

Newsletter February

HELLO JAPANESE LEARNERS!
IT IS ALREADY THE END OF FEBRUARY.
I FEEL LIKE WE CELEBRATED NEW YEAR JUST YESTERDAY!



WHAT'S UP IN THE CLASS?

Monthly event study Setubun - せつぶん



It's always great to learn about Japanese festivals and customs. It's even better to experience them. But it is best of all when you have the opportunity to do both. And this month we had the opportunity to learn about the celebration of setsubun: a festival at the change of the seasons from winter to spring where you banish misfortune and ward off evil spirits for the year to come.

My favourite tradition, though, was the bean-throwing event. First, we made our own oni masks, then threw beans at one another while wearing the masks to ward away demons for the year, shouting "oni wa soto!" (demons out) and "fuku wa uchi!" (good fortune in).

It was so interesting to learn about the history of the festival and about the mythology of oni (demons) from Sensei as well as the other students' presentations.

I also enjoyed discovering how the concept of the demon folklore has become a part of everyday language by researching idioms involving the word oni.

Then we got to put our new knowledge into practice, participating in the various customs meant to improve our luck for the year to come. For example, eating beans/nuts equal to our age plus one, or eating an entire ehōmaki in silence while facing the most auspicious direction for the year.

I'm so excited to learn about more Japanese festivals and customs in the future and maybe even earn myself a bit of extra luck along the way.



Sam

Upcoming Event



MONTHLY EVENT STUDY ひなまつり — HINAMATSURI

March 4th Wednesday

6:30pm–9:00pm

Japanese girl's festival/ Doll's Festival.
We will learn the meaning and history.
Feature food: Chirasizushi making.

Beginners' Group Study:

Counting items and how to use them in sentences.

We will set up the date soon.
