

JMP OSHIRASE

JAPANESE MAGNET PROGRAM NEWSLETTER FOR RICHMOND ELEMENTARY, MT TABOR MIDDLE AND GRANT HIGH SCHOOL • NOV 2004

Three Cheers for Our Kindergarten Teachers

Marcia Esther

Marcia decided to be a teacher very early. She says that she liked her teachers so much that she knew she wanted to grow up and be a teacher just like them. Marcia's elementary school was in the countryside near Grand Rapids, Michigan where she was born. The school was tiny with only 3 classrooms. She spent 6 years there and by the time she was in 4th grade she was convinced that teaching was the career path for her.

Marcia never wavered in her decision and earned her undergraduate degree in education from Central University in Michigan. She taught in Michigan, Arizona and Wyoming and then moved to Portland to earn a Master's in social work. In Portland she worked as a Child Development Specialist and Elementary School Councilor before returning to teaching.

Marcia has many outside interests. As a child growing up on a farm with turkeys and geese, Marcia would take care of hurt animals. She has always liked animals from the childhood pet duck called 'Quickie' to the dog and 2 cats she has now.

Marcia also has a daughter who is a senior in high school. When she is not teaching, being a mom and looking after her pets, Marcia likes to knit, kayak and watch movies. And if that isn't enough she is also a trained massage therapist! This term Marcia is offering a knitting class to the 4th and 5th graders.

Amy Grover

Amy grew up on the east coast in a small town in Connecticut where her parents still live. She became interested in the Japanese language in kindergarten because her best friend Mie was one half Japanese. Unfortunately, her friend moved to Japan in the 3rd grade but Amy and Mie kept in touch for many years. When Amy was 17 she visited her friend during the summer. After seeing Japan she knew that she wanted to learn to speak Japanese.

After graduating from high school, Amy attended Pomona College in California which has a strong Japanese program. In her junior year she visited Tokyo as an



Marcia Esther (JMP K English) and Amy Grover (JMP K Japanese) toast their 8 year partnership at Richmond in the Japanese Kindergarten playhouse.

Kindergarten Continued...

exchange student. When she finished college, Amy joined JET (Japanese Exchange and Teaching Program) and spent the next 3 years working as an Assistant English Teacher at various schools in Toyama City (one of the places our 5th graders visit).

The three years spent in Japan convinced Amy that she wanted to be a teacher. When she returned to the states, she attended Pacific University in Eugene and earned her Masters in Education. While in Eugene she gained experience in their Japanese Immersion language program. After receiving her teaching certificate Amy substituted in Eugene until she was offered a position at Richmond.

In addition to her teaching, Amy is also a talented artist. In August she had a show at the Cricket Café on Belmont Ave. This exhibition included block prints which she made from the many sketches she had drawn of people while traveling on the subway in Japan during the years she lived there. For the past two years Amy has donated one of her works to the 5th grade auction. Amy brings her love of art into the classroom and encourages the children

to express themselves with many different art projects.

Recently Amy adopted a kitten named Woodstock. At six months old, while very cute, he is incredibly curious and tries to sneak into the strangest places like the dishwasher and refrigerator.

Richmonds Long Standing Team

Marcia has been teaching Kindergarten at Richmond for 11 years and Amy 8 years. They are a strong team and are actually the longest running duo at Richmond.

Marcia's experience in early childhood development and counseling has made her an invaluable staff member. She thinks the program is great and loves to see the kids again in 5th grade when they return to the kindergarten room as book buddies.

Amy delights in watching the children gain Japanese language skills and says that the most rewarding aspect of her job is seeing how the children make an attachment to the language. She says, "Using the language to communicate is so exciting to them."

Thank you both for your commitment to our children.

Our Interns Have Many Interests

Natsuko, the 6th and 7th grade intern, was born in Ishikawa and enjoys skiing, snowboarding and watching movies.

Tatsushi, the 8th grade intern, was born in Tokorozawa, Saitama and plays the guitar and is interested in soccer.

Tomomi, the 4th grade intern, was born in Fukui, Japan. She likes to snowboard, ski and travel.

