



**MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION**  
 Catarina Edison  
 4-H Program Associate

**Farewell Haru**  
 Hosting a youth from another country can be a very rewarding experience, and the Lasslett family of Newberry has been enjoying just that for the past month.



On July 25 the family of four (left to right, Marissa Lasslett, Jennifer Lasslett, Haru Suzuki, Jason Lasslett, Katelyn Plesscher, and Dakota Lasslett) visit Oswald's Bear Ranch.

welcomed Haru Suzuki into their home. Haru is 12 years old and visiting from Niigata, Japan. By shinkashen, the popular bullet trains, it is about 100 minutes away from Tokyo or four hours by car. She is an only child and has a dog named Padi. She has been staying with Jason, Jennifer, Dakota and Marissa Lasslett for the past month and enjoying a U.P. American home stay.

Upon her arrival, Haru had the opportunity to jump right into some 4-H programs and activities, such as: 4-H Clover Bud Camp, 4-H Teen Camp, visiting the Garlyn Farms Zoo, 4-H Rock Hounding Club and even giving a presentation on Japanese culture to the 4-H Reading Buddies program.

The family also has taken her to several areas throughout the U.P., including the St. Ignace Fish Festival, Oswald's Bear Ranch, Lake Superior, Grand Marais, Paradise, Whitefish Point, Crisp Point, several waterfalls, including Tahquamenon, mouth of the Two Heart and a trip to Munising where they enjoyed the glass-bottom boat tour.

While here, one of Haru's favorite things to do has been swimming. Visits to Round Lake were a common occurrence. Time for the Lasslett family has flown by, and unfortunately, the visit will come to an end this Friday, August 21 as Haru heads back home to Japan.

Exchange opportunities for both inbound and outbound are available each year through the 4-H program. If hosting an exchange student sounds like something that you would be interested in learning more about, please give the Luce County Extension office a call at 293-3203.

**4-H Teen Experiences Japan**

Hosting a youth from another country for a month opens your eyes to another culture, but having the opportunity to visit your host brother in his country takes the experience to a whole other level.

My son, Mitchell Edison, had



Mitchell visits sister Ayuka's classroom.



Mitchell trying on authentic Samurai clothing.

the opportunity to do this. He left Newberry July 8 and flew to Seattle, WA where a group of 200 exchange students from throughout the country met for a final debriefing. The following day Mitchell headed to his destination of Musashi-Muriyama, Japan. It is approximately one hour from Tokyo and four hours from Mt. Fuji.

Mitchell experienced so much throughout his visit. When reunited with his host

brother, Naosuke Katano, it was as if a year had never even gone by. He commented that the only difference was that "his voice had deepened." The Katano family consists of father, Hiroshi, mother, Natsuko, sister, Ayuka, little brother, Shunsuke, and dog, Don.

While in Japan Mitchell had the opportunity to see the infamous Tokyo tower, visit Mt. Fuji, swim in the Pacific Ocean,

Lions baseball games and make many new friends.

Mitchell returned from his monthlong trip on August 6, jet-lagged but full of stories. While in Japan, Mitchell and Naosuke discussed how they would keep in touch and have since communicated via phone, e-mail and now even Facebook. Naosuke would like to return for a yearlong home stay here in Newberry. He loved Newberry




The Katano's take Mitchell to a Japanese sauna. Everyone must wear a kimono.

eat some unique foods, visit a Shinto shrine, watch a table tennis tournament, enjoy several festivals, take in a couple Seibu

and would like to experience more of it.


Mitchell commented, "It was the coolest thing I've done. I will never forget it. I consider the Katanos my second family. I think everyone should try hosting a student, whether from Japan or anywhere. I hope now that my friends have seen what a great time I had that they will think about doing it, too."

Hosting was a wonderful experience for our family and one that we will definitely be partaking in again.



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You are cordially invited to the **Luce W. Mackinac County Fair Buyers Dinner and Livestock Auction**  
 Aug. 29th starting at 4pm.  
 Please come out and show your support.



Zach & Rebecca Cameron; Sara Cameron; Amy & Abby Edwards; Ethan & Eric Edwards; Hanna & Drew French; Kelsey Huffman; Steven Livermore; Nathanael, Robert, Abigail & Jonah Miller; Johnny Nutkins; Jeff & Katie Rahilly.

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For more information, stop by or call Nancy Diem at the Newberry News at **293-8401**

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 Call for details about a possible **Eagles Sport Page.**




**BIRTH**

Matthew and Bethany Marcott have announced the birth of their first child, Seth Theodore, Wednesday, July 15, 2009 at Marquette General Hospital.

The baby weighed six pounds, 11 ounces and measured 19.5 inches in length.

Grandparents are Rick and Denise Marcott of Helmer and Arthur and Lois Williams of Florida. Great-grandparents are Ted and Betty Marcott of Helmer, Bill and Sharon Zelinko of Florida and Gil and June Thompson of Marlette.

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