

# Oya No Kai

Winter-Spring 2006

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

# oshirase

## A New Team at Richmond



JOSHUA ZELLER, our new 5th grade teacher hales from Homer, Alaska, 'where the road ends and the sea begins'. Homer, a small town of 4,000, is approximately 225 miles south of Anchorage. He spent his early years there fishing and growing up in the fresh air. However, in his senior year of high school he moved to Berkeley, CA to live with his uncle. After that he stayed in California, only returning to Alaska in the summers to work as a commercial fisherman. On graduating from high school, Mr. Zeller attended UC Davis earning a

Bachelor's Degree in Human Development. He worked for awhile in an Outdoor School before taking a summer off to visit New York City.

It must have been fate that took him to New York, as one day at the top of the World Trade Center he met Meaghan, his future wife. So Mr. Zeller lingered in New York working as a photographer's assistant. Eventually, both he and Meaghan agreed that the west coast suited them better and they returned to California. In San Francisco, Mr. Zeller began a teaching licensure program at San Francisco State while teaching High School.

In 2002, he graduated and moved to Portland, first teaching math in an alternative school and then ESL in a Charter School. During this time his son, Jonah, was born. In the spring of 2003, Mr. Zeller began working at Gregory Heights Middle School. The next fall he was transferred to George Middle School where he taught 6th, 7th and 8th grade in the Puentes (Bridges) program. Last July his second son Marley was born. Following that happy event, in the fall he moved to Richmond and we are certainly happy about that!

Coming from such a beautiful state, it isn't surprising to learn that Mr. Zeller is interested in the environment. While living in California he was a Docent for Elephant Seals at Point Reyes where he took people on tours of the seal's environment. This year at Richmond, Mr. Zeller has encouraged the children to write nature Haikus. Each student in his class is also currently designing a billboard to send to Metro, who is hosting a competition for a new design.

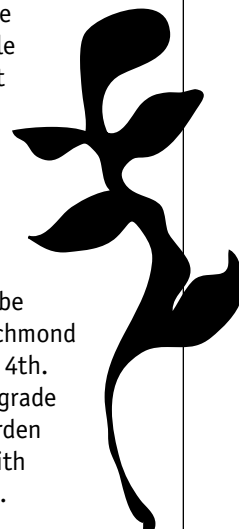
Minori Fukushima, is now in her 5th year at Richmond. Fukushima Sensei is from Chigasaki-city, a famous beach town. Chigasaki-city is located an hour south of Tokyo, and has a population of 220,000. Fukushima Sensei's favorite subject during high school was English. After graduating from an all girl high school, she spent a year at an English Language school preparing to study in the USA. She started at Centralia Community College and then transferred to OSU where she studied Psychology. Upon graduating she returned to Japan, but returned after 6 months to study for her teaching degree at Pacific University.

*continued on back cover*

## UPDATE ON FUNDRAISERS

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Spring Plant Sale

Mark your calendars for the annual plant sale. The proceeds from this sale go to help the current 3rd grade class defray the costs for their Japan trip in 2 years. Order forms are available from March 13th to April 3rd. Forms can be dropped off at the Richmond office. Pickup is May 4th. Help support the 3rd grade class and get your garden off to a great start with some beautiful plants.



### See you at the Auction! March 10th

There are so many reasons to attend the auction. Come to have an awesome evening with friends or because there are so many great things to buy. We need everyone to make the auction a success.

There is still time to buy tickets! Go to the Oya No Kai website; [oyanokai.org](http://oyanokai.org) or Call Barbara Neidig at 503-286-4018 or Just drop off payment at the school office



Tickets are \$45 (includes dinner)  
The auction is being held at the Multnomah Athletic Club  
Doors open , Silent Auction 5:30-7:30pm  
Dinner at 7:45pm  
Live Auction and Entertainment 8:00 to 10:30pm  
Free parking at MAC garage

## Reunion for the first JMP graduating class

by Lisa Joan Crossler Miller (mother of Natalie Miller)

Over the holidays we hosted a party for the pioneer class of the JMP. Now age 21 or 22 many of them are college seniors. It was so wonderful to catch up with them again and hear what they are doing and what adventures they have had



