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2022
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MY FAVES

Good eats for a great picnic on Okinawa's beautiful beaches

STORY AND PHOTOS BY SHOJI KUDAKA,
STRIPES OKINAWA

Although the temperature stays relatively warm throughout the year, winter in Okinawa can be a little too chilly for beachgoers. So, it makes sense that many beaches on the island don't open until the spring.

During the spring, you won't only find beachgoers soaking in the rays and waves. Every year on March 3 of the lunar calendar (April 3 on the 2022 calendar), Okinawans celebrate hamauri. This tradition is to pray for girls' health and many women and girls visit the beach on this day to be blessed with the water.

Back in the day, men were not allowed to take part in this tradition. Now, however, this is recognized as more of a seasonal family event marking the arrival of spring.

On the beach for hamauri, you'll notice many locals picnicking with bentos



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INARI-ZUSHI



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TEMPURA

PORK TAMAGO ONIGIRI

SEASIDE DRIVE-IN'S SOUP

→ and refreshments. Below are some of my favorite foods to bring along for a refreshing beach day and picnic, no matter what time year. Give these a try!

■ **Fuuchi-muchi/yomogi mochi**

Much like Japanese Hina Matsuri (girl's day) where people enjoy food like hishi-mochi (diamond-shaped rice cake) or hina-arare (cubic rice crackers), hamauri is celebrated with specific foods. One example is fuuchi mochi or yomogi-mochi. This is a type of rice cake mixed with yomogi or artemisia herb. You may recognize the herb since it is commonly served in Okinawa with soba noodles or seasoned steamed rice. Yomogi is considered a superfood because of its strong health benefits such as lowering cholesterol and relieving constipation. Being a textbook-example of the old saying "good medicine tastes bitter," its strong flavor and scent may be discouraging. However, fuuchi-muchi/yomogi-mochi utilizes the yomogi as a nice accent.

■ **Inari-zushi & fried chicken**

This Okinawan sushi wrapped in aburaage (fried tofu pouch) is a must-try. Flavored much lighter than those of mainland Japan, its delicate sweetness and sourness can get you hooked. And when you

eat one, don't forget to couple it with some fried chicken.

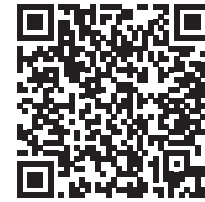
■ **Tempura**

Tempura, in Okinawa, is often considered a snack food. Sakana (fish), ika (squid), and imo (sweet potato) are popular ingredients for tempura. Buy some at supermarkets and convenience stores before you hit the beach.

■ **Pork tamago (egg) onigiri**

Considered one of Okinawa's most popular signature foods, this delicious onigiri sandwiches baked pork spam and egg and is like Hawaiian musubi. You'll find these at any convenience store or supermarket, but there are even shops dedicated to this specific Okinawan delicacy. Let's take a bite and replenish energy for some fun on the beach.

Watch Video!



■ **Seaside Drive-in's soup**

When you go to the beach, especially on the west coast of the island, I recommend that you make a stop at Seaside Drive-in Restaurant in Onna Village for a cup of soup. Their homemade pork bone broth-and-cream-based soup is loved by locals and tourists alike. You can order one for a take-out and enjoy it on the beach. (Address: 885 Nakadomari, Onna, Kunigami District, Okinawa 904-0415)

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CAMPANA

A Day at Oce

STORY AND PHOTOS BY SHOJI KUDAKA,
STRIPES OKINAWA

If you grew up on Okinawa like I did, visiting Ocean Expo Park with your family or on a school field trip is probably something you remember. Since opening to the public in 1976, the park has been a destination for many Okinawans wanting a quick getaway to enjoy many ocean-related exhibits and activities. The large public park in Motobu Peninsula is well known for the Churaumi Aquarium, a popular stop for tourists and locals.

The aquarium is fun and has plenty to see, but there are also other fun activities that you might enjoy while visiting this huge park. However, come prepared because there is a lot to do here, and you might not be able to see all in one day.

Okichan Theater/Dolphin Lagoon

My first stop during my recent visit to Ocean Expo Park was the Okichan Theater, featuring a dolphin pool with a show and one of the biggest attractions aside from the aquarium.

Due to COVID-19 prevention measures, the dolphin performances have been moved from the theater to the Dolphin Lagoon area. When I arrived, the dolphins were warming up for their show.

According to dolphin trainer Shunya Ikeshima, in addition to the various tricks and moves of the dolphins, the star of the show is Okichan, an Indo-Pacific bottlenose dolphin, after which the theater is named.

Okichan has been performing at the theater since the International Ocean Exposition held at the park in 1975, Ikeshima said. I couldn't believe it when he told me that the same dolphin from my childhood is the same one that was here today.

