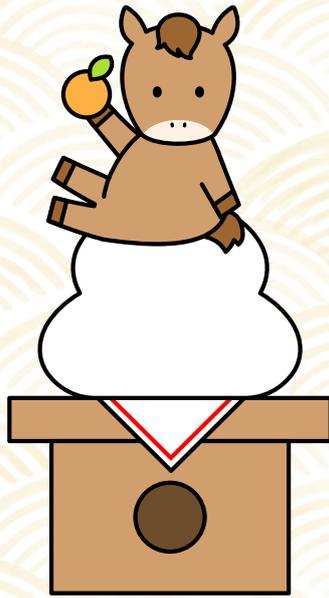


HAPPY NEW YEAR

2026

明けましておめでとうございます
今年もよろしくお願ひします





2026 is the year of the horse -
it's Gunma-chan's year!





What did you do for the
New Year winter break?

And what is your New Years
Resolution for 2026?



"New Year's resolution"とは、新年に立てる「抱負」
「決意」「目標」のことです。

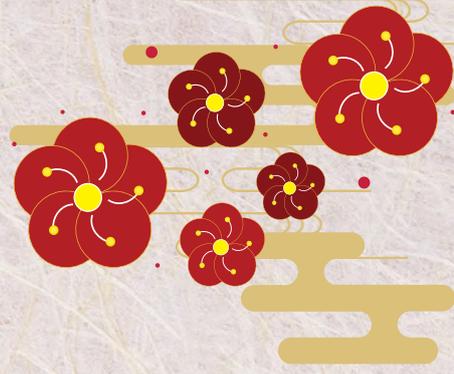
James' New Year Holiday



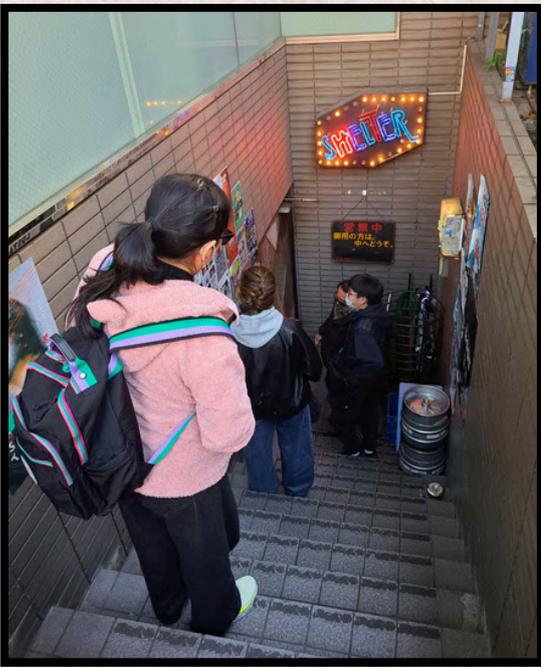
I hope you had a great winter and New Year vacation. I was lucky enough to visit Tokyo, and later Fujikawaguchiko with my friends.



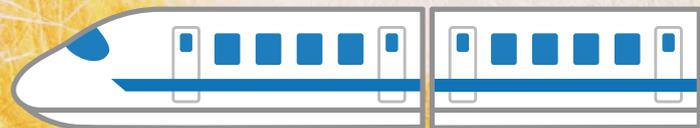
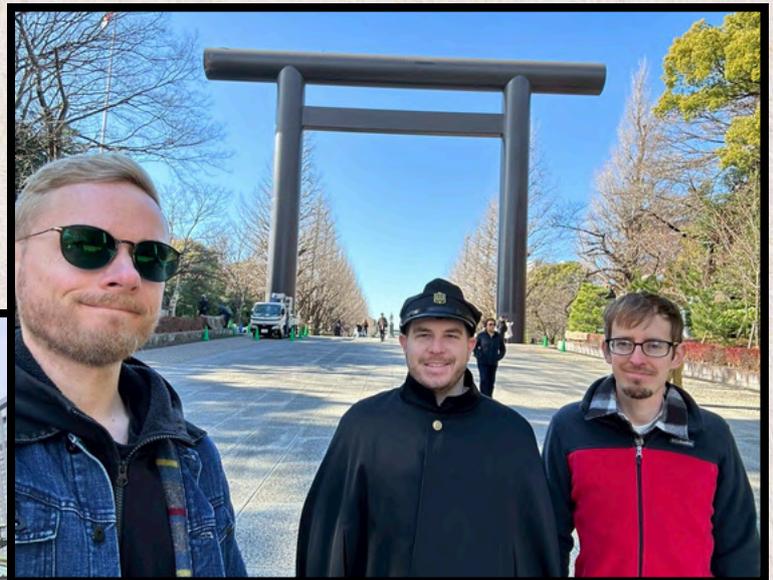
During Christmas, I was very sick with Influenza A. It was a really miserable way to spend Christmas. Luckily, from the 28th of December onwards, I got well enough to meet with my friends in Tokyo.



