



Daisen-Nakayama News 2009

Dates to Remember

- August 26th Trip Informational meeting in Room 10 at 6– 7:30 PM at Margarita Middle School.
- Sept. 12th, first Japanese Cultural Club 3 PM Rm. 10
- Sept. 19th Scholarship paperwork must be postmarked to Temecula Sister City Association today
- **September 26**– Student travel paperwork due to MMS's Front Office by 4 PM or Denise Haerr, if student wants to go to Japan. Japanese Cultural Club 3 PM Rm. 10. Plan to stay after for travel interviews at 4 PM.
- October 20th– Notification of who will travel
- October 22nd– Airfare due to travel agent today.
- October 24th Japanese Cultural Club 3 PM Rm. 10. 'Student Profile' for host families due.



Contacts:

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JAPAN CULTURAL EXCHANGE MARCH 23-APRIL 3, 2009

This spring break, a group of students will be traveling to Japan as a cultural exchange between Temecula middle schoolers and our sister school, Nakayama Jr. High School. This is a fabulous opportunity for students to learn about a different culture while living with a host family and exploring various important historical landmarks of the Japanese heritage. We will be taking students we feel will best represent Temecula schools and our City. Each student will be an ambassador and must be responsible and capable of traveling rather independently. An interview process will occur.

Keri Kubokawa Vogtmann, the **group leader**, is a mother of three children (11, 6, and 5 year old). Keri has been on Board of Directors for the Temecula Sister City Association for over seven years and is the former Chairperson for the organization. She, along with a former board member and friend, launched the Children's Matsuri, a festival bringing Japanese culture and fun to Southern California's kids. This June, the organization celebrated its sixth year of success with this event by bringing a bit of Japan to our community. Many moons ago, she was a Resident Assistant for 224 students in the UC Berkeley dorm system. Responsibilities included planning and coordinating

student programs, dealing with conflict resolution, addressing conduct issues, and ensuring student safety. Several years later, Keri received a Master's degree from the Graduate School of International Relations and Pacific Affairs at UC San Diego, where she gained her proficiency in Japanese and met her husband. She worked for Hewlett-Packard Company for 13 years, mostly in the international arena, traveling to Europe, Mexico and Asia. Keri is currently a part-time English as a Second Language teacher for Mt. San Jacinto College, active board member for TSCA and a rarely-at-home-always-busy mom. The common thread in Keri's pursuits has been and continues to be bringing people together from all over.

Keri is a third generation Japanese-American and when she was six years old, she lived in Japan with her family for a brief period. That was when the wanderlust bug bit her but the travel fever lay dormant for years. It wasn't until her undergraduate years, when she ventured to South Korea for the summer not knowing any Korean, that her life would change forever. In the years that proceeded, she lived in Japan once again, but this time as an intern. After she married her husband, world exploration took off. With their oldest son, Alex, they lived in Germany and Singapore.

After the younger two children, Jack and Anna, came along, they lived in Singapore again. This summer her family spent one month in Costa Rica, traveling around the country and her kids took Spanish lessons. As a tourist and for business reasons, Keri has visited 19 countries at last count. Keri is familiar with the challenges and discomforts of travel, whether it's dealing with language barriers, excruciating travel delays, food poisoning or cockroaches in living quarters. Keri even has experience with rushing her child to the emergency room (twice!) in a foreign country. Despite the setbacks, the enormous joy of watching a child discover something new and loving it, or seeing the light bulb click when something foreign sinks in, is what fuels Keri's desire to keep her children, and other children, on the global playground. She believes that *the world is truly our children's oyster* and she wants to make sure that as many kids "open the door to the unlimited possibilities" as possible.

Prior to leaving for Japan, we will have several mandatory parent/student meetings. In addition, your student is required to join the Japanese Cultural Club that meets the 2nd and 4th Fridays at MMS. Here travelers will be prepared to live with a family of a different culture and learn about the history and people of Japan. In addition, travelers will form bonds making the adventure that much more fun!

Dear Prospective traveler,

As you probably know, traveling 8,000 miles with or without your parent is a huge undertaking. In an attempt to guarantee a successful trip for you and for the group, Temecula Sister City Association will use several tools to see who is the ideal traveler for this amazing Spring trip: interviews, observations of the Japanese Cultural Club meetings, a letter of recommendation and your own personal reasons for embarking on this adventure.

If you are interested in going to Japan March 23-April 3, 2009, please included the following and either return to the front office of Margarita Middle School, mail to TSCA, P.O. Box 904, Temecula, CA 92593-0904 or contact me to deliver it.

