



ANTHONY WAYNE SCHOOLS

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Japan Coverage

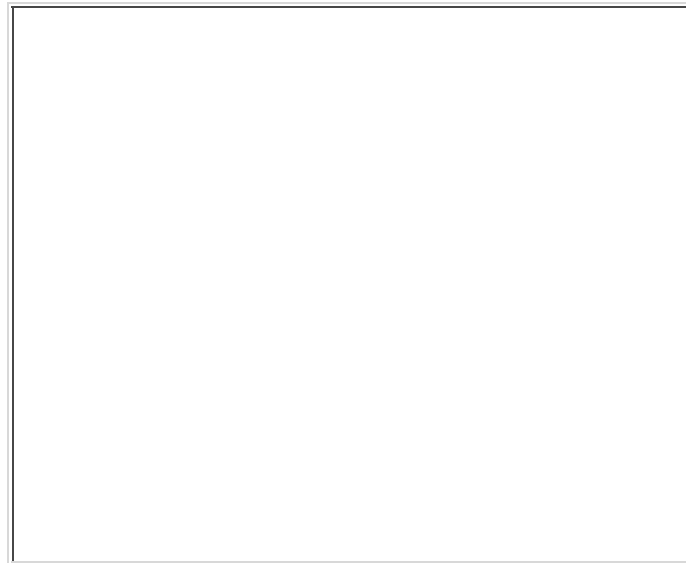
After the earthquake and tsunami hit Japan, Kristi Pawlak, Waterville Primary parent and Professor of Japanese at the University of Toledo, felt it would be therapeutic for the children of Waterville Primary to be given an opportunity to convey their support and sympathy to the people of Japan. Knowing that children do not have the financial funds to forward to Japan, Pawlak thought that WORDS were just as powerful and meaningful and therefore, approached Waterville Primary Principal, Deb Thomas, with hopes that the primary students would write letters to Japan.

Mrs. Thomas took it from there, contacting all the teachers and students, offering them this opportunity to express themselves via a picture or letter. 150 letters were collected from the children to be sent to Japan.

As a Board member of Toledo Sister Cities International, Kristi Pawlak decided to send these letters to Toledo's sister city of Toyohashi, Japan. She knew that sending these letters to the city of Toyohashi would boost that city's morale and strengthen the two cities' bond. Toledo and Toyohashi have been sister cities for about 10 years. Toyohashi is about 400 miles south of where the Tsunami hit (Sendai).

After collecting the 150 letters from Waterville Primary, Pawlak mailed all of them to Toyohashi. Upon receiving the letters, the people of Toyohashi were so amazed with all of the well wishes from the children that they felt that the entire city needed a chance to view and read these letters. An exhibit was created at the City Hall and the letters were translated and displayed for all to see for one week. The media was contacted and there was an article in their newspaper as well as news coverage. The exhibit has now been moved and is currently being displayed at the Children's Museum in Toyohashi.

Attached is a video file of the Japanese TV news coverage.



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