

Important Dates & Information

- 16th January:
Beginning of Term 1, 2012
- 26th January (Australia day)
There will be no classes running on this day, but will be replaced on the 26th April. (Thursdays Classes)
- 1st April: End of Term 1 Event

In order to organise our new term schedule we ask that you please confirm your next term scheduling with either Phillip or your teacher.

To kick start 2012 we are running a Summer Intensive Course and iCulture workshop consisting of Kanji, Calligraphy & Origami.

Please join us for some fun and enjoyable cultural experience!

If you have any questions regarding the above dates please contact us.

Contact Details: 0401 886 629
info@ijapanese.com.au



How many sleeps to go till...? もういくつ寝ると... ♪♪

OSHOOGATSU!..... New Year!

This is a Japanese children's song where they look forward to oshoogatsu. Not only for children but for all Japanese people, New Year is the most important annual event on the Japanese calendar.



New year is from the 1st till the 3rd of January and the 1st day of the month is called 'Gantan'. Japanese families typically gather to celebrate on these days

and greet each other with "Akemashite omedetoo gozaimasu" (Happy New Year) or 'Kotoshi mo yoroshiku onegai shimasu. (I hope we have a good year.)

Japanese people traditionally visit shrines to pray and make New Year wishes. Some people will even go there on the eve of New Year to listen to 'Joya no Kane' (the watch night bell, which strike at midnight).

Osechi-ryoori is a Japanese New Year food, which is a variety of dishes beautifully arranged in a Juubako (lacquer boxes). Each of the dishes has some auspicious meaning which reflects people's wishes. For example, Kuro-mame (cooked black soybeans) means 'Health', Tazukuri (dried sardine with soya sauce) means 'good harvest', Kazunoko (herring egg) represents fertility and Ebi (prawn) is long life. We also eat Zooni, a soup with Mochi (rice cake) and depending on the region it comes from, it will have minor differences in taste.

Japanese entrances are decorated with Kadomatsu (ornaments made of pine, bamboo and plum trees) or Shimenawa (a sacred straw festoon). Inside the home, Kagami-Mochi (a decorated round rice-cake) is offered to a deity.

During the New Year celebration Japanese people will exchange New Year's cards called 'Nengajoo', they will send postcards to their friends, relatives and colleagues to express their New Year's resolutions as well updating them on their current lives these days. However these days people send messages through email or SMS.

It is customary for people to give money to their children, grandchildren, relatives' children and also friend's children, it's called 'Otoshidama'.

Sadly we are slowly losing traditional customs during the New Year celebration, but a few of us still keep to the tradition.

How about your country?

Do you have any traditional customs during New Year?



END OF TERM EVENT!

Please come along and join us for Boonenkai (Year-End Party) !
Let's enjoy an Aussie / Japanese BBQ.
All students are welcome to bring friends!

DATE :
TIME :
PLACE :
COST :
RSVP :



Noriko's Thoughts

These days New Year's celebration has gradually simplified in Japan, due to modern life styles and changes in our society. Japanese people aren't taking the time to decorate 'Shimenawa' and 'Kadomatsu' anymore.

With today's busy life styles and smaller families, not many people are making the time to make 'Osechi' for New Year either. Restaurants and department stores provide beautifully presented 'Osechi', and I was surprised when I saw 'Frozen Osechi' online.

As a tradition, my family would make 'Osechi' every year. We would go shopping the day before New Year's Eve and my sister and I were always excited to go because my parents would allow us to buy all types of yummy sweets. The next day my mum would make Osechi for all the family. My family's life style has changed like everyone else, but we still continue the tradition today.

Student's Interview 生徒さんに聞く

Tell us a little about yourself and what you do....

I was born in London, England and moved to Melbourne with my parents. My hobbies include travelling and most sports.

Travelling for me is the best education. I enjoy different food, culture and landscapes. My ideal holiday is being somewhere where I can't understand the language, great food and cold beer and hot weather.

I follow football (soccer) rugby and F1. Although I no longer play I like to keep fit. I like to relax by listening to music and spending time with friends.

I work for Toyota Motor Corporation Australia, current position of Assistant Manager, previously in Toyota I worked in Maintenance and Engineering.

Reasons for learning Japanese....

I never believed I could learn another language and I admired people who could talk another language, so since I can use Japanese for work I have now got a reason and motivation to do so.

At iJapanese, what is it that you enjoy most?

I like the school size (small) and the way that every class can be a little flexible if I have some struggling point. Also the location is handy for me.



Andrew Bircham

What are the differences between western and Japanese culture you've noticed?

Respect for people is the biggest difference I feel, Japanese people respect authority and appreciate many things, although sometimes too much. For example on the negative side, Japanese people sometimes will not be outspoken if they disagree with someone they regard in authority. On the positive side, celebrating the changing of seasons the appreciation of the life cycle. And of course appreciation of food (oishie desu)

Regarding Japanese studies, do you have a New Year's resolution?

Yes, to pass JLPT level 5 as I will transfer to Toyota, Japan for 1 year next July!

Work Experience at iJapanese! 日本人の高校生が実習に来てくれました!



*Airi san was working with us for 1 week and she was very helpful.
We hope the experience will help her to consider her future.*

Thanks Airi san and Ganbatte Kudasai!

My Name is Airi Takano and I'm 16 years old.

I came to Australia as an exchange student from Japan and have been here for about 10 months now.

I was required to do work experience for my English class at school, so I choose iJapanese Language and Culture School because I wish to have international carrier in the future and teaching Japanese is one of my interests.

During the time I was able to join some of the classes, there were so many various types of people learning Japanese and they all looked to be enjoying it. I found that students were working very hard and the teachers were helping. When I was able to help students with conversation, I really had to think about how I should answer them. It was really a great time to spend with students.

