

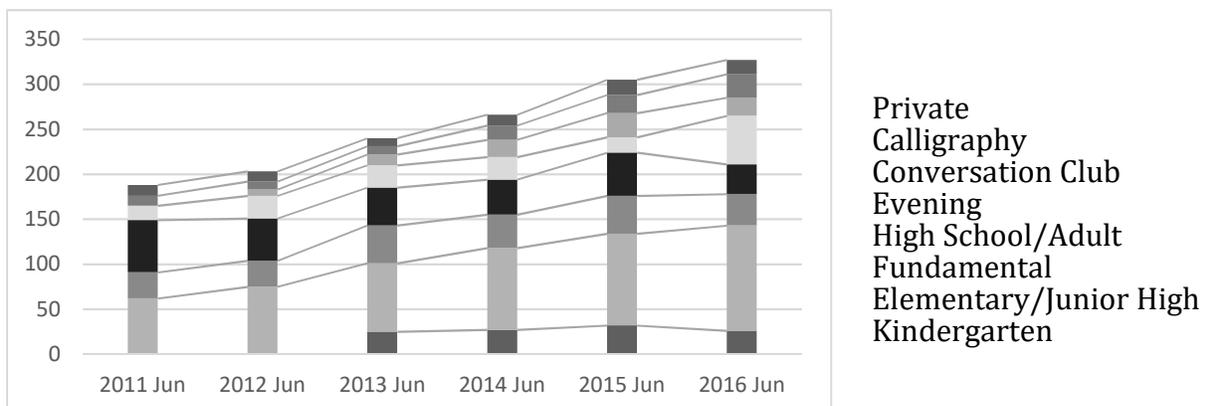
**VANCOUVER JAPANESE LANGUAGE SCHOOL REPORT
FOR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
NOVEMBER 26, 2016
(REPORTING PERIOD: SEPTEMBER 2015 TO AUGUST 2016)**

1) 2015 Teaching Staff (September 2015 to August 2016)

- * Kunihiko Naito, Keiko Kubota, Naoko Naito, Kyoko Shimoda, Mari Miyamoto, Yoko Konoshima, Kotoe Hisata, Mayuka Hisata, Noriyo Haraguchi, Asako Hayashi, Kaoruko Minamoto, Yuki Sato, Misaki Sekine, Saki Makino, Katsuhiko Ito, Hisami Matsumura, Asuka Mizokami, Yuri Hashimoto, Kazuko Trudel, Tomoko Bailey, Junko Fuchioka, Mari Honma (Total: 22)
- * Kunihiko Naito as the head of teaching staff and Mari Honma as Principal, carrying out the school affairs.

2) Number of Pupils:

- * As of Sept 2015 277
- * As of June 2016 327



- * A ten-week evening adult classes were held four times (the above graph indicates the number of students as of June).
- * The Summer School had 21 participants in July and 33 in August, making a total of 54. These numbers are not included in the above graph. Some five year olds joined VJLS Summer School due to the capacity limit for Children's World.

3) Education

- * The Education Committee Meetings, Yoshio (Richard) Yagi as the chair, were held in order to put efforts in enhancing the Japanese language education.
- * The study goal for 2015 was established to be "to strengthen the skills in speaking Japanese" and focused on conversation and public speaking skills.
- * From 8:30 a.m. the staff assembly were held every Saturday morning and the staff meeting was held every month to plan and execute the school events.
- * As for every year, the report card (first half and last half) was distributed to the parent(s)/guardian(s), including the pupil's study situation.
- * The 29th issue of the Alexander's Bell (*Alexander no Kane*) was published and distributed at the graduation ceremony.
- * A teachers' seminars were held in order to put efforts in improving the language instruction.

VJLS-JH Student Council

- * Helped the school events and also sold Glico products.
- * Helped in stuffing the bags for Halloween Party.
- * Took charge as an MC for various events.
- * Kunihiko Naito was in charge of the Student Council and gave guidance.

4) Annual Events

- September 5 – Fundamental levels, high school, and adult classes had an assessment test.
- September 12 – Entrance Ceremony
- October 10 – Fire drill was held we were able to evacuate safely and quickly to the parking lot at Dunlevy Avenue and Railway Street.
- October 31 – Halloween Costume Contest

As a special guest, we invited Consul Akira Uchida and Consul Shigeru Matsuda from the Consulate General of Japan as a judge.

- December 19 – Christmas Party

We invited the members of Vancouver City Council and the Consulate General of Japan.

The party was enjoyed by everyone in attendance.

As for every year, Glico Canada had donated the Glico products and 375 people received a gift from Santa.

January 9 – On the first day of the term, we invited the Vancouver Mikoshi-no-kai, Rakuichi, which performed 'shishimai'.

"Kakizome" was held on the stage for the pupils of 3rd grade and higher.

Another aspect of Japanese culture was introduced by having a "kadomatsu" at the entrance, "kagamimochi" on the counter, and "ikebana" for the New Year.

