

New Year's Day

Shiroyama's ALT welcomed the New Year for the first time in Japan. She spent the holiday with a friend and her family, learning much about Japan's culture around the holidays. They ate Mikan, Mochi, and noodles and watched special New Year's TV programs. After a visit to a shrine, the ALT took home a New Year's arrow to commemorate the occasion.

This month the first-year students played 100-person Karuta in the gym. The ALT was able to learn about the game with the teacher of Japanese at Shiroyama. Music was played from a stereo while the teacher read from the answer cards. While the ALT had read about Karuta in her Japanese language classes, this was her first time to actually see the game played.

The students studied for and took the Eiken test. For the first-year students, it was the first time for them to fill out a scantron sheet. Shiroyama's teachers took great care in teaching each student how to fill out their name, address and phone number for the test. The ALT read practice listening scripts and held check practice test answers. Many classes received a double dose of English classes in preparation for test day. Many students found that they did better on the practice tests than they thought they would.

School clubs began again with the ALT joining the Art club. The art club's current project is pictures of different views of Minakuchi and Koka. The ALT saw images of Tanuki statues, Minakuchi castle, shrines and more from the students. The club also used painted stone paperweights as gifts for visiting elementary students. The ALT was able to help with the packaging of the gifts. The club was also visited by one the high school interns who was curious about Shiroyama's club activities. The ALT enjoyed interacting with her. The ALT also received a wonderful invitation from the Brass band to their recital in March!

So, even with influenza hitting Shiroyama JHS hard this month, school spirit continues strong among Shiroyama staff and students.