Megumi, the kindergarten intern, was born in Osaka and likes to play the drums, HIPHOP dancing, drawing and photography.

Michiko, the 2nd grade intern, was born in Kagoshima but grew up in Kumamoto. She likes to be with her friends, go on trips and make jewelry.

Next issue – Interns for grades 1, 3, and 5.



Front row from left: Natsuko Nabeshima, Tatsushi Imuta Back row from left: Tomomi Hanashima, Megumi Minami, Michiko Sato

Oya No Kai website: www.oyanokai.org
P.O. Box 14392
Portland, Oregon 97293

Oya No Kai President, Denise VanLeuven

Richmond JMP, Deanne Balzer: 916-5325
Mt. Tabor JMP,
Grant High JMP, Kazuko Page: 916-5160

Community Based Language Learning at Grant High School

By David Jacobsen

Although the JMP at Grant High School has already graduated a few classes of seniors, the program has been evolving over the past few years. Beginning this year, incoming freshmen will be participating in the Community Based Language Learning project as part of their course work. Spearheaded by Michael Bacon, the District's Immersion Program Coordinator, the C.B.L.L. will become the foundation of Japanese immersion education at the high school level. In addition to continued classroom study, high school students in the program will work towards elective high school credit (a minimum of 130 hours) by completing outside language activities. Students will use their language and cultural skills in a variety of situations, such as attending lectures, community events, and courses; tutoring in Japanese; and interning for a Japanese company.

This elective credit is the most significant change in the high school immersion program since its inception. Freshman students have received the Basic Statement of Understanding, which includes the following study calendar:

1. Freshman Year - Parent/Student meetings, successful completion of

immersion course work, participation in a minimum of 32.5 hours and maximum of 65 hours of documented C.B.L.L. activities, passing of C.B.L.L. oral and written presentations.

2. Sophomore Year - Successful completion of immersion course work, participation in a minimum of 32.5 hours and maximum of 65 hours of documented C.B.L.L. activities, passing of C.B.L.L. oral and written presentations.

3. Junior Year - Successful completion of immersion course work, participation in a minimum of 32.5 hours and a maximum of 65 hours of documented C.B.L.L. activities, passing of C.B.L.L. oral and written presentations.

4. Senior Year - Successful completion of immersion course work, successful completion of four-year minimum requirement of 130 hours of documented C.B.L.L. activities by end of the first semester, passing of C.B.L.L. oral and written presentations, successful completion of Senior Capstone Project.

Just as the fifth grade and the eighth grade trips are quintessential language opportunities at the elementary and middle school levels, the C.B.L.L. will help increase the depth and breadth of the high school students' immersion experience, moving them from the artificial abstraction of the classroom to real life situations.

On Tuesday November 16th, Oya No Kai held a general meeting at Grant High School in the library. Kate Nelson, Grant's School To Work Coordinator, Kayoko Kasai, Grant Japanese teacher, and Michael Bacon discussed the program and how the JMP community can support the C.B.L.L.

JMP Around Town

Look for pictures of our JMP community throughout the newsletter.



Miss Meier (JMP 1st) and Hello Kitty at the Japanese Festival.

The JMP Oshirase is published bi-monthly by Oya No Kai, Inc. You may e-mail your submissions to editor or deliver to Richmond Oya No Kai box or Mr. Musashino's room at Mt. Tabor by the 25th of each month.

All disks and photos will be returned. Include a hard copy and file name with your PC or Mac disk, to the attention of:

Allison Kaye, phone: 503-235-0775
or e-mail: rob_n_alli_kaye@msn.com

Layout by Nicole Forsi



A Visit from our Friends from Katoh

Katoh buddies

Recently, 7 Katoh students visited and stayed with Richmond JMP families for a week. These students had hosted last year's 5th graders when they visited Japan. Oya No Kai sponsored a roller skating party for all the host families and the Katoh kids at Oaks park. Over 70 people attended and all the kids had fun.

