



Health / Education

Black **H**istory **M**onth

Auction to help send children abroad



Japanese Magnet Program Kids Tara Cook, Brooke Probosco, Canada Edward Mashia and Stephanie Spears tackle the world. Contributed photo by Kristen Quevedo

CONTRIBUTED STORY
FOR THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Picture this. Thirty-five 5th graders boarding a plane to Japan...each one able to speak the language very much like a native speaker. These kids are enrolled in the Portland Public Schools Japanese Magnet program, a language immersion program at Richard Elementary School that draws kids from throughout the Portland metro-

area. For the past six years, these kids have studied very hard and have earned this trip. The kids stay with host families and get to practice the language.

Each year, the parent group, Oya No Kai, hosts an auction to raise funds for the trip and support of the program. Last year's auction raised \$75,000. In addition, each year the community makes a quilt to auction.

This year's quilt was crafted by parents (local artist) using a design

by the famed fabric artist Kumiko Sudo.

It's not what you'd usually think of when you think quilt. It's an absolutely stunning quilt... very bright and colorful.

The quilt is going to auction off at the April 1st Our Dreams Take Flight VI auction. The auction will be held at the Hilton this year. Tickets are \$40 each (includes dinner & programs) Silent & oral auction. Door open at 5:30.

SEI presents first teen summit

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FOR THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Self Enhancement Inc. is inviting all teens to attend their first ever "Teen Summit" which will be held on Saturday, February 26th, 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. at the Center for Self Enhancement (3920 N. Kerby Ave.) Patterned after Black Entertainment Television's (BET) "Teen Summit", the focus of the discussion will be on healthy relationships and how teens can better interact with family, peers and member of the opposite sex. The lead discussion group will be comprised of SEI Pamplin Leadership students from Jefferson, Benson, and Grant high schools, and the discussion, will be facilitated by SEI staff members. In addition to the live interactive discussion,

there will be skits and live entertainment—all performed by local youth, and a prize giveaway.

Lunch will be provided at no cost. To secure a spot at this event, please RSVP by calling 249-1721x381. Deadline to register is February 23rd.

(SEI) Pamplin Project is a high leadership program funded by local businessman Dr. Robert B. Pamplin Jr., with thirty student 'Fellows' participating from Benson and Grant, Jefferson High Schools. The project encourages and empowers young adults to use their natural skills of influence to persuade peers to make positive choices when confronted with teen pressures such as drugs and gang involvement.

The Pamplin Fellows believe that giving back to the community is their social responsibility.

Black History Month

Master Architect - "I had never seen a T-square or a triangle before I entered the School of Architecture at Columbia University," recalled Norma Merrick Sklarek, the first African American to be licensed as an architect in the United States. In a field, and at a time, of discrimination against both women and blacks, Sklarek set a standard for excellence. A principal or partner in several distinguished firms, she was the first black woman to be honored as a fellow of the American Institute of Architects in 1966. Her major projects include the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo and Terminal One at the Los Angeles International Airport, and she has taught and lectured at architecture schools throughout the United States. Sklarek continues to serve as an architectural consultant, "happy...to be a role model for others to follow."



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