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What's Christmas like in Japan?

6 Unique ways Japanese celebrate the holidays!

LIVE JAPAN

Each December, Christmas is celebrated by people in countries all over the world, and Japan is no exception! Many of the Christmas customs seen in western countries can also be found in Japan, but often reimagined in a different way than you may expect.

There are also some new traditions that have been created by the Japanese, making

Christmas in Japan a unique celebration of its own accord!

Japanese Christmas: A holiday for lovers?

Christmas is known throughout the world for being a Christian holiday, but in Japan it is treated as a secular celebration and tends to be celebrated regardless of one's religion.

In fact, very few people in Japan consider themselves Christian, but the holiday of

Christmas is enjoyed by people from far and wide in Japan.

One of the key differences is that Christmas in Japan is thought of as a holiday for lovers, rather than a time to gather with family. (In Japan, the New Year's holiday is the time families traditionally gather). Typically couples will plan a romantic date, such as dinner at a special restaurant, or strolling the town to view

SEE CHRISTMAS ON PAGE 2

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CHRISTMAS: A different take on holiday

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Christmas lights.

However, for those whom Christmas has particular religious significance attached, churches offering Christmas mass can almost certainly be found in any major city in Japan.

Illuminations and decorations

Winter illuminations are not necessarily related to Christmas, but to many, the two are completely intertwined. Each winter season, cities in Japan become full of twinkling lights, mesmerizing all who cross their dazzling path. In recent years, many business are opting for eco-friendly LED lights, which use significantly less electricity than the traditional varieties. Large scale projection mapping illuminations have also become a popular Christmas time feast for the eyes.

While the tradition of putting up a Christmas tree in one's home is not common in Japan, many businesses and shopping centers will display beautifully decorated trees, along with other Christmas-themed displays that turn an ordinary trip to the mall into a magical winter wonderland experience!

Does Santa visit Japan?

Luckily for Japanese children, the concept of Santa Claus is one Christmas tradition that is alive and well in Japan. Like other children worldwide, Japanese kids also look forward to a visit from Santa on Christmas Eve and a present waiting for them on Christmas morning.

Couples also may exchange presents for Christmas, but generally speaking, gift-giving plays a considerably smaller role than it does in Western countries.

One unique twist on the lore: in the Western

tradition, Santa enters homes by climbing down chimneys - an act difficult to do in a nation where most homes lack this sort of entrance! However, ask most Japanese children, and they'll have an interesting take: Santa is typically seen as some kind of magical ghost that appears with goodies!

A uniquely Japanese Christmas dinner: fried chicken

It may come as a surprise, but rather than feasting on a glazed ham or roast turkey, the most popular choice for Japanese Christmas dinner is fried chicken! In fact, the food is in such high demand during this time, that a certain American fast food chain takes pre-orders of their popular fried chicken bucket as early as November! However, even if you don't place a special order, you can easily find plenty of fried chicken in convenience stores and supermarkets on Christmas Eve, along with pre-made roast chicken as well.

Japanese Christmas Cakes

For dessert, instead of gingerbread men, other cookies, or pie, it's traditional to eat Christmas cake ('kurisumasu keeki', as it's called in Japanese) with loved ones.

While Japan is certainly not the only country to enjoy cake at Christmas time, you might be surprised to learn that what they're eating is not the usual fruitcake that's typically eaten in European and American countries. Instead, kurisumasu keeki is usually a kind of sponge cake-based strawberry shortcake.

Japan's love affair with Christmas cake dates back to 1922, beginning with the Fujiya confectionery manufacturer, who marketed

the cream-covered cakes with the straightforward tagline, "Let's eat cake on Christmas!" ("kurisumasu ni keeki o tabemashou").

Unlike the humble fruitcake eaten in some other countries on the holiday, Japanese Christmas cakes were beautifully decorated with strawberries, sugar Santas, and other Christmas-themed edible ornaments. At the time, the ornate cakes were considered expensive and were slow to catch on with the general public. However, by the 1970s, eating kurisumasu keeki had become a Christmas Eve tradition among households in Japan.

