By now I'm feeling more and more comfortable speaking in Japanese at school, and my teachers hardly ever speak to me in English anymore. They know I understand most of what they say in Japanese. I know all the kids in my class well, and most of the ones in the three classrooms on my floor. I told Mama I wish I could keep going to school with these same friends, but we have to go back to Tallahassee in the summer.

In February there is a festival called Setsubun in which some grown-ups dressed up as oni (monsters), and we throw beans to ward off evil. Wally made an oni mask which he wore every day at school, and now at home, too. At school, there was a concert where older girls and boys played brass band tunes. There was a huge tuba that was bigger than Wally.

Our favorite place to play these days is at Genki Land. It's an indoor play area in the center of Kyoto near Gosho, the old imperial palace. Daddy takes us there
about once a week. Wally and I especially love to go there on weekends, because then they have an organ-on-wheels, and people sing with puppets.

On February 19, Masato and his family of 3 children visited Kyoto for three days. We went to see Sanzen-in and Jakko-in with them. It was very cold and rainy most of the time, but when we went to Jakko-in it started to snow. Mama and I walked together on narrow roads among rice fields to get to Jakko-in with small flakes falling around us.