



# EXCHANGES

Japanese Sister  
City

June/July 2010  
Newsletter

## GIRLS HAD FUN IN JAPAN

Beautiful Higashimurayama, known for Lake Tama, gave the nine exchange students and escort a fast paced, fun-filled and loving time. To the right we have a group photo of (back row) Elizabeth Polina, Austin Snethen, Emily Collins, Miriam Vnaoni, Emily Tanner, Marie Mader, (front row) Shayla Jarman, Dana Masters, Anna Price and Alyssa Wilt.

Two weeks flew by as they got to know their host families, tried the cultural foods, visited city locations, interacted with school children and toured historic sites. This was not all that was on their agendas because they absorbed modern Japan while learning traditional customs.

It was very hot for the girls but they never let the temperature get them down. They were always ready to try something new and had smiles on their faces while experiencing a rare chance at being in our Sister City.

Citizens of Higashimurayama were very helpful, thoughtful, and generous with the American Exchange. So many thanks go out to the committees, host families and leadership that made this a most successful exchange.

Having missed the one in 2009, this was a much needed exchange for the Sister City program.



Above, Emily Collins and dear friend, Kazue Miyazawa, attend the Mayor's Luncheon with 9 exchange students. Some of the thoughts they expressed there were how

they enjoyed Tokyo Disney, being with the teens that would be coming to America and how wonderful the Japanese adults were to them. HIFA gave choices on craft activities to learn from the Japanese heritage as well as doing some physical activities like archery. There were also festival atmosphere on BBQ day where they busted open watermelons with sticks while being blind-folded. Elementary children treated the girls like rock stars and students stopped the girls on the street, while shopping, to practice English.

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**Pictured above with Lana White is Mr. & Mrs. Ohno. Mr. Ohno has been president of the Higashimurayama International Friendship Association over the years that the JSCC has existed. He has been a strong factor in both the student and adult trips.**

His American home-stays have been primarily with Bill and Joanne Shaw, whom he has hosted as well. Mr. Ohno's wisdom is very appreciated after 32 years of changing commission members, hundreds of students and large adult trips to the United States. We appreciate all his work and JSCC advice he has.

## JSCC Sister School Visitors

We appreciate the kindness extended to our teachers, Jeannae Segura-Brown and Alreda Adams for offering an additional Sister School visit at the same time as the Student Exchange took place. Having a home-stay experience Jeannae and Alreda visited the in-session classes at our Sister Schools.

Also the HIFA group pictured to the right met to discuss the prior year and the future exchange with adult representatives from the trip.

Chairman, Jeannae Segura-Brown said the trip renewed her strength for the JSCC/HIFA program.



# Dressing Our Best: Discovering the Kimono



2010 Alumni



Hair done up, kimono and fan in hand, poised in front of a lovely screen and each girl feels special!

# Gangs All Here: Japanese and Americans Are Touring Nikko & Surrounding Area



HIFA Members, Teachers, & Both Sets of 2010 Exchange Students



Students Hang Out Together Exploring & Visiting



Left: Girls at Mayor's Lunch, Right: Visiting the Schools.



## A City Full of Entertainment & Experience



Left: Thanks to the Ikebana Teachers! Right: City Fire-Fighting Experience, and Visit to the Police Station Below: Visiting the Mayor!



Mayor Watanabe displays a mouse pad from the City of Independence. He has not been able to visit yet but hopes to do so in the near future. Each girl got to experience sitting in his chair.



## Japanese Sister City

Contact us via the City Hall of Independence MO  
 Jeannae Segura-Brown, Chairman  
 John Seeley, Vice President  
 Joe Gall, Treasurer  
 Debbie Lovewell, Secretary

Friends of the JSCC Chair: Major Hammett  
 Communications Committee Gerald Hancock &  
 Sandy Peoples  
 Contact us via Facebook at [jscfriends@yahoo.com](mailto:jscfriends@yahoo.com)  
 Alumni at [jscindependence@gmail.com](mailto:jscindependence@gmail.com)  
 Web site: [www.ci.independence.mo.us.sistercity](http://www.ci.independence.mo.us.sistercity)  
 All Commission members names and contact  
 information is on the web site.  
 Check out the new <http://H-IFA.com> web site.

*For people who love to share their lives with  
 others.*

**Welcome new  
 commission member  
 Patti Schumacher &  
 returning member,  
 Sharon Wilson**

Teacher, Alreda Adams amongst children, finds out what makes Japan such a special country so that she can share 1st hand knowledge in USA Schools.



If you would like to participate in the 2011 Exchange or know someone who would, applications are on the web site on the Exchange Tab at: [www.ci.independence.mo.us/sistercity](http://www.ci.independence.mo.us/sistercity). Just because it was an all-girl trip in 2010 doesn't mean boys aren't accepted. It made it nice for the girls to do some feminine things but as pictured above they also experienced a large variety of activities such as the one pictured above.



## Happening Now and Up-Coming Events

Welcoming Camp Fire  
 Independence Today  
 Historical Independence  
 American School Visit  
 Family Day Weekends  
 St. Mary University  
 Kansas City Zoo  
 Worlds of Fun  
 Horseback Riding  
 Powell Gardens Lunch  
 Boating, Swimming &  
 Teen Party & Luau  
 Mayors Dinner are just a  
 few of the things that the

Japanese Exchange Students did in our city. All JSCC Friends are welcome on many events.  
 ~Student Interviews for the 2011 trip and our 33rd Anniversary party will take place in the winter of 2011.  
 ~Santi-Cali-Gon Fund Raiser: Join us for a "Parking" Event to raise money for Student Programs. All candidates may participate.

In the Autumn: Japan Festival & Motaku Convention  
 ~Calling all Alumni to get involved and plan for the 35th Anniversary Adult Trip.  
 Right: BBQ Day looks like fun for Jeannae and Watanabe.

All 2010 Exchange Students, HIFA members and Independence Teachers visiting temple in Nikko & having a 'friendship-making' kind of day.