These days in Japan, while the white cream and strawberry Christmas cake still reigns supreme, you can find Christmas cakes of various types and flavors. Some recent cakes have included chocolate, various fruits, hazelnut, and ice cream among ingredients. You can even find cakes modeled after popular characters.

Christmas in Japanese pop culture

While Japan has adopted many of the Christmas customs of other countries, over the years they have incorporated them into their own culture so well, they have made them their own. Before December even begins you can hear Christmas music in the air. Traditional and foreign pop songs are popular, but Japan has an abundance of Christmas songs all their own that have become traditional in their own right. Around this time of year you can also find many TV and anime episodes centered around the theme of Christmas.

If you are in Japan during the winter, please have a "Merii Kurisumasu!"—the Japanese way!



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Photo courtesy of Metropolis Magazine



How KFC became a Christmas tradition

BY CEZARY JAN STRUSIEWICZ,
METROPOLIS MAGAZINE

Despite the oft-repeated myth, Coca-Cola did not in fact invent the modern image of a fat, jolly, red-and-white-clad Santa Claus. Kind of a moot point though, now that the soft drink has become virtually synonymous with Christmas. For many people, the holiday season just wouldn't be complete without commercials featuring the now iconic Cola trucks delivering their black syrupy drink to every corner of the globe in time for Jesus' birthday. Well, almost every corner.

Despite Coca-Cola being one of the biggest beverage manufacturers in Japan, they never managed to make December 25 a part of their corporate identity over here. That's less inspiring than it sounds like because Christmas in Japan is still connected with a fast food brand that's bad for your health. But instead of Coke, it's KFC.

That's right — every Christmas in Japan, millions of people sit down to a holiday dinner of fast food chicken that comes in a cardboard bucket. The demand for Christmas KFC is so high in Japan that it must be pre-ordered months in advance; in some parts of the country, family packs have to be reserved in November or

even October. How did this happen? Is it because Colonel Sanders is an overweight old man with white facial hair, and that reminds people of Santa Claus? Or does it have something to do with the recipe of KFC chicken? After all, if you add "grease" to KFC's 11 herbs and spices, you get 12, as in the Twelve Days of Christmas. Is that how the tradition got started?

There are two likely explanations for Japan's Christmas obsession with KFC. It's possible that, many years ago, American expats living in Japan were looking for turkey for a traditional Christmas dinner, but not being able to find any (as they are rarely sold in Japan) decided to settle for chicken. But then, after realizing that the country also lacks Western-style ovens, they instead mobbed their local KFCs come Christmas time, and were eventually emulated by the locals. Japan does have a long tradition of taking cultural cues from the United States, so this theory definitely has some merit.

However, the much simpler answer is that the end of the year is a time for splurging and treating yourself for pretty much everyone around the globe. As it so happens, meat is notoriously expensive in Japan, as you would expect from a country that gave us Kobe beef, the most expensive meat in the world.

Therefore, it stands to reason that Christmas time would be when many Japanese people spend a little more on tasty animal flesh — within reason of course. Seeing as chicken is one of the more affordable kinds of meat in Japan, naturally most families would choose to stuff themselves with feathered dinosaur descendants year after year, thus creating this modern Japanese tradition.

You also have to consider the fact that Christmas is not a public holiday in Japan, and it is anything but sacred over here. For many people, it's really no different than, let's say, Valentine's Day. In fact, a lot of young Japanese people have co-opted the holiday for themselves, turning it into a kind of unofficial sequel to February 14th, only with cake and chicken instead of chocolate. KFC is fully aware of it, too, which is why their Japanese restaurants also serve cake during Christmas time, becoming the full-service stop for all of your Christmas needs. And why not? Without the religious aspect, December 25 is just another day in Japan, so why not celebrate it with animal fat in the shape of a drumstick?

