

# EXCHANGES

Japanese Sister City  
Committee

November December 2010

Newsletter

## 50th Anniversary of Higashimurayama's 2nd Junior High School!

Independence's Middle Sister School in Higashimurayama just celebrated 50 years of educating the city's Jr. High School students. Mr. Keizo Kawabata, the School's Principal, described the event as follows:

It was a clear autumn day as the guests walked past the flower arrangement "sign" (below), marking the school's 50th anniversary celebration. A big party was held in the afternoon following the ceremonial events.



Their newly-made school flag was proudly brought into the gym by a past PTA president who presented it to Mr. Keizo Kawabata, the principal. (above center stage). At that moment the audience joined in the celebration with applause and smiles. Attendee's included former principals and teachers, city council members, and neighboring elementary, junior and senior high school administrators.

This newsletter is dedicated to promoting the educational relationship that exists between the two cities and recognizing those hard working men and women who have committed their lives to the betterment of society through educational and inter-cultural exchanges.

### Inside this issue:

50th Anniversary	1
Sister School History	2
Women of Leadership	2
Performance at Festival	3
Independence Parade	3
Sister School Students News and Notes	4
Higashimurayama Fall Festival	4



### Special Person Spot!

#### Mr. Todd Siebert

In Japan for the 30th Anniversary of the Sister City, Mr. & Mrs. Siebert enjoy sushi and the company of Japanese friends.

Principal of Glendale, the Elementary Sister School for 6 years, Todd has had many guest from Japan at his school and his daughter Reagan was a member of Glendale's Japan Club this year.

At Glendale there is plenty of space to display all the Japanese gifts given to the school and the JSCC. There are open rooms for interviewing the Exchange Students and a meeting place for the Japanese students while in America. The Student Safari Summer program welcomes the Japanese as well.

HIGASHIMURAYAMA 2nd  
JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL  
SINCE 1960 — 創立50周年記念 —



Entertainment at the celebration was the dynamic performance of Taiko Drums pictured on the right. If you have heard these drums at the Cherry Blossom Festival or Kansas City Japan Festival, you know how dramatic they can be.



## Sister School Relationship: How Did It Begin?

**W**hen considering the relationship between the Independence & Higashimurayama Sister Schools, think about an association of equals, with both cities emphasizing a strong educational system. Education has always been one of Japan's highest priorities, and teaching is one of the most honorable careers to pursue.

In 1986, as a result of this strong educational commitment on the part of both cities, Sue Hammett, a teacher at Glendale Elementary School, wrote and received a grant from the Missouri Department of Education Excellence in Education Program. With that funding, Sue was able to start a Saturday class, on Japanese culture with

30 students joining her for hands-on activities, field trips, guest speakers, food tasting events and sports. But It's popularity soon



prompted the program to move to an after school activity, increasing it's success.

After lengthy conversations between the two cities, Megurita Elementary was chosen to be Glendale's Sister School, where similar activities were held teaching American culture. Formal documents were drawn up in Japan

when Sue Hammett traveled with the 10th Anniversary Adult Exchange Visit in 1988.

To the left is a class at Megurita enjoying the day that Student Exchange members visited. Each year, either adult or student exchange members visit Megurita. It is one of the highlights of a stay in Higashimurayama. Glendale reciprocates by hosting Japanese Exchange Members when they come. (Below)



## Glendale's Japan Club is 24 Year's Old



**A**fter fifteen years of coordinating and teaching the Sister School Japanese Culture Club, Sue Hammett, (pictured above with Mayor Don & Jo Reimal) retired, leaving it in the hands of Glendale's music teacher, Jeannae Segura-Brown.

**J**eannae is now celebrating her tenth year of carrying on the Sis-

ter School relationship. Many alumni have helped out over the years. (Below Alumni Susan Peoples Assists )



**J**eannae also directs the annual Glendale Performance of American Students showcasing Japanese culture in music, dance and theater both at the Japan & Cherry Blossom Festivals.

(Above Previous Year's Program)



## Japan Festival Annual Performance

Glendale Elementary School performed "Momotaro" at the 13th annual Japan Festival. Students had a wonderful time making all of the props and set pieces, including a giant peach! The Japan Festival is held each fall at the Carlson Center. It is a great honor to be able to perform at this festival.



