



# From the Principal

John Stanford International School

September 1, 2009

## **Welcome and welcome back!**

Dear JSIS Families,

### **Change in Start & End Time**

This is just a reminder that school is starting and ending 10-minutes later than usual. Starting this fall, John Stanford Int'l School will be starting at 9:20 AM and ending at 3:30 PM. The playground will be supervised starting at 9:00 AM. Please wait until then to bring your child to school. Breakfast will be offered starting at 9:00 as well.

### **Staffing Update at JSIS**

I am happy to announce that we are finally fully-staffed and just about ready for the 2009 – 2010 school year! After conducting a nation-wide search for Japanese immersion teachers, we are so fortunate to have Ms. Kayoko Kasai joining our staff as our newest Japanese immersion teacher. Kayoko-sensei brings 10 years of Japanese immersion teaching experience, positive energy and a passion for children and immersion education. This year, she will be teaching our first grade Japanese immersion class. This will allow Tamayo-sensei to work with both of the kindergarten immersion classes.

I'm also excited to announce our newest English teacher, Ms. Karon Williams, who will be teaching our third kindergarten English class this year. Ms. Williams is passionate about kindergarteners! She has taught kindergarten and first grade for about 20 years – almost 17 years in Seattle. Not only does she bring kindergarten experience, she is also trained in writers workshop, an approach to teaching writing that is used in Ms. Lucy and Ms. Margretta's classrooms. Ms. Williams is excited about joining the JSIS family. She will bring great experience, energy and passion to our school.

Finally, we have also hired a new Japanese immersion IA, Ms. Chika Imanishi. Chika-sensei has worked as a tutor at Kimball Elementary and is excited to be continuing her love of education here at JSIS.

### **Kindergarten Student Assignments**

With teachers finally in place at kindergarten and first grade, we are just about finished with kindergarten classroom assignments. The three kindergarten classrooms are:

Spanish K – Ms. Lucy & Señora Ana

Japanese Ka – Ms. Karon & Tamayo-sensei

Japanese Kb – Ms. Lucy & Tamayo-sensei

If your child is in the Spanish Immersion program, your teachers will be Señora Ana in the morning and Ms. Lucy in the afternoon. If your child is in the Japanese immersion kindergarten program, you can find out who your child's teacher is starting this Wednesday

morning at 9:00. At that time, class placements (the class your child is assigned to) will be posted on a bulletin board near the front entrance of the school. As you can imagine, teachers and staff will be busy setting up their classrooms and participating in staff professional development meetings this week so they won't be available for visits. However, if you'd like to drop by to see your child's placement before kindergarten orientation this Thursday, please feel free stop by. The kindergarten teachers look forward to meeting all of the new kindergarteners and their families at Kindergarten Orientation this Thursday from 6 – 7:30!

### **H1N1 (Swine) Flu Update**

JSIS is working collaboratively with the Seattle Public Schools and King County Public Health to develop and implement a district-wide plan to help prevent the spread of flu, particularly H1N1 (Swine), this coming fall and winter. Information on the steps we will be taking to minimize the spread the flu will be communicated to all families during the first week of school.

~ Mr. Aramaki

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