

# Welcome Year 2020!

It was good to spend New Year's with my family in America but I'm glad to be back in Japan. It feels good to be at work again.

The first years and I got to play an interview game and a whiteboard game. The interview game usually went flawlessly, but the real fun was the whiteboard game. In the spirit of practicing "-ing", I asked them to draw a picture after a read a sentence. Every single class was thrown off when I told them that the 5<sup>th</sup> question was really hard, so it was two points. They intently listened as I said "a cat...". Never did they expect that to follow with "...is playing the piano. All of the classes thought it was hilarious as they raced to draw a cat playing the piano. Everyone got two points.

The second years weren't left out of the fun. I made them a special review Jeopardy game as a treat for listening to my winter vacation. After they figured it out, the game took off. Everyone was out for each other's points, there were screams of excitement everywhere. I even let them choose team names where they had to choose one color and one animal. Some of my favorites were "Clear Dolphins" and "Rainbow Carps". The one third year class that got to play their own version didn't get as rowdy, but I still hope they had fun.

Class 9 and 10 got to play 'Go Fish' for the first time. They were excited to play a game that was actually played in America. In Class 10, the winners were quickly decided but in Class 9, we took our time and had fun with it. It made it exciting until the end. While Class 10 reviewed for the rest of class, Class 9 got to learn about the English names for the Zodiacs as well as their astrological signs. Most of us turned out to be Sagittarius!

It may be a little early, but I already decorated the English Board for February. Of course, it's Valentine's themed. There are hearts with English questions about Valentine's Day and envelopes with new words under them. I even hand-made an envelope with a Valentine's card inside. By the looks of how wrinkled it is already, it seems that it's been peaked at already. Mission accomplished. Yet. There is more. Not only do I have Valentine's, I have some information about Black History Month, sharing about some of the influential people who helped change our country for the better. I hope they also take a look at that.

Then, later in the month, I got anxious about the Japanese exam I took in December. I had tried to check before, earlier in the month but the results weren't up yet. This time, they were, which terrified me. I passed! I was so relieved. Yet another small stepping stone towards being able to speak Japanese. I'm so happy, but now I'm already nervous for the N3 test in July.