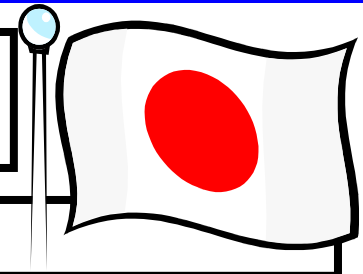


Nippon News

Japanese Language
Faith Lutheran
Preschool and Elementary



December 2009 Theme: Kurisumasu!!

What We Are Learning This Month

New Learning for All Students

reindeer	<i>tonakai</i>
snowman	<i>yukidaruma</i>
star	<i>hoshi</i>
candy	<i>ame</i>

Phrases	
Merry Christmas	<i>Omedetou Kurisumasu!</i>
Happy New Year!	<i>Akemashite Omedetou Gozaimasu</i>
Happy New Year! (2)	<i>Shin nen Omedetou Gozaimasu</i>

Pronunciation Key:

Letter	Pronounced
a	as "a" in a-ha!
e	as "e" in bed
i	as "ee" in feet
o	as "o" in no
u	as "oo" in zoo
ei	as "ay" in say
ai	as "y" in sky
ou	as "ow" in grow
oo	as "ow" in grow

Second Year Study:

angel	<i>tenshi</i>
gift/present	<i>okurimono</i>

YouTube Videos of Japanese Christmas Songs (scroll down to the "song" section):
(These are pretty funny...)
<http://www.japteach.com/christmas-and-new-year.html>

Sensei Kara.... (From the Teacher)

Curriculum Update:
I have made a few adjustments in the curriculum plan. Due to early release days and preparation for our upcoming Christmas Program we have not had the full amount of time to focus on the study of school in Japan; so we will be working on this in January after returning from the holiday break. In January, we will also focus on one of the most important Japanese holidays—Oshougatsu (New Years Day) If you have any items/things that you would like to share with regards to how your family celebrates the New Year, (or if you have experience with the Japanese New Year) please let me know! I would love to incorporate your knowledge and expertise! Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or comments about class, thank you! wongh@faithluth.org.

Culture Corner

Do you wonder what Christmas is like in Japan? It is estimated that less than 1% of Japan's population is Christian. Also, December 25th is not a Japanese national holiday. Unless it is on weekend, Japanese people work and go to school on the day. Christmas is mostly a commercial event in Japan. Many people don't know *exactly* what the origin of Christmas is. The big corporations do the main decorating. They light their buildings and the trees. Many Western customs related to observing Christmas have been adopted by the Japanese. Christmas trees are placed at home and Christmas parties are held around Christmas Day. The Japanese tend to find things of interest from abroad and transform them into something that is uniquely Japanese. It's a Japanese way to celebrate Christmas Eve by eating "Christmas cakes". Christmas Eve has also become a night for couples to go out and spend a romantic time together at fancy restaurants or hotels. Besides exchanging Christmas gifts, there is a custom of sending **oseibo** (the end of the year gift) in Japan.
(source: www.gojapan.about.com)