



From the Principal

John Stanford International School

May 26, 2010

Dear JSIS Families,

It's hard to believe that we're already nearing the end of May! Here are some highlights and updates of the week and month:

- **Building Leadership Team (BLT) Parent Reps Needed for '10 – '11.** The JSIS Building Leadership Team is comprised of staff, the principal and parents. Together, we discuss and resolve issues, oversee the development of the school improvement plan, oversee the facilitation and development of the school budget and champion the vision and mission of the school. Parent terms are 2-years and they represent the following groups: K/1, 2/3, 4/5, Families at-large, and English as Second Language (ESL) families. **For this coming school year, we are looking for new K/1, ESL and Families-at-Large representatives.** What we're looking for are positive, collaborative parents/guardians who are passionate about and supportive of our school and its mission. The 2-year time commitment involves meeting on Friday mornings from 8:00 – 9:00 once-a-month in the fall, twice-a-month in the winter (to work on the budget), and then once-a-month in the spring. The work of the BLT is very important for the healthy functioning of our school. If you have the time and would like to serve the school in this capacity, please e-mail me at kearamaki@seattleschools.org. Include in your e-mail why you are interested in participating and what you believe you could offer this leadership group. If there is more than one person who applies for either of the positions, candidates will be voted on by their constituents. The deadline to apply is Wednesday, June 9th, 2010.
- **MSP Testing Completed!** JSIS students made teachers and families proud last week by giving their best effort during the state test, Measurement of Student Progress. Thanks to K-2 students for being great cheerleaders for the 3-5th grade testers (and for being extra quiet in the hallways). Thanks to families for making sure kids ate healthy breakfasts and got enough sleep at night.
- **Enrollment Updates** – As you probably have heard by now, we are expecting a large number of kindergarteners this coming fall (enough for 4 full classes – 2 Japanese and 2 Spanish). We have 104 neighborhood kindergarteners enrolled with about 50 students on the waitlist. As you also may have heard, we have 10 just-outside-of-the-neighborhood siblings at the top of the waitlist; much to the surprise and dismay of many, no siblings that live out of the new JSIS boundaries made it in so far. The JSIS Building Leadership Team is strategizing and planning with the goal of helping the district move the waitlist as early as possible. Up-to-date enrollment information will go out in subsequent principal newsletters.
- **Hiring & Staffing Updates** – I'm excited to announce that Señora Ana, our kindergarten Spanish Immersion teacher, has decided to teach both kindergarten Spanish classes this coming fall. Señorita Guiomar will be teaching 1st grade Spanish again this fall. Also, if you haven't heard yet, Tamayo Sensei will be leaving us at the end of this year to return to Japan to be with her family. Ms. Heidi will be leaving JSIS this year as well to teach at U Coop. Ms. Mattie is retiring at the end of this year. And, Ms. Bjerke, our Intermediate BOC teacher, will be making 2009 – 2010 her final year at JSIS as well. These staff members have made such a tremendous, positive impact on our school. We appreciate them very much for all they've done for the many JSIS kids they have worked with over the years!

- **Upcoming Interviews & Interviewers Needed** – All of our positions are now posted for internal candidates only. We are hoping to interview for the BOC position this Friday from 4-6. Interviews for a full-time kindergarten English position will take place on June 7th from 4 – 8. Interviews for a half-time first grade English position will take place on June 8th from 4 – 8. If you have received the interview training from the school district and would like to participate on the interview team, please e-mail Chris Nielsen at cn Nielsen@seattleschools.org. We have room for 2 parents on each interview team.
- **Changes in 2/3 Student Pick-Up** – Starting next week, all 2/3 students who get picked up by parents will be waiting for parents on the 3rd floor in front of the main office desk. We are trying to address the overcrowding on the 2nd floor which is only going to get more crowded with 7 K/1 classes this fall. If you pick up a 2nd or 3rd grader at the end of the day, please wait for your students upstairs. A staff member will be bringing the students up.
- **Compassion Month** – This past Friday, Ms. Kathleen and I attended the University Rotary Luncheon to receive a \$750 donation from the Rotary to our school library. At that same luncheon, the Rotary honored a number of high school students who have shown great compassion and public service in their lives. Receiving the Rotary’s “Art Siegal Service Above Self Award”, these high school students, including a JSIS graduate, have done incredible and compassionate things for others on an ongoing basis including: feeding the homeless, caring for children with disabilities, visiting sick children at Children’s Hospital, tutoring struggling students, advocating for environmental protection and sustainability, and more. What was particularly special was the fact that the award is named after Art Seigal, one of the Special Friends who comes to JSIS each week to read with one of our students. Art created this award to recognize student compassion. While sitting at this lunch meeting, I was overwhelmed by the compassion being shown all around me from people of every generation. From Art and the other Special Friends who serve our students with dedication and passion each and every week all the way to our own JSIS graduate, people are making a lasting impact on the lives of others. In the words of the Dalai Lama, “If you want others to be happy, practice compassion. If you want to be happy, practice compassion.”

Have a great Memorial Day weekend! Don’t forget there is no school on Monday!

Sincerely,

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

Calendar of Events:	
May 27	Special Friends Party at 11:30 – 2:30 for students in special friends program (Note: there was a mistake on the permission form – it is Thursday)
May 28	After-School Drama Program – 7:00 PM – Treasure Island Performance
May 31	No School – Memorial Day Holiday
June 2	8:45 – 9:45 Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast
June 9	7:00 PM – 5 th Grade Play
June 14	7:00 PM – Choir Concert
June 16	BBQ Lunch for Students and Families & Field Day! (schedule coming)
June 22	Awards Assembly, 5 th Grade Celebration (schedule coming) 2:30 – Dismissal – LAST DAY OF SCHOOL
June 24 – July 2	9:00 – 12:00 Language Camp

