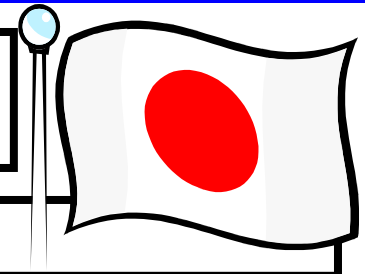


Nippon News

Japanese Language
Faith Lutheran
Preschool and Elementary



January 2010 Theme: Oshogatsu

What We Are Learning This Month

New Learning for All Students

Phrases			
How are you? I am good.	<i>Ogenki desu ka?</i> <i>Hai! Genki desu.</i>	satsuma orange	<i>mikan</i>
Happy New Year	<i>Akemashite Omedetou Gozaimasu</i>	asian pear	<i>nashi</i>
Happy New Year (2)	<i>Shin nen Omedetou Gozaimasu</i>	rice cracker	<i>sembei</i>
Doko?	<i>Where?</i>	new year's card	<i>nengajo</i>
Excuse me...	<i>Sumimasen!</i>	pounded rice cake	<i>mochi</i>
		buckwheat noodle	<i>soba</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

*We will start to incorporate classroom words as time sees fit.
The K-3 Graders will learn to write "e"*

Sensei Kara.... (From the Teacher)

Akemashite Omedetou Gozaimasu! The new year is finally here! This month we will be studying the new year celebration in Japan, as well as learning new vocabulary related to school that we can use everyday in class. Below and in my culture corner section is information about the New Year's celebration in Japan.

New Year (**shogatsu** or **oshogatsu**) is the most important **holiday** in Japan. Most businesses shut down from January 1 to January 3, and families typically gather to spend the days together.

Years are traditionally viewed as completely separate, with each new year providing a fresh start. Consequently, all duties are supposed to be completed by the end of the year, while **bonenkai parties** ("year forgetting parties") are held with the purpose of leaving the old year's worries and troubles behind.

Homes and entrance gates are decorated with ornaments made of pine, bamboo and **plum trees**, and clothes and houses are cleaned. On New Year's eve, toshikoshi **soba** (buckwheat noodles), symbolizing longevity, are served. A more recent custom is watching the music show "kohaku uta gassen", a highly popular **television** program featuring many of Japan's most famous **J-pop** and **enka** singers in spectacular performances. (continued....)

Culture Corner

January 1 is a very auspicious day, best started by viewing the new year's first sunrise (hatsu-hinode), and traditionally believed to be representative for the whole year that has just commenced. Therefore, the day is supposed to be full of joy and free of stress and anger, while everything should be clean and no work should be done. It is a tradition to visit a **shrine** or **temple** during shogatsu (hatsumode). The most popular temples and shrines, such as Tokyo's **Meiji Shrine**, attract several million people during the three days. Most impressive are such visits at the actual turn of the year, when large temple bells are rung at midnight.

Various kinds of special dishes are served during shogatsu. They include **osechi ryori**, otoso (sweetened **rice wine**) and **ozoni** (a soup with **mochi**). Recipe: <http://www.theanimeblog.com/japanese-recipes/japanese-recipe-ozoni/>

There are also a few games traditionally played on New Year, however, their popularity has decreased in recent times. **Hanetsuki** (Japanese badminton), takoage (kite flying), and karuta (a card game) are some of them.

A very popular custom is the sending of New Year's cards (nengajo) which are specially marked to be delivered on January 1. It is not uncommon for one person to send out several dozens of cards to friends, relatives and co-workers. (source: japan-guide.com)