

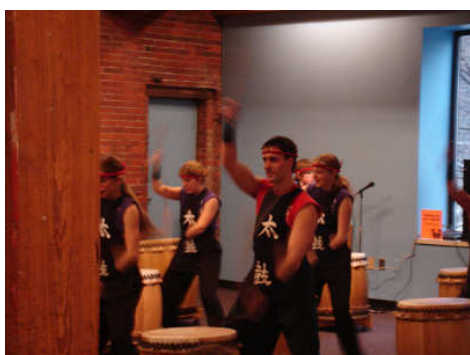
アンソニーくんの たのしい一日

O-Shogatsu at Children's Museum

On January 15th 2006, Vishnu-senpai, Jonathan-kun, Bisan, Vy-senpai, Emily-senpai, Thao-senpai, Janice-senpai, Alexander-senpai, Annie-senpai and I went to volunteer at the Children's Museum for the Japanese New Year, O-Shogatsu. It was going to be an exciting day and we all couldn't wait for it to begin. We, along with other Showa students, then met Akemi-sama, who was going to be in charge of this event for the day. When she spoke in Japanese about the day's schedule, several of us were lost because we've still haven't learned that much yet so we kept asking her to repeat it for us. After a tour around the museum was given, the day began.



Several of us were put in charge of an event while I and Annie-senpai had special assignments where we were assistants to help our instructors with their preparations. I was the assistant for preparing the Shishimai-Dance, which is also known as the Lion Dance. I saw the Shishi and saw the instruments used in this dance. It was a once in a life time experience to actually experience the Japanese culture close up and personal. As the day went on, during my breaks, I would go around the museum to enjoy the other activities. There were Kendo and Taiko Drumming, Hachimaki, Mochi-Tsuki Rice Pounding, Otoshi-dama, Ema, Hanetsuki & Koma, Omikuji, Tsumami-Kanzashi, Suminagashi, Giant Origami and more. I enjoyed the experience I felt when I was doing these activities but the best part of it all was the authentic Japanese House from Kyoto. When I was in there, I felt like I was in Japan right at that moment. The rooms were a lot different and even the toilet and bathtub. Around 4:30p.m., all the volunteers



gathered and Akemi-sama thanked us for all our help and I was glad to be there that day to see all this. As a special treat, we got to see the upstairs floor of the Japanese House, which is rarely opened for the public. After all this excitement, we were given goodie bags and left. However, some of us volunteers decided to come back to help with the Cherry Blossom Festival in April. As a volunteer, I felt every lucky to be able to see all these things and experience them with my own hands. I just can't wait until then.