The KFC (Kentucky Fried Christmas) Phenomenon has been such a hit in Japan that convenience stores are now trying to get in on that juicy racket. Most huge chains like Lawson or Family Mart now offer their own Christmas family packs of deep-fried chicken in an attempt to make a dent in KFC's monopoly. Will they succeed? It doesn't seem likely, but then again, neither does the idea of an American fast food chain becoming synonymous with Christmas in an East Asian island nation. When you think of it like that, I suppose anything is possible.



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Speakin' Japanese Holiday talk

During the holiday season in Japan, you will see KFCs filled with young couples on Christmas Day, while on New Year's Eve, you will hear bells from temples heralding the arrival of the new year. Here are some useful Japanese words and phrases you can use during the holiday season.

"Kurisumasu wa doo sugoshimasuka?" = How are you planning to spend Christmas day?
(**"Kurisumasu"** = Christmas day, **"doo"** = how, **"sugoshimasu"** = spend)

"Kanojo to Kentakkii ni ikimasu." = I will go to Kentucky Fried Chicken with my girlfriend.
(**"kanojo"** = girlfriend, **"kareshi"** = boyfriend, **"kentakkii"** = KFC, **"ikimasu"** = will go)

"Kurisumasu keeki wo kaimashita." = I bought a Christmas cake.

"Kanpai shimashoo." = Let's make a toast.
(**"keeki"** = cake, **"kaimashita"** = bought)

"Santakuroosu ga pizza wo haitatsu shiteimasu." = Santa Claus is delivering a pizza.
(**"santakuroosu"** = Santa Claus, **"haitatsu shiteimasu"** = delivering)

"Yoi otoshi wo." = Have a happy new year. (Greetings in the year-end)

"Joya-no-kane ga natte imasu." = The New Year's Eve bells are ringing.
(**"Joya-no-Kane"** = New Year's Eve bell, **"natte imasu"** = are ringing)

"Hanabi ga agatte imasu." = Fireworks are going off.
(**"hanabi"** = fireworks, **"agatte imasu"** = are going off)

"Akemashite omedeto gozaimasu!" = A happy new year! (Greetings in the new year)

"Kotoshimo yoroshiku onegai shimasu." = I ask for your continued goodwill.

"Hatsumode wa dokoni ikimasu ka?" = What shrine/temple are you going to visit during the first of the year?
(**"hatsumode"** = first visit to a shrine/temple for the year, **"dokoni"** = to where, **"ikimasu"** = will go)

– Takahiro Takiguchi, Stripes Japan

Pronunciation key: "A" is short (like "ah"); "E" is short (like "get"); "I" is short (like "it"); "O" is long (like "old"); "U" is long (like "tube"); and "Ai" is a long "I" (like "hike"). Most words are pronounced with equal emphasis on each syllable, but "OU" is a long "O" with emphasis on that syllable.



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CROWD-PLEASING HOLIDAY POTLUCK IDEAS

Indulging in delicious food is one of the best parts of the holidays, and you'll likely be in constant need of something tasty to take along to all those holiday potlucks.

To be ready for any invitation, keep ingredients for your favorite recipes on-hand and use multi-purpose kitchen tools, like a high-performance blender, to expedite prep time, quickly chop veggies or cheese, and blend everything from dips and batters to dressings and sauces.

Not sure what to make for your next potluck? Here are some simple, crowd-pleasing recipes.

Appetizers

Small-bite hors d'oeuvres are perfect potluck fare. Dips or spreads served with veggies and chips are quick to make and travel easily. Try a cashew French onion dip for a non-dairy version of the traditional favorite.

Be sure to soak the cashews ahead of time to achieve a super-smooth texture. If you're able to keep food warm, a hearty spinach artichoke dip with pita bread will satisfy guests' cravings for comfort foods. Or, take a new twist on a conventional recipe with a cauliflower hummus. It's extra creamy and has an added boost of veggies from the addition of roasted cauliflower.