Miserable (形容): 惨めな



We went to Shimokitazawa, Ginza, Akihabara, and Shinjuku. It was fun, but tiring, because I hadn't fully recovered yet. Also, some places we wanted to visit were closed due to the New Years holiday.



Tiring (形容): 疲れる Recover (動): 健康を回復する

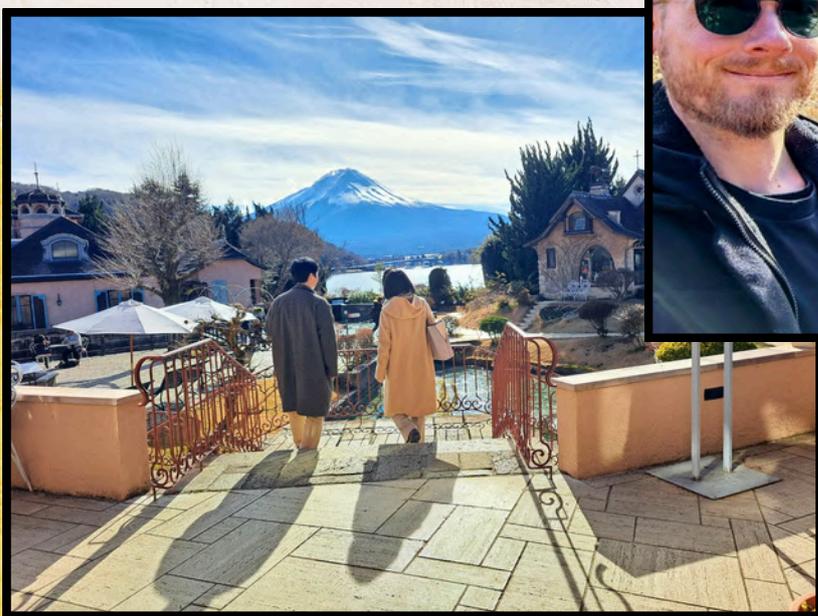


Next, for New Years, we travelled to Fujikawaguchiko, to the north of Mount Fuji, in Yamanashi Prefecture. There were so many tourists!

Tourist (名): 旅人



We visited museums and famous shrines, including the Chureito Pagoda, and Kawaguchi Asama Shrine and Torii.



Pagoda (名): 塔



My best memory was riding swan boats with my friends on Lake Kawaguchi.



**My New Years Resolution for
2026 is to eat healthier foods
and to lose weight...**



Lose weight (動): 体重を減らす

Ayumi's Winter Vacation

I stayed in Yamanashi Prefecture with my family for two days. I went to Fuji-Q theme park, Lake Kawaguchi, and Tenjoyama Park.



It was my first time at Fuji-Q Highland theme park. I enjoyed riding the attractions. I rode the roller coasters 'Fujiyama' and 'Nagashimasuka'. Fujiyama was the most thrilling ride I've ever been on. Riding Nagashimasuka, I got very wet. I went to 'Senritsu Meikyu' haunted house. It was really scary, so I quickly left.



Roller coaster (名): ジェットコースター
Haunted house (名): お化け屋敷

At Lake Kawaguchi, I rode in a motorboat. The man driving the motorboat was kind. He took pictures for us. It was very fast. The view was beautiful. I took many pictures.



At Tenjoyama Park, I rode in a ropeway. I learned about the true story of Kachi Kachi Yama. The man taking pictures was very funny. He took some pictures for us. I could see Mt. Fuji, which was beautiful.



We bought Tanuki dango, Usagi dango, and strawberry ice-cream. Dango is rice flour balls on skewers. Tanuki dango is the same as mitarashi (soy sauce) dango. Usagi dango is made from kinako (roast soybean flour). They were very both delicious!



For my New Years Resolution, I want to study English more, because I want to get good enough to study at a university that specializes in English.

Sota's Winter Vacation

I went to my grandmother's house in Niigata. There was heavy snow and a very nice view. I could talk to relatives, which made it fun. I ate a lot of good food. I had a good winter vacation.



For my goal this year, I don't want to badmouth others. I want to be kinder to people.



Relative (名): 親族 Badmouth (動): 人の悪口を言う

Mito's Winter Vacation

For winter vacation, I did 'hatsumode', the first shrine visit of the year. I went to Bannaji Temple in Ashikaga City. I ate warabi-mochi near there. I also got a paper fortune - it was DAIKICHI (Great Luck!) so I was very happy!