I also helped to make teaching materials; this was the first time for me to do this type of work because I am still a student. I realised that all teachers prepared classes well so that they were fun and help students to be motivated.

I am going back to Japan this month and I will be a 3rd grade student in high school (year12) next year. This means I will need to decide which university I am planning to go to. In this experience I realized the attraction of teaching languages.

Thanks to Phillip, Noriko-sansei, Mari-sensei and people who are coming to learn Japanese, I have a great experience. Thank you so much.



iCulture Workshops 文化講座

Kakizome Calligraphy Workshop - 抱負 Hoofu

'Kakizome' is the first calligraphy writing of the New Year. Japanese people write auspicious words, poems and new year's resolutions.

In Japanese New Year's resolution is called 'Kotoshi no hoofu'.

In this workshop, you will create your own calligraphy art on a traditional Japanese fan or paper board to keep. So it would be great to write your 'Hoofu' in calligraphy and hang it on the wall at home.

You will be able to take home calligraphy tools so that you can continue practicing at home. This means we can continue to provide workshops to improve your calligraphy skills as you progress.



SCHEDULE

25th January 2012
6:00pm - 8:00pm (2 hours)

PRICE

\$35 +GST (only session)
\$60 +GST (session + calligraphy set)

From Mari まりより

Have you heard of '忘年会(boonenkai)'? It can be translated to 'End-of-the-Year Party' and literally means 'Forget-the-year Party'.

忘 (boo/wasureru)-to forget

年 (nen)-year

会 (kai)-party

About six hundreds years ago, in the Muromachi era, the End-of-the-Year party is mentioned in a book describing how people talked about the year in their poems. In the Edo era, high-class people had a similar kind of party. About one hundred years ago in the Meiji era, the party came to be as it is now, with everyone drinking to a big toast, calling out "kanpai! (cheers)". It has since become a common yearly event in Japan.

Nowadays, a lot of people enjoy boonenkai with their friends and colleagues. At the party, people drink (lots!) and eat well. So at this time of the year, there are a lot of TV commercials with Japanese celebrities holding stomach medicine in their hands and saying "odaijini (look after yourself)". At the party, some people sing songs, do magic tricks, and exchange presents while they talk about the year and appreciate all the efforts they made and the challenges they overcame that year.

今年はどうでしたか。

(kotoshi wa doo deshitaka)?

What was this year like for you?

I have to admit that the earthquake changed my life. Experiencing traffic regulation was the hardest for me, since I was commuting to Tokyo everyday by train from my hometown, Utsunomiya city (it takes two and a half hours). I would not say that the electric power and food restrictions were easy to handle, and I hope we never have the same experience again. However this experience taught me various important things that I should remember - not 'forget'.

Boonenkai does not necessarily make you forget things, but always makes you think about the year and allows you to start the new year with a fresh mind.

Would you like to have boonenkai sometime soon?

Let's try cooking
Japanese food!

日本料理を

つくってみよう!

Buta no Shoogayaki
(Ginger Pork)

Ingredients
for 2 people:

200g Sliced Pork
A: Mix
2/3 tbs Sake
1/2tbs Shooyu
1/2tbs Ginger juice

B: Mix together
1/2tbs Sugar
1tbs Sake
2tbs Shooyu
2tbs Mirin
1/3 tbs Freshly-grated ginger

1tbs Oil, lettuce leaves and tomatoes for a salad.

Method:

1. Marinate pork with 'A' for at least 10mins.
2. Put oil into pan and grill pork until golden.
3. Add 'B' and simmer away.
4. Serve together with salad.



iJapanese free service for students!

Write a diary in Japanese!
日本語で日記を書こう！

And Noriko will complimentary check your writing !

The best way to improve your Japanese is to use it on a daily basis.

We recommend writing a diary in Japanese. It would help your Japanese skill, not only in writing, but also speaking, listening and reading.

Please send an email to
noriko@ijapanese.com.au

Noriko's Hoofu

My "Hoofu" for next year is reading lots of books, I'll probably try English ones. And quitting chocolate! But who am I kidding, that's impossible!!!

Phil's Hoofu

To get fit and exercise more often! Perhaps take part in a marathon or an exercise challenge.

Announcement お知らせ

Catch up Lesson Price Increases

We would like to advise you of a prices increase for "Catch up Lessons" in 2012.

We trust that you will understand the necessity for these price increase and we look forward to continuing to provide you with the utmost quality in lessons.

Price as of 16th Jan 2012: \$22/hour

Cancellation System

If you are unable to attend your class, we ask that you notify us as soon as possible.

Private Lessons;

48 hours notification is required to reschedule lesson within the same term.

Group lessons;

You will be able to reschedule and join another group lesson or reschedule a private lesson.

From Noriko & Phillip のりことフィルより

How was the year?

It might be too early, but have you made your resolution for next year?

Do you have a goal for learning Japanese for next year? The purpose of learning Japanese varies from person to person. Some students study for their work, and some as a hobby.

Whatever your reasons, it would be a good idea to have a goal for studying Japanese, such as 'Pass JLPT test', 'Make lots of Japanese friends' or 'To live in Japan'.

Make a resolution for Japanese studies, write it down in Japanese and let us know. We are happy to help you.

Better yet write it in Japanese during our calligraphy class !



Thank You ご挨拶

We would like to take this opportunity to extend a big thank-you to all of you for your support us in 2011! We hope you have enjoyed learning Japanese with us.

2012 is a new Year with new challenges and, as always, we will continue to grow and do our best towards improvement our school while maintaining the best quality of lessons.

Wishing you all a safe and Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

We look forward to seeing you all during the new Term in 2012!
来年もよろしくおねがいします！



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