



From the Principal

John Stanford International School

September 9, 2009

Dear JSIS Families,

Welcome to the first day of our 10th year as a school! That's right! We are embarking on our tenth year as the John Stanford International School. Isn't it amazing what we've been able to accomplish in such a short amount of time with the incredible dedication, innovation and passion of the staff, students and families!

Throughout this year, in preparation for our 10th Anniversary the fall of 2010, we are going to do some reflecting, introspecting, and collaborating as a school community around what our strengths as a school are, what our successes have been, and what areas we would like to improve further. This year, my goal for us as educational partners is to look back at where we've been the past ten years in order to help us chart a clear and refined course for the next ten years – fulfilling our mission to “prepare each of our students to achieve today and tomorrow in a global community and economy.”

I'm looking forward to what the 2009 – 2010 school year has in store for us. I hope you are as well. If you ever have any questions or feedback that you'd like to share, please feel free to e-mail or call me anytime. I will be out in the classrooms working with teachers and kids for much of the school day, but will respond to you as soon as possible.

Thank you for entrusting your wonderful children to us. It is a responsibility that we don't take lightly. And, thank you for your support as we kick-off our best year yet.

Sincerely,

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

Announcements and Reminders:

The following are important announcements and reminders as we begin a new year, including a number of changes:

- **JSIS Start and End Times Have Changed** – Due to district transportation coordination issues, **our new start time is 9:20 and our new end time is 3:30**. Playground supervision will begin at 9:00 in the morning on the main playground as well as on the kindergarten playground. Breakfast is also served at that time.
- **Student Drop-off Reminder** – 1st – 5th grade students and BOC students can be dropped off at the lower playground off of 5th Avenue. **4th Avenue is a bus loading and unloading zone only**; please do not drop your child off on 4th Avenue. If you are dropping off your kindergartener, you will need to find parking on a residential street near the school and walk with your child to the kindergarten playground. Parking is tough around the school so please plan accordingly.
- **H1N1 Flu Update** – An informative letter from the district regarding H1N1 flu will be sent home to families sometime this week which will provide details on what to expect in terms of communication and reminders, preventative measures and what to do if your

child appears to be ill. Stay tuned for updates. For the latest district information on H1N1, please go to www.seattleschools.org and click on H1N1 under “What’s News”.

- **Parent-Teacher Conference Dates** – Different from years past, all Seattle Public Elementary Schools are going to have full-day conference days instead of half-days. JSIS conferences are scheduled for **November 23, 24, and 25**. Because each of our teachers must hold conferences for 56 students, we are awaiting permission from the district to add 2 additional conference days which would be November 19th and 20th for a total of five days. **PLEASE do not schedule family vacation during this time.** It is very important for your child’s academic progress that you attend your child’s parent-teacher conference. Teachers most likely will not be able to schedule conferences outside of the conference window in order to accommodate families going on extended Thanksgiving vacations. We appreciate your attention to this.
- **Changes to our Lunch and Lunch Recess Procedures** – Starting this year, we will be trying out a new lunch schedule where kids will be going to **recess before lunch** instead of after lunch. Parents and staff members have noticed that many kids don’t eat much at lunch because they are anxious to go out and play. By moving recess before lunch as many schools are now doing, we are hoping that students will be able to actually enjoy the lunches that they buy at school or bring from home and subsequently have more energy for the afternoon. Hand sanitizer will be available for students as they enter the lunchroom from the playground.
- **No Cell Phones, Electronics or Card Games on Campus** – These items are not allowed to be used or played with on campus during school hours (from morning recess until the child goes home or goes to LSA). If a child brings any of these things to school, they must be kept in the child’s backpack. If they are taken out during the day, they will be confiscated and may only be retrieved by the parent or guardian.
- **Advanced Learning Packets Now Available** – If you are interested in having your child tested for advanced learning, application packets are now available in the main office. Parent and teacher forms are due October 8th. Please give teachers the recommendation forms to fill out at least one week before the due date.
- **JSIS is Composting!** Starting this year, we will be composting food scraps in the cafeteria. We have a committed group of parents and teachers, JSIS’ own “Green Team”, who are working to make JSIS a more environmentally friendly school which fits perfectly with our mission of raising responsible global citizens.
- **Other Changes** – We have a number of other minor changes that we are making this year to improve our program. Starting this year, we are switching our outside class line-order so that our youngest students are lining up closest to the school. Also, in order to maximize instructional time in the classroom, we are transitioning from a weekly morning assembly to a monthly spirit assembly. At the monthly assembly, we will be showcasing a monthly theme, fostering school unity, celebrating birthdays, and more.

Calendar of Events:	
Monday, Sept. 21	Picture Day
Thurs., Sept. 24	7:00 – 8:30 Hamilton Int’l School Open House
Wed., Sept. 30	2-Hour Early Dismissal CURRICULUM NIGHT