Ikeshima estimates that Okichan must be over 50 years old because when she arrived at the theater 48 years ago, she was already a grown dolphin. Watching Okichan perform and interact with her fellow dolphins, one would never imagine that she is a bit older.

During the show, Okichan and other dolphins jumped one after another. Some dolphins skillfully swam backward, and others adorably waved their fins at the audience.

According to Ikeshima, the show helps the dolphins stay healthy as it allows them get exercise, while interacting with the audience keeps their brain simulated and sharp. Though not all dolphins participate in every show, Okichan does because she is the star of the show, which may be why she holds the record for the longest time a dolphin has been kept at an aquarium, noted Ikeshima.

Churaumi Aquarium

Not long after I was impressed with Okichan's age and energetic performance, I found myself

captivated by other kinds of aquatic life at Churaumi Aquarium.

From Okichan Theater, it is about a 5-minute walk to the aquarium. It had been a long time since I set foot in this cool place where I could be sheltered from Okinawa's strong sun, but I was looking forward to seeing what the aquarium had in store.

Churaumi is a multi-story building and is designed in a way to guide visitors from the third floor, or the shallow waters, down deeper to the second and first floors where deep ocean creatures lurk.

The third floor of the aquarium features displays of small creatures living around shallow-water coral reefs called "inoh" in Okinawan dialect. Inoh is home to tropical fish, sea horses, spotted garden eel and more. The second floor, on the other hand, was dedicated to "The Kuroshio Sea" with a huge 10-meter-deep water tank. The first floor is where visitors will find deep-water fish and creatures with unusual shapes.

On the second-floor, you'll get a panoramic view of the huge pool and its inhabitants. According to Chizuru Ikegami, a member of the aquarium staff, the tank uses water drawn off the coast near Expo Park, allowing the creatures to still feel close to their natural environment.

Jinta, a whale shark reared for 28 years and now a symbol of the aquarium, soon caught my attention as its 8.8-meter-long body swam around the tank. Other marine life like big reef manta rays also share the space with Jinta. Take an elevator to the bridges that allow you to cross the tank from above for a better look.

On the second floor, visitors can also see other tanks with other sharks and baby sharks raised in artificial wombs. And don't miss Jinta's daily feeding in the water tank at 3 p.m. and 5 p.m.

Next, I made my way down to the first floor, for a look at the deep-water creature collection. From down here, visitors can also look up at the huge water tank on the second floor from below. I could see the whale shark and manta rays serenely circling above.

My visit to the aquarium was over in about an



Tropical Dream Center



Traditional Okinawa Village



Oceanic Culture Museum

Watch Video!



The gate of the Ocean Expo Park opens at 8 a.m. and closes at 7:30 p.m. (7 p.m. for the surrounding areas of the aquarium) The hours are subject to change.

Churaumi Aquarium

GPS Coordinates: N 26.694355, E 127.878076 (near parking no.6,7)

Hours: 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. (Last admission at 4 p.m., The hours are subject to change)

Admission: 1,880 yen for adults, 1,250 yen for high school students, 620 yen for middle and elementary school students, free admission for under six years old.



Ocean Expo Park

...r. I felt a little tired after enjoying watching many marine creatures. I made sure to take a break for a bottle of Churaumi Soda Pop, a sweet, carbonated drink with a hint of salt. The drink has a beautiful blue color to match the blue waters around Motobu Peninsula.

Tropical Dream Center

The theme of Ocean Expo Park is “sun, flowers, and the sea.” Among its many attractions, the Tropical Dream Center represents the flower portion of the theme as it houses about 1,700 varieties of plants and flowers.

According to Ayano Nakagawa, an Expo Park employee who manages this area, Tropical Dream Center is designed to make visitors feel like they’ve stumbled into ancient ruins in a tropical forest.

Here visitors are greeted by over 2,000 orchids in three of the five greenhouses at the center dedicated to these delicate beauties of many colors, shapes and sizes. Behind the scenes, 20,000 orchids are farmed daily for the exhibit, so visitors can see the best of the best.

The other two greenhouses are dedicated to other plants, including fruit trees like avocado and mango trees. There’s even some unusual jackfruit trees and trees which grow thick and fragrant citrus. The only downside is that you might not catch any fruit when they’re producing any fruit, but the greenhouses do periodically offer seasonal samplings and other activities related to gardening and harvest.

Beyond the greenhouses, the center has a courtyard with baobab trees growing at one end. According to Nakagawa, some of them grew from seeds someone on staff brought back from Africa. I was temporarily transported to Madagascar by looking at these unique trees with thick trunks and thin branches. In their native land, these unique trees never, which the trees here at the center have also been able to do, a first in Japan, according to Nakagawa.

