



CJSS Newsletter

Canterbury Japanese Supplementary School

September 22nd 2018

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MOON-VIEWING DANGO



The Parental Committee made Moon-Viewing Dango for the children. Thank you all very much. Since long ago in Japan, it is tradition to celebrate the “15th night” as a specialty of autumn. This is usually held during the full moon on August 15th (Old Japanese calendar). It changes a little every year, but this year it is on September 24th. As for why it is called “15th night”, it is because it takes about 15 days for a new moon to cycle into a full moon. This “15th night” was

celebrated by noblemen in the Heian period, but it became more popular as an autumn harvest festival in the Edo period. You cannot have a moon-viewing without susuki and dango (small dumplings). On that topic, we have received a message from a student of Professor Hirata, who came to visit us last year.

《Moon-Viewing》 The full moon of September is said to be the most beautiful, and we call this “15th night.” On this night we have susuki and dango, appreciating the moon. The “Moon-Viewing” tradition came from China, starting in Japan around 1000 years ago, where the aristocrats would drink under the moon, enjoying songs and music. It spread after that, becoming a “wish for a good harvest,” as farmers would work late nights underneath the moonlight. Moon-Viewing Dango are made from powdered Joshinko rice mixed with water, which is made into balls and boiled. The round shape is similar to the full moon. Dango contain carbohydrates, the source of power. Susuki resembles ears of rice, so it is offered for a good harvest. In Japan, there are schools that serve Moon-Viewing Dango as school lunches on the evening on the 15th night. I have heard that the starry night sky in New Zealand is beautiful. I hope that everyone in your beautiful country enjoys the full moon, and the custom of Moon-Viewing.

Woman's Nutrition University, Department of Applied Nutrition, 3rd Year, Rei Nemoto 根本 滯

I hope we can all see the moon on the 15th night, with a clear sky on the September 24th! Also, Professor Hiromi Hirata of the Women's Nutrition University will be giving a lecture on "Education at Home" for parents on November 3rd. Please look forward to it!



Last week, the textbooks for the second half of the year were distributed. When picking up a new textbook, we should all think "I'm going to do my best!" Please do your best. We are expecting it. It is almost Spring break. How about looking at some textbooks we do not use at Hoshuko? Thank you to all the parents that helped with distribution.

Hello again. Every day has become warmer, hasn't it? Cherry blossoms are beginning to bloom and it is a beautiful time. Thank you all for your thoughts while I was in office. Thanks to you I have given birth to a baby girl on September 2nd. We have named her "Misaki." Although it may be bewildering raising my first child, but every day is filled with happiness and joy.



Minako Watene



Hello everyone. My name is Andrew Takenaka, and this year I am studying Japanese at the ARA institute of Canterbury. I am currently here, at the Canterbury Japanese Supplementary School on an internship. I have not come back to Ilam School since 2010, when I graduated from Hoshuko myself, so I am very nostalgic and grateful to be here again. In the future I hope to pursue a job in translating, so I am extremely thankful for the opportunity to work here. Thank you very much.

Andrew Takenaka