



From the Principal

John Stanford International School

January 13, 2009

Dear JSIS Families,

This past December, my wife and I attended our daughter's very first holiday performance at her daycare. You can probably imagine just how excited we were. Although my wife and I both thought the other was in charge of bringing the camera and although we ended up having to take pictures with my not-very-clear Blackberry camera, we will hardly need pictures to remember how exciting it was to see our daughter standing up on stage (not doing anything she was supposed to be doing, but being as cute as a 19-month-old can be). We were so proud. The performance was outstanding thanks to the time and coordination invested by many dedicated parent volunteers.

As I sat in awe of how involved parents were in helping create such a magical program that highlighted my daughter (well, you know what I mean), I am somewhat embarrassed about another thought that I couldn't suppress, which was, "What if they figure out that I'm a school principal? Would they recruit me for some big and time-consuming project like this? Would they ask me to help with daycare discipline? Would I even be able to turn the daycare directors down if they did ask me to do something?" In the end, I can probably predict what my answer would be considering the fact that I can't even say no to my daughter when she asks for cookies or other things that her mommy would prefer she not eat on a regular basis.

So, at this point, you may be wondering where I'm going with this . . . (insert smiley face). At JSIS and on the JSIS PTSA, we are starting to look for parents who can step up and take on critical leadership roles. (In fact, I am currently looking for a few parents to help out right away with our upcoming *Annual Fund* which funds our instructional assistants. And the PTSA is looking for parents who can serve on a *nominating committee* to recruit for critical PTSA board leadership positions for this coming fall.) Leadership at the school and on the PTSA is certainly a commitment, but one that significantly benefits the students and the school. Whether it's helping with fund raising, coordinating communication or planning events, parents in these roles help maintain the excellence that our school has been known for these past 10 years.

Over the next month or so, Ann Weber, the PTSA President, and I will be out looking for parents (especially parents with younger JSIS students) with passion, dedication, and time to take on key roles at the school and on the PTSA. I know that times are tough economically and time is always limited, but I'm hoping that we'll be able to secure a strong next-generation of leaders to continue our great programs. If you already know that you're willing to consider leadership roles in the school or on the PTSA, please feel free to contact us. My e-mail is kearamaki@seattleschools.org. Ann's e-mail is aweber_sea@yahoo.com.

Thanks for all the volunteering that you already do for the kids at JSIS and for considering leadership roles in the future!

Sincerely,

Mr. Aramaki ~ Señor Aramaki ~ あらまきせんせい

Announcements and Reminders:

- **LA FIESTA LATINA (all school event)** – What better way to kick off 2010 than by celebrating Latin American Culture at JSIS' annual Fiesta Latina. Please join us Friday, January 22nd 6:30- 8:30 pm in the JSIS Gymnasium/Cafeteria for this All-School event. Please bring your favorite Latin dish to share and join us for an evening of Food, Music, a Tango Puppet Show, Dancing and Salsa instruction from our very own Raymond Serrano as we celebrate Latino culture and the many JSIS families that hail from these beautiful nations. *Please contact Sarah Suhadolnik at sarahsuhadolnik@gmail.com or Norma Candia at normacnd@mac.com for day-of volunteer opportunities.
- **Come to the Upcoming PTSA Meeting on Jan. 26 from 7:00 – 8:30** – At the upcoming PTSA meeting, we will take time to reflect on the JSIS program from 2000 – 2010. You will also hear about the proposed *school levies* as well as the *Transition Plan for the New Student Assignment Plan* which will be voted on by the board at their Jan. 20th meeting.
- **Thanks for the holiday gifts!** Students and their families who received gifts and support this past holiday season through the giving tree program would like to say “thank you” to all the students and families who donated to the PTSA giving tree. Your generosity has helped many JSIS students and families during these tough economic times.
- **Artist-in-Residence Here!** For this week and next, Annie Penta will be introducing the music of India to our students in music class.
- **Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) Testing Update** – Students at JSIS and students across the district are currently taking their mid-year MAP tests, the new computer-based, district assessment used to measure reading and math progress from kindergarten through 12th grade. Fall MAP results were shared with families during conferences. Results from the mid-year session will not be sent home. However, end-of-year MAP results from our final, spring MAP testing session will be sent home with year-end report cards. If you have any questions about the MAP assessment, please contact Pat Dailey at pdailey@seattleschools.org.
- **Please Mark Your Child’s Clothing** – Please remember to write your child’s name in coats, sweatshirts and lunchboxes. This helps when we try to reconnect kids with lost clothing.

Calendar of Events:	
Jan. 18	NO SCHOOL – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Jan. 22	Fiesta Latina – see announcement above
Jan. 26	7:00 – 8:30 PTSA Meeting (Reflecting on the last 10 years at JSIS)
Jan. 29	NO SCHOOL – Day Between Semesters
Feb. 3	2-hour Early Dismissal – Teacher Professional Development 6:30 – 8:30 JSIS Information Night for New Families
Feb. 5	6:00 – 8:30 Japan Night
Feb. 11	5:30 – 7:30 PTSA en Español Meeting
Feb. 15 – 19	NO SCHOOL – Mid-Winter Vacation
Feb. 25	Literacy Night at JSIS