



The Janet Aiko Sekiguchi Foundation

11308 Treyburn Way · San Diego, California · 92131 · www.janetsekiguchi.org · info@janetsekiguchi.org

Board of Directors

President

Valerie H. Chu

Treasurer & Secretary

Salvador Sanchez

Members at Large

David Hong

Mark Paredes

Eric Weiss

Andrew Wong

Dear friends,

October 2009

Autumn always makes me think of transitions. As kids, it meant going from summer vacation to a new school year; from swimming pools and sunny days to classrooms and cooler weather. This time of year makes me think about Janet, and not just because her birthday fell during this season, on September 13. This would be the time of year when Janet would be going back to school, in pursuit of her great passion of teaching. I wonder about the ideas she might have had for a new school year, and about how she might be planning to decorate her classroom.

I remember she had a poster of a giant calculator and wonder if she pressed its giant buttons to teach kids how to use their own calculators.

As I think about Janet's giant calculator poster and her fondness for math jokes, for me one way to honor her is by supporting the things that she cared about via the Foundation named for her. This year JASF is again supporting as a grantee Judson Bouchard, who shares Janet's commitment to education and inner-city ministry. He let us know that this fall is a time of transition for him as well. After ten years of teaching, Judson will be stepping out of the classroom to become the physical education teacher at Los Angeles Christian School. He writes, "I am excited about this change because I feel I will have more time to devote to discipling the children in a context other than the classroom." He will also be pursuing a Master's in Education in the coming year, and intends to return to classroom teaching next fall.

JASF is in transition as well, in several respects. For the first time, the Foundation will be giving away two \$1,000 grants this year, in accordance with the plan we put together when we created JASF. While our coffers aren't overflowing, we're trusting in faith that we will be able to fundraise enough to meet this goal. To that end, we are soliciting applicants for the other \$1,000 grant. The insert contains more information about the application – we invite you to pass it along to anyone who might be interested in the grant, or apply yourself!

Secondly, we are seeking new vision and insight as we look toward the future of JASF. Where will we be in five or ten years? What are our goals? We invite your input. We are also seeking a new board member for the Foundation. Help shape JASF's next steps with us!

As the air grows crisp and you break out the sweaters and coats, please consider a contribution to JASF in honor of a girl who loved wearing socks and flip flops – even during the wintertime.

Wishing you a productive and fulfilling autumn,

Valerie Hsieh Chu