A highlight of the second half of my tour around the center was an observatory tower and lotus pond. Located on the tower which has a height of 36 meters, I enjoyed a superb view of the ocean with Ie Island in the distance. The pond had many round lotus leaves floating in it. These leaves can hold up to 80 kilograms of weight, Nakagawa said adding that sometimes children under 20 kilograms are allowed to climb and ride the enormous leaves in the pond.

More fun for your family

Ocean Expo Park has many interesting activities to check out and it’s probably difficult to do them all in one day. Though my visit was mostly to see the Okichan Theater, Churaumi Aquarium, and the Tropical Dream Center, there are plenty of other attractions worth adding to your list. The

Okinawa Kyoudomura is one of them.

Okinawa Kyoudomura replicates old local Okinawan communities from the times of the Ryukyu Kingdom. Here recreations of old Okinawan houses with tiled roofs and unique structures such as places of worship called “Kamiasagi,” and a well of worship called “Ugamigaa” allow visitors a look back in time. It is a good way to get acquainted with the architecture and way of life in the olden days of the island.

A short walk away from Kyoudomura is Kaiyobunka-kan Oceanic Culture Museum. Check out various types of canoes, including a huge double Tahitian double-canoes with a length of 17.6 meters.

Near the Churaumi Aquarium and Okichan Theater, “Manatee Pool” and “Sea Turtle Pool” give visitors some time to see some adorable marine mammals and reptiles.

Plan for your visit

If you get hungry, stop by Inoh, a restaurant on the fourth floor of the Churaumi Aquarium. Enjoy a lunch buffet over a superb ocean view. For a light meal, there are cafes in both the aquarium and Tropical Dream Center. The dolphin theater also has Okichan Parlor for some great snacks.

For transportation inside this large park, electric cars shuttle visitors between attractions for 300 yen per ride around every 15 minutes. The Ocean Expo Park doesn’t charge a general admission fee, but each attraction is subject to fees. Emerald Beach on the north end of the park is a nice spot for some swimming and relaxing.

After I wrapped up my day at Ocean Expo Park, I realized I was exhausted but happy to have spent some time at a place I remember fondly from my childhood. Though there have been many changes and renovations, and I’m no longer a grade school student, I realized I still had a lot to learn and fun to have there. Plan a trip now to this extensive park with so many activities your family will love!

kudaka.shoji@stripes.com



Okichan Theater



Churaumi Soda Pop, an aquarium signature drink, is a sweet, carbonated beverage with a hint of salt. This special drink is available at the Blue Manta shop in the aquarium and in a vending machine outside.



Manatee

Tropical Dream Center

Coordinates: N 26.687374, E 127.876107

(near parking no. 8)

Admission: 760 yen for high school students and over, free admission for middle school students and under

Hours: 8:30 a.m. – 7 p.m. (Last admission at 6:30 p.m.)

(The hours are subject to change)

Manatee Pool

Coordinates: N 26.694797, E 127.876971

Admission: Free

Hours: 8:30 a.m. – 7 p.m.

(The hours are subject to change)

Okinawa Kyoudomura

GPS Coordinates: N 26.690466, E 127.876949

(near parking no. 2, 3, 5)

Admission: Free

Hours: 8:30 a.m. – 7 p.m.

(The hours are subject to change)

Okichan Theater/Dolphin Lagoon

GPS Coordinates: N 26.692817, E 127.875745 (Okichan

Theater); N 26.693395, E 127.875920 (Dolphine

Lagoon) *near parking no. 2, 3, 5

Time: 10:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 1 p.m., 3 p.m.

Admission: Free

Oceanic Culture Museum

GPS Coordinate: N 26.690403, E 127.878016

(near parking no. 2, 3, 5)

Admission: 190 yen for adults, free admission for middle school students and under.

Hours: 8:30 a.m. – 7 p.m. (Last admission at 6:30 p.m.)

(The hours are subject to change)

Sea Turtle Pool

GPS Coordinates: N 26.694553, E 127.876764

Admission: Free

Hours: 8:30 a.m. – 7 p.m.

(The hours are subject to change)

Ocean Expo Park Website



COMICS CORNER



SORRY, GUNNY, IT WAS A JOKE! I TOLD THE NEW GUYS THERE WAS A BEER IN MY M.R.E.



GUYS, DON'T WAIT UP FOR ME, I'LL BE WORKING LATE!

by Daryl Talbot

DUE TO COVID, LOOKS LIKE HIGHER IS DIRECTING EXCEPTION TO POLICY MEMOS FOR EVERYTHING NOW...NEW DUTY STATION MOVES, FILLING CRITICAL PERSONNEL SHORTAGES, GOING TO WORK...WHAT'S NEXT, AN EXCEPTION TO GO TO THE RESTROOM?



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SIR, YOU MISSED IT ON PAGE 6.



