



*Alicia learns how to do art Japanese style.*



*Katie Capell and her international friend enjoyed touring the National Park Visitor Center.*



*Japanese students spend the day teaching some of our senior citizens how to work an abacus.*

## JUNIOR AMBASSADORS BRIDGING THE CULTURAL GAP FROM MUTSU TO PORT ANGELES

On January 7, ten students from Mutsu, Japan arrived in Port Angeles to learn about American education, customs, and home life through the middle school Junior Ambassador Program. This visit is one of the highlights of the year for the middle school students at Stevens and Roosevelt as they open their homes, welcome them in class, and tour them around the community.

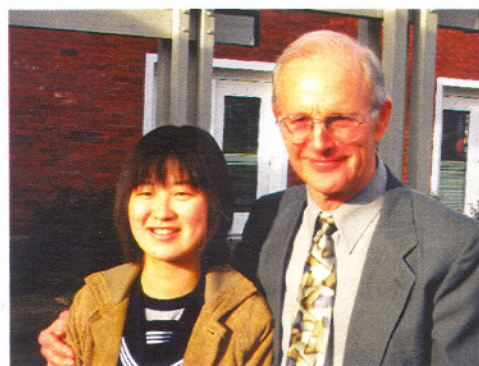
During their stay the Mutsu students put on a cultural demonstration for 125 students at each school, attended classes with their host student, shopped in local stores, visited with the Mayor and City Manager, toured the Olympic Game Farm, and visited the National Park Visitor Center. In five short days the Mutsu Junior Ambassadors were able to share their culture and interact with over 300 students from Stevens and Roosevelt.

This is the eighth year students from Mutsu have visited Port Angeles and touched the lives of so many students. Through the Junior Ambassador program, Port Angeles middle school students have an opportunity to learn about the Japanese culture.

Katie Capell one of the 8th grade students from Stevens who had the opportunity to be a host commented that "even though we looked very different on the outside, we were really the same on the inside. We both learned that we can get around language barriers if we were willing to cooperate and willing to try to understand each other. After spending time together I realized that we were more alike than we were different. I wish everyone could get the chance to host. It was a fun experience."

Amanda Northern, one of the 7th grade host students from Stevens declared that "in the beginning the Japanese students were shy and then I discovered that they were just like us! I learned a lot about their culture and even how to write my name in Japanese. I learned that it is part of their culture to give special gifts. One of the gifts that I gave her was Easy Cheesy. She was really shocked that we had cheese that could squirt out of a can. She giggled over that."

The end of the visit was celebrated by a dinner and program at Stevens Middle School. Students, parents, friends, and family all joined together to say goodbye to their new international friends.



*Our international friends got to meet the Mayor.*

Article and pictures:  
Monique Flickinger

*Our Vision: All Port Angeles School District students will reach high standards and graduate prepared with knowledge, skills and abilities to choose a successful future.*

## Good News About Students

The Port Angeles High School Drafting VICA Club competed for the first time in the regional Drafting competition Thursday, with other students from Olympic High School, Central Kitsap High School and West Sound Technical School. The results for our Port Angeles students in medal competition were:

CAD Technical:  
Noah Smith 2nd

Architecture Combination:  
Dan Horton 2nd

Architecture CAD:  
Adam Pazan 1st  
Drew Orr 2nd  
Kevin Bond 3rd

These students will be invited to participate in the State VICA Drafting Competition in Tacoma this April. Also competing at Regionals and performing well were Dane Caldwell, Donovan Windeborn, Cari Stricker, and Justin Williamson. They may be invited to compete at State, too. Congratulations to these students!

## Working with Special Needs Children

My love of working with children is the main reason I work in a school environment. Yet, I realize I am sometimes hesitant to interact beyond the cordial "Good Morning" or a similar greeting when I encounter children with special needs. My hesitancy, I decided, came from my not knowing how to act or react with them.



This past school year I received a very special gift. As part of his educational process, one of the youngest boys in the autistic class was sent to the office on a daily basis to retrieve the mail for his teacher. When I took time to pay close attention to him and how important his "job" was to him, I began to feel a bond with him. In hindsight, I realize that is when he began to trust me. Each day, we would follow the same routine with the same steps to the mailbox and the same dialogue in the process. We repeated this process day after day, and one day I realized that I was no longer hesitant to be in his company. In fact, I was eager for his daily appearance. Eventually, the two of us took a few steps beyond the "normal routine." I can guarantee you they were steps right into my heart. I urge you to seize any opportunity to interact with special needs kids. They are truly very special indeed.

-The In Box

*"There is only one corner of the universe  
you can be certain of improving,  
and that's your own self."*

-Aldous Huxley

## Board Briefs—January 26, 2004

- The board met at 7:00 p.m. in the Jefferson Library.
- Minutes of the January 12 regular board meeting and the special board meetings on January 13/14 were approved.
- The resignation of **Shirley "Dorinda" Finke** (school psychologist) was accepted.
- Vouchers and budget reports were approved.
- MLK assembly presentation
- **Roger Easling**, project manager, reports he will meet with Roosevelt staff this week to review options for the commons/gym design. The Stevens Music Building re-design will be bid next month. Planning for Phase II of the NOPSC has begun, discussions with the architect are underway.
- In a PowerPoint presentation, **Robert Worthy**, food services supervisor, provided a brief update on several areas of food services. Over the last two years, programs have reached new levels of participation and revenue.
- **Principal Michelle Olsen** provided highlights of activities and programs occurring at Jefferson Elementary School. Staff members are using the Developmental Reading Assessment (DRA) and Assess2Learn (A2L) to focus on reading instruction and monitor student growth. Initial data indicates a positive impact on student learning. Mrs. Olsen described the important roles played by para-educators and volunteers, and she spoke to the results of the full-day kindergarten program recently implemented at Jefferson.
- The board approved revisions to Board Procedure No. 1711P, Operating Principles for Board and Superintendent.
- Board approved the revised strategic objectives, which were renumbered to account for reductions through merging several objectives.
- **Jim Jones**, executive director of business and operations, introduced members of the Facilities Efficiency Task Force. Members **Judge Steve Charno** (community representative), **Bill Tiderman** (secondary-level certificated staff member representative), and **Loren Engel** (elementary school principal representative), described the purpose of the task force and the process they followed in developing their report. The task force proposed the adoption of a district-wide elementary school renovation plan to meet the expected shortfall in next year's operating revenue due to declining enrollment. Task force members explained that the recommendation provides for needed school renovations with the least possible disruption to teaching and learning at each school. The Facilities Efficiency Task Force Report will be delivered to the Fiscal Advisory Committee for further consideration. The board will determine whether to proceed with collecting community comments. The School Board Study Session to discuss the task force report is scheduled for 6:00 p.m. on Monday, February 9, in the Board Room of the Central Services Building.
- Next regular board meeting, 7:00 p.m., February 9, CSB.

## Upcoming Events

February 2	Special Ed Meeting	3:30 p.m.	CSB
February 3	Instructional Materials Committee (IMC)	3:15 p.m.	CSB
February 3	Grade Level Redesign Task Force	5:30 p.m.	CSB
February 5	Professional Development Task Force	7:45 a.m.	Holy Trinity Fireside Rm.
February 5	Communication Roundtable	12:00 p.m.	NOPSC
February 5	Safe Schools Committee	3:30 p.m.	CSB