Our Katoh exchange buddies also prepared short individual presentations (2-3 minutes each) to share with the Richmond students. These included: Japanese Money (Yen); Japanese Castles; Japanese Traditional sports ie. Sumo, Judo; Japanese Baseball; Olympics; Japanese Flute (shino-bue) and Ghibli--the Japanese Movie company with animation focus that produced Spirited Away etc. You can see the visuals for the projects in the 2nd floor hallway.

Read below to see what fun two of the students and their host families had during their visit.



Yuka

Yuka is great! She's very polite, helpful and willing to try anything. She went to soccer practice with Stephanie and had a great time. Luckily she likes pizza. She had some Sunday night, Wednesday night at the Auction pizza party, will have some Friday night at a Halloween pizza party and again on Saturday night in Medford where we will be with Stephanie's soccer team for a game on Sunday. She has easily become one of the family.

Linda Nakamine

Shuhe

We were thrilled to have Shuhe Nomura join our family for the week. Attached is a photo of him dancing "the chicken dance" at a wedding reception along with our children Rachel and Ross Seeman. Shuhe spoke English well, was not afraid to try new experiences, and fit in very well with our boisterous young fifth grade American boy. For example, Shuhe's favorite subject in school is "recess". His favorite activities included carving pumpkins, visiting the aquatic park, and we expect that tomorrow will top it all with "trick or treating" on Halloween (since he loves candy).

Dan & Tosh Seeman



NEWS FLASH!

Look for the next issue of Oshirase at www.oyanokai.org.
You can read it online or print it out!



JMP Auction Date Set

Mark your calendars for Saturday, April 9, 2005 for the annual JMP auction. We will be moving to a new location this year - the Portland Expo Center - which will afford ample space to spread out. Envision an elegant evening, gourmet appetizers and dinner, sipping wine while listening to fabulous music and bidding on unique auction items. All without bumping into the person next to you!

As we do every year, the Auction Committee is asking all Oya No Kai families to help with procurement. We need donations of services, certificates to restaurants and stores, vacation homes, kids items, and anything else you can think of.

Be creative - do you know an artist who could provide unique items or a class, a group of teenagers who could provide babysitting services, a neighbor who owns a landscaping company? As you do your holiday shopping, ask for a donation from the vendors you patronize.

For more information, please contact Kari Lubitz, Chair, 503-246-7524; Sally Mays, Procurement, 503-281-9790; Tosh Seeman, Volunteer Coordinator, 503-251-2211; Glenn Montgomery, Ticket Sales, 503-890-7146. Ticket sales will begin in January. The auction benefits the Oya No Kai general fund, the intern program, and the fifth grade trip to Japan.

Chinook Books - Available from the 8th graders Have we got a deal for you!

The Ministry of Fund Raising: Karsten Jensen, Charlotte Clifford-Scheer, Kamila Bennett, Spencer Antonevich & Mac Mawson

8th Grade JMP students planning to participate in the Research Residency are selling Chinook Books to help pay for their trip to Japan next May. On this journey students will do their own first-hand research using the language and cultural skills they have developed over their eight plus years in the JMP. Upon their return they will complete and present their findings in their 8th grade capstone project. Getting to that end involves many steps, including fund raising. Chinook Books is where we hope to start.

The Chinook Book is "The Coupon Book for Healthy Living" - your guide to conscious shopping throughout Portland, containing information and discounts on products and services having significantly reduced environmental impacts--including food, entertainment, household items and transportation." For more information check out www.chinookbook.net.

Chinook Books sell for \$20. You can save many times that much with each book you buy. Plus, you are supporting local businesses while saving money!

--You can save more than the cost of the book just by using the coupons for coffee.

--You can save \$10 at Wild Oats and \$10 at Whole Foods and \$15 at Zupan's

--There are two all-day Tri-Met passes right in the book, which is worth \$8 right there.

--There are two-for-one (buy one, get one free) coupons for Artists Repertory Theater, Portland Center Stage, Portland Classical Chinese Garden, Portland Japanese Garden, Laurelhurst Theater, Oregon Children's Theater, Ben & Jerry's, and several restaurants, as well as discounts at various museums and other local attractions.

-- 15% off at Grand Central Bakery, \$5 off at the Portland Farmers Market.