Side Dishes

Casseroles will feed a crowd and most can be served at room temperature. Made with russet potatoes and onions, a cheesy potato casserole with cornflake topping

won't last long at any gathering. It's a satisfying substitute for traditional hash browns at brunch, and is great for all ages. Alternately, a vegetarian butternut squash casserole is a light, sweet complement to

heavier potluck fare. Or, if you're short on ingredients or inspiration, a frittata filled with cheese, veggies and protein (whatever you have on hand) will work. Bake or slow cook the frittata the night before and add

a quick sprinkle of herbs or chives before packing it to go.

Desserts

If you have a sweet tooth, it only makes sense to volunteer to bring your favorite dessert. Save time by using a high-performance blender like the Vitamix A2300 Ascent Series blender to mix batter in advance for a big batch of almond cookies or snickerdoodles. If baking for a cookie exchange or large gathering, start early and freeze the cookies until party day. Cakes, pumpkin and apple pies are also easy to make ahead and freeze. Simply wrap a freshly baked, cooled cake or pie in plastic wrap and place in a freezer bag. Before an event, defrost in the bag at room temperature.

If your dish has multiple components, separate warm and cold items during transport and use insulated carriers to maintain optimal temperatures. Make something that doesn't require a ton of prep time and equipment once you arrive, unless you've asked the host in advance. Bring trivets or serving utensils, if needed, and don't assume the host will have extras.

Don't get caught unprepared this holiday party season. The right ingredients and tools will make you a hit at any potluck, even at a moment's notice.

— StatePoint

File photo

Ho-ho-holiday margaritas

STRIPES JAPAN

The holidays are quickly approaching and so are the (sometimes much needed) holiday cocktails! This yummy concoction is one my family is anxiously awaiting.

* WHITE CHRISTMAS MARGARITA *

INGREDIENTS (Servings: 2):

- 1 (14 ounces) can coconut milk
- 12 ounces silver tequila
- 8 ounces triple sec
- 1/2 cup lime juice
- 2 cup ice
- 1 lime
- Sanding sugar (for rimming glass)
- 1/2 c. Mint (to make it pretty)
- 1 lime (The pretty thing and to run around the rim of the glass)
- Cranberries, for garnish

DIRECTION:

1. Blend coconut milk, tequila, triple sec, lime juice and ice until smooth.
2. Rim glasses with lime a wedge and then dip in sanding sugar. Pour the blended goodness into a glass and garnish with lime and cranberries. Serve and listen for the chorus of "Mmmm, that's good!"

- Courtesy of delish.com





BY TAKAHIRO TAKIGUCHI,
STRIPES JAPAN

Just like in the States, the holiday season is the most cheerful - and busiest - in Japan. With endless bonenkai celebrations heralding the season in the beginning of December, the party doesn't end until early the following year. Throw in countless lights, gifts and greeting cards, and The Land of the Rising Sun sure does finish the year with a flurry. Despite the busy schedule, the holidays bring a lot of joy; here are a few of my favorite traditions of the season.

■ Winter Illuminations

There is nothing more heartwarming than winter illuminations to promote holiday spirit in Japan. From the end of November to Christmas day or throughout the winter, elaborate and colorful light displays throughout the nation amaze with dazzling brilliance. In addition to promoting the holiday spirit, there are more practical reasons for winter illuminations in Japan. There are less daylight hours, the air is becoming drier and clearer, the temperature difference between day and night decreases - are all factors that enhance the illuminations viewing.

Check out event listings at Stripes Japan and find Illumination attractions near you!



VIEW VIDEO!

