Sullivans supports KHS career practicum students

Story and photo by Steve Parker,
Sullivans Elementary School Public Affairs

Many Nile C. Kinnick High School students recieve valuable workplace experience at the Sullivans through Kinnick's career practicum program. The carreer practicum program is an opportunity for students to observe and work with professional teachers and learn from them while at the same time enriching the learning of elementary school students at The Sullivans School.

The program is administered by Mike Adair at Kinnick High School and Laverne Outen at The Sullivans Elemetary School. Adair describes the program as follows, "The program allows students to explore occupational choices, to understand the prerequisites for career paths – including post-secondary education, and to observe and participate in actual occupations on-site. By doing so the students will learn to make wise, realistic career choices." The students sign up for the class at KHS, get paired up with a teacher at The Sullivans and spend the year (or semester) performing typical tasks and duties of a teacher under the guidance of their hosting professional.

Laverne Outen, Sullivans assistant principal states, "The career practicum program partnership at The Sullivans School gives the Kinnick High School students the opportunity to learn through hands-on experience with children in grades kindergarten to fifth grade. The practicum students are supervised in the classrooms and gain on-the-job learning experience that allows them to apply classroom knowledge and theory to an existing work situation. The program readies the students to be more realistically prepared to enter the working world and assists them in making enlightened career choices."

Michael Applegate is a 4th-grade teacher who has mentored KHS students in his classroom for the past five years. Applegate says of the experience, "It is a great way to expose aspiring teachers from Kinnick High School to a genuine classroom environment with experienced teachers." One former KHS student is Jillian Parker, who was inspired by her experience with Jacqueline Jordan teaching Kindergarten Spanish Immersion in 2009 and is currently studying education at Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, Texas.

Santee Pecadeso, A Kinnick High School student assists Austin Hansen from Mr. Steve Parker's fourth grade class in a math assignment as part of his career practicum classroom experience at The Sullivans Elementary School.

"Career practicum helps you set in stone what you want to do," says Santee Pecadeso, who is presently working with Mr. Parker's fourth-grade class, "I enjoy it. It is a fun thing to do. I offer support to the students and help them with what they need to learn. My support, that's the best thing I can offer them." Student interns typically average one hour per day, every other day in the classroom.

The career practicum program also sends students to several other sites on base to educate them about career options. Some of the other sites and options offered by the program are Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY) Judge Advocate General (JAG) in paralegal services, Naval Facilities and Engineering Command (NAVFAC) in architecture and information technology, Morale, Welfare and Recreation Marketing Office (MWR) in graphic design, and Commodore Matthew C. Perry "Jewel of the East" Galley in food services. The United States Naval Hospital at Yokosuka, (USNH) is also a great supporter of the program with 20 plus students placed in fields ranging from Obstetrics-Gynocology to Surgery. Adair is particularly proud of the relationships he has forged with the Ship Repair Facility (SRF) and NAVFAC because of the need to get kids who are interested in engineering/technical occupations some exposure in those fields.

More information about the career practicum program can be obtained by contacting Mike Adair at Kinnick High School, 243-7392

A large kanji that is part of the phrase "good luck in battle" is next to the rising sun of a Japanese Imperial military flag that is surrounded by more that 100 names. Lt. j.g. Michael Reid brought the flag back to Japan, attempting to find connections to names on the flag. Photo by Joe Schmitt.

Flag, cont. from pg. 1

Akimasa Ota, through a translator said,"I was surfing internet, put my father's name in searching engine. Then I found out that Shiba-Inu san (Twitter screen name) was talking (tweeting) about U.S. Navy personnel who is looking for an owner of a Japanese national flag that he or she found on the CNFJ's twitter's site. Shiba-Inu used some names that were on the flag which included my father's name. Then, I just found the original CNFJ's twitter's site which was originally posted December 2011.But I am not sure if it was my father or not. I was 50 percent positive before, but now I am 70 percent sure."

Ota's father, Motosabuso Okabe, is originally from the Gunma Prefecture. Ota said he felt lucky the name was mentioned on CNFJ's page.

"There are more than 100 people's names are on the flag, and my father's name was in the middle of the picture that CNFJ posted, and Shiba-Inu just picked random names from the flag and talked about it on the twitter," said Ota. "Then I found my father's name. So it was a series of coincidences."

Ota's father passed away December 1946. He heard about his father through his mother. His father was in Palau but came back to Japan when he got sick. Ota said most of the people who went to Palau died on the battlefield.

"I don't think it belonged to my father," said Ota. "But I think it made me realize that U.S. and Japan has built a good relationship that an American person whose grandfather was fighting against Japan during that time wants to return a flag to Japan now. It made me feel glad. I hope U.S. and Japan will build even better relationship in the future."

After receiving a little more information, Reid returned to the states with his reserve unit and the flag. He folded it carefully saying that while he didn't find any solid leads this time, someone might want it in the future and he felt that he should take care of it until then.

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千葉県在住の太田さんは「インターネットで父の名前を検索していたら、ある人が日章旗の事を話していました。それを辿って去年の12月に掲載されたCNFJのページを見つけました」と言う。「まだわかりませんが、7割方父の名前ではないかと思っています」と心境を語った。

太田さんの実父である岡部元三郎氏は群馬県の出身。戦時中は帝国陸軍の宇都宮歩兵第66に所属していた。CNFJが掲載した日章旗の写真に父親の名前が写っていたのは運が良かったと太田さんは話す。「100名以上の名前がある中で、父の名前はCNFJが掲載した写真の中央にありました。また、別の人がインターネットで日章旗の写真に載っていた多くの名前の中から数名の名前を挙げており、そこでも父の名前を見つけたのは、偶然の積み重なりだと思う」と説明した。

太田さんの父、岡部氏は1946年12月に死去。当時まだ生後９ヶ月太田さんは、母親から亡くなった父親について聞いていた。岡部氏はパラオに赴任したが、病気になり帰国。太田さんは多くの日本兵がパラオで命を落としていると話した。「この旗は父の物ではないと思います」と太田さんは話す。「しかし、米国人がこの旗を返したいと思うようになったということは、米国と日本が良い関係を築いた証拠。大変嬉しく思うし、今回にとどまらず更に両国が良い関係を築いていけたら良いなと思います」と付け加えた。

リード中尉は日章旗と共に米国に帰国した。リード中尉は「今回、確実な手掛かりは得られませんでしたが、いつか誰かが名乗りをあげるまで大事にしなくてはいけないと強く感じています」と話しながら、丁寧に旗を畳んだ。

＊日章旗の写真はCNFJフェイスブックページ(http://www.facebook.com/COMNAVFORJAPAN)及びCFAYフェイスブックページ(http://www.facebook.com/cfayokosuka)にて掲載。