

Successful Sister City Exchange Program

As part of the ongoing Junior Ambassador exchange program students from Stevens and Roosevelt Middle schools and Japanese language students from Port Angeles High School visited Mutsu, Japan, our sister city, from May 10 through 19 as part of a sister city exchange program. Sixteen high school students and seven middle school students traveled throughout Japan visiting Tokyo, Mutsu, Kyoto and Hiroshima.

The high school group included Anthony Heller, Trevor Shea, Shaelen Nickey, Lucas Wenderborn, Laura Ashley, Mackenzie Fitzwater, Kaitlin Donnell, Tara Zink, Kasey Zink, Karla Shelbourne, Chris Billings, Kyle Soehngen, Cory Looney, Eric Braun, Brandon La and Wilmer Dueno. The middle school delegation included Justin Rudick, Anthony Richards, Matt Benson, Kathryn Capell, Gretchen Rothweiler, Jessica Springer and Katie Moriarty. The school delegation also included several adults Dr. Gary Cohn, PASD Superintendent and his wife, Sue Cohn, Charlie McLain, PASD School Board President, middle school teacher, Bruce Rothweiler, parent chaperone, Shawna Capell, high school teacher, Coke Smith, his wife Som Sukjaroen and his 21-month old son, Cokie.

In Mutsu, the students participated in a home stay where they lived with Japanese families for a period of four days. Students also attended the various middle schools and Tanabu High School for one full day while there. Mutsu city hosted city and regional tours of the various sites on the Shimokita Peninsula on northern Honshu. The city also hosted many events and parties to honor the Port Angeles delegation.

The Port Angeles Junior Ambassadors also spent nearly two days in Tokyo visiting the world's largest fish market at Tsukiji, Asakusa Shrine and various other parts of Japan's capital city. The students traveled by bullet train to Kyoto and Hiroshima in southern Japan. In Kyoto the students toured such ancient cultural sites as Kinkaku-ji, Ryoan-ji and Kyomizu Temple, while in Hiroshima, the Junior Ambassadors toured the "A-Bomb" dome, Peace Park and Miyajima Shrine.

All of the adult chaperones traveling agreed that the trip was a spectacular success, and that the Port Angeles students were outstanding ambassadors for our schools, community and nation. The students showed high levels of cultural respect and tolerance while staying with host families and while touring. All of the students expressed great enthusiasm about the international perspectives gained from the exchange.

Article and pictures by Coke Smith



Math Matters

Students explore their work in math journals

Judging by the journals her students tote, you might not guess that Bonnie Kurimay is a math teacher. The instructor at Bruce F. Vento Elementary in St. Paul, Minn., bookends each period of her 5th-grade class by having students write in and discuss their math journals. The diaries help them better understand math concepts by putting them into their own words. The kids start the class by writing about their approaches to the day's problem set, and then gather together at the end to share some of their thoughts in a student circle.

Kurimay uses the journals to "try to take the scare out of math, make it fun, make it non-threatening," classroom assistant Michael Rose tells the *St. Paul Pioneer Press*. The approach certainly takes the concept of "showing your work" in an interesting new direction.

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Student Relationships

The next time you want to make a change, but aren't sure how students will respond, ask for more information and seek input. Students usually will tell you if you're on target—or give you a chance to make adjustments before initiating the change. Your wisdom and consideration in consulting students can't help but create better relationships with them. The rule: When it comes to making changes and adding work, don't guess or take unnecessary risks. Ask for input.

Without doubt, students love hearing two things: the good things you say about them—and the good things anyone else says about them. The response is usually "Tell me more" or "What else did they say?" Never discount the realities of the human condition. These realities can help you create wonderful relationships with students. To use this relationship builder, simply resolve to become a messenger of good news.

Dry Creek staff would like to invite you to join us in celebrating **Judy (Tucker) Fletcher** and her 21 years of service in our district. Please come and help us celebrate and wish her the best in her retirement! Thursday, June 3rd at 2:30 at Dry Creek.

