

School Senior Tyler Finkel Studies in Japan



While in Osaka, Tyler Finkel stayed with Hiromi Nanabara and her family. She was an exchange student at Mackinac Island three years ago.

By Karen Gould

"High school is pretty much the same everywhere," said Mackinac Island senior Tyler Finkel upon his return from Japan, where he had been an exchange student for the last 10 months.

Well, not exactly.

The school day schedule is similar, though little else, he explained.

Tests scores determine class grades; there is no homework. Every student is given a number, and although the teachers know each student's name, their seats correspond to their number, said Mr. Finkel.

"They have really advanced science and math classes," he noted. "They're very difficult."

To get to school, Mr. Finkel got up early each morning to catch the train, which was one hour away from the home of his host family.

He stayed with the Nanabara family, who have three children. Their daughter, Hiromi, had been an exchange student to Mackinac three years ago, which is when they got to know each other. The

family lives in Osaka, which has an approximately eight million people, is 325 miles south of Tokyo, and more than 6,500 miles from Mackinac Island.

"I had a really good host family," he said. "They were really good parents, brothers, and sister."

This was Mr. Finkel's second trip to Japan. During his first visit in 2003, he spent two weeks as an exchange student in Shiga, an inland city in an area of with more than 22 million people. He said the numbers of people didn't bother him during his first visit or this one.

"There's still enough room to get away," he said.

His host family didn't use a clothes washer and dryer, and, because washing by hand is hard work, he said, he was happy to let his host mother do the washing. He happily admitted he only had to wash his own clothes a couple of times.

"They stick a hose in a bathtub and do laundry," he added. "They don't use a dryer, either. They air dry all their clothes."

Mr. Finkel said his favorite

food was Korean, and for the most part, he didn't mind Japanese food, although he got tired of some items.

"I had a little too much rice, fish, and seaweed," he said. "They are big on vegetables and not so much on meat. I missed meat a lot."

Mr. Finkel spent two years studying Japanese through the Mackinac Island Public School interactive television program, in a class broadcast from Pickford High School with Keith Krahnke as the instructor.

He said he can speak enough to get by, but because the people don't speak textbook Japanese, it was easier for him to listen than to speak. Writing Japanese was the most difficult for him.

"Even though it was hard, sometimes, I never wished I hadn't done it," he said. "I'm glad I did it. I loved it there."

He kept in touch with his family on Mackinac by e-mail and occasional telephone calls.

Tyler's mother, Pam, is the art teacher at Mackinac Island Public School and his father, Lee, is the manager of the hardware store at Union Terminal Piers. He also has a younger sister, Jane, who is in the eighth grade at the Island school.

Tourism Bureau's New Logo Highlights Horse Culture

The Mackinac Island Tourism Bureau has a new logo that highlights the Island's horse culture. Board members approved the new piece after searching for months for a design that communicated the Island's culture and history.

The logo was designed by Kristi Lewand Graham, who has been studying graphic design at the Center for Creative Studies in Detroit and now has her own business called Graham Design. She and her husband, Alex, have a house in Trillium Heights.

"My goal was to create something that is both contemporary and fresh, but also has a hint of nostalgia," said Mrs. Graham. "I was inspired by old travel posters and luggage stickers as well as the goals of the Tourism Bureau and their horses, history, and hospitality tag line."

"Kristi Lewand Graham is an incredibly talented artist that really understands Mackinac Island," said Mary McGuire Slevin, director of the Mackinac Island Tourism Bureau. "Her painterly style and vision is what makes her work truly special and why we



Mackinac Island Tourism Bureau's new logo.

chose her work to represent the Island."

Mrs. Slevin said the Tourism Bureau had been looking for a new logo for quite sometime and when she learned Mrs. Graham was studying graphic design, she gave her a call. As it turned out, Mrs. Graham needed to complete a project for one of her classes and decided to take up the challenge.

"I think that the Island's great strength is its embrace of the past, but also how relevant that past is to today's tourist," said Mrs. Graham. "Mackinac's horse-drawn way of life is a great remedy to the hectic pace

of most people's lives."

The tourism board decided on a dark blue for the logo's color.

"I really liked the color that

we did settle on as it seemed classic and I thought we could use the color as our theme for not only the logo, but our stationary set and even paint the booth the same," said Mrs. Slevin.

Lake Sweet Takes Sorority Post

Lake Sweet has been elected scholarship chair for Alpha Xi Delta Sorority at Albion College.

A sophomore studying biology and psychology, she is the daughter of Laura Eiseler of Mackinac Island and a graduate of Mackinac Island Public School.



Church Schedules

Ste. Anne's Catholic Church

Mass Schedule

Saturday – 5:30 p.m.

Sunday – 9 and 11 a.m.

Mackinac Island Bible Church

A church in the word
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Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m.

Wednesday Mid-week

Service 8 p.m.

all services at

Mission Point Resort Theatre

Watch for our Summer Concerts

& Special Events

Coffee House Friday

9 p.m. to Midnight

Little Stone Church Union Congregational

Summer Sunday Worship

10:30 a.m.

Thursday Bible Study 1 p.m.

Trinity Episcopal Church Parish Hall

All Are Welcome

Trinity Episcopal Church

Sunday Holy Eucharist

10:30 a.m.

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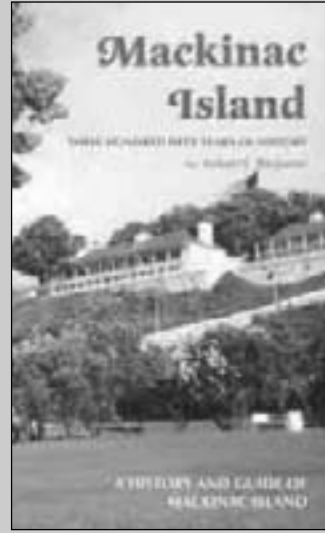
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