If you have questions about any of this, please call or e-mail me. I have taken this trip with both of my sons. It was incredible and I hope you have the opportunity to explore this fantastic country and culture with us.

Sincerely,

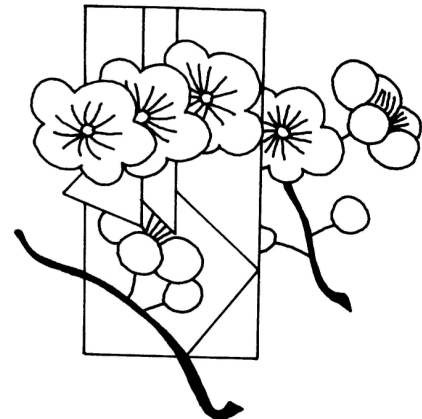
Denise Haerr

Denise Haerr
Daisen Liaison
www.TemeculaSisterCityAssociation.org
(951) 440-4518

Check list of what to include with your application **by September 26th:**

- Information sheet about you
- Essay “Why I want to go to Daisen, Japan”
- Signed acknowledgement of expense
- Recommendation form

Remember to attend the Japanese Cultural Club meetings and the interviews on Sept. 26th.



About Me...

Name _____ age _____ D.O.B _____

Address

E-mail _____ Ph. # _____

School _____

Interests _____

Travel experiences: _____

What I want you to know about me that makes me unique: _____

Anything else:

Daisen-Nakayama 2009 Expenses

March 23-April 3

Dear Parent,

This is an estimated cost for the trip to Japan, per person. We will have firm numbers in September. The price is subject to change depending on airfare and the cost of fees in Japan.

Airfare: R/T from ONT to Japan (on United changing planes in San Francisco)	\$1,200.00
Japan Tour fees: includes all tours, activities, entrance fees, hotel costs, transportation	\$2,000.00
Passport (for under 16) (must be applied for after traveler selection has been made, before ticket purchase)	\$85
Mandatory travel insurance	\$36.00
Host family gifts: you must bring gifts for the family and every individual member, upon arrival. One gift is left when student departs. Since they are housing and feeding us for 5 days, your gifts should be generous ones.	\$70.00– 100.00
Food: (2) Lunches in Daisen. (5) Lunches and (5) dinners in Osaka, snacks, drinks (this is between you and your child)	(I never paid more than \$10 per meal.) \$100
Spending money: souvenirs. This is between you and your student.	\$50.00+



+/- \$3,500.00

Return by Sept. 26th to MMS's Front Office or Denise Haerr

I, the parent of _____ understand the costs involved in sending my child to Daisen-Nakayama, Japan and am willing to pay the above mentioned costs (+/- \$3,500.00). Also, I feel my child is responsible and is able to act as a Goodwill Ambassador for TSCA.

Parent Signature

Date

Spring trip to Japan 2009

Tentative itinerary

(The itinerary is subject to change)

Departing on Sunday, March 23, 2009

Day 2. 3/24 (Mon.)

Arrive Kansai International Airport

Meeting at arrival lobby and Transfer to Daisen-Nakayama by charter bus

Arrive at Nakayama Friendship House (NFH)

Stay at NFH for first night

Day 3. 3/25 (Tues.)

Breakfast at NFH

Visit Nakayama Town Hall, meet with the Mayor

Nakayama Town Hall a tour , tour the community

Visit Nakayama Junior High School (NJHS)

Meet with NJHS Principal and Teachers

Welcome assembly

NJHS club activities with Japanese students

Meet host families at NFH /Home stay

Day 4. 3/26 (Wed.)

All day activity in Daisen-Nakayama area/ Home stay

Japanese martial arts experience at Budokan *Judo, Karate and Kendo

Japanese cooking experience *Soba noodles with soup

Japanese culture experience

*Tea ceremony, Japanese Sumi calligraphy and Origami

Meet host families / Home stay

Day 5. 3/27 (Thurs.)

All day activity in Daisen-Nakayama area/ Homestay

Sports activities with NJHS students

Half day Daisen community tour

Mt. Daisen, Daisenji-temple and Mild farm tours

Friendship Party then home with host families/ home stay

Day 6. 3/28 (Fri.)

Full day sightseeing tour in Matsue and Tottori area by charter bus with buddy students.

Visit Matsue castle, Horikawa river ride, Candy factory,

Adachi museum (Japanese arts & Japanese garden) and shopping

Day 7. 3/29 (Sat.)

Free day with host families who will plan the day's activities, special, for you.
Last home stay night.

