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## ISAO TARUMI, KNOWN AS JIM

**By M.C.**

You may have seen him in the halls, or maybe in the classroom. This Japanese exchange student goes by the name Isao Tarumi or "Jim" to the guys on the track team.

**What is your full name?**

My full name is Isao Tarumi.

**Do you have a nickname and if so what is it?**

Yes I have two nicknames; an American one and a Japanese one. My American nick name is Jim and my Japanese nickname is Taru.

**How did you get your American nickname?**

Nobody on the track team could say my name right so Bubba just started calling me Jim and then the whole track team started to do it. So now I'm known as Jim.

**Where are you from?**

I am from Tokyo, Japan.

**What are the people like?**

Basically...they are not the same. Customs are different and talking to people in the U.S. is easier than in Japan. The people and style of life are more relaxed here.

**How is the weather different here?**

Winter is a lot less harsh than it is here; we don't get as much snow as here. I like the weather back home a lot more.

I'm sick of snow!

**How did you get involved with your exchange program?**

My brother and sister came to America when they were in high school, so I became interested to come here. It was really hard for them to adapt to the new things when they came here three years ago.



Isao Tarumi, from Japan, is staying with Amy Fagin and Wayne Hachey while he attends Mahar.

**Have you gone anywhere else in the U.S. since you have been here?**

I went to North Carolina but it was really boring and there was nothing to do there. I was stuck in the car for like 16 hours. I was like, "When are we going to get there!"

**How do you keep in contact with your family and friends?**

Mostly we mail things to each other and e-mail. Occasionally we talk on the phone but mostly we just use the computer.

**What kinds of things did you and your friends do at home?**

Since my house is right near the big city (Tokyo) we go there to watch movies and shop. Basically we just hang around. After school we go there and hang out.

**What's your school like?**

My school has two systems, one that runs from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and one that runs from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.. The 5:00 to 9:00 p.m. schedule is too much for me. Basically it's for the really smart kids.

**Are there any similarities to Mahar? Differences?**

Students are organized into individual classes at the beginning of the year and we all have to take the same classes. Here, everyone can take their own classes. It's more relaxed here than at home.

**Are you having trouble adjusting to American food?**

It's too much!!! It's too easy to think you're hungry here; too much food.

**What's typical food for your country?**

Mainly sushi, sushi is very big back home.

**How do you like American Sushi?**

Some of it was good, but others that I have had were terrible; not sushi.