--Other coupons offer discounts on supplies for the yard and garden, running shoes, bicycle equipment and recreation gear, yoga and fitness studios, products for the home, including clothing and gifts, and home improvement supplies such as paint and building materials.

The book has over \$5000 in coupon value. It is a deal. They also make GREAT GIFTS.

Please help make this a successful fundraiser by buying and/or selling a book or two...or three. Talk to your friends and co-workers about the fundraiser and show them the Chinook Book. Thanks for your participation in this effort. Please do not hesitate to call if you have any questions. Our numbers are in the JMP directory.

Setsubun in First Grade - An Exciting Japanese Celebration

By Sumiko Uchida



In the first grade Japanese curriculum, we have several cultural themes. For example we celebrate New Year, Setsubun, Hinamatsuri, Children's Day, and so on.

We will integrate these cultural themes with many of the content areas, for example, Math, Social Studies, Language Art, Music and art. I am hoping that the students not only learn each cultural event but gain an appreciation of the different culture.

One exciting Japanese cultural celebration is "Setsubun" which is usually on February 3rd in Japan.

Setsubun represents the symbolic division between winter and spring in the Japanese old calendar. The most popular way to celebrate is called "mamemaki". People act out mamemaki in various places, like school, office, house, and so on. In a typical Japanese family, the father or an older brother usually runs around the house wearing

an Oni (ogre) mask, acting the part. The rest of the members of the family scatter the soy beans at them saying "Oni wa soto, Fuku wa uchi," which means happiness come in, bad luck go away. After we finish the activity, we eat roasted soy beans one more than our own age. We wish for our health and happiness for the coming spring while we eat the beans.

In the first grade, we create Oni masks, sing oni songs, and listen to stories with the oni character. We do a survey of who likes oni or not and create a graph as one of the Math activities.

We do "mamemaki" outside with the upper grade students using bird seed instead of soybeans. We eat soybeans while wishing for happiness and a healthy year.



Niigata Earthquake concerns Richmond students

Richmond students were sad to hear about the difficulties that many Japanese people have experienced during the recent earthquakes Northwest of Tokyo. Student Council voted to send \$100.00 as an expression of sympathy and a desire to help. Classrooms are also writing letters and drawing pictures to share with students in the affected area. One of the cities is familiar to Richmond families. Mitsuke had hosted several of our previous 5th grade students on summer trips. The fire station that many students visited has assisted with rescue and recovery efforts. Mitsuke school has served as a shelter to many of those that can not go home to more unstable areas nearby. Here is a web site with pictures that help us understand more of what has been going on:

http://www.sankei.co.jp/databox/eq_niigata/photos.html



*JMP Soccer Teams score big!
These teams are made up solely by JMP students.*

*LEFT First grade team named Daruma
RIGHT Third grade team named Raptors*



Warm Food for Cold Nights: Japanese Oden

Winter is the best season to eat Oden in Japan. Oden is a kind of Japanese stew, which includes fish cakes, boiled eggs, daikon radish, konnyaku (yam cake), and more. Various ingredients are simmered in a kelp-based stock for several hours. Japanese families often cook Oden at home in winter. Oden is usually cooked in a big pot on the table. It is fun and warming to eat Oden around the table with others.

A Recipe for Japanese Oden Contributed by Sayuri Moore (Makes 4-6 servings)

Soup Stock

10 cups water
1 piece of dried kombu (kelp) about 3-4 inches long
3 Tbsp katsuobushi
1/2 cup soy sauce
2 tsp salt

Oden

6 dried shitake mushrooms
1 block konnyaku yam cake
1 med daikon radish
8 small new potatoes
4 hard boiled eggs
3-4 different kinds of fish cake
1 cake hanpen
1 large piece of softened kombu (from making soup stock)
Japanese mustard to serve

To make soup stock:

1. Gently wipe the kombu with a damp cloth, removing any white salt deposits.
2. In a large cooking pot, place kombu and water together. Boil about 10 minutes.
3. Remove the kombu and set aside (do not discard).
4. Add katsuobushi, soy sauce and salt.
5. Set aside.