## Independence Halloween Parade

A perfect day for the Halloween Parade! The Japanese Sister School and members of the JSCC were sandwiched between Ronald McDonald's Bubble Van and the Independence 8th grade marching band.

Both parents and students enjoyed walking together and shouting "Konnichi Wa!"

Thanks goes to Debbie Lovewell for providing the necklaces that the Japan Club handed out along the

route. Jeannae Segura-Brown and Alreda Adams both wore their new kimonos given to them from Akiko Toma of Higashimurayama. It is a fun way to express everyone's love for Japan and it's culture.



Above: Clifford and his mom are ready to greet the citizens of Independence lined-up on each side of the city streets.



## Japanese Sister City Committee

Independence, MO City Hall 64050  
www.ci.independence.mo.us/sistercity  
Email: jeannae@sbcglobal.net  
FACEBOOK: jscfriends@yahoo.com  
www.H-IFA.net International Friendship

FOR PEOPLE WHO LOVE TO SHARE THEIR  
LIFE WITH OTHERS!



Below: Festival Booth Above: Friends of ours.



## Friendship Garden Clean-Up

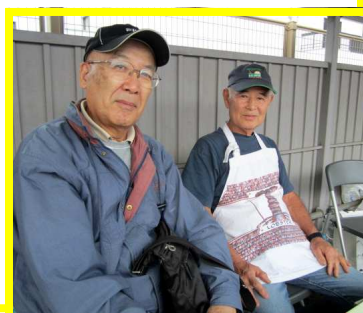


Members of Sister City worked in our Japanese Garden that was donated by our many friends in Higashimurayama over 20 years ago. Serving as Clean-up Volunteers started with a Breakfast at the Sermon Center sponsored by the City, followed by making the Garden a Place of Beauty.

## Festival In Japan: Promoting Mutual Friendship

Our Sister City Brothers and Sisters in Higashimurayama hosted a Japanese-American Friendship Booth during a Fall Festival Celebration.

Many members of the Higashimurayama International Friendship Association participated in managing the booth and offering both food and information on our special relationship. Many people stopped by to enjoy the tasty treats provided by the Association and to learn about the many opportunities for intercultural exchanges between the two cities.



## JSCC Events and Happenings ...Join In & Have Fun!

### January 29, 2011

Celebrate the New Year for the 33rd Anniversary of the Sister City relationship starting at 2 PM to 4 PM, Saturday, January 29th in the Truman Memorial Building.

Previous escorts, alumni, 2011 students, parents of students, host families, committee members and Friends of the JSCC are invited to attend; as well as those that are interesting in getting involved in the up-and-coming year. Submit new ideas by contacting Jeannae Segura-Brown to help plan this event.

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### April 17, 2011

*Spring Festival:* Cherry Blossom Festival is at the Sermon Center on Noland Road in Independence. Share in the entertainment, exhibits, sales and services offered from the Japanese Sister City Committee and the Friends of the JSCC.

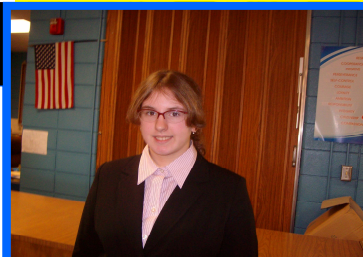
*The purpose of Spring Festival:* Not only is it fun but it is used as an educational tool on Japan culture and a fund raising event for the Student Exchange Program, Sunday, April 17, 2010 from 10 AM to 4 PM. View the [Cherry Blossom](#) page on our website for details.

### July & August 2011

Join in on activities with the Japanese Exchange Students who will have city tours, potluck parties, swimming, boating & teen fun. Also they will go to the Royals baseball game, Worlds of Fun, and many more activities in order to experience the American culture, home-life and Independence Past and Present.

For even more fun host a student in your home and see your city through the eyes of someone else. It is a very special experience and a great time for the whole family.

~



Above: **Name Name** and Below: **Kaylie Trimble** will be going to Higashimurayama this year after waiting since their 3rd Grade membership of the Sister School program. They will be glad to see Megurita.