My New Years Resolution is to study harder than now. I'll do my best! 😊

Paper fortune (名): おみくじ



OKINAWA

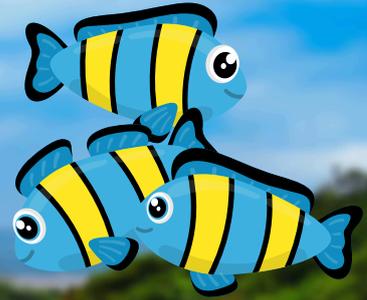
沖繩修学旅行

2ND GRADE STUDENT
REFLECTIONS



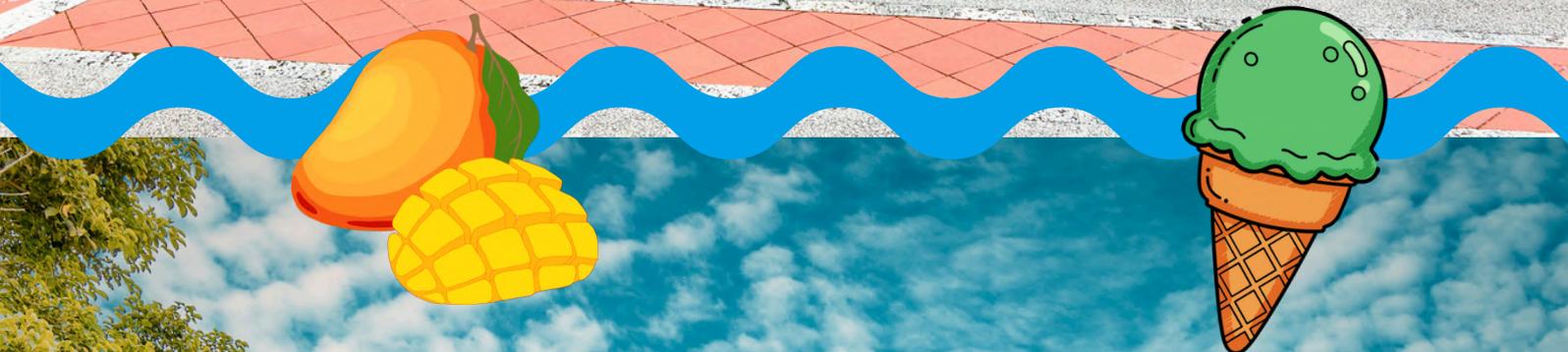
Takumi's School Trip

I went to Okinawa in November. I went to Navi Beach to swim. I enjoyed swimming with my friends. There were tropical fish in the ocean.





I also went to Shuri Castle. It was very beautiful, but I regret it was still under construction. I ate 'Shiikuwasa' (Okinawa Lime) ice-cream and mango. It was a very fantastic experience for me!



We also learned about peace studies. I visited Himeyuri Peace Museum. The Himeyuri were high school girls who were ordered to serve as nurses during the invasion of Okinawa. Just 1 in 5 would survive. It was very moving and important to learn about. I think another world war must never occur again.



Peace studies (名): 平和学習 Ordered to (動): にしろ命じられた Serve (動): 奉仕する
Invasion (名): 侵入 Survive (動): 生き残る Moving (形容): 涙ぐましい

Anri's School Trip

I went to Okinawa in November. There were a lot of delicious foods in Okinawa. For example, there was 'soki soba' pork noodles and 'sata andagi', which is like a round donut. Shiikuwasa juice was also delicious.



On the third day of the school trip, we made candles in the shape of Shisa, Okinawan traditional lion-dog creatures. It was difficult but fun. If I get the chance, I definitely want to go back to Okinawa.