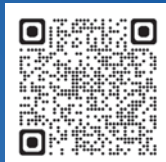
by Randy Denman

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Speakin' Japanese

BY SHOJI KUDAKA, STRIPES OKINAWA

Useful phrases for daily life

There are key Japanese phrases to know when you're in certain situations. Learning how to say no, when you need to take a moment with your spouse or parent prior to making a decision and what to say when you leave your office for the day are useful in daily life while you're living in Japan. Check out these videos and practice these new phrases with us!





VIDEO LESSONS




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Stripes Sports Trivia

The final game in the movie "Hoosiers" was shot at Hinkle Fieldhouse. In real life, the fieldhouse is home to the Butler Bulldogs, and lately, the program has gone from underdog to basketball power. In 2010, the Bulldogs were a mere inches away from beating Duke in the National Title Game. Who took the half-court shot for Butler that nearly became the greatest of all time?

Answer

Gordon Hayward

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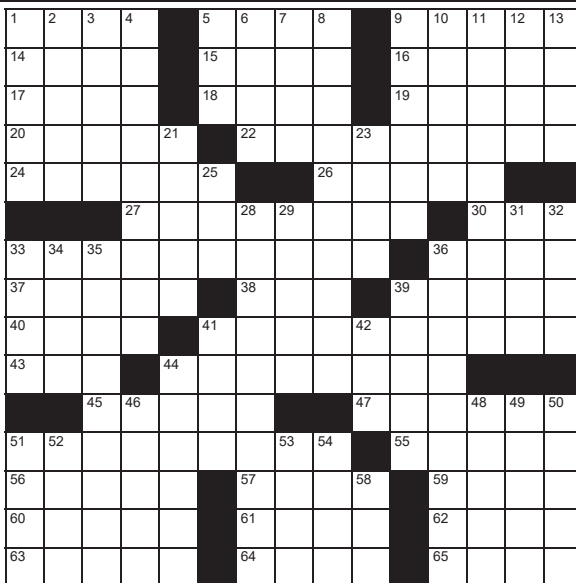


Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS

- 1 Invitation letters
- 5 Historic periods
- 9 Silents star Mary
- 14 Palace resident
- 15 Soft rock?
- 16 Waste metal
- 17 Neck part
- 18 Shots, for short
- 19 Glide along
- 20 Lock of hair
- 22 Like many wallpapers
- 24 Bacon portions
- 26 Dollar divisions
- 27 Like some garages
- 30 Faux ____
- 33 Biological stages
- 36 Window ledge
- 37 "Reversal of Fortune" Oscar winner
- 38 Playground game
- 39 Power glitch
- 40 Urban unrest
- 41 Airplane measure
- 43 CT time zone
- 44 Bibliophile's destination
- 45 Reject rudely
- 47 Corrections list
- 51 Take turns
- 55 Pillow filler
- 56 Cowboy gear
- 57 Fail miserably
- 59 Clothing line?
- 60 WWII German sub
- 61 Margarita fruit
- 62 Alternatively
- 63 Blabs
- 64 "Lane" anagram
- 65 Farmer's purchase

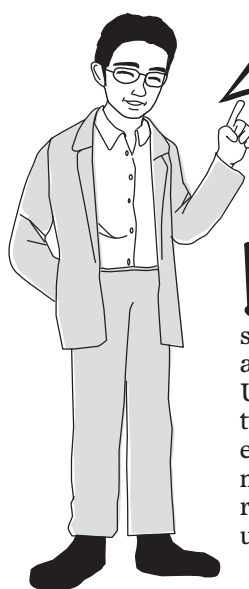


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- 3 Deadly snake
- 4 Polk or Pierce
- 5 Posting at LAX
- 6 Loading device
- 7 ____ mater
- 8 UK breakfast foods
- 9 Move up the ladder
- 10 Curling, e.g.
- 11 Take place
- 12 River of England
- 13 No longer working (abbr.)
- 21 Glasses, briefly
- 23 Caddie's bagful
- 25 Hog haven
- 28 Ready for use
- 29 Metallic sound
- 31 Seaweed
- 32 Downhill racer
- 33 Former Italian coins
- 34 Pupil surrounder
- 35 Chair accessory
- 36 Plot twists, e.g.
- 39 Fern-to-be
- 41 Frayed
- 42 "Steady as ____ goes"
- 44 Pops like a balloon
- 46 Flower part
- 48 "Skyfall" singer
- 49 Fluff hair
- 50 Packing heat
- 51 Lie next to
- 52 Stud site
- 53 Work hard
- 54 She played
- Skeeter in "The Help"
- 58 Stein or Stiller

Answers to Previous Crossword:

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



DID YOU KNOW?