■ Bonenkai

The arrival of the holiday season at the end of November reminds me of Bonenkai - a traditional Japanese year-end party. The party is more of a Japanese ritual, dating back hundreds of years, and is considered as one of the most important parties of the year. bonenkai can be enjoyed with anyone, but typically is done so with coworkers. We can see well-trained entertainment at work-arranged party where we often wear neckties on our heads to show how much we are enjoying or into the party. I'll usually enjoy bonenkai with at least five or six groups every year. It always provides a good reunion opportunity for friends who many not see each other as often as they'd like, as well. For many of us, the month of December means unlimited bonenkai.

■ Kurisumasu

Just like in America, Christmas goes together with gifts in Japan. Japanese children will hang up large stockings decorated in green, white, red and gold colors on the

Speakin'
Japanese

Let's ring in
the New Year!

BY TAKAHIRO TAKIGUCHI,
STRIPES JAPAN



We are finally in the holiday season. Towns and streets are covered in beautiful winter illuminations. They look very brilliant in the cold air.

"Totemo kirabiyaka desu!" • totemo = very
• kirabiyaka = brilliant
= They look very brilliant! • .. desu" = it is.. / they are..

This is a great phrase to describe the holiday illuminations as you stroll on a nice evening. Try it out as it will surely promote the holiday spirit!

Stay safe and warm and don't catch a cold this winter season.

"Kazewo hikanaide!" • kaze = a cold
= Don't catch a cold! • .. wo hiku = get/catch/draw..
• naide = don't be/get

It's cold, but I wish you a nice, heartwarming winter in Japan!

The old year is finally coming to an end. Let's hope the upcoming year will be one filled with happiness, safety, and prosperity.

"Yoi otoshi wo!" • yoi = good
= Have a happy new year! • otoshi = a year
• .. wo = have a ...

With wish for a happy new year, let's exchange our greetings in Japanese. I wish you a very, very happy new year! Yoi otoshi wo!

Check out how to visit shrines and temples

In the next few weeks, Japanese will be headed to shrines and temples to usher in the new year. There are certain things you need to know if you plan on doing the same. This video will help you out.

There are thousands of Shinto shrines and Buddhist temples in Japan. So, visit one or some to feel such a wonderful, sacred feel yourself!

takiguchi.takahiro@stripes.com



VIDEO
LESSON



VIDEO
LESSON



VIDEO
LESSON



VIDEO
LESSON

When I became a father, I became Santa to my daughter. Although some of my friends dressed up as Santa and presented a gift to their children by hand, I would hide my daughter's gift somewhere in the house and put a letter written in old northern European characters into her stocking to tell her where her gifts were.

■ Preparing Nengajo

Even with the recent trend of using email to carry the greetings, exchanging New Year's cards, called "nengajo" (New Year's Greeting Card), remains very popular in Japan. Just like Christmas cards in the States, preparing nearly 100 nengajo always reminds me of just how blessed I am. In this time, however, I also often receive "mochu hagaki" (mourning-notification cards) to decline exchanging New Year's greetings. The cards are sent by someone in mourning as a way to notify others of a significant death in their life, and to politely decline taking part in the tradition for that year. Why not try sending a New Year's card to your Japanese friends? And when you do, be sure to hand-write names and addresses, even if you used your computer to make the cards. Then, mark the postcard with the word "NENGAJO" in red and send it out before Dec. 25. This way, the postman will be able to deliver them on time.

■ Omisoka (New Year's Eve)

Just like others, I can't help but get excited when New Year's Eve arrives. Anticipated for a happier and better New Year, we are usually awake overnight on the day. With my wife and daughter, I usually visit a large market, such as the Ameyoko Street in Ueno, and join the people flocking to buy tuna, lobster, salmon and other expensive foods for New Year's parties. In the evening, the nation-wide "Red and White" singing contest can't be missed while sampling "toshikoshi soba" (over-year noodle). When the program has ended just before midnight, we visit a temple to hear the rings of 108 "joyanokene" bells to cleanse humanity of the 108 sins recognized by Buddhism. Our family tradition, which has slowly changed, involved everyone in the family going to a Shinto shrine after the temple visit on Jan. 1 between 1 and 3 a.m. for "hatsumode," a traditional first temple or shrine visit of the year. After that, we would visit a beach, mountain or tall building, such as Tokyo Skytree, to enjoy the first sunrise of the year.

takiguchi.takahiro@stripes.com

Start...



and...



then...