Students celebrating in the picture are left to right back row first: Nick Speece, Amber Wootan, John Tomlinson, Brendan Robeck, Jill Winger, Taylor Hall Michael Bacon, Justin Byrne, Brittany Holman, Kyoko Acock, Lauren cave, Matt Chaney, Kagan Young, Michael Caceras, Kimilia Kent, Kate Meeker, Natalie Miller, Sachi Diegel, Molly Moriarty, Dana Pfaffle, Lynn Yarne, (Missing from the photo but in attendance: Maya Rowlands and Niko Gibson Cairns)

since they graduated from high school. We had twenty one former JMP students attend, along with Michael Bacon. Many of the parents came as well and it took only minutes to feel like old friends and family again although for many of us we had not seen each other for four years. It is hard to believe that we have known these kids since they were five years old! One former student, Kate Meeker is doing her senior thesis on immersion programs. She was busy getting emails of everyone to help in her research. I overheard one guy comment that they may not see each other often, but that they would always be there for each other and always be family. A couple of the kids are planning to become teachers and Michael Sensei was pleased to hear that. It was such a fun evening and we are so proud of these great kids.

Oya No Kai, Inc., in a continuing effort to support Japanese cultural activities announces:

### THE 1ST ANNUAL JMP SPRING FESTIVAL

Mark your calendars for Saturday, April 22 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. when Richmond Elementary School will be transformed into a bustling festival site. While still in development, this fun packed afternoon it will feature hands-on activities like Gyotaku (fish printing), Ikebana, Sumi-e, & fish catching; entertainment such as Japanese traditional dance, Taiko, Sumo wrestling and Koto; a variety of sweet and savory foods from local restaurants; and community vendor exhibits! We are also working on an evening Benefit Concert to be held at Grant High with a nationally known performer.

Our hope is that the festival will capture the excitement of spring while bringing together all ages of the JMP community K to 12th grades and alumni. We have also included our Richmond neighborhood and city-wide Japanese community members in the fun in order to bring further attention to our outstanding program and strengthen the JMP's ties to the rich network of Japanese organizations and resources in Portland.

Festival proceeds will enable Oya No Kai to continue supporting the Native Speaking Intern program (\*preK-12), 5th and 8th grade cultural exchanges, Japanese art classes, and the homework club among other educational enrichment opportunities.

More about the Spring Festival will follow as the event (and dryer weather) draws closer. But why wait? Join the fun NOW and help make the festival the "must go" event of the year. All levels of volunteerism are welcome. We need your enthusiasm and creative spirit.

Domo Arigato,

To volunteer or get more information about the Spring Festival, please contact:

Meg Matsushima at (503) 335-7777 megmatsushima@comcast.net or

Kim Tanada at (503) 804-9991 ktanada@comcast.net

\*Starting in the fall of 2006 the JMP will be the first PPS language immersion program to offer language immersion from Pre-kindergarten to 12th grade.



### Thanks Connie

Connie Cho has been designing our t-shirts since 1991. The first one featured a red crane (pictured) on a purple shirt. At that time her daughter, Shanti, was in 1<sup>st</sup> grade. Connie says that the day she came to pick up her t-shirt order (and her daughter) at Richmond, apparently the shirts had been distributed in the classrooms. As she approached the school, the bell rang and JMP children came pouring out the front door already wearing their new shirts. She says she will never forget the thrill it was to see all those little purple and red shirts!

Shanti is now a junior at the University of Oregon, but Connie continues to enjoy designing the shirts since she loves Japanese art. Another one of her wonderful designs, a Japanese Koi, can be seen on our new four square balls.

Connie is a freelance graphic designer who has worked with organizations all over Portland including OHSU, Portland Taiko and the Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center. She works from home with the help of her office staff, Garcia and Chibi-chan, her pet cats. When Connie isn't designing, she enjoys the twin pleasures of food and art and every 2 years she treats Shanti and herself to a trip to France. Last fall they traveled to Nice on the Mediterranean coast and sported the best in American fashion wear (see photo). Thanks for the free publicity Connie and for all the fantastic designs.



## Making New Friends and Reuniting with Old Friends

by Sandra Green

Every fall we are fortunate to have two of our sister schools in Japan visit us in Portland. Fukuno Junior High School visits Mt. Tabor Middle School, and Katoh School in Numazu visits Richmond School.