Near Sasebo Naval Base in Kumamoto Prefecture, there is a "specialty" food called basashi. This thinly-sliced meat is actually raw horse, and it's an indispensable munchie at izakaya bars. Usually served near-frozen, the meat is typically dipped in soy sauce with ground garlic or wasabi (horseradish). So, the next time you're at a bar and you're feeling risky, or maybe you've had a couple, order up this Japanese "specialty."

Kanji of the week

道

Michi/doo (road)

Language Lesson

Which way is [north]?

[Kita] wa docchi desuka?

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:

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

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

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STARS AND STRIPES®

“We have endured through the hardships of a traditional high school experience and a not so traditional life of being overseas. Beyond that, we have persevered through the challenges that came with the pandemic, whether it was the transition into and out of online school or the limited opportunities due to social distancing. Without our parents, our teachers, our administrators, and every individual who has impacted the way we live, we would not be in this position today to graduate.”

*-Mayann Rivera,
Kadena High School Senior Class President*

Grad Tab

2022



Kadena High School
Kubasaki High School



Kadena High School

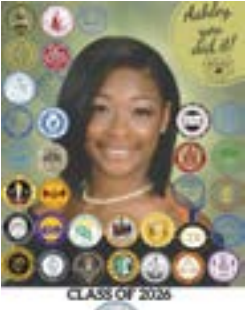
Anderson, Morgan
 Archie, Jayla
 Arismendez, Brandon
 Bailey, Maria
 Balthrop, Madison
 Barrow, Donovan
 Bartolome, Hero Zander
 Belcher, Sarah
 Bention, Kalia
 Betancourt, Vanessa
 Boateng, Vanessa
 Boerigter, Wyatt
 Bone, Johnnie
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 Camacho, Kaleb Francisco
 Campbell, Brandon
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 Chambers, Sincere
 Chapman, Kurt
 Chapman, Quintin
 Cintron, Jayden
 Clarke, Winston
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 Conroy, Samantha
 Corrado, Sara

Cortez, Arquea
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 Culver, Skyler
 Cupp, Alena
 Desma, Lukeomen
 Enriquez, Yvonne
 Field, Emma
 Fitzgerald, Andrew
 Fontanilla, Miguel
 Fountain, McKena
 Fowler, Trent
 Frye, Thomas
 Funkhouser, Nathan
 Garcia, Rico
 Garcia, Sarina
 Gatewood, Jordan
 Gertz, Olivia
 Ginivan, Kayleigh
 Gorman, Rose
 Green, Christopher
 Gunter, Lana
 Hagewood, Chazaiah
 Hartwell, Airi
 Hathcock, Sunni
 Heyliger, Alicia
 Horvath, Brynn
 Hyché, Autumn
 Ingle, Isabella
 Jennings, Kailah

Jones, Kai
 Jones, Melanie
 Jordan, Claire
 Kirby, Ethan
 Klappmeyer, Katie
 Knopf, Thomas
 Korkowski, James
 Kwiatek, Olivia
 La Force, Makaela
 Lares, Damian
 Lewis, Jeremiah
 Lowery, Christa
 Lubben, Jamilah
 Luckey, David
 Mangali, Eunice
 Martin, Ryuku
 Matthews, Ha'ani Tori
 McClay, Sean
 McCord, Cullen
 McCormick, Vyctoria
 McGhee, Jonathon
 McLaird, Liam
 Meah, Peyton
 Medlin, Morgan
 Mercado-Matos, Janiel
 Merriwether, Kaylee
 Mijares, Enrique
 Milline, Jayden
 Montanez, Jadine Abigail
 Mosley, Kayla

Navarro, Donovan Jay
 Nixon, Parker
 O'Connor, Troy
 Ogden, Blaine
 Oglesbee, Cuilen
 Okubo, Grace
 Olivas, Alyssa
 Ordonez, Cameron Tomas
 Ortiz, Kyla
 O'Steen, Randy
 Patsel, Misty
 Poelma, Mika
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 Renquist, Joe
 Richards, Jenny
 Richardson, William
 Rivera, Mayann Kristen
 Romero, Mario
 Ross, Ali
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 Sakai, Mason
 San Nicolas, Aubriann Nicole
 Santos, Anthony
 Sato-Marsh, Mirai
 Sato-Marsh, Mizuki
 Selco, Sara

Sessions, Jake
 Settles, Jalin
 Sheehan, Seira
 Simms, Trinity
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 Smith, Braedon
 Smith, Trey
 Smithee, Xavier
 Soriano, Melanie
 Spencer, Cooper
 St. Laurent, Takara
 Suarez, Lucas
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 Tantonco, Justine
 Tate, Alyssa
 Thomas, Tyler Jade
 Thueson, Emma
 Toole, Aiden
 Trang, Audrey Chau
 Tull, MyLein
 Vargas, Miguel
 Williams, Langston
 Williams, Malana
 Williams, Malea
 Wright, James
 Wright, Kyleigh
 Young, Chandler
 Young, Emma




Ashley
We are so proud of you!
— Love, Mom and Dad



Kayla
We are so proud of you and all of your hard work.
— Mom & Dad



McKena
Congratulations! Let God lead the way and you will surely shine BRIGHT! We love our Future Marine Biologist!
— Mom and Dad



Raven
Raven!!!!!!!!!!!! YOU are the greatest. There's nothing you can't do. Don't ever let up, because your light needs to shine!
— The Rivera Family



Skyler
Congratulations, Be confident in everything you choose to do! We are so proud of you and love you BTTS!
— Grandma and Papa



A sincere thanks to everyone!

