

What a fantastic start to the New Year! We have had so much fun creating variety of traditional toys, learning about Eto animals and their Chinese Zodiac story, and most of all, the fantastic visit to the Old Folk's Home!

We started the term off with 'Kakizome', which is practiced widely at schools in Japan as an auspicious thing to do at New Year. This is a creative writing practice and the children loved using the 'Octopus Ink'. Everyone has to figure out whether this is really Octopus ink- but this is how I explained to them anyway! We traced their names on special rice paper and the results were truly amazing! Free-style calligraphy takes a great deal of freedom of expression and energy and the children performed with big, strong strokes!

Our Eto story caught their children's interest easily, and they seemed to know exactly what they wanted to choose as their animal character. It was strange that no one in group chose the Inoshishi/wild boar which is actually Jliper's true sign. Aya Sensei volunteered to be a boar instead and got the children giggling.

The visit to the Shirogane Old Folk's Home was more than successful and could not have anticipated how well it would turn out. It really was beyond all of our expectations. Thanks to our lovely volunteers mum, Sophie and Nidhi, who really helped us to make the event special. The hospitable staff members at the center too were so kind and we felt welcomed and appreciated. Upon entering the center we had to gurgle and clean our hands. The elderly can be frail and we needed to ensure that we didn't take our germs in there! The elevator took us to the third floor where everyone was waiting! They even gave us a microphone to use, so our voice was ringing out loud...in Japanese! After playing the Karuta game we sang our ETO song! Then, we got the surprise out for the grandpas and grandmas. Our handmade medal! Many people were in tears at seeing such cute children and given such nice presents!! What a heart warming sight it was! The children behaved so beautifully and they were quiet and focused, listening attentively, and the people there simply couldn't be happier to see the adorable Jlipers! They were literally in tears and at times so were we!! It was really valuable and humbling experience to see the contrast of youth and wisdom, and we were reminded how essential it is to have relationships with people of all ages in our lives. Let's go and visit them again!

The Eto Video Project at the end of the month empowered us to create our OMEN/ mask and practice our little dance, and the children never got tired of this! We cannot wait to show you our precious little show on air! It was a great start to the term and we cannot wait for the next themes to unfold. Aya and Meg Sensei.



Welcome, Andrew and Oscar!



Andrew

Oscar

Reading Time



The fascinating tale of ETO twelve animals has caught all the children's attention and enthusiasm!



The king of Japanese Study taught us the funny game of Darumasan A Pun Pun! Who ever laughs first, loses!

Japanese Time



- The 'U' and 'E' sound for 'usagi'



Helping Time



Jipers helped out in; ate with beautiful manners, brushed teeth, and waited patiently to take turns!



The children brush their teeth to the tune of "Hamigaki shuwa shuwa"



Art Time



We were busy making wishes to our JLIP Daruma as we filled one of his eye, then when our wish is granted the other will be painted in!

This is our Kakizome session with Calligraphy Ink and brush. We explained that the ink is like an octopus's ink! They were fascinated!



Fukuwarai Game was so much fun! Where do the parts of the face end up?!



Hama Ya making. To bring good luck to our home this year!!

We made our original Karuta Card Game! Using the ETO animals!



More Art Time

We are trying out our Eto animal OMEN/ masks! Can you tell which animal we are?!



We investigated the nice material brought from home, and started to cut them up using scissors and hands.



Then, we pasted the pieces of material to the OMEN with the coloured paint.



Special Visit!



We visited the elderly people! They are going to play the Oshougatsu/ New Year games with us!



We had to gurgle and clean our hands. The elevator took us to the third floor where everyone was waiting!



The nice people gave us a microphone to use, so our voice was ringing out loud...in Japanese!



FUKUWARAI GAME...

More...Special Visit!

After playing the karuta, we sang our ETO song! Then, we got the surprise out for the grandpas and grandmas. Our handmade medal!

SINGING THE ETO SONG



Many people were in tears at seeing such cute children and given such nice presents!! What a heart warming sight it was!



Daruma san niramekko shimasho, A Pun Pun!!! Who can make the funneist face!?



Let's say big thanks to Nidhi and Sophie for helping out and to all