Bonenkai

Fun year-end tradition returns!

Editor's Note: Since the Covid-19 pandemic when gatherings for events like Bonenkai were prohibited or frowned upon, less companies host year-end parties nowadays.

BY TAKAHIRO TAKIGUCHI,
STRIPES JAPAN

What do sake, neckties, coworkers singing and the end of the year have in common?

Bonenkai!

Much like the holiday season in the States, December is the most cheerful time in Japan thanks to endless year-end parties, called bonenkai (literally, forget-the-year party). Bonenkai can be enjoyed with anyone, but typically is done so with coworkers. The number of bonenkai you attend depends on how many groups of old and current coworkers or friends we belong to. I'll usually enjoy it with at least five or six groups every year.

I have a couple that I will be attending this year.

Bonenkai may seem like a Japanese Christmas party, as it is held from the end of November through December, but it is not. The party is more of a Japanese yearend traditional ritual, which dates back hundreds of years.

The tradition of bonenkai always provides a good reunion opportunity for friends who may not see each other as often as they'd like.

And bonenkai also helps us to get recharged and refreshed from all the frustration and exhaustion at work, too.

"As the name implies, displaying a boisterous,



Photos courtesy of Stripes Japan

extravagant behavior, that is completely out of character and over continuous refills of sake, helps to forget all the frustrations of the past year, and prepare a fresh attitude for the upcoming year," says Kunihiko Ishii, a Tokyo salaryman.

A work-arranged bonenkai, is an all-hands, must-join type of party, as it is considered as one of the most important company events of the year.

While large companies might rent a ballroom in a nice hotel or restaurant, most small companies book an izakaya (Japanese-style pub) for their bonenkai. As a result, most of the izakayas are fully booked during the season.

Just like other official ceremonies, a typical company bonenkai begins with a senior member's speech recalling the events of the past year, expressing gratitude for the year's successes and wishes for the best in the upcoming year.

Then, a toast follows. After that, everyone, regardless of rank, position or gender, drink, eat and let loose.

However, some in the company must be careful, as there is an unwritten code for younger and junior employees.

Simply, juniors have a lot of responsibilities during the party.

First, it's junior's job to walk around the table with a bottle of beer or sake, and pour it into the senior's



glass, while thanking them for their help throughout the year.

Juniors are also the night's entertainment, as a performance for seniors and other participants is on the to-do list.

Some will sing a trendy song or dance in costume, while others perform magic or read a traditional comic. And this isn't your buddy drunkenly mumbling into a microphone at local dive bar. These

performances are prepared and practiced months ahead of time.

I remember my daughter preparing and practicing for her company's bonenkai over 10 years ago (at that time, she was in her first year with the company). Her and four coworkers set aside time to master the pop dancing of Korean idle unit "Shojo Jidai Girls' Generation".

As the party progresses with seemingly endless refills of sake, oftentimes salarymen will take off their necktie and tie it around their heads. This amusing sight is also a gesture to show how much a person is dedicated to the party. If you are planning to do it yourself, be sure to choose wide tie that's light in color, as a lighter colored tie, especially red and pink, stands out among a crowd with dark ties on their heads.

A company bonenkai usually closes with "sanbonjime" (literally, closing of clapping hands three times). Then, participants stand up from their seats, take their coats and exchange greetings ("otsukaresama deshita" or thanks for the hard work).

The clapping and greeting might seem like the grand finale, but this is not the end of bonenkai. Nope, it's just rings in the beginning of the next party. A good bonenkai doesn't end without having a second and third party of the night. And juniors are often supposed to stay until their boss and seniors

go home. So, if your senior is a drinker, you've probably got a long night ahead of you.

