



Taborsan Times

December 2011

Issue 3

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



Happy Holidays to you and your kin...



They came, I saw...

by Maddi Parvankin

My experience hosting this year was fantastic, as it always is. I hosted two girls at my house- Chisa and Mone. These girls were very polite and humble, but a lot of fun as well. For the week that they stayed at my home, Mone, Chisa and I did everything together. We ate meals together, went to the pumpkin patch together on the weekend, and went trick-or-treating together on Halloween. Because of this, they got to see what my daily life was like and how America is. How different it is from Japan. Meals are a lot different there. In Japan, there's no such thing as Halloween. Although you can learn the facts, there is something about it that you cannot replicate in a classroom. It makes all the difference to come and experience it. It'll be the same when the eighth graders go to Japan in April. I think that it's so amazing to see that a whole other cultures exists, that our way of doing things is not the only way that there is. That's why I think this exchange is so important. Not only is it a great experience and, truthfully, it's pretty cool to be able to say "I've been to Japan" (or in their case, America), but also, you learn so much. When you host, you're giving these students the ability to learn, an experience that I consider to be wonderfully rewarding.

My homestays and I hit it off pretty much as soon we met each other on Friday, October 28th. During the whole 30 minute car ride to my house in Gresham, we talked about everything from our families to what kind of music we liked. Even though we didn't have the same first-language, we were soon laughing and talking like old friends. After a few days, we could even exchange jokes.

(con't on page 2)



(con't from page 1)

One of the biggest part of this yearly cultural exchange that we do with these Nanto students is, of course, Halloween. They, like I said earlier, don't have anything like that in Japan. It probably sounds pretty bizarre to them, now that I think about it. You dress up as something frightening and go to houses for free food? Kind of ridiculous. But that's the point. With a cultural exchange, there will always be things that sound crazy, and things you don't understand. If the cultures were similar, it wouldn't be any fun. So, anyway, Halloween was a little bit difficult to explain, but we had a great time. Before they left, Mone and Chisa both said it was one of the highlights of their trip. Halloween had to do with many of the things we did while they were staying with us, as we went to the pumpkin patch, carved pumpkins into scary looking jack-o-lanterns, picked out our costumes, went to a halloween party and trick-or-treated. That, as you can imagine, took most of the weekend. But we also did some really fun things that were not halloween related at all. We went shopping on Saturday before the party, and Chisa and Mone bought a lot of gifts for their family, as well as souvenirs for themselves. Twice after we got home from school, we walked to the park and played basketball with my brother. The Wii was also a big hit — they thought it was interesting to see it in English. And sometimes, Chisa, Mone and I would just sit and joke and talk, while listening to Michael Jackson on Mone's iPod. We had a lot of fun.

The JMP 8th graders and the visiting Nanto students also went on a field trip to explore Downtown Portland. We had been working on the planning of this field trip for a few weeks — things like where to go and how to get there were all up to us and our groups. In each group there were two exchange students that we got to show around. Torai-kun and Sakei-san were with my group, and just like with the girls staying at my house, we bonded a lot during the trip. My group went to The Ducks Store, Waterfront Park, Powell's Books, the food carts for lunch and Voodoo Donuts as a treat afterwards. It was a lot of fun for everybody.

This experience brought so many fond memories, and I can't wait to host again. While teaching them about our culture and showing them my daily life, I actually learned a lot too. Translating was very difficult at some times, but I ended up getting a lot better with Japanese grammar. I also learned a few words. I think that hosting is just an all around great experience, and if you've hosted, you know what a fun experience it is. If you haven't, but have the time and space, you should really give it a try. It's something you won't forget. •

