

JAPAN WITH NANAKA

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Monthly Newsletter curated by Nanaka Okamura, a Japan Outreach Initiative (JOI) Coordinator



節分 SETSUBUN

On February 3, we made devil masks and enjoyed Mamemaki and Fukuwarai. The devil masks made by the students are very nice and show their individuality. They tried Fukuwarai under the rule that they had to say "up", "down", "left" and "right" in Japanese.

クラス訪問 CLASS VISIT

On February 7, I visited the Experience the Arts class and taught origami. It was my first-time teaching origami online, and I am glad to see that the participants enjoyed it. We made an origami cat and Mt. Fuji. The cat was easy to make, but Mt. Fuji was a little difficult.



書道教室 WEEKLY SHODO LESSONS - WEEK 1

The first Shodo lessons were held on February 8 and February 10. The students learned the basics such as tool placement, how to hold the brush, posture, and how to wash the brush. They also learned how to move their arms by writing horizontal lines, vertical lines, and Mickey Mouse (curved lines).



日本のバレンタインデー VALENTINE'S DAY IN JAPAN

On February 14, the students learned about Valentine's Day in Japan and were surprised to learn that in Japan, that day is mainly for women to give chocolates to men. They also learned that there are different types of chocolates in Japan such as Honmei Choco, Giri Choco, Tomo Choco, My Choco, Fami Choco, etc. There are also interesting chocolates such as chocolates shaped like medicines, Buddha statues, and Takoyaki. The students enjoyed making chocolate cards, chocolate magnets, and figures.

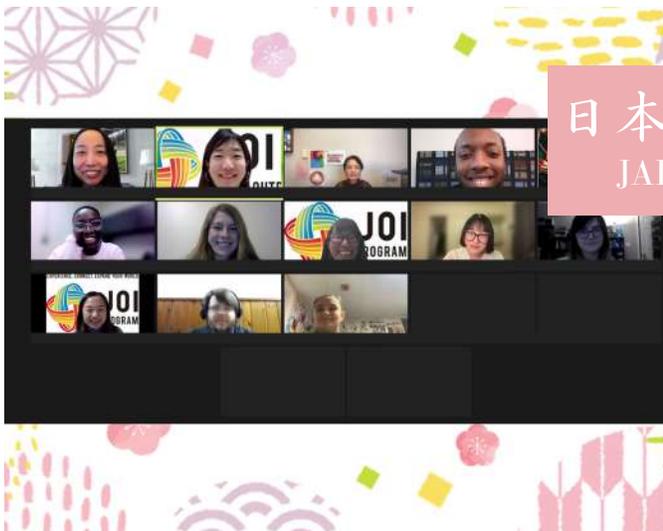
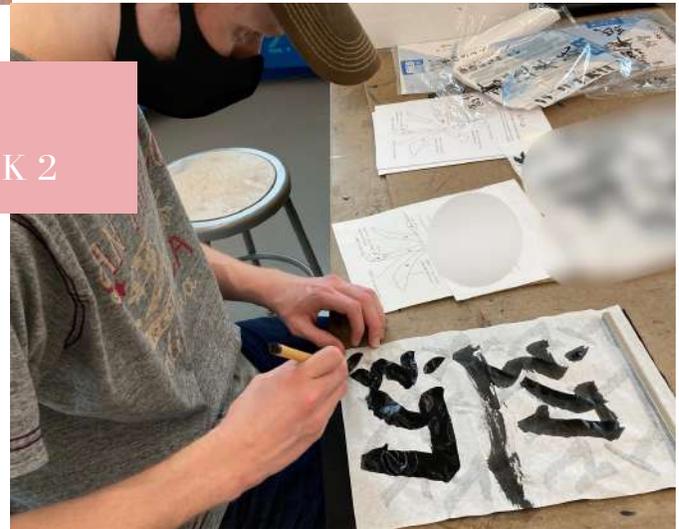


Valentine's Day in Japan By Nanaka Okamura (Japan Outreach Initiative Coordinator)

書道教室

WEEKLY SHODO LESSONS - WEEK 2

In the second Shodo lessons held on February 15 and 17, students reviewed what they learned in the first lessons and practiced the kanji character "永 (Ei, 'eternally') which contains eight basic Shodo techniques. The students also tried to write their first names in kanji.



日本文化プレゼンテーション JAPANESE CULTURE PRESENTATIONS



On February 25, Japanese language learners and others from Michigan, Oklahoma, Nebraska, North Carolina, North Dakota, and other states gathered. The representatives gave presentations in Japanese, English, or both languages on the theme of what they like about Japan. The participants were able to interact with each other and learn various things.