This year the Katoh School sent 34 students and 6 teachers for a 10 day stay in Portland. Seven 5th grade students homestay with Richmond families, and the other Katoh students homestay with families from the Beaverton School district. Kristi Fukunaga, a Richmond 5th grade student, and her family hosted Yuka from Numazu. She says, "I think it was a great opportunity for all of us kids to have them come over and get together for a few days and become great friends. I hated seeing our new friends leave us in the U.S. and not being able to be together. I was really excited to hear that Yuka and I could be homestay partners this summer. Now I am really, really, really excited to see Yuka and all the rest of the students in Numazu and experience what life is like in Numazu." This summer as part of the 5th grade cultural exchange fifteen of the Richmond students will travel to Numazu and homestay and attend school with many of the Katoh school students that they met in October. The class will all visit and homestay with families from Fukuno Elementary School.

Sixteen Fukuno Junior High 8th graders and 4 teachers spent a week attending Mt. Tabor Middle School and homestay with 8th grade JMP families. Alisha Green, a freshman at Grant, and her family were able to host a student from Fukuno whose family hosted Alisha four years ago during her 5th grade cultural exchange. "It was a lot of fun to see Yuka again after four years. I was glad that I could show her around my school and city like she did when I visited her. We had kept in touch by letters and mostly e-mail, so it was very exciting to see her again. We are hoping to meet again in the near future." Many of the JMP students reunited with students from Numazu, and although it was a short visit many long lasting friendships were formed.

Both groups were able to experience how America celebrates Halloween. They loved dressing up in costumes and going trick or treating. I'm sure it was an experience that they will never forget. They all left early on the morning after Halloween with a big carry on bag full of Halloween candy.



## JMP Alumni Update

Jake Spears, Class of 2004

JMP alumnus (class of 2004), Jake Spears, has had a busy year. As an avid musician and guitarist, Jake is inspired by Queen, Pink Floyd, and a wide range of musical talents including Johnny Cash and Paul McCartney. Jake believes music should be fun, definitely not corporately orchestrated, and provide a bit more inspiration than that currently being mass produced. Jake has developed quite an eclectic music taste and thoroughly loves the entire creative process and hopes to bring a new, real, sense to music in the Pacific Northwest. Jake enjoys classical as well as Spanish guitar and looks forward to a career in forming the music scene of the future. Currently, Jake is working his way through college at PCC (plans to transfer to PSU in the fall). His love of music has helped his rock band, Quaker Gun, gain quite a following and the band has played venues such as Satyricon, Loveland, and the Hawthorne Theater. The band's self-titled CD is due to be released on Sunday, February 5th, 7:00-10pm, at Mississippi Pizza, on 3552 North Mississippi Avenue.

They're not quite The Beatles meet Weezer in a back alley, but they're close. Come see for yourself and have some fun. Check out the band's web site for a sampling of the music and upcoming show dates: [www.quakergun.com](http://www.quakergun.com)



## Wanted: Host Families

### This Spring!

There will be 11 more interns joining our Japanese Magnet Program this spring.

Traditionally, interns arrive in September and stay for the school year. This will be changing to a school year based on the Japanese school system. There are many benefits in changing to match the Japanese school year. For example, it is easier to attract educated interns to help our program for an entire year. These same interns would also return in September, allowing teachers to concentrate on the new students and curriculum during the challenging days of a new year.

In order to support this system, **WE NEED 11 HOST FAMILIES** (1 for pre-k, 2 for K, 5 for 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>, 2 for Mt T MS and 1 for Grant HS), in addition to the homes provided to our current interns.

### PLEASE CONSIDER HAVING AN INTERN FOR 4 MONTHS.

Hosting an intern is very good way to support our school and JMP program. An intern could be a wonderful addition to your family. Your child/children will benefit from having a native Japanese speaker at home from linguistic and cultural aspects. Many host families find themselves establishing life long friendships with their interns, some even visiting them in Japan! All in all, well worth adding a temporary family member.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Deanne or Masako for Richmond, Sandra Green for Mt Tabor and Liz Evans for Grant High School.

### Deanne Balzer, Sandra Green

Japanese Resource Teacher  
Mt. Tabor intern hosting contact  
503-916-6120 / 503-282-8304  
[dbalzer@pps.k12.or.us](mailto:dbalzer@pps.k12.or.us) or [midorigrp@comcast.net](mailto:midorigrp@comcast.net)

### Masako Wieber, Liz Evans

Oya No Kai intern support  
Grant HS intern hosting contact  
503-281-0956 / 503-287-5136  
[masako.w@comcast.net](mailto:masako.w@comcast.net) or [runyan@easystreet.com](mailto:runyan@easystreet.com)



Monica Mueller and Alison Akiko helped visitors make Kimono Doll bookmarks this year at Mochitsuki. Look out for more pictures in the next issue.