From the Personnel Office



Openings

Remedial LA/Math/Curriculum Specialist		Stevens
Mathematics Teacher		Choice
Special Ed and Language Arts Teacher	.8 FTE	Choice
Technology Instructor		NOPSC
Guidance Counselor	.5 FTE	Choice
Boys' Basketball Coach		Stevens
Girls' Volleyball Coach		Stevens
Secretary, Level II		CSB
Secretary, Level II		CSB
Secretary, Level II		DC

Upcoming Events

June 1	Principal's Meeting	3:30 p.m.	JF
June 1	Grade Level Redesign TF	5:30 p.m.	CSB
June 4	School Psychologists	10:00 a.m.	CSB

BOARD BRIEFS - May 24, 2004

- The board met at 7:00 p.m. at Dry Creek Elementary.
- Minutes of the May 10 regular board meeting were approved.
- The employments of **Larry Crouse** (para-educator) and **Melissa Miles** (para-educator) were approved.
- Accepted resignations of **Gail Roach** (math teacher at Stevens), and **Dennis Degnan** (Roosevelt Middle School teacher).
- Approval was granted to surplus a list of outdated textbooks.
- In compliance with board policy, a \$1,000 donation from Wal-Mart was accepted to supplement maintenance of Stevens' wireless laptop portfolio project, and a donation of a law library, with an estimated value of \$17,000, was accepted for the HS Library.
- Vouchers and budget reports were approved.
- **Adriana Marcial** and **Liz Nixon** of the Leadership Class shared a presentation on the recent SPIRIT training session. Students highlighted three key areas they concluded need attention: communication, structure, and resources.
- **Ron Jones**, **Doug Gailey**, and **Jolene Gailey** recognized PAHS students in Orchestra, Band, Vocal Music and Dance Team whose successes at state/national competitions are worthy of note.
- **Ron Spanjer** introduced **Jamie Valadez** and congratulated her on recognition by the Washington Education Association for her efforts in promoting cultural awareness. **Charlie McClain** presented a certificate on behalf of the school district.
- **Roger Easling** shared a facility and maintenance update on the Roosevelt Commons, the Stevens Music Building, and NOPSC.
- **Mary Hebert** gave a Dry Creek Elementary School Report, including a presentation on Native American Day.
- **Scott Brodhun** gave a Safe Schools Report. He indicated the committee would like to spend more time on prevention, and mentioned an exciting awareness and prevention program in association with Clallam County. **Danetta Rutten** announced that Dr. Lisa Boeski will be here for training twice this year. A workshop on Suicide and Self-Injury will be held June 22-23.
- Heard community comments on proposed closure of Monroe.
- **Cindy Kelly** passed out a survey, due back by June 4. Comments requested. **Jeff Hinds** passed out copies of the Education Foundation Dinner program and noted that a record amount of money had been raised. **Jessica Schreiber** commented on the success of the Coast Guard Partnership for Education event.
- **Superintendent Cohn** gave a synopsis of the trip to Japan, with a slide show and other materials. He passed to **Charlie McClain** to open the gift from the Japanese hosts to the school district—a carved cedar art piece. **Mr. McClain** presented **Mary Hebert** with a gift from Mutsu students to Dry Creek students. **Dr. Cohn** also mentioned the first meeting of the NOPSC, **Steve Baxter's** outstanding success in combating viruses on the school district computers, interviews for Assistant Superintendent and for coaches, the last meeting of the year of the Multi-Ethnic Committee, and the audit report.
- **Ron Spanjer** gave a Monroe update, stating the district is directed to continue with proposed plan of closure, and discussed the priority of making sure all certificated staff is accounted for.
- **Jill Oakes** gave a summary of recent personnel changes in the district and factors contributing to these changes.
- **Jim Jones** went over the enrollment report, and discussed the budget development status.
- **Scott Brodhun** gave an overview of the process, and presented the conclusions of the Childcare Services RFS task force. The board questioned **Mr. Brodhun** about revenue, status of Choice, and availability of childcare services in summer. The board heard comments from **Jane Childers** and **Dan Maguire**.
- A motion was made, seconded and passed for issuance of contracts with one abstention by **Cindy Kelly**.
- A motion was made, seconded and passed with all in favor to approve the Skills Center ASB Constitution as revised.
- Next board meeting—June 14, 7:00 p.m., CSB board room.