When the senior finally decides to go home after the third or fourth party (probably the following morning), they are usually followed by a junior, who catches a taxi, and sees him off with a deep bow.

OK - now the bonenkai is over. Otsukaresama deshita! You may go home. Time to recover before your next bonenkai.

takiguchi.takahiro@stripes.com

Speakin' Japanese

Pronunciation key: "A" is short (like "ah"); "E" is short (like "get"); "I" is short (like "it"); "O" is long (like "old"); "U" is long (like "tube"); and "AI" is a long "I" (like "hike"). Most words are pronounced with equal emphasis on each syllable, but "OU" is a long "O" with emphasis on that syllable.

Bonenkai Banter

"Kon-ya wa kaisha no bonenkai desu."
= Tonight is the company's end of year party.

"Izakaya wo yoyaku shimashita."
= I made a reservation at a Japanese pub.

"Ichinenkan otsukaresama deshita!"
= Thanks for your hard work throughout a year.

"Toriezu nama!"
= I'll just start off with a draft beer for now.

"Biiru no okawari wo kudasai."
= Will you give me another glass of beer?

"Nomihodai desu." = it's all you can drink.

"Enmo takenawa desuga."
= Let's start winding the party down.

"Rainen mo ganbarimasho!"
= Let's make the coming year a good one.

"Kanpai" = cheers

"Okawari" = have another one

"Okanjyo" = check

– Takahiro Takiguchi, Stripes Japan

Stripes Sports Trivia

It may not live under your bed, but the “Green Monster” in left field of this park is surely intimidating to hitters.

Answer
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DID YOU KNOW?

Immigrations from Okinawa to foreign countries began in full swing when 27 locals immigrated to Hawaii in 1899. Back then, many Okinawans were struggling with poverty, and they dreamed of Hawaii as a paradise. Because of this image of Hawaii as a dream-come-true land, Okinawans used the word “Hawaii” to describe something wonderful. In a local commercial for a grave site, an acclaimed musician in Okinawa says “Hawaii Yassaa,” meaning that the grave site looks great.

Kanji of the week

親

Oya (parent)

Language Lesson

Why?

Naze?

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The Weekly Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS

- 1 Fabric shop roll
- 5 Baby bird sound
- 9 "This is the worst!"
- 14 Early Ron Howard role
- 15 Eclectic online digest
- 16 Platter player, briefly
- 17 Austerity
- 19 Like some colonies
- 20 "Cannon" star William
- 21 2018 Keira Knightley film
- 23 Format, as a disk
- 26 Had an impact on
- 29 Makes happen
- 32 Fencing move
- 33 Equestrian
- 35 South, in France
- 36 Files litigation
- 37 Not a kid anymore
- 38 Bygone time
- 39 Suffix with Peking
- 40 Dinnerware piece
- 41 Kevin who played Hercules
- 42 Under control
- 44 David Blaine specialty
- 46 Cruella de Vil portrayer
- 48 Rid of impurity
- 50 Hasselblad, for one
- 54 Hamilton or Hunt
- 55 Philanderer
- 58 Do some tailoring
- 59 Live anagram
- 60 Airport conveyance
- 61 Like some tree trunks
- 62 Set price

DOWN

- 1 Pear type
- 2 Vision: Prefix
- 3 Mortgage
- 4 Boston and Bull
- 5 News channel guest
- 6 Summer, in Paris
- 7 Annapolis grad.
- 8 Peach, in Rome
- 9 Makeup kit item
- 10 Breathe with effort
- 11 Big name in child education
- 12 Med. school class
- 13 Florida State player, familiarly
- 18 Wilson of Heart
- 22 Daily Planet reporter
- 24 _____ firma
- 25 Inane
- 26 Vaulted alcoves
- 27 Infamous soul seller