To make Oden:

1. Soak the shitake mushrooms in warm water and leave until soft.
2. Cut the konnyaku into eight triangles and cook them in boiling water. Simmer about 5 minutes. Remove and rinse in cold water.
3. Cut the daikon into 3/4 in. thick round pieces (about 5-6 slices). Peel away the outer skin.
4. Peel the potatoes and put them into cold water.
5. Peel the hard boiled eggs and keep whole.
6. Cut hanpen into triangles.
7. Cut the reserved and softened kombu into thick strips. Tie each strip into a loose knot.
8. Remove the softened shitake mushrooms (keep the soaking water) from the soaking water and cut off the stems. Strain the soaking water to get rid of any dirt particles and add it to the soup stock.
9. Place all the solid ingredients except hanpen into the soup stock.
10. Simmer one or two hours, making sure the liquid doesn't reduce to less than half.
11. Place hanpen in soup 15 minutes prior to serving.
12. Serve in large bowls with a good dab of mustard and some of the stock.



Yoshiko Kamata organized a group to dance at the Japanese Festival held in September at Uwajimaya in Beaverton.

2004-2005
OyaNoKai
Board Members

President:
Denise

VanLeuven
denisev@speakeasy.com

Vice President:
Monica Mueller
monica-mueller@
hotmail.com

Treasurer:
Sharon Ivey
sharonivey1@msn.com

Secretary:
Maripat Hensel
henselm@comcast.net

Members:
Sandra Green
midorigrp@comcast.net

David Jacobsen
jacorakis@msn.com

Allison Kaye
rob_n_alli_kaye@
msn.com

Leslie Kowash
lkowash@juno.com

Meg
Matsushima
megmatsushima@
comcast.net

Stephanie Price
stephanieprice@dwt.com

Kathy Reed-
Dustin
charlesdustin503@
aol.com

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Calendar

NOVEMBER

25th-26th

Thanksgiving Holiday
No School

26th-28th

*Concession opportunity at the
Christmas Bazaar

DECEMBER

4th-5th

*Concession opportunity at the
Christmas Bazaar

20th-31st

Winter Break

JANUARY

3rd Back to School!

17th NO SCHOOL

MLK Jr. Day

20th Oya No Kai General Meeting

Intern Event at Richmond
7pm ALL WELCOME!

31st NO SCHOOL

Teacher Planning Day

FEBRUARY

11th-13th

*Concession opportunity at the
Sportsman Show

21st NO SCHOOL

President's Day

26th-27th

*Concession opportunity at the
Home and Garden Show

*Contact Monica Mueller at
monica_mueller@hotmail.com or
503-287-8677 to sign up for
concessions.

SCRIP Order Dates 2004-05

Orders are due at Richmond by 8:45 on order Tuesdays. Mt. Tabor orders due by 3:45 pm Monday before order day. Scrip pickups are Friday afternoons, with one exception. Pick Scrip up in front of the Richmond Office 2:45-3:15pm. By pre-arrangement, Team Captains can pick up your order. Contact Leslie Kowash for questions lkowash@juno.com or 503-235-5513. (Bold dates are standing order days)

Order Day

Tuesday November 30
Tuesday December 14
Tuesday January 4
Tuesday January 18
Tuesday February 1
Tuesday February 15

Pick-up Day

Friday December 3
Friday December 17
Friday January 7
Friday January 21
Friday February 4
Friday February 18



ABOVE Abby VanLeuven and Midori Samson, Members of Portland Youth Conservatory Orchestra played their first concert this year on November 19th at Jackson Middle School.

BELOW Recently a group from Mt. Tabor JMP called The Ready played at the Memorial Coliseum. The event, sponsored by the City Arts was attended by Mayor Katz. The members of the band from the left are Quinsi Newell on bass (8th grade JMP at Mt. Tabor), Eugenia Jacobsen on drums (8th grade JMP at Mt. Tabor), Una Rose on lead guitar (5th grade, non-JMP), and Shannon Schober on keyboard (7th grade JMP- home-schooled this year).



OYA NO KAI, INC.

P.O. Box 14392
Portland, OR 97293