To introduce one of the events in Japanese culture, "ozoni" was sold at lunch.

January 30 – Setsubun – Had a volunteer "oni" and did "mamemaki".

February 6 – Open House/Distribution of the first semester's report card

The report card was handed to the parent/guardian, instead of the pupil, and held a short parent/teacher interview.

February 21 – Three students from our school participated in the "story telling" that was Sponsored by JALTA (Japanese Language Teachers Association). Participants were Alice Yin (Senior High) and Akane Onuma (Comprehensive)

March 12 – "Public Reading" - The purpose this event is to have a pupil take an interest in reading and Improve the reading skills. It was an opportunity to demonstrate the result of practices, resulting in a meaningful event.

March 12 – Open House for Kinder Class

April 9 – Open House for Prospect Grade One Students

An open house was held mainly for the Kinder class to introduce the class environment for those who will be advancing to a higher grade. Not only the children but also their guardian(s) joined for this open house.

Had an info session to explain the class content and an instructional goal as well as the difference between the Fundamental level and the elementary level.

May 1 – Sports Day

With favourable weather, VJLS and Kodomono Kuni sports day and picnic were held

May 14 – Kinder Class Field Trip

Toured the Fire Hall No 2, located at Powell and Main Streets, near VJLS-JH.

May 28 – Year-End-Presentation

Songs, plays, public speaking, etc. were rich in presentations.

As guests, Deputy Consul General Akira Uchida and Consul Shigeru Matsuda were invited.

May 28 – As a fundraiser for Kumamoto Earthquake, grade six students organized hot dog sale fundraiser. Profit of \$255 was handed to the Consulate General in Vancouver.

June 11 – Kinder Class Graduation – 26 graduated.

June 18 – Graduation/Year-end Ceremony

Nine Grade 6 students and four Senior High students graduated and made a speech.

As guests, Consul General Asako Okai, Consul Shigeru Matsuda, City Counsellor

Kerry Jang and JCCA President Lorene Oikawa, attended the ceremony.

At the Year-end Ceremony, the recipients of various scholarships were announced and awarded. There were 19 students who received the Class Award, 19 students received the Effort Award, and 19 students received the Perfect Attendance. Award recipients were

introduced on stage.

We sang the School Song at the Year-end Ceremony lead by School Song Group.

5) Special Matters

- * AED was installed at the school and six VJLS Staff received training by the instructor. AED is managed by Tsunenori Yamada.
- * As Wi-Fi connection is now available in all classrooms, there is an increase in the use of computers in the classroom. The second LCD projector was purchased to meet the demand. At the teacher's workshops, most of the teaching materials are based on digital media and would like to continue improving the equipment at VJLS to catch up with the digitalization of the classroom.
- * 25 desks and chairs were purchased for the Grade 2 students. The desks and chairs for Grade 1 were purchased for the previous year and addition of the new desks and chairs for Grade 2 will create desirable learning environment.
- * There is an increase in the number of adult students enrolled in Tuesday night course. This is likely to be caused by improved presence online on Facebook and website.
- * Number of E-mail communication with the instructor and guardians are increasing. It is easier to communicate with the guardians with use of E-mail.
- * "Thing on the Shorelines" project with the collaboration between the Grade 4 students and Nikkei artist, Cindy Mochizuki, worked together on creative projects over four weeks. The instructions were given in Japanese and the students presented their works in Japanese. Their works and presentation were exhibited to the public at Access Gallery from February 13 to April 16. It became unique and rare opportunities to Japanese.
- * Sunday, November 29 – As a request by Japanese community organization "Tonari Gumi", 13 school students (Kinder Class to Grade 4) participated in Tonari Gumi Christmas Concert as a representative of the school.
- * There are increasing number of students registered in Official Certification Course affiliated with The Foundation of Shodo Education in Japan and received Gold, Silver, and Bronze awards. While all their work is being reviewed under same criteria with the Japanese calligraphy students in Japan and it is harder to earn the awards as the students are older, students spent their best effort to earn the awards.
- * There are increasing number of students helping out the Japanese Hall events such as Bazaars. Especially the adult and high school students are actively helping out as volunteer as a great opportunity for them to use Japanese.
- * In the school year 2015, there were 22 students with perfect attendance. One student had three-consecutive years of perfect attendance and one student with four-consecutive years. Not only the student, but the support of guardians is crucial to achieve this.
- * As with the previous school year, we held Japanese musical instrument workshop with *Shō (like a free reed instrument)* on November 7 as part of Japanese culture experience.
- * **As with the previous school year, as the principal, continued to greet students and guardians when they are arriving and leaving the school and increasing Japanese signage in the school under the slogan "Saturday as a Japanese Language Day". I would like to work hard to further expand the Japanese environment outside the classrooms.**

THANK YOU

School year 2015 have ended, but it would not have been possible without the support from everyone. I would like to thank all board members, guardians and members. Also, I would like to sincerely thank all volunteers for their continuing support at the school.