

January 1, 2004

Dear Friends and Family,

As usual, I am observing the Japanese custom of sending New Year's greetings instead of Christmas cards – but I certainly appreciated receiving yours.



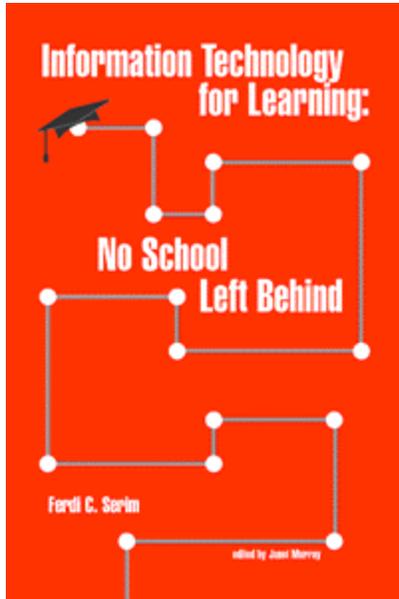
Karen came to visit during her Spring Break, and presented a memorable program about her study of wolves and bears to the Yokosuka Middle School students. Then I went to Connecticut to watch her carry the flag for her school in a downpour to rival Noah's flood. I was so proud to see her receive her Master's degree from Yale. Environmental Studies students typically decorate their mortarboards; that's a little bear on hers.



The twins love the beach, no matter what the weather! It's always a pleasure to spend my week with them. They started preschool in August, and occasionally will even talk to me on the phone.



Karen is now in Flagstaff, AZ, organizing volunteers for the Grand Canyon Trust ... but rumor has it that she will be moving again soon. I enjoyed my summer visit to see her and Nick there, once I overcame my fear of heights! Karen has no such fears: this November photo was taken at 12,000 feet.



I collaborated on a book that was published in June, just in time for the National Educational Computing Conference in Seattle, where Ferdi and I presented a workshop and several sessions. We were so busy promoting the book that I didn't get to see much else, but it was fun to reconnect with my stateside friends. I also published articles in several professional journals but we've left our career with MultiMedia Schools behind. Now we're teaching an online class in the Big6 Skills for the University of Washington, and I'm still writing a column for the Big6 eNewsletter.

In August, I moved to the new Yokosuka Middle School, and am so enjoying working with a team-oriented faculty that is collaborative in nature.

Note my slightly altered address:  
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FPO AP 96349-0128

I finally (!) got to Australia for Christmas, enjoyed seeing where Karen had spent a semester of her undergraduate years (Cairns) and the beautiful Sydney Harbour with its distinctive Opera House. Of course, learning about Australia's unique animals was a highlight as well. You can see more pictures at:  
<http://www.surflin.ne.jp/janetm/ozxmas.html>



I wish you all a healthy, happy New Year filled with peace.

Love,

J anet

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