Day 8. 3/30 (Sun.) Departure day.

Meet at NJHS and goodbye to host families travelers go on to Osaka.

Day 9. 3/31 (Mon.)

Breakfast buffet in Japanese and American style at the hotel restaurant

Day trip to **Hiroshima by Super Bullet train**, local train, ferry and tram car

Visit Miyajima Island, Itsukushima Shrine(World Heritage site), Miyajima Pagoda, Peace Memorial Park, Atomic Bomb Museum (World Heritage site) and free for sightseeing, shopping and meals

Evening at the hotel in Osaka

Day 10. 4/1 (Tues.)

Breakfast buffet in Japanese and American style at the restaurant

Day trip to Kyoto by express train, local bus, traditional tram car and scenic train

Enjoy Hozukawa rapid river ride (1.5h) and glorious spring colors at Kameoka valley . Visit Arashiyama, Toji Pagoda Temple (World Heritage Site), and the very fun Samurai Movie Studio Village.

Arrive at the hotel in Osaka.

Day 11. 4/2 (Wed.)

Full day excursion in Nara by subway and trains.

Visit Sika-Koen/Deer Park, Nandaimon Gate, Konbuin Temple, Kofukuji Temple, and tour Todaiji Temple (home of the biggest Buddha in the world).

Free time for shopping.

Day 12. 4/3 (Thurs.)

Hotel check-out and Transfer to Kansai International Airport by airport shuttle.

Arrive at airport and airline check-in

Leave for home.

***The World is a book,
and those who do not travel read only a page.***

~St. Augustine

Japan Trip- Spring Break 2009

Dear Prospective traveler,

You have expressed an interest in traveling to Japan. As a participant in this trip, you will be an ambassador not only for your school but also for the *City of Temecula*.

Participating students should display the traits of good citizenship and a commitment to academic success.

**Please have a non-relative adult, who knows you well
(Scout leader, coach, teacher, etc.)
complete and sign this form (due by Sept. 26th)**

Japan Trip 2009

I recommend _____ as a participant for the Daisen-Nakayama, Japan 2009 trip. This student has the characteristics that I feel are important for independent travel and that of a good house guest.

Comments:

Recommendation signature _____ date _____

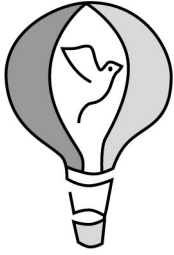
Relationship to student _____

Parent's signature _____ date _____

Student's signature _____ date _____

Due Sept. 26th

Return with all forms.



WHAT IS THE TEMECULA SISTER CITY PROGRAM?

On April 24, 1992, the Temecula Sister City Association (TSCA), a California non-profit corporation, was formed.

On June 11, 1993, the mayors of Temecula and Voorburg, The Netherlands, signed a sister city agreement. On May 13, 1994, the mayors of Temecula and Nakayama, Japan, entered into our second sister city relationship. Meaningful cultural, student, and adult exchanges regularly take place with these two cities.

We also have two events:

Children's Matsuri, celebrating the Japanese culture, annually and
Dutch American Heritage Day, occurring every other year to share the Dutch culture.

WHAT IS A SISTER CITY?

When a community of whatever size or character joins with a community in another nation to learn more about the other and to develop friendly and meaningful exchanges, the two may propose a formal affiliation. The ideal affiliation involves a large number of citizens and organizations in both communities engaged in continuing projects of mutual interest.

The Sister City program, as a national concept, was launched at the White House in 1956 when President Dwight D. Eisenhower called for massive exchanges between Americans and the peoples of other lands. Today over 870 U.S. cities have formal links with some 1400 communities in 92 other nations of the world.

WHY HAVE A SISTER CITY?

A Sister City program helps the citizens of both communities become directly involved in international relations in unique and rewarding exchanges which benefit everyone. It enables all who participate to:

- Exchange ideas and develop friendships with their counterparts in another culture on a direct personal basis.
- Establish an identity as member of a family of man involved in the constructive process of building world peace.
- Develop a way for the many and diverse elements of every community to enjoy and profit from a cooperative program.
- Open new dialogues with the people of another culture to find unique solutions to improving the quality of urban life.
- Participate in a program with a real partner in another country so all members of the community can feel they are contributing to international understanding in a direct personal way.
- Better understand their own community by interpreting their way of life to the people of another culture.

HOW CAN YOU PARTICIPATE?

TSCA welcomes your support and participation.
Visit our website for more information: www.TemeculaSisterCityAssociation.org