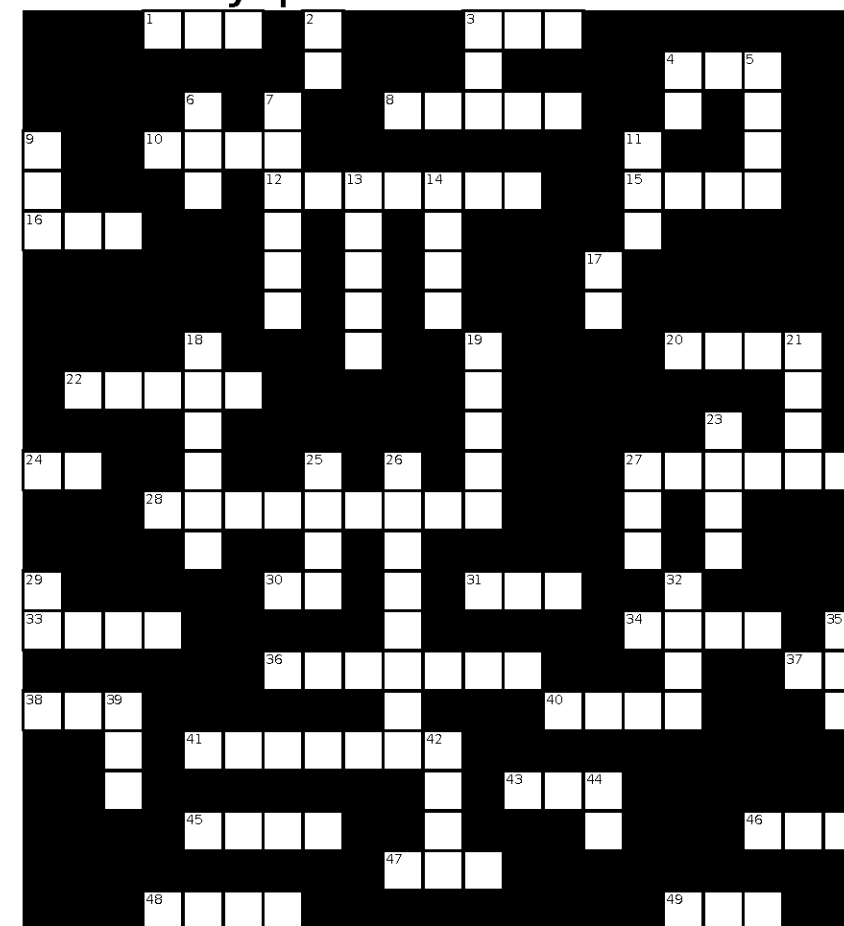
Fukuno Downtown Field Trip Photos

This field trip is a great way for the 8th graders to learn to work together before they travel on the 8th grade Research Residency trip in April.



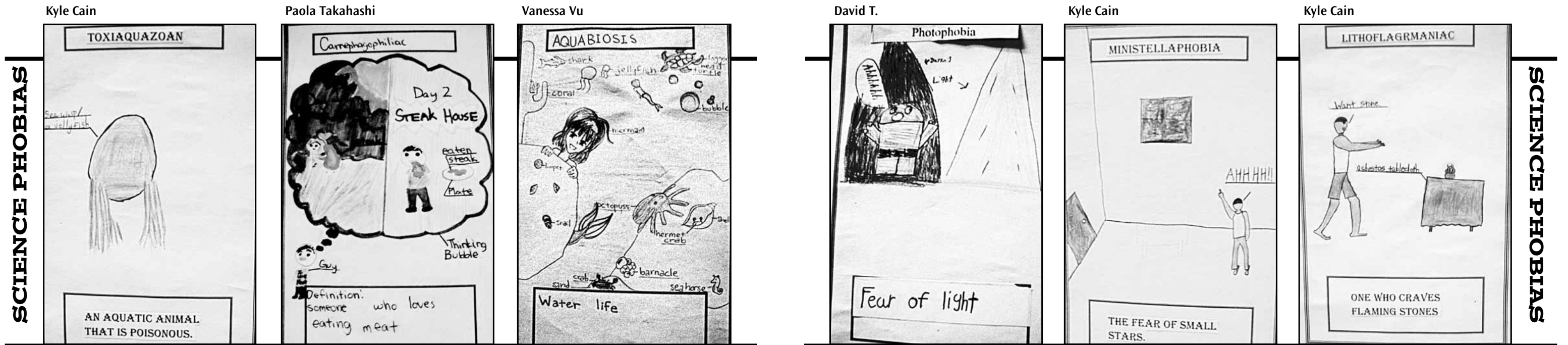
Winter Crossword Isabella Pua

Convert answers into Japanese.