- 28 Athletes not under contract
- 30 Engine booster
- 31 Nickel finish?
- 34 Fixate (on)
- 37 Secluded valleys
- 38 Half Dome's home
- 40 Fully attended
- 41 Black-eyed _____
- 43 Windmill parts

- 45 Novel setting
- 47 More modern
- 48 Chowder morsel
- 49 Stitch's movie pal
- 51 Pound, of poems
- 52 Stern, at sea
- 53 Kind of dealer
- 56 Eggs in a lab
- 57 "Good Will Hunting" school

Answers to Previous Crossword:

M	U	S	S	C	O	S	T	A	S	T	R	S
I	N	K	A	O	L	E	O	S	A	R	I	A
A	T	I	T	C	A	R	P	O	O	L	I	N
T	I	M	E	S	A	V	E	R	R	I	G	G
A	L	B	E	E	R	A	N	I	N			
				O	N	T	A	P	N	E	G	A
T	R	A	S	H	T	A	L	K	S	S	E	S
O	A	R	S	T	R	A	I	T	S	A	A	U
T	I	D	E	I	T	S	N	O	T	T	R	U
E	N	S	N	A	R	E	G	R	I	E	G	
				C	R	E	D	S	N	A	A	N
T	A	B	O	O	W	A	T	T	E	R	S	O
I	H	A	D	N	O	I	D	E	A	O	S	S
F	O	R	E	U	T	I	L	S	S	E	E	R
F	Y	I	S	T	H	E	S	E	E	S	S	E

SUDOKU

Difficulty: Medium

Edited by Margie E. Burke

HOW TO SOLVE:
Each row must contain the numbers 1 to 9; each column must contain the numbers 1 to 9; and each set of 3 by 3 boxes must contain the numbers 1 to 9.

Answer to Previous Sudoku:

4	9	6	7	2	5	1	8	3
7	8	1	3	9	6	5	4	2
5	3	2	8	1	4	7	9	6
8	7	3	4	5	1	2	6	9
9	1	4	6	7	2	3	5	8
6	2	5	9	3	8	4	1	7
1	5	7	2	8	9	6	3	4
3	4	8	5	6	7	9	2	1
2	6	9	1	4	3	8	7	5

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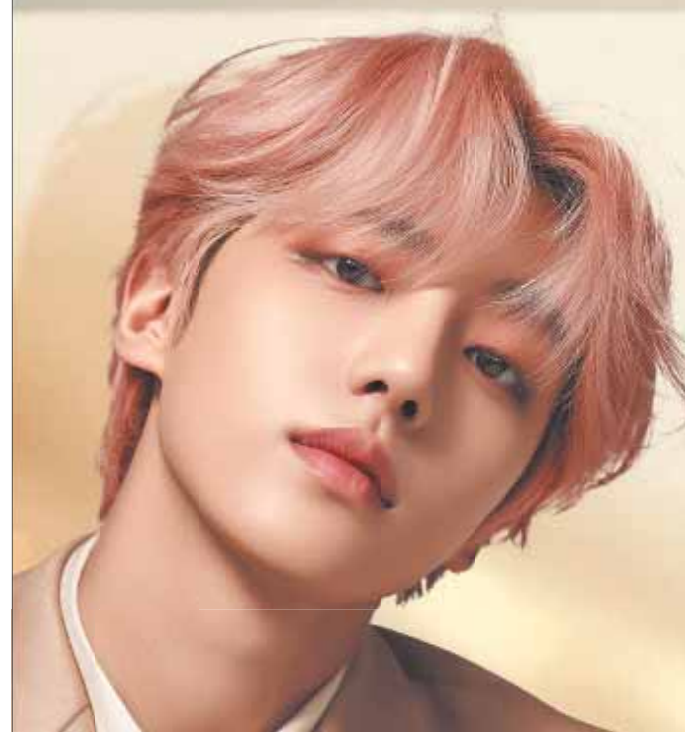
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