We have endured through the hardships of a traditional high school experience and a not so traditional life of being overseas. Beyond that, we have persevered through the challenges that came with the pandemic, whether it was the transition into and out of online school or the limited opportunities due to social distancing. Without our parents, our teachers, our administrators, and every individual who has impacted the way we live, we would not be in this position today to graduate.

Thank you to all our loved ones, the Kadena High School community, and the military family for supporting us. Parents, all the times you have shown up to sports events and spent your time for the teams have been much appreciated. Teachers who have encouraged us to pursue our passions and have adapted to the newest technologies to accommodate us, thank you. To all the staff members that have fought for our pep rallies, homecomings, the PAC-East event, our prom, etc., we will always cherish the memories we have made.

Thank you Principal Kwiatek for all the times you joined our senior meetings to negotiate graduation plans, and for working with the USO and local groups to help support our senior events. The first indoor pep rally back since COVID began was one to remember. We appreciate all the efforts of our assistant principals, Dr. Hayes and Mr. Bragg for motivating us to keep pushing through the year.

A special thank you to our senior sponsors, Mrs. Faltz Stanley, Mrs. George, and Mrs. Ringgold for being by our side to make events happen in the ways we wanted. Mrs. Faltz Stanley has been with us since COVID first hit and has sacrificed so much of her personal time for the sake of our class. She has gone out of her way to make sure we got what we wanted to the best of her abilities and taken on other roles besides the senior class. She helped plan homecoming, our Torii beach event, and helped us plan the best graduation despite restrictions. She is not only an exceptional teacher, but one of the kindest mentors to our students. We are eternally grateful for all you have done to make graduation happen, and get events back to normal.


Thank you to our counselor, Mrs. Alcazar, for guiding us through the past four years, whether it was a personal matter or an academic one. She is a counselor who not only does administrative work to get our transcripts, applications, standardized testing, etc., but she also is there to be a shoulder to cry on for students and a relatable mother to all the parents. She has always looked out for our desires and wanted us to have fun, while maintaining a reputable image. She taught us life lessons and how we can look forward into the future whether we were going off to college, joining the military, trade school, or were still unsure of what to do. We could not have asked for a better counselor, thank you again!

Thank you seniors for your perseverance, your growth, and forming our class. Despite all the struggles we have endured, the mistakes we have made, our successes, we are beyond proud of how far you all have come as individuals. Everyone has made an impact on one another, and your presence today is what we are all grateful for. We came, we survived, and we conquered because of all your help!

- Mayann Rivera, Class President
Kadena High School Class of 2022




Cameron
We're so proud of you, and all your accomplishments! Can't wait to see what your future holds. We love you!
Mom, Dad, Christian, Colin




Trey
You have worked extremely hard and challenged yourself these last four years. We are very proud of you, congratulations!
— Mom and Dad



Morgan
Congrats on your graduation, the future is yours. Make good choices, have fun, and never stop reaching for your goals. Love you.
— Mom & Adel



Joan
Congratulations to our princess. We're so proud of you.
— Akira and Mom



Chase
Congratulations Chase! We are so proud of you and excited for your future! We love you so much!
Mom, Dad, Jack & Logan



Seniors channel their inner children as they play on the ship at Torii Beach during the senior field trip.

Cuilen Oglesbee speeds to the front of the pack during a home cross country meet. Oglesbee placed first in every meet during the 2021 season.



Kadena Hi



Members of the KDHS girls varsity basketball team celebrate their senior status after their final home game.



Members of the KDHS Class of 2022 proudly enter the pep rally with their class banner.

Kubasaki H

There are many benefits to being a third-culture kid. Firstly, they're highly adaptive to their surroundings. For example, if the parent(s) has a job that requires them to move every two years, their children move schools and make new friends every two years too. If parents and schools teach them to have a healthy closure when moving, they are less likely to feel anxious about starting new. With that, they can pick the tools needed to adapt to their surroundings. Furthermore, they can also easily relate to people with diverse backgrounds, be it people with different races, ethnicity, religion, or even perspectives.

