



June 1, 2018

Dear Keisho Center Families:

Each year the board of directors of the Washington Japanese Heritage Center (Keisho Center) report on the status, operations, and future plans of our organization. During the 2017-18 school year, Keisho Center enrolled 108 youth students and 11 parents in the Adult Program. The General Manager, in conjunction with our Education Team, which this year included the Curriculum Director, eleven teachers, five teaching assistants, and one Music Director, supported eight classrooms in addition to the adult program. We also employed a Treasurer, Webmaster, and an Admissions Assistant.

As the number of students attending our Center has grown each year, we have been careful to increase our staffing so as to maintain class sizes of 10-15 students and a 1:7 teacher-student ratio. Heritage language learners thrive in small classes with individualized support. We are proud that Keisho Center was selected by the Japan Foundation of Los Angeles to receive a \$10,000 salary assistance grant for the 2017-18 school year. This generous donation was used to hire several additional instructors thus directly impacting the classroom experiences of students.

Youth classes are organized around eight homerooms during which the teachers and assistants work on general language skills and increasing the students' knowledge of and experience with Japan and Japanese culture. The younger students remain in the same classroom the entire morning while the older students' homerooms are reorganized into target classes that focus on specific grammar skills and vocabulary development. This year, students developed their language skills through projects based on the theme "transportation." All students participated in workshops with representatives from Japan Railways and United Airlines. The high school students presented group projects to a panel of distinguished guests.

For the third year, Keisho Center also offered the Adult Japanese Language Program for family members and alumni. These classes complement Keisho Center's role as a heritage language program by involving the entire family in the study of Japanese language and culture. The board will continue to expand the Adult Program to reach all parents that wish to study Japanese.

Our *undoukai* (sports day), winter holiday concert and potluck, *mochi tsuki* (rice pounding), and *Sakura Matsuri* choral concert were well-attended by families. We are particularly happy that many of our alumni were able to return for our events. These activities and annual events take a tremendous amount of planning and preparation. Our Education Team and parent volunteers put in many hours of hard work to make it all happen. We try to say it at the time, but we would like to say again to our staff and volunteers: Thank you for all you do to make Keisho Center the great place it is. We look forward to seeing everyone at our end-of-school-year celebration, performances, and potluck on June 9th.



We are especially proud of our *seitokai* (student government) for raising funds this year to support activities such as the Sakura Matsuri tent. Our tent attracted hundreds of guests which helped spread the word about Keisho to the larger Japanese and Japanese American communities in the D.C. area. For the first time this year, Keisho Center teams competed in the Junior Japan Bowl and earned prizes at each level of competition. Through such outreach efforts, Keisho Center has created strong connections with partner organizations including the Embassy of Japan, the Japan-America Society of Washington, D.C., the Japanese American Citizens League, and Sakura Yochien in Bethesda.

Members of the Keisho Center Education Team and board of directors regularly seek professional development opportunities to enhance their skills in Japanese heritage language education. In 2017-18, staff attended and/or presented at four professional conferences including the Community-Based Heritage Language Schools Conference at American University; the J.LIVE Talk at The George Washington University; the American Association of Teachers of Japanese Conference in D.C.; and UCLA's Third International Conference on Heritage/Community Languages in Los Angeles, California.

Since our founding in 2004, we have grown from 35 students and three classes to over 100 students and eight classes. In all that time and despite rising expenses, Keisho Center has been very conscientious of costs. We are happy to announce that our base tuition for next year will remain the same at \$1,370. We will continue to offer discounts for siblings and those who pay the entire amount at the start of the school year as well as incentives for parents taking the Adult Program. Below is a summary of Keisho Center's operating budget for the 2017-18 school year.

Keisho Center was founded to meet the needs of the community. The board of directors wants to ensure that all families who are invited to enroll, are able to do so. We do not want financial concerns to be a barrier to enrollment. Within our means, we make assistance available to families based on financial need. In general, we use three times the federal poverty rate as a guideline for eligibility, but we also look at extenuating circumstances on a case-by-case basis. Feel free to contact any Keisho Center board member, the Treasurer, or the General Manager for additional information on financial assistance.

For over fifteen years, our community has benefited from the vision and hard work of those that founded and nurtured our Center. The terms of three of Keisho Center's Board Directors – Naohiro Koshiya-sensei, Kelly Richards, and Jeff Schwartz – will be ending in June. Three of our long-time teachers, Mari Hamada-sensei, Yayoi Sato-sensei, and Yumiko Yoshida-sensei, will also not be returning to teach at Keisho in September.

These visionaries saw the need for a venue like Keisho Center where heritage Japanese learners could sustain their love for Japan and explore their multilingual, multicultural identities. We want to express our deepest gratitude to them for their tireless efforts over so many years to help our families sustain their connections to Japanese language and culture. Their collective wisdom and experience will be deeply missed by all of us.



Washington Japanese Heritage Center (Keisho Center)

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We would like to welcome three new Board Directors whose terms will begin this month: Akiko Bentz-sensei, Marc Hitzig, and Shigeo Yoshikawa. Thank you very much for your willingness to serve on our Board of Directors.

Keisho Center continues to grow and change, but our mission remains: to inspire a life-long love for Japanese language and culture in our students. We, the Keisho Center board of directors, are proud of all that Keisho Center has accomplished and how our organization is evolving. We look forward to serving our community, working with our students and families, and continuing to grow and develop. If at any time you have any questions, comments, or suggestions, we encourage you to present them to a board member.

Sincerely,

Keisho Center Board of Directors

Mike Ermarth

Edson Mori

Jeffrey Schwartz

Shoko Hamano

Kelly Richards

John Tobe

Nao Koshiya

Deborah Sauri

Shigeru Tsubakitani



Keisho Center Operating Budget

	2017-18 Actual (Sep-May) + Projected (June-August)
INCOME (in US \$)	Budget
Tuition	128,669
Enrollment Fee	1,008
Grants	10,000
Donations	585
Fundraising	596
Interest	27
Test Fee	31
Textbook/Yearbook Fee	2,256
Miscellaneous Income	468
Subtotal	143,640
EXPENSE (in US \$)	
Payroll	82,754
Rent	29,060
Supplies	5,973
Insurance	4,796
General operating expenses/fees	2,122
Professional Development	805
Advertising	132
Test Fee	702
Textbooks/Yearbooks	2,121
Misc. Expense	4,327
Subtotal	132,792
Surplus	10,847