

Memo From Minoru Kishaba

Henry:

I received this letter addressed to the A.T. Co c/o of me. Please read it & let's plan on sending to memorabilia & them.

I was surprised that a His school want to learn about us.

Chappin

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and
a light unto my path.

Psalm 119:105



By Amy Bombassaro/Journal and Courier

STANDING BY THEIR WORK: Tecumseh Middle School students (from left) Amanda Weber, Ed Caplinger, Lindsey Brooks, Sunni Neff and Tony Trafford stand in the Japanese garden they helped create in the courtyard at the school in Lafayette.

Tecumseh eighth-graders create garden of honor

By Muneera Naseer
Journal and Courier

For nearly the entire past school year, eighth-graders at Tecumseh Middle School had to get down and dirty for a classroom project.

Students at the school had to roll up their sleeves — and pants, in some cases — to dig, lift and clear the way for what would become a Japanese garden in their school courtyard.

"It was fun," said Amanda Weber, who came to school Friday with a few other classmates to talk about the project.

"You had to dig and really dig and then dig for days," Sunni Neff said.

The idea for a Japanese garden at the school came from teacher Leila Meyerratken, who teaches foreign language classes at Tecumseh and Sunnyside Middle School.

Meyerratken's class was focusing on the internment of Japanese-Americans during World War II, on the orders of the U.S. government.

It was a lesson in history that the students said they had not heard before and were surprised by.

"I didn't know they did something like this," Weber said of the government's actions.

Meyerratken came up with the idea of a garden to honor the U.S. Army's 442nd battalion, which was made up of Japanese-American

Another successful project

Tecumseh Middle School eighth-graders also completed a bilingual calendar last school year to aid Spanish-speaking residents who have moved into the area.

About 600 calendars, for the year 1999 and 2000, were donated earlier this year to the Community and Family Resources Center for its Spanish-speaking clients. The calendars contain poems, recipes, lists of Spanish words translated into English, and also a list of various agencies and organizations in Tippecanoe County.

There are also bits of information on customs or traditions on various countries where Spanish is spoken, from marriage customs to traditional attire.

"You had to dig and really dig and then dig for days."

— Sunni Neff
Tecumseh student

icans who fought during the war.

The entire project cost \$18,000, she said, much of it covered by donations from the community. An Indiana Department of Education grant covered \$3,000 of the cost and \$641 was received through the Minni-Robinson grant.

Just what goes into a Japanese garden was determined by student research. The garden itself has a pond with goldfish, a small fountain on the side and stones all around it. A short distance from the pond is a yin-yang symbol created in landscape with grass on one side and pebbles on

the other.

"Look! A lily pod," exclaimed one student, after noticing the leafy plant floating on the water surface.

Students said it took a lot of dedication and physical work to get the project completed. Not to mention teamwork.

"We got to hang out with our friends and got to know each other real well," Weber said.

Meyerratken said next year's eighth-graders may grow purple flowers in the garden, in a heart shape to represent a Purple Heart.

Mrs. Meyerratken's class
Sunnyside Middle School
2500 Cason Street
Lafayette, Indiana 47905

March 22, 2001

Dear Sir:

Hello. I am an 8th grader at Sunnyside Middle School in Lafayette, Indiana.

We are learning about WWII and plan to create a tapestry dedicated to Japanese-American WWII veterans. It will be 19 by 41 feet to represent 1941, the year Pearl Harbor was bombed. The tapestry will travel around the United States to teach others what we learned.

We are doing this not only to learn, but to teach others about Japanese- Americans and their contribution to American history.

This tapestry will be very special, because we are working on it along with Tecumseh Middle school students. Also, because most part of this tapestry will be made from clothes worn by Japanese American veterans. To complete the tapestry, we need objects such as old clothing, pictures, letters, and anything belonging to Japanese-American veterans. To be able to put the letters and pictures we receive onto the tapestry, we will scan them, then transfer the image onto paper that can be ironed on the fabric.

We hope you can help us and take part in our tapestry. We will send you a photo of the finished tapestry. We hope to complete our project by July. Please help us pass the word, so no one is forgotten.

This is our wish list, help us with what you can:

- _We could use photos showing AJA veterans at reunions, revisits, and gatherings.
- _A dog tag and a purple heart.
- _Old t-shirts.
- _Anything that can be spared.
- _If you have a relative who can monogram poems, we will supply fabric, thread and postage.
- _If you can help spread the word on our behalf to obtain donations of items.

All items will be placed on the tapestry. We will not be able to reply until the tapestry is complete. And we will send photos.

If you wish to contact our teacher, her name is Mrs. Meyerratken E-mail Lmeyerratken@juno.com

Sincerely, *Jareth Love*

P. S.

We are sending you a copy of a newspaper article to tell you about a project that our peers completed last year. We hope to show you how dedicated we are to commemorating WWII veteran, especially the Japanese-American heroes .

Our peers at Tecumseh are working hard by sending letters too. We are sorry if you have already received a letter of request from them.

I hope to hear from you.

Kishub
13569 Laceland
La Mirada, CA 90638



Henry Ike moto
15219 Purche Ave
Gardena, CA 90249-4125

90249+4125