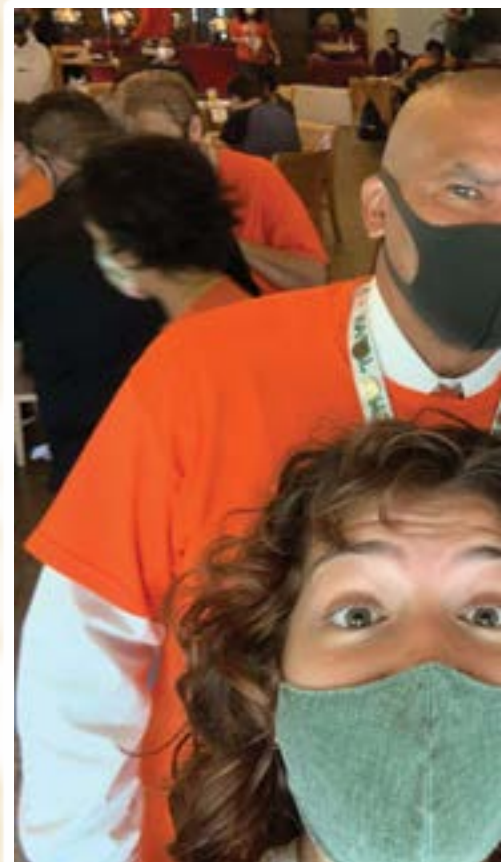
-Alondra Pena, KBHS Senior



Kaitlyn Dunn paints the traditional Senior Hill behind the Kubasaki building.

Fear... something everyone has, but everyone reacts differently to it. Some individuals get scared and break down and hope it somehow goes away. Others prepare and ensure that it cannot happen or minimize the effects of the fear. I find it a waste of time to break down, some magically flying pony isn't going to come solve my problems so I must take matters into my own hands. I honestly don't really care if I succeed or fail because they are side projects. Do I fear failing? No, because if I do it's a fault of my own and I should be able to foresee anything that could possibly hinder my long term plans. Things that pop up from thin air can be handled at that exact moment, you can't waste all your time preparing for every scenario because then you'll never be able to succeed.

-Dante Hasty-Chestnut, KBHS Senior



Alexa Smith, Caleyjaden Croft, Emily Nakagawa, and Mr. Strait enjoying the Senior Breakfast event.

High School



Lynne Powell spreads some peace during the senior picnic at Torii Beach.



Airi Hartwell, Jalin Settles and Kayla Summerson show their excitement as they enter the Homecoming pep rally.



Kadena High seniors take part in a competitive game of Red Light, Green Light during the senior picnic.



MyLein Tull and Emilia Field pose for a quick photo before the Homecoming pep rally, which was held outdoors this year.

High School

Graduating high school has been a long time goal for me, the thought of finally being able to put all your time into something that you're actually passionate about has always been appealing to me. As it probably would be for any student not only at Kubasaki but throughout the world. One thing that I personally hope for as a member of the 2022 class is that the skills and the experience I acquired throughout high school is put to the test and proven to be useful in real world situations.

-Reuben Kight, KBHS senior



Kubasaki High School seniors show Dragon Spirit at their last pep rally.



oneizy, Brynn Murray, Natalia Sanchez and Principal [unclear] at the Foster Pool.



Levi Soto brings the ball up during a home game.

Growing up in a military family is challenging, while it may not be as hard as it is for the parent or adult who's in the service, it's still hard for us kids. We move about every 3 years and we lose friends when we move or when they move. Keeping in touch is a struggle, the relationship usually doesn't remain intact. It's even harder being farther away from family members. Ever since COVID, it's been hard to travel to see families during the holidays to see them and hold them and feel the joy and laughter being a whole family.

