



Taborsan Times

October 2011

Issue 1

3... 2... 1... Exploding with News!

Dear Taborsan Families,

We are very excited to work with you this year and to recognize and celebrate events in our program through this student-generated TNT newsletter. We thank Advisor Melanie, Editor Lilli and their TNT staff for their efforts and look forward to opportunities of collaboration. Yoroshiku Onegai Shimasu!

The Taborsan Team

Welcome to Mt. Tabor Middle School!

by Maddi Parvankin

It's Fall again. In Portland, this, of course means the promise of never-ending rain, but also, as you know, the beginning of the school year. There are some things about going back to school that I bet you aren't too thrilled about - like homework, and parents and teachers stripping you of the ability to spend your time however you want. But Fall also holds great excitement. Seeing your friends for the first time in months, meeting new teachers, greeting old ones... and welcoming our new 6th graders, these are all big parts of the new school year. At Taborsan Times we hope that there is also the satisfaction that comes with being part of a community -- the feeling of being connected with others. The JMP is a great community, with lots of support and understanding. That's one thing I really missed having over the summer. So, whether you're a new student or coming back for your second or third year, I sincerely hope you enjoy the community, your new friends and old ones, your teachers and your classes. I hope that **you** -- no matter who you are -- I hope that **you** truly enjoy the beginnings of the new school year! •

To know more about Taborsan, check out our blog:
TABORSANTIMES.WORDPRESS.COM



Let's get to know our 6th graders a little better... by their feet!



Sumiya Sensei- The Secret Life of an Athlete

By Lillian Peters

If you walk through the door of Room 105, you will likely come upon a small, pretty, unassuming woman sitting quietly at her desk, perhaps grading papers or typing on her computer.

DO NOT BE FOOLED. In fact, Sumiya Sensei is quite the opposite from what her shy, quiet nature might suggest. Inside, Sumiya Sensei is an athlete in track and field, and she enjoys soccer. Given what we already know about her, it may not be surprising to find out that if she were to be granted one magical wish, her wish would be to play soccer in the body of another gender – a gender often considered stronger and more powerful than the one she has now. Not that she would want to be a boy forever, of course; she would only like to try it out for a day or two, just long enough to see what it is like.



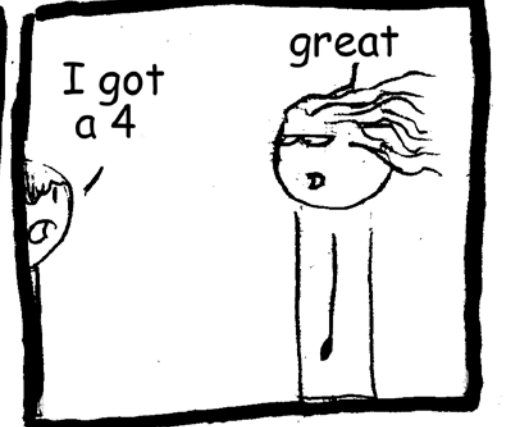
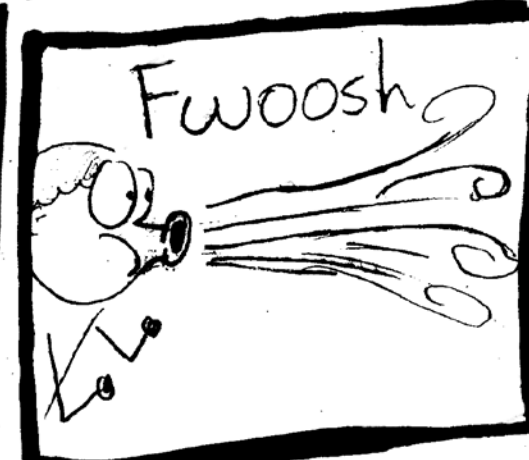
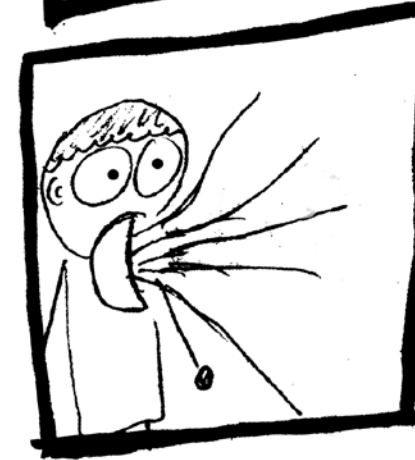
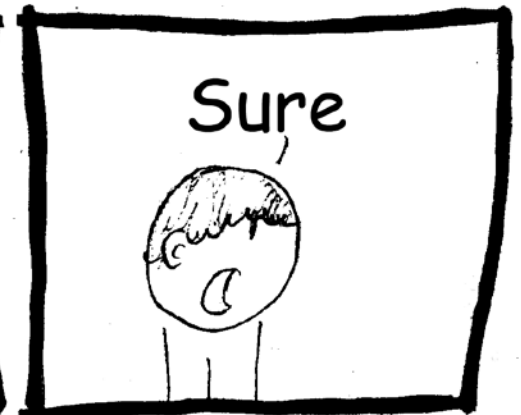
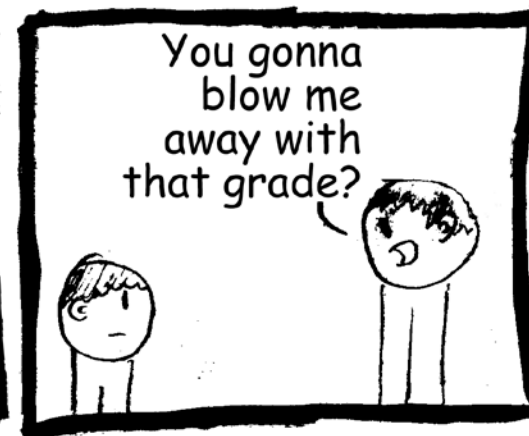
She has always known she would like to be a teacher, and her favorite subject in school was English. In her hometown of Kobe (a place she describes as developed, with mountains, a harbor and a good view at night), her focus was always on sports. Her hobbies are running and sleeping. When she was younger, she played track and field, and not surprisingly, her favorite middle school novel is a manga about basketball. The title of the book is Slum Dunk and she picked it because it is about high school kids playing basketball, and she says it is a good story that applied to her life at the time she was reading it.

