



From the Principal

John Stanford International School

February 3, 2010

Dear JSIS Families,

JSIS 2010 – 2011 Budget Update #1: The Economy's Continued Impact on Education and JSIS

This newsletter is the first of a series of letters that I will send out regarding our school's budgeting process for next fiscal year, which begins on September 1, 2010. My goal with these updates is to keep you informed as the budget and staffing plan is developed. In just a few weeks, we will receive our school funding allocation for the 2010 – 2011 school year from the school district. As you may have heard, with the current state of our economy, the district and state are facing tough budget cuts which will undoubtedly have a significant impact on our program. With the state currently in their 60-day legislative session, we won't know the final implications on our budget until March. However, we can anticipate a loss in funding across the board including decreases in funding for: full-day kindergarten grants, K-4 staffing, I-728 (the class size initiative), and Learning Assistance Program (LAP) which serves struggling students. At schools across the district, this will mean additional challenges in funding non-classroom teaching staff that support students needing extra help or enrichment in reading and math.

And, of course, at JSIS we provide added support to our mission through funds for instructional assistants in our language immersion classes. Last year, we needed \$255,000 to fund our instructional assistants in grades K-5. We were able to reach that goal by using \$130,000 of our general budget plus the \$125,000 raised through our Annual Fund (parent-led spring fundraiser). For this coming year, however, with budget cuts, I anticipate that the general funds available for instructional assistants will decrease by up to \$50,000 (possibly more than that). In addition, we will need to increase the total amount needed for instructional assistants as we add another half-time instructional assistant for the anticipated 3rd kindergarten class.

As a community, we are proactively working on ways to make up our anticipated shortfall. Just like last year, we are developing and analyzing a number of possible solutions to maintain the resources and staffing that have helped to sustain our award-winning program at JSIS. These solutions include tapping into available limited rainy-day funds, seeking out grants and increasing our Annual Fund goal. In the coming weeks, as these plans are more fully developed by staff and parents on the Building Leadership Team and as more information is available from the district and state, I will send out updates to keep you informed.

As it is in our neighborhood and across the globe, Seattle Schools are facing tough economic times. However, hope can be found in the dedicated and committed teachers, staff, parents and community members who support our program, our kids, and our mission to raise global citizens.

More to come

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

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Announcements and Reminders:

- **Newsflash! Staffing Update** – Welcome Señorita Guiomar, our new first grade teacher! Having been an instructional assistant at JSIS for 7 years and having recently received her teaching certificate, Señorita Guiomar is now the lead immersion teacher for the Spanish 1st Grade class. Starting this week, Señorita Guiomar and Señora Ana will be job-sharing the K/1 Spanish Immersion position. Señora Ana will continue to teach the kindergarten class in the mornings.
- **International Dinner & The International Arts Celebration** – These are two of our major upcoming family events that you won't want to miss. This year, at the International Dinner on March 12th, in addition to partaking in the always-delicious potluck, you will be treated to performances by the BOC, 1st, 3rd and 5th grade classes along with our ribbon dancers. We will also be singing 3 songs from around the world including Arirang, a famous Korean folksong, which has a special place in my heart because of our recently adopted daughter from Korea. At the International Arts Celebration on May 6th, you will be treated to performances by our kindergarteners, 2nd and 4th graders along with students from Hamilton Int'l Middle School who will showcase what they've learned about the music and dance of Asia as part of their work with our artists-in-residence this year. Please mark your calendars and find a way to volunteer if you have the time!
- **Open House/Information Night TONIGHT** – For the first time, in addition to school tours in March, we will be holding an information night on Feb. 3rd from 6:30 – 8:30 pm for families who have children who will be starting at JSIS this fall. During this evening session, incoming families will hear about our school and program from Mr. Aramaki. They will also get to meet some teachers, parents, and watch student performances by the JSIS choir and ribbon dance team. *Please help us spread the word to your neighbors and friends!*
- **VOTE on February 9th** – Please remember to vote during this mid-year election.

PTSA Volunteer Opportunities & Appreciations:

- **Web-site Content Support** - Two additional parents are needed to help support content uploading for our website. No previous web experience is required. Training by one of our current web-parents on our web software will only take 1 hour. The commitment, at the busiest times of the year, is about an hour a day to monitor email requests from the PTSA and principal and then publish content. If you're interested in helping with this important communications role, please contact Arlene Murray at jsis.seattle@gmail.com.

Calendar of Events:

Feb. 3	2-hour Early Dismissal – Teacher Professional Development 6:30 – 8:30 JSIS Open House/ Information Night for Incoming Families
Feb. 5	6:30 – 8:30 Japan Night
Feb. 11	6:30 – 8:30 PTSA en Español Meeting
Feb. 15 – 19	NO SCHOOL – Mid-Winter Vacation
Feb. 25	Literacy Night at JSIS