-Raymon Arana, KBHS senior



Kubasaki High School

- | | | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|
| Aguirre, Nicholaz | Dunn, Kaitlyn | Hicks, Jake | Mendoza, Mateo | Sanchez, Natalia |
| Alvarado, Alyssa | Espinoza, Emily | Huff, Chett | Merrill, Isabell | Schoonover, Austin |
| Ambrose, Dakota | Estoesta, Julianna | Humphry, Aidan | Mettke, Kyte | Shaver, Aiden |
| Arana, Raymon | Fluke, Samantha | Imperial, Euries | Morris, Joseph | Shiroma, Haruto |
| Armstrong, Sierra | Fowler, Ian | Inge, Mya | Murray, Brynn | Smith, Alexa |
| Broomes, Taja | Gallagher, Kai | Jones, Canaan | Nakonieczny, Emily | Smith, John |
| Camacho, Erick | Garcia, Jake | Kight, Reuben | Nomiyama, Elijah | Soto, Levi |
| Carrillo, Isaiah | Garnett, Torance | Koroma, Jasmine | Oboza, Lillian | Swanson, Michelle |
| Chandler, Eldon | Gatch, Shaylee | Kozerski, Kaylee | Passage, Payton | Tenywa, Jonathan |
| Chua, Lyanna | Genovese, Bianca | Legros, Vinh | Pena, Alondra | Thibert, Micah |
| Colling, Nicole | Gonzaga, Renelyn Joy | Leopold, Patrick | Peralta, David | Thompson, Cayli |
| Corbett, MaryEileen | Gordon, Ashton | Loor, Bianca | Pilgreen, Seth | Um, Ryan |
| Croft, Caleyjaden | Graichen, Jacob | Lundberg, Stephen | Revay, Brandon | Waite, Shayn |
| Cruz, Alejandro | Graydon, Robert | Magloire, McAnthony | Rivas, Rosalyn | Wallace, Anthony |
| Donato, Teriane Jude | Harpuder, Ethan | Maldonado, Jayden | Rivera, Naolani | Ward, Brandon |
| Donato, Traciane Jude | Hasty-Chestnut, Dante | Martinez, Zachary | Rodriguez Del Toro, Amelie | Washington, Timothy |
| Dragon, Jericho | Heinrich, Janelle | Matuszak, Kala | Rodriguez, Manuel | Wheelock, Alexia |
| Dudley, Allen | Heinrich, Zaria | Mendoza, Ashkii | Roper, Elizabeth | Wray, Violah |



Ashkii
 Congratulations Ashkii! We are so proud of the young man you've become. Dream big, take chances, and work hard!
 — Love, Mom, Dad, and Shaun diin



Nicole
 Take pride in your accomplishments. Have faith in what you can achieve. And enjoy the journey. "We are...❤️" Penn State!
 — Love Mom and Dad



Sierra
 Go confidently in the direction of your dreams knowing we'll catch you if you fall. We are so proud of you!
 — Love, Mom, Dad and Bella



Chett
 Celebrating your successes and looking forward to many more. Congratulations!
 — Mom & Dad



Michelle
 Your hard work and perseverance have paid off. We are so proud of you and love you very much.
 — Mom and Dad



Alyssa
 We are so very proud of you and all you have accomplished. We love you so very much!
 — Mom and Dad

Thank you

The Great Class of 2022 hails from everywhere one can imagine. It is because of this great attribute that our class has an unrivaled character, a truly unique mix in personality because of the various people within our class. This has led to some of our school's greatest success over the years, most recently of which is the winning of several Pacific East Championships across Japan. There have also been smaller, more personal victories, for our Kubasaki Dragons. In fact, too many to be included in here. But, their victories aren't just our classes' victories, they're our parents and teachers and coaches and friends and mentors, and communities' victories as well. These well-meaning adults and peers have done so much for so many of us. It's only fitting that the letter from the class should include our sincerest gratitude to the people who have been with us and helped us the most. A well-known, but favorite African proverb states that it takes a village to raise a child. As we come to the closing epoch of our teenagedom, we know this proverb to be true. The countless hours our parents, mentors, and teachers have poured into us are uncountable. We thank them for all that they have done and continue to do for us as we make our way to the real world. The values and ethics these people have taught us will guide us as much as a compass guides true to the north.

Regardless of where the class of 2022 will be in the future, our class will be at the forefront of science, engineering, warfighting, and technology. That much can be assured. The dedication and commitment our class has demonstrated throughout the years has prepared us to be successful in college, career, and life.

-Kubasaki High School's Class of 2022



Torance
 You did it! We are so proud of you.
 — Love Mom and Dad

Growing up in a military family is amazing. Yes, there are the bad times, but there are also amazing times and amazing things you can get out of being a military child. It is truly is a great experience and has set me up for the rest of my life..

-Seth Pilgreen, KBHS senior



Michelle Swanson at the Kubasaki Winter Formal Dance.



Ashkii Mendoza shows his Dragon Fire.



Payton Passage and Brynn Murray at Kubasaki's Fall Pep Rally showing their school spirit.

Being a military brat can be very beneficial. The military world will help you develop skills others don't and you will be more prepared for the real world as it changes your life when it's ready, not when you are, so that's why it's always good to be one step ahead.

-Erick Camacho, KBHS senior



Kyte Mettke takes a break from conducting the Kubi Pep Band at Kubasaki's Fall Pep Rally.

The average military kid can usually withstand new introductions. Many times, this makes many people consider us as adventurous, brave, and/or mature: So, being a senior who is about to live life bigger than myself, and possibly starting completely alone, is honestly frightening and a little exciting. Nonetheless, exploring the genuine thoughts as a military child, who is a senior, might give some insight, empathy, or just some other thoughts.

-Isabell Merrill, Kubasaki High School

Congratulations to the class of 2022!



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