So the lesson Sumiya Sensei teaches here? Never judge a book by its cover, even if it is a small frilly girl's book, because you never know -- it may actually be filled with sports playing manga.



Do you know these 6th graders cool footsies? A little tricky, eh?

Mt. St. Helens field trip



An interview with Mr. Pickett

By Lillian Peters

Q1: What is one interesting thing about you that most people at Mt. Tabor probably don't know?

A: I am a member of a vintage brass band – it's called Whiskey Flats Brass Band.

Q2: Do you have any hobbies?

A: Well, besides the band, I enjoy traveling.

Q3: Where do you want to travel someday and why?

A: Someday, I would like to travel to Mexico. I have been to the border towns, but I want to see more of what they are about. There is a city called Guadalajara that I would like to visit there.

Q4: What is your favorite book for kids in middle school? (If you can remember any) Why?

A: Actually, it's the Guinness Book of World Records, because kids who read it are showing an interest in countries and science, which is very good.

Q5: If you could have one wish (even a magical wish) what would it be and why?

A: Teleportation. You could go anywhere, anytime... I think it

would cause chaos, but it would be fun. It would spread diseases around the world too.

Q6: What was your favorite subject in school?

A: My favorite subject in school was Social Studies.

Q7: How long have you wanted to teach?

A: Actually, both my parents were teachers, so the last thing I wanted to do was teach. Then, twenty years ago I decided that maybe it was interesting, so I tried it and I found that I enjoy teaching.

Q8: What other jobs have you had?

A: I've worked for a Japanese TV company called Fuji Television, and I've worked for a Japanese construction company called Shimisu. Just office jobs.

Q9: Why have you chosen to do your student teaching at Mt. Tabor, instead of, say, an elementary school like Richmond?

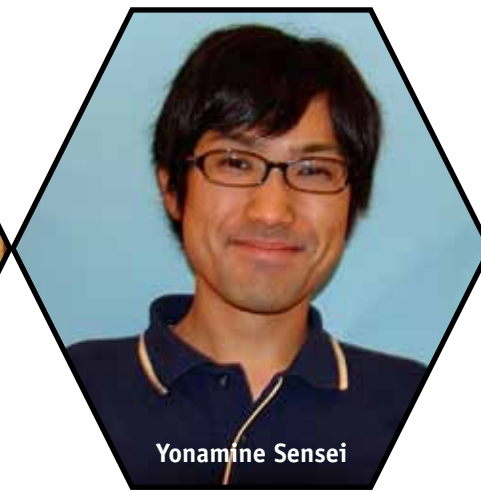
A: Well, I was told I needed to do two student teaching jobs and so I did the first one at an elementary school, and then I wanted to do one at a middle school. There's no one I would rather do that with than Mr. Bacon-Brenes, so that's why I came here.

Q10: What do you most enjoy about teaching?

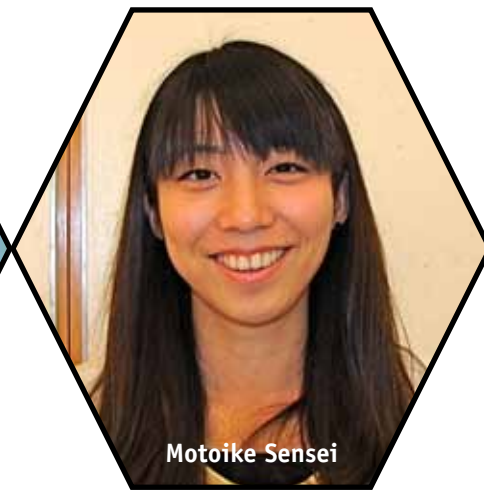
A: I enjoy seeing excitement in kids, when they are really having fun and getting into it.



Ozaki Sensei



Yonamine Sensei



Motoike Sensei

Contrary to common belief, interns don't magically appear from some faraway land to help us JMP students.

