



SISTER CITY NEWS



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Group at Peace Plaque on Mendocino Headlands

By all accounts the visit to Mendocino by the Miasa-Omachi Sister City Association this past May seems to have been a complete success, due largely to the tireless efforts of the MSCA board members, and on the Miasa end by the work of Koichi Maekawa and Tokio Oda. Each of the MSCA board members took on individual tasks that made the transportation logistics, the arrangements of homestay families and event activities come together like a seemingly effortless flow of events. Although, what appears to be effortless is most always made to appear that way



because of the extensive preparations by those behind the scenes before the actual occurrence of events. This is exactly what happened this year. I would like to extend my thanks to all the members of the MSCA Board, their families and the Homestay families for their unselfish efforts that made this year's visit, at least according to the

Miasa-Omachi leaders, the best visit they have ever had.

I have personally heard from many Mendocino homestay hosts about how much they enjoyed their guests and how happy they were to have been involved with the visit. The host families made the visit of the Miasa students and adults a memorable event in their lives. I also understand that every homestay host has received a letter of thanks (written in both Nihongo and English) from their Miasa guests.

YOU'RE INVITED ...

The annual business meeting of the Mendocino Sister Cities Association will be held in the Mendocino Middle School Library on Thursday, October 16th at 3:15 PM. A review of the year's events and the election of officers will take place. You are all welcome and encouraged to bring anyone interested in joining our group.

One of the events that helped make this visit so great was the first-time cooperation of Bruce Ghent of Taiko Motion in San Francisco. Bruce transported enough taiko drums to Mendocino (with a little help by an MSCA board member) to allow all 26 Miasa students to present two Taiko Drum shows at the Mendocino Middle School. Bruce has also indicated that, if there is enough interest, he would give Taiko drum lessons in Mendocino to the students who are chosen to represent our town in Miasa-Omachi next June. Bruce thinks he can teach at least one performance song to the students before they leave for Japan.



This year was not just a visit by students and adults, but also, for the first time, an annual Art Exchange was inaugurated between our towns, again made possible by the ceaseless efforts of members of the MSCA board. The Mayor of Omachi, Toru Ushikoshi, and the Chairman of the Omachi City Council, Morito Nakamaki, accompanied the student group to experience firsthand the close connection between Miasa and Mendocino. The mayor told me before the group departed that he was very pleased with what he witnessed and would do everything he could to further the cooperation between our towns, including continuing the Art Exchange next year in Omachi City.



Three Miasa artists (of the eight artists who participated in the art show) and two other Miasa residents were guests in various homes in the Mendocino area and arrived in Mendocino about May 7, just in time for the Second Saturday Miasa-Omachi Art Opening at the Art Center. These artists departed for Japan about a week before the student group arrived in Mendocino. The art show was very well received and created a lot of enthusiasm for Mendocino artists to participate in the Art Exchange in 2009. The call for Mendocino artists to participate in the Omachi Art Show will be publicized by the end of October 2008. The Omachi Art Show will be held from the middle of June to the end of

July so the visiting Mendocino student group can view the show. Participating artists who wish to visit Japan will travel some time between the middle of June to the beginning of July.

We are now organizing our student trip to Miasa-Omachi for late June of 2009, and we expect to be in Miasa the first week of July. Student participants will be chosen about the middle of October, and adult chaperones will be selected sometime in December.

Again, I would like to congratulate everyone who helped make the May visit from Miasa-Omachi the best ever!

Domo arigato gozaimasu!



SEE YOU AGAIN

My name is Elizabeth Norvell and last spring Risa Takeuchi and Natsuki Kawata, two girls from Japan, stayed with us. They were both 10 years old. Risa was a bit shy, while Natsuki was braver, but they were both polite and sweet. We did activities such as going to the beach and fire house. We also had a baseball game at Friendship Park. We spent a whole day horse back riding and going to the river. The girls like soccer and so do I. It was really fun to play soccer with them.

Now my mom, who likes to take pictures of innocent people, went everywhere with us, so we ended up with quite a few photos. Looking at these photos you might notice that in almost every picture Risa and Natsuki are making the peace sign. I thought this was cool.

They also like candy. Japanese candy is the best. They brought a pretty big bag over from Japan. I had a gum that turned your tongue a different color and a whistle candy. Whistle candies are shaped like life savers and taste like strawberries or milk(!). When you put them in your mouth and blow it makes a screechy high pitched whistle.

At first I was rather nervous because we don't speak the same language. After a while though we all began to "loosen up" and have a fun time.



Elizabeth with Guests

Reminder:
It's time to turn in membership fees for the 2008-2009 year. Forms enclosed. Thanks!



To the family Crowningshield

My visit to Mendocino was really fun. In Mendocino I did a lot of things The kickball was really fun, too. The golf was fun, too. I was really lucky to be there.

Taro was really lucky, too.
Thank you for everything.
2008, June 9th, Gaku Ezaki



Dear Crowningshields,

Hello, I'm Taro Saito

Thank you for being my host family and making every meal.. They were nice. Especially the pizza and the cookies were very nice. On the 26th I had a very good time at the beach and playing mini golf was really fun. I had an interesting experience. Thank you very much. See you again
Goodbye, Taro Saito

Sarah's note: It was fun having kids staying at our house.

We played kickball, baseball, memory match, and a lot more. We had a lot of fun with them.. They were very nice and very fun to play with. We cooked pizza together and we made chocolate cookies. It was their first time ever. They had never made them before. We had a lot of fun at the tide pools. We saw a big crab. We laughed a whole lot. Gaku spoke English and Taro didn't. They also had a whole lot of fun at the golf course. when they left it was very sad. It was like losing family. I can't wait to see them again if I get to go. I am looking forward to seeing the Washizowa family again.

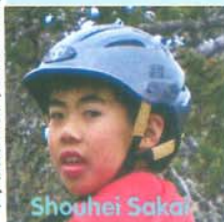
Maddie's note: It was really nice of Gaku to translate for us. We loved playing card games.



June 7, 2008

Dear Mike,

Hello! How have you been? My name is Shouhei Sakai. Thank you very much for all your help and warm welcome. You and Mr. Maekawa had been sending emails everyday and made all plans for us before we leave for Mendocino. Thanks to you two, we had a wonderful time in Mendocino. Thank you for your nice guide. It was easy to understand for us. I hope you will kindly look after this exchange activities between us.
Sincerely, Shouhei Sakai



SUSHI SALE 2008

For the 4th of July we made the traditional 120 rolls of Makizushi (crab, vegetarian and vegan rolls) and 140 Inari Sushi (rice in the tofu pouches).

The net profits for our efforts was \$750. This money goes towards the Miasa Scholarship Fund -- to help students who need financial help in order to participate in the trip to Miasa, Japan. Thank you to all of you who volunteered your time and energy to make our sushi sale successful!



At the Beach with Homestay Families



Mr. Koichi Maekawa