

John Stanford International School PTSA Newsletter

December 16, 2009



December at a Glance:

Poetry Aloud 2nd Grade Japanese
Fri, Dec 18 9:45 am

One hour early dismissal for Winter Break
Fri, Dec 18 2:30 pm

Winter Break - NO SCHOOL
Mon, Dec 21 (All day) -
Fri, Jan 1 (All day)

Library News

Japanese Storyteller

Last week in the library, Midori Thiel taught classes about traditional Japanese folktales, drama, and music. Midori shared many masks used in the Omote tradition of storytelling. She performed dances from some of the Kyogen dramas. She also played the koto and shamisen. Midori demonstrated how the koto is strung, tsume (fingertip picks) and how to press on strings to create different sounds. Thank you to the Arts Commission for sponsoring this culturally rich event.

What is RIF?

Your child selected a free RIF book this week. Please be sure to ask them about it—and better yet, sit down and read the book together with your child. Three times per year, students select a free book. Reading Is Fundamental (RIF) is a national organization whose sole purpose is to encourage literacy in the homes of children. In order to do this, children need books of their own to read and reread in their homes. Scholastic is the main RIF distributor so sometimes the selection of titles can be limited. Thank you to the JSIS PTSA which also funds a portion of the book distribution cost. Due to student demographic changes, JSIS most likely will no longer qualify as a RIF school in the years to come.

Electronic Overdue Notices

The JSIS library is going green! Besides checking out and reusing books every day, now book overdue notices are sent electronically. Every few weeks, an email will be sent letting parents know what books your child has checked out. The loan period for a book is one week. Children should return books to the library every week. Most students return books on their designated class library day. In addition, the library is also open at 9:00 am most mornings so students can drop off books and check out new ones.

If a book is overdue, please help your child return it as soon as possible. If your child is still reading a book, then it can be renewed. Besides popular titles (such as Diary of a Wimpy Kid and most graphic novels), students can renew their books for up to one month if needed. If a book is lost, please pay for it or contact me about replacement options. Library books stay in the classroom for the kindergarteners and students in Ms. Wei's BOC class.

Thank You Volunteers!

Thank you to the many parent volunteers who help out each week in the library. The library would be a complete mess if it weren't for the many volunteers who assist with checking books out to children, shelving books, covering, cleaning and preparing books for circulation. A special thank you extends to Bob Moss for installing the final two world flags that now mark the entrance of the library. Also, be sure to ask your child about "Name That Flag" as we learn about a new flag and country each week.





JSIS Yard Sale Tour 2010

As you prepare and make room for the holidays, please consider storing donations for the JSIS Yard Sale Tour. It is scheduled this year for Saturday, May 15, 2010.

We accept clean, gently used, and operating toys, sporting goods, electronics, furniture and other household items.

Please contact Kelli Black: kelliblack@hotmail.com or Susan Schudie: sschudie@gmail.com with questions.

Our World Deadline

Our World is published and distributed every other Wednesday.

The deadline for the next issue: **January 7, 2010**

Please submit your information to *Our World* and the PTSA website:

- Our World mailbox is in the school office
- email: ourworldnews@gmail.com

We reserve the right to edit for length and content.

Editor: **Julie Wittmann**

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Greenlake Elementary PTA Annual Holiday Tree Sale

The Green Lake Elementary PTA will hold its 24th Annual Holiday Tree sale starting November 27th. This fundraiser has enabled the PTA to support education enrichment programs over the years and your support is greatly appreciated. Tell your fellow parents, friends and neighbors. Hours:

Monday through Friday 4 pm - 8 pm

Saturday 9 am - 8 pm, and

Sunday 10 am - 7 pm

The sale is at Green Lake School, 2400 N. 65th Street (on 65th just four blocks west of I-5). Trees and wreaths will arrive weekly. The sale continues until December 20 or until sold out. Thank you for your support. Questions, call Conrad Smith @ 206-909-2101.