This year, we are lucky enough to have three interns. These are their stories... by Isabella Pua

Life is an adventure for Ozaki Sensei: backpacking in Cambodia with her friends (where she got lost in the middle of nowhere – gasp!); visiting Zambia (she was unexpectedly detained and questioned at the border – double gasp!). Fortunately, her travels have now taken her to Portland. Sapporo, a city in northern Japan is Ozaki Sensei's hometown. It's like Portland, she says, but in the winter, a lot more snow falls there. Also, all the food there is really good. She likes Portland because the people here are very friendly... and at the same time, weird (welcome to Portland!). Ozaki Sensei told me that one of the things she would like to see here is an American football game.

Ozaki Sensei says she enjoyed middle school a great deal. She was a good student and found it fun. She had great teachers. The friends she made are still in contact with her today. Her favorite subjects were Geology and P.E. She loves to stay physically active. Her hobbies are bouldering and running. Her teachers inspired Ozaki Sensei in middle school. She loves that inspiring moment: when the light bulb goes off over a student's head, and they become really engaged and enthusiastic in the topic. She first heard about the JMP through a volunteer program to teach Japanese. By coming to Portland as an intern, she hopes to

gain experience so that she can learn to inspire students as well. ●●●

Astronaut or teacher? Hmm... Lucky for us, one of our interns this year, Yuuki Yonamine, decided on the latter. He began to take pleasure in teaching when he was in middle School because he enjoyed working with children. Yonamine Sensei then became a graduate student in linguistics back home. Home, for him, is Osaka, Japan, where he resides with his two brothers, mother, and father. It is a very large, urban city. When asked, he admits that his favorite part of Osaka is the food: okonomiyaki, takoyaki, ramen... one can get hungry just thinking about it! Here in Portland, the thing he enjoys most is the natural surroundings: the abundance of parks and forests. It isn't something he sees too often in his home city.

Once upon a time, surprisingly, Yonamine Sensei was a student, too. At that time, learning a foreign language did not come naturally. Later on, his attitude somehow changed - and lucky for us, it did! ●●●

Motoike Sensei comes to us from her hometown, which is located in Tottori Prefecture in south-eastern Japan. It's a very natural area, famous for its sand dunes. However, if you don't have a car, it's very hard to get anywhere due to the large distance between destinations.

To Motoike Sensei, the best part of her hometown is the people that live there; according to her, the prefecture is full of friendly people. In many ways, it's similar to Portland.

Motoike Sensei seems quite open to adventure. Eating escargot with her host family (!); going to Australia to study; riding the jet coaster in Tokyo Disneyland (terrifying!); these are all things that Motoike Sensei has done.

Go back a few years, and we find Motoike Sensei as a middle school student. She finds that the teachers here are very nice. Apparently, some of the teachers she's had in the past are not too tolerant of noisy behavior. After school, Motoike Sensei used to play tennis a lot. Nowadays, she still does, though not as much. Instead, she likes to take walks outside and watch movies.

Motoike Sensei wants to become a teacher in the future. The dream started in college: she had good teachers who inspired her to become like them. Before she decided to teach, Motoike Sensei wanted to become a veterinarian, because she likes animals (though she doesn't have any pets). She learned of the JMP in college, and comes to Portland for the experience necessary to achieve her goal of one day becoming a teacher. ●●●

A Social Studies Assignment talking about Lillian Peter's Summer...

6年生の時の思い出

六年生にいた時にクラスの全体が九月のさいごにパケットをおうちにもって帰りました。このパケットにたいせつな物がありました。一回、二回、三回先生が言ったのは、「このパケットをぜったいわすれないで下さい。」でも私達は六年生でした。ついに、数人も二週間後にまだフォームを出さなかった。しかし、数日後にみんなが出して、二人いがい、みんながやがい学校に行く予定でした。私のために、これはかなしかった。なぜなら二人のうちの一人は私の一番好きな友達で、その人はやがい学校の時にひこうきに乗って、日本に帰りました。しかし私はやがい学校の時にたのしむ事をぜったいするとけつしました。そしてたのしいの時でした。六日間毎日三つの違う学校の生徒と一緒に寝て、食べてと遊んでいました。数日間楽しく勉強してからみんながちょっとそうじして、楽しいことをしました。たとえば一日私がろうそくを作りました。ちがう時に私がゆみとやを使うことをならいました。よるにみんなが火の回りにうたをうたいました。だから、友だちがいなくてもやがい学校がよい思い出です。そして一番な思い出です。●

6th Grade Outdoor School





8th Graders are selling Chinook Books through the month of October to support the 8th Grade Japan Research Residency. Please consider buying one to support their trip. There are many great coupons this year that more than pay for the book! Books are \$20. There is also an iPhone App that has almost all the coupons on it available for \$10. Books or iPhone App codes are available from any 8th Grader or from the scrip table at Richmond. You can also make a note on your scrip order to include one with your envelope.

Thanks for supporting the 8th Graders!!!

Welcome! ようこそ! Please enjoy the time we spend together in these pages throughout the year as a community, sharing each other's lives...



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aka. TNT ~**

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Who are these 8th graders? I wonder if you can figure it out.

