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### **TIBETAN STUDENT TELLS AKI KUROSE STUDENTS ABOUT HOME AND CULTURE**

Seattle, WA. Tenzin Gakyi (right, photo 1) of Dharamsala, India met with Stefanie Richardson's 8th grade world geography class at Aki Kurose Middle School on December 2, 2008. An 11<sup>th</sup> grade student at Northwest School, Gakyi was a student at the Tibetan Children's Village prior to moving to Seattle this year. Her sponsor, Teri Akin (left, photo 1), listens as Gayki shares insights into her home and the Tibetan culture.

Gakyi's classroom visit was the culmination of a program hosted by the Seattle-based non-profit organization, Bridges to Understanding, which paired the Aki Kurose students with students at the Tibetan Children's Village to create and share digital stories. In addition, they posted questions and responses to each other on Bridges' interactive web site. Teri, a member of Bridges' Board of Advisors, served as a classroom mentor during the eight week project.

Photo 2: Some students from Ms. Richardson's class with Gakyi. (left to right: Eric Sodimu, Taimiah Pritchard, Samirra Whitfield, Tenzin Gakyi, Joab Henderson, Monzerrat Mendoza Santos, Robert Berry.)

For more information about Bridges to Understanding, and to view the digital stories created by the Aki Kurose and Tibetan students and others from around the world, visit <http://www.bridgesweb.org/projects/gallery.html> .