# Kinnick High School's junior-senior prom: a night to remember

**Story and photo by Steve Parker, Seahawk contributer**

Nile C. Kinnick High School held their junior-senior prom at the New Sanno Hotel in Tokyo June 4 and the event was magical from start to finish.

The excitement continues to build Friday night as check in at the hotel begins. The class of 2012 (juniors) are already downstairs, where they will spend Friday night and most of the day Saturday unpacking 30 boxes of decorations ordered by the prom committee.

Junior Class Sponsor Dan Lufkin praised the New Sanno Staff, "They put the capital 'H' in hospitality here at the New Sanno," said junior class sponsor Dan Lufkin, while praising the hotel staff. "They had five employees working all day alongside our junior class to prepare for the event."

Christopher Del Toro, who helped decorate the event last year as a junior but got to enjoy the event as a graduating senior, knows how hard the junior class worked from his own experience.

"They begin planning in February when the seniors pick a theme by secret vote," Del Toro said. "The juniors then keep the theme secret until it is revealed to the senior class as they buy their tickets."

This year's theme, "Sahara Secrets" was part of the photo booth built by Robert and Tambra Tiffany who have been taking pictures at the prom for the past 10 years.

"Everything is set to make the kids feel special, the prom gives them a well-protected place where they can dance and be with their friends." Robert Tiffany said.

On Saturday, the excitement mounts even higher, as girls find their friend's rooms and begin their day-long beauty preparations, possibly stopping for a room service lunch. Dresses are hung reverently aside to show each other. Boys may leave the hotel in the morning to scout out after-prom places to take their dates in Shibuya or Ginza. Parents and siblings visit the swimming pool or shop in Tokyo, killing time until that night.

**(Right) Shannon Donegan pins a boutonniere on her date, Paddy Loughlin, before enjoying the evening at Nile C. Kinnick High School's junior-senior prom, held at the New Sanno Hotel in Tokyo June 4.**

At 6 p.m., hairstyles are arranged and neckties are tied, let the festivities begin. The lobby begins to fill with beautiful young people, excited for their evening of fun. Proud parents gush over their handsome sons and beautiful daughters. Overly stimulated younger siblings dash back and forth admiring the exotic creatures that look sort of like their older brothers and sisters. Corsages and boutonnieres are awkwardly pinned on while cameras record the magic for years to come. Then the excitement moves outside for the family highlight of the weekend.

Couples and groups of friends line up around the fountain for a scene reminiscent of Hollywood's red carpet promenades as parents line up along the sidewalk for the grand entrance. The "stars" of the night enter the building slowly as the camera flashes light up the night. As twilight settles on the New Sanno courtyard, colored lights in the fountain add their neon glow to the proceedings and slowly, the magic of the night reveals itself to all. Young people are enchanted by the promise of the night and older people recall their own enchantment from prom years past.

After the promenade, the students enter the prom for the long awaited highlight of their evening, a final chance to delight in each other's company before they spread out to futures all over the world. Parents go out to dinner with friends or to the pool with siblings. Everyone basks in the warm glow of a good time, having made a memory unique to our overseas experience on the Kanto Plain, and cherished by all for years to come, the Nile C. Kinnick High School junior-senior prom at the New Sanno Hotel in Tokyo, Japan.

# Sullivans student submissions picked for annual publication

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

Several Students from The Sullivans Elementary School had their submissions chosen for publication in the annual *Sun37* literary journal of the Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) Pacific. The student's submissions were honored during an after school ceremony held in the school's Media Center June 10.

The *Sun37* is the DoDEA Pacific annual journal of creative expression published by the DoDEA Pacific Area Office. The journal is in its 37th year of publication. The journal includes exemplary student works in art, music and creative writing. All students represented in the journal receive a free copy.

According to Janet Nicholson, Sullivans literary coordinator for the publication, the Sullivans placed 28 students into the publication in the art and writing categories. The Sullivans submissions were picked by the art teachers and a *Sun37* committee of interested teachers of reading and writing. They were then forwarded to the DoDEA Pacific offices where they were chosen from an enormous pool of submissions from throughout the DoDEA Pacific area.

"I feel very proud of myself," said Celene Hizon, a fifth-grade student from Jeff Sparlings class, during the ceremony. Hizon's work was titled "*Tessalation*" and was created with colored pencils.

Savannah Stevens, a second-grade student from John Brown's class was equally proud of her award for a short prose entitled "*My Birthday*." Jeleyna Balares, a Sullivans kindergarten student, proudly held up a framed copy of her painting, "*Pumpkins in the Storm*." When asked how it felt to be recognized for her artwork, she simply stated, "*Happy*." Her beaming face as she held up her artwork provided all the noun her simple adjective response needed. Hailey Tognocchi, a fourth-grader from Dana Tanio's class was recognized for her acrylic and pastel piece titled, "*The Amazing Bull*."

After the ceremony, all of the young artists and writers were seated at tables where they could autograph copies of their work for their budding fan bases. Parents, teachers, artists and writers then retired to the lounge for celebratory refreshments.

DoDEA Pacific provides comprehensive pre-kindergarten to grade 12 educations to the children of military and eligible civilian personnel families serving throughout Asia. The 48 schools in DoDEA Pacific are comprised of more than 24,000 students and 3,100 full-time professional educators and support staff. The schools are geographically organized into four districts: Guam, Japan, Okinawa and South Korea.

**Sullivans student Celine Hizon, a fifth-grader from Jeff Sparling's class, holds up her submission titled "*Tessalations*," which was chosen for publication in the annual SUN37 literary journal of the Department of Defense Education Activity Pacific. The student's submissions were honored during an after school ceremony held in the school's Media Center June 10.**