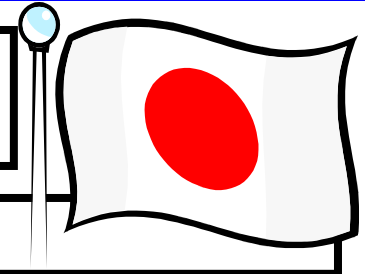


Nippon News

Japanese Language
Faith Lutheran
Preschool and Elementary



February 2010 Theme: Around the School

What We Are Learning This Month

Ikimashoo!! - Let's Go! (getting ready to go somewhere)

gakko—school

kyoushitsu—classroom

Kouchou—Principal

Sensei—Teacher

tsukue—desk

isu—chair

enpitsu—pencil

hasami—scissors

hon—book

Grammar:

Kore wa *enpitsu* desu. (This is a pencil.)

Kite kudasai (please come here)

Itte kudasai (please go there)

Suatte kudasai (please sit). *Tatte kudasai* (please stand)

K-3rd Grade Studies:

kokuban—chalkboard

shukudai—homework

shiken—test/exam

seito—student

Pronunciation Key:

<u>Letter</u>	<u>Pronounced</u>
a	as "a" in a-ha!
e	as "e" in bed
i	as "ee" in feet
o	as "o" in no
u	as "oo" in zoo
ei	as "ay" in say
ai	as "y" in sky
ou	as "ow" in grow
oo	as "ow" in grow

Sensei Kara.... (From the Teacher)

Have you noticed signs in Japanese around our school? The students have been using their detective skills to locate environmental print written in Japanese. The teachers are getting involved in the learning, too! Our classes went to visit Principal Deming ("*Deming Kouchou*") in her office and greeted her. We found her "*mado*" (window) and her "*tsukue*" (desk). When we were done visiting with her, we bid her farewell by saying "*sayonara*". The students also located signs for the other classrooms, the drinking fountains and bathrooms, and even the lunchroom and library. We also learned a new song for remembering our greetings: (Tune: Frere Jaques)

Ohayo, Ohayo.

Konnichiwa, Konnichiwa

Sayonara, Sayonara.

Mata raishuu, mata raishuu.

Culture Corner

VALENTINE'S DAY in Japan is unique in that women give the men gifts of chocolate and other items. These gifts of chocolate are divided into two types: ***giri choco*** (obligatory chocolate) and ***honmei choco*** (chocolate for the man the woman is serious about). *Giri choco* is given by women to their superiors at work as well as to other male co-workers. It is not unusual for a woman to buy 20 to 30 boxes of this type of chocolate for distribution around the office as well as to men that she has regular contact with. Needless to say, the approach of Valentine's Day is something that department stores and shops look forward to and promote with zeal because of its potential for increased sales. A woman will normally purchase boxes of *giri choco* in the several hundred yen (100 yen = 1 dollar) range and may purchase an expensive box of *honmei choco* and another gift such as a necktie for her "special someone". While all of this may seem quite one-sided, confectioners in Japan - never ones to miss an opportunity to sell more - took advantage of this and created "**WHITE DAY**" in 1980 to help with the guilty feelings of those poor obligated males who received chocolate on Valentine's Day. On March 14th, exactly one month after Valentine's Day, men who were lucky enough to receive gifts of chocolate have the chance to return the favor by giving the women who gave them gifts of chocolate a more expensive box of chocolate or sweets. Again, the stores provide plenty of reminders of the approach of this day so that even the most forgetful man cannot say that it slipped his mind. The gifts of chocolate that men buy are in white boxes (since it's "White Day") and come with separate shopping bags for each box. (Billy Hammond. www.tanutech.com/japan/valentine.html)