **HONORARY BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

The Honorable Margaret Abe-Koga  
Council Member, City of Mountain View

The Honorable Michael M. Honda  
U.S. Congressman, 15<sup>th</sup> District of California

The Honorable Tom Kinoshita  
Former Trustee, Morgan Hill Unified School District

The Honorable Jeremy Nishihara  
Trustee, Oak Grove School District

The Honorable Richard K. Tanaka  
Trustee, San Jose/Evergreen Community College District