- | Across | Down |
|--|---|
| 1 Windy, rainy, sunny... | 2 Jingling instruments |
| 3 Christmas songs | 3 Parents, uncles, aunts, cousins... |
| 4 Squall or downpour | 4 Typical Portland weather |
| 8 Five-fingered, nonliving item | 5 Holiday every 365 days |
| 10 Extremely (| 6 Falls from trees |
| 12 Examples: Christmas, Thanksgiving, New Year | 7 The 4th Thursday of November |
| 15 Starlike ice | 9 No school, no work... |
| 16 Mixture of snow and rain | 11 There are 4 in a year |
| 20 Santa's steeds | 13 What it's beginning to look a lot like |
| 22 Guards against chill | 14 Water's solid form |
| 24 Example: toboggan or sledge | 17 Current season |
| 27 Winter sport; kin to skateboarding | 18 Holiday drink, with egg |
| 28 Warm drink for winter time | 19 Found under trees |
| 30 Essential to a white Christmas | 21 Eskimo dwelling |
| 31 Circular and hung on doors | 23 Sharp-leaved plant with red berries |
| 33 Neck warmer | 25 One excuse to skip school |
| 34 Santa's primary food source | 26 Amorous February holiday |
| 36 Main part of | 27 Downhill or cross-country |
| 37 Found on glass on cold days | 29 Prefix to Hood, Fuji, etc. |
| 38 ___ cream, ___ age, ___ cube, etc. | 32 Place of learning |
| 40 Santa's entryways | 35 Precursor to rain |
| 41 Winter sport done in a rink | 39 Giftwrap decoration |
| 43 Tempest, with snow | 42 Winter sleep |
| 45 Perpetually green tree | 44 Obscuring weather |
| 46 Frigid, icy, wintry, numbing... | |
| 47 Fat red man of the holidays | |
| 48 Ye olde flashlight | |
| 49 Snow characteristic | |





Science & Social Studies *Student Showcase*

Photography of student work by Taner Linn & Kilian Jones



Ryan Reents



Sierra Smith



Takumi Nishizawa

To understand the culture of the European Medieval times, the students were to compare it with their own and illustrate the difference.



Yuri Petty

SUBMIT YOUR POETRY

We are wanting to produce a TNT Poetry Edition.

Poetry created by Taborsan students and teachers may be submitted to Ms. Bennett in order to be considered for the issue. Anonymous poetry may also be submitted. All genres, rhyme, free verse, handwritten and typed poetry may be submitted. Start writing and have fun with it!

LEADERS AMONG US

Congratulations to our new
Student Council Representative:

Aileigh Daniel!

"A person, who no matter how
desperate the situation, gives
others hope, is a true leader."

~ Daisaku Ikeda

Dates to Remember!

8th Grade Research
Residency April 23-May 7

Omiyage Banashi
8th Grade Research
Residency June 7, 2012

Questions? Contact Teachers: Email is best!

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Michael Valenti • mvalenti@pps.net
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Needy Families Food Drive was a success!

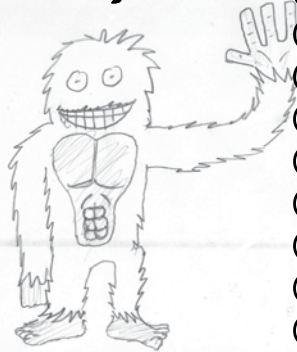
A total of \$2,244.74 was raised
by the students & staff!

Food and hygiene supplies were
distributed to Mt. Tabor Middle
School families. Thank you for
helping those in need at this
special time of year.

One kind word can warm
three winter months.
~ Japanese proverb

Way to go Ms. Bennett's
Advisory for being the
winning class to raise
funds for the Food
Drive! We hope you
enjoyed your reward!

*Merry
Christmas &
Happy New
Year!*



GeoBee Shout Out!

Congratulations to the following students for
their achievement in the GeoBee Competition!

8th Graders: Claire Bacon-Brenes
& Maddi Parvankin

7th Grader: Kazuma Fujiwara
6th Grader: Kalea Tetsuka

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