## What an Honor

by Catherine Malone, 2nd grade parent

Last month, I had the distinct honor of accompanying Kathryn Anderson and PPS Interim Area Director Barbara Adams to our nation's capital to accept on behalf of the Japanese Magnet Program at Richmond Elementary the Goldman Sachs 2005 Award for Excellence in International Education. It's hard to describe the pride I felt discussing the dedication of the talented Richmond staff and the remarkable achievements of the students.

This year marks the three year partnership between Goldman Sachs Foundation and the Asia Society who have come together to acknowledge, promote, and support language education with the guiding motto "Putting the World into World-Class Education".

The highlight of the three day conference on "Educating Leaders for a Global Society" was the award ceremony. Keynote Speaker Tracy R. Wolstencroft, Managing Director, Goldman, Sachs & Co., gave a personal and inspirational talk about relocating his family, which included two young children at the time, to Japan and then China when he was assigned to the Goldman Sachs headquarters in those countries. He eloquently spoke of the enormous benefit for his now multilingual high school children and his belief that international education is "not a luxury but a necessity" if we are to adequately prepare our children for the new global society. Mr. Wolstencroft was followed by Stephanie K. Bell-Rose, President of The Goldman Sachs Foundation, Vishakha N. Desai, President of the Asia Society, and James B. Hunt, Jr., former Governor of North Carolina and Co-Chair of the National Coalition on Asia and International Studies in the Schools.

The Award for Elementary Education was presented first. Charlotte K. Frank, Senior Vice President of McGraw Hill, gave a synopsis of the JMP's award winning qualities and then invited the three of us up to the dais. This year rather than simply presenting the award, the committee decided to ask each recipient a question in order to further inform the several hundred educators

from across the county who were in the audience. Our question was basically, "How did you do it?" Kathryn provided a history of the program, spoke to the curriculum, cohesive teaching teams, native interns, extra-curricular offerings, strength of community partnerships, and dedication of support organizations. I discussed Oya No Kai's role in supporting cultural experiences, fund raising for the cultural exchange and interns, and staffing the docent program for prospective parents. Barbara spoke to the importance of having a school board

and district office that valued and supported immersion learning. We were escorted back to our table by a round of riotous applause.

We also had the honor of being seated with the Head of Education at the Japanese Embassy. He was quite impressed with the work being done at Richmond, asked many questions of Kathryn and expressed a curiosity about how Richmond was successfully drawing students to the program. A special thank you to everyone who makes this program the award winner it is!

## Richmond Elementary School receives Goldman Sachs award for excellence!

Richmond is the only recipient, out of 400 elementary schools nationwide, of a national award for excellence in international education. The award, from the **Goldman Sachs Foundation**, comes with a \$25,000 prize. Way to go, JMP! Read more about the award in the *Portland Tribune* article from November 18, 2005 and about the principal's trip to receive the award directly at [www.oyanokai.org](http://www.oyanokai.org)

Richmond welcomed some special guests, including Akio Egawa, Japanese Consul-General to Portland, to a special assembly honoring the school for its achievement.



## Fifth Grade Teachers

*continued from page 1*

Before coming to Richmond, Minori Sensei volunteered at the Yujin Gakuen Japanese Immersion program in Eugene. At Yujin Gakuen, she spent about 4 months helping 2nd graders. At Pacific University, she did her student teaching with Kamata Sensei, in the 4th grade. After graduation, Fukushima Sensei stepped in to teach 4th grade for a year before settling into 5th grade where she has now taught for 4 years.

Fukushima Sensei has a lot of energy and is very active both in school and out. Outside of school she likes to hike, play tennis and go snowshoeing. Of her students she says that it is amazing how much language they can acquire and produce. She likes teaching the older children because they can do so much and most importantly, they understand her jokes! She thinks that the homework club is a great asset for Richmond students and a great opportunity for the high school students.

Both Mr. Zeller and Minori Sensei have expressed how lucky they feel to be at Richmond. Both teachers enjoy the school atmosphere, staff, children and parents and hope that the team can stay together for many years to come.

Oya No Kai Oshirase is published 5 times a year by Oya No Kai, Inc. Please contact Allison Kaye, phone 503-235-0775 or e-mail: [rob\\_n\\_alli\\_kaye@msn.com](mailto:rob_n_alli_kaye@msn.com) or mail to Oya No Kai, P.O. Box 144392, Portland, OR 97293 if you have a submission.  
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