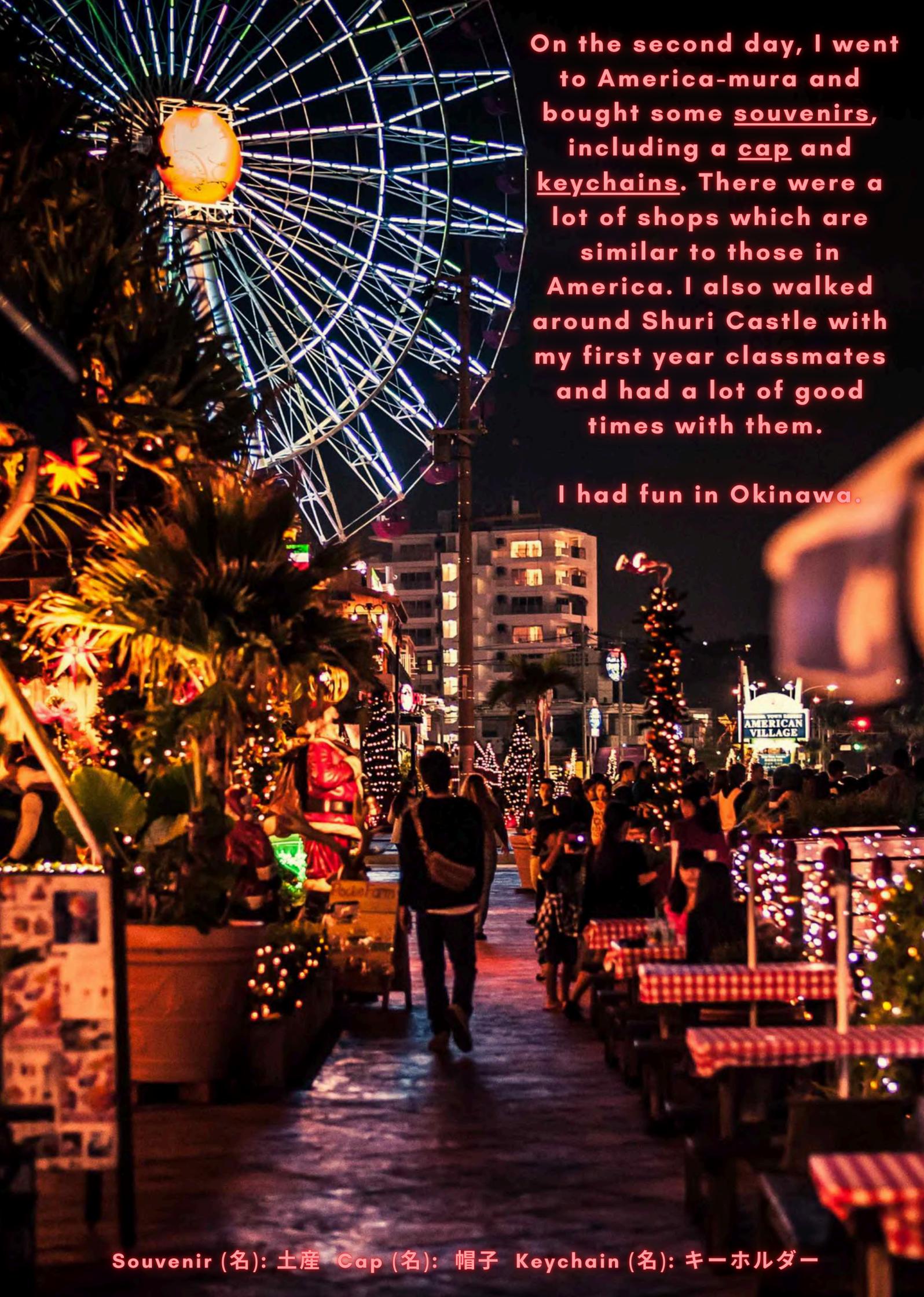


Krit's School Trip

In Okinawa, I went to Kokusai-dori and wandered around in search of something interesting. Then I found some sweets which were delicious, so I bought them for my family.



Wander around (動): 歩き回る



On the second day, I went to America-mura and bought some souvenirs, including a cap and keychains. There were a lot of shops which are similar to those in America. I also walked around Shuri Castle with my first year classmates and had a lot of good times with them.

I had fun in Okinawa.

Souvenir (名): 土産 Cap (名): 帽子 Keychain (名): キーホルダー

A night scene of a city with fireworks exploding in the sky and buildings illuminated with lights. The fireworks are in various colors including gold, red, blue, and purple. The buildings are lit up with warm yellow and orange lights, and some have decorative lights. The overall atmosphere is festive and celebratory.

Haruto's School Trip

I went to Okinawa
in November but it
was still hot there.
I went to America-
mura there. It was
a really great
place.



I also went to the Churaumi Aquarium. It is really huge and beautiful. There were many kinds of fish and souvenirs. For me it was the first time to go to Okinawa so it was very fun and thrilling.

Aquarium (名): 水族館

Melissa's School Trip

I went to Okinawa on November 16th to 19th. On the first day we went to Kokusai-dori. I bought some souvenirs for my family and I.



塔

教師・学徒 戦没者
沖縄師範学校女子部 第三十三号
中城郡立第一高等学校 第三十三号

On the second day, my classmates and I went to the Himeyuri Museum to learn about the history of war in Okinawa. It was a cruel and sad time in history. I was moved and I realized again that peace is the most important thing in the world.

The trip to Okinawa was very educational.

Cruel (形容): 残酷な Realize (動): 気づく

After the winter break, members of the English Speaking Society visited Ota Higashi's Tea Ceremony Club.





We had
sweets
before the
bitter
matcha
green tea.



We ate red
bean paste
sweets and
dango.



Bitter (形容): 苦い Red bean paste (名): あんこ



First, we chose our own tea bowls, and whisked our matcha green tea.



Whisk (動): 泡立する

Later, we participated in the actual ceremony, where we were served green tea by the host.

It was a really unique experience. The tea ceremony is like living art.



**I hope you have a wonderful 2026,
and a special thank you to the Tea
Ceremony Club for hosting us!**



From James & ESS