For New Years, we went to Tokyo to visit Obachan and Ojichan. On January 4, Uncle Jo, Tita Cheryl, and cousin Koji all arrived. I like Koji a lot, and we laughed and played together, sometimes screaming so much that our parents had to tell us to quiet down. Wally felt a little left out sometimes, but we invited him to jump with us on the couch, and he figured out how to jump and do headstands just like us.

We went to Disneyland, and the Ueno Zoo. We also played at Yoyogi park, where we found a great game with leaves. You stack fallen leaves on a subway vent, and they fly high into the sky when the trains pass. Koji, Wally and I played at this for hours.
On the morning before we left Tokyo on January 10, we went to Meiji shrine to do our “Hatsumoude”. Mama wrote down a wish on an "Ema", and we made wishes at the shrine for good luck in the New Year.

January 10 is “Seijin no hi”, which is a festival for those entering adulthood. Many women wore kimono and there was some sort of celebration at Meiji shrine where priests wore traditional costumes.

On the shinkansen ride back to Kyoto, we had a great view of Mt Fuji. It sure is a big mountain, but I was more interested in making things with my origami.
(January 22)

It's fun to be back in school! My favorite thing to do is drawing and origami, and now I've started “ayatori” (or “cat's cradle” in English). A few days ago there was an exhibit of all our artwork. We saw Wally's picture of a snow man and a ghost and my picture of our class excursion to a playground with a BIG slide.

Here are some other pictures I made at school.

Although it's mostly cold out, there are many warm days too. A couple of weekends ago we played at the Kamo river, jumping from stone to stone. Kevin and Marika wanted to climb onto an especially big rock that was far away from the others. The small rocks were too loose, and it looked dangerous, but then mama and Kevin dragged a big plank over, and we all climbed across including me!
I like the games we play at school with my friends, like “nabe nabe soko muke!”, onigokko, and kakurembo. Some of the friends are called Tara-kun, Akane-chan, Yuya-kun, Kirara-chan, Yui-chan, and Ken-Julian. Every day when I come home I talk about whom I played with and what we did, and sometimes I get mixed up between English and Japanese when I do. Yesterday, was parents day. Daddy came, and we made a kite together.

(January 30)

Today we went to the zoo with Michida-san, Ken, and his one and a half year old son Ko.
The animals were ok, especially the elephant, but Wally and I mostly liked the rides, and playground.

After the zoo we went home and found that Ko and Wally share an interest in cars and trucks.