

THE PEACH



COBBLER

Vol 1 Issue 9 | January 2025



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Note from the Editor~



Greetings, peaches!

Firstly we'd like to apologize for the delay of this month's newsletter, with the holiday season and everyone getting back into the swing of things we wanted to ensure we were getting all the important info to you.

Now to get into this month's newsletter, it's going to be short and sweet with just a few reminders, highlights from the Christmas party, and the usual puzzles.

Make sure to check out the flyer about our shrine visit this weekend Saturday Jan. 18th. We know it's short notice but we hope you'll be able to join us.

Also be sure to fill out the interest form for viewing Okayama's naked man festival next month - you don't want to miss it!

As always, we'd like to remind you that we are looking for contributors. Whether you have photos of unique spots you've explored, events you've attended within the prefecture, stories from your time on the JET Programme, or even book and movie recommendations, we'd love to feature you.

*For those who came up to me interested in helping out monthly more info will be coming soon please look forward to it .

.If you're interested in contributing, please don't hesitate to reach out to us at

newsletter@okayama-ajet.com

or

okayama.rose@gmail.com

What did I just buy?

Recap on Omikuji and Omamori

Omikuji おみくじ

Last month we briefly went over what to do during your first shrine visit of the year. Hopefully you were able to go and pick up an omikuji (fortune slip), if not be sure to bring 100円 of your own when you do go as it's bad luck to borrow someone else's .

If you have had a chance to go here is a reminder of what your fortune means:

- *dai-kichi* (大吉) - great blessing
- *chuu-kichi* (中吉) - middle blessing
- *sho-kichi* (小吉) - small blessing
- *kichi* (吉) - blessing
- *sue-kichi* (末吉) - ending blessing
- *kyo* (凶) - curse
- *dai-kyo* (大凶) - great curse



Like many of you I went to Kibitsu Jinja for hatsumode, I was lucky enough to get a blessing, nothing huge but at least it wasn't a curse. If you receive(d) a curse read it over as it usually gives you advice on what to do or not do, and tie it up! As you can see in the background of the photo to the left there are many fortune slips tied. This was you are leaving the negative energy behind and entrusting the shrine deity to help you out.

Regardless if you pulled great luck or great curse keep in mind that you are in control of your future and the fortune slip isn't set in stone, it's what you do with the info you've been given.

OMAMORI お守り

Omamori are small, beautifully decorated charms believed to offer protection and blessings. The word “omamori” comes from the verb 守る (mamoru), meaning “to protect” or “to guard.” These charms are often purchased as tokens of good fortune, safety, or success.



Omamori come in different varieties, each serving a specific purpose. Some common types include:

1. 勝守 (Katsumori) : For success; to win/succeed at something you have hoped for
2. 交通安全 (Kōtsū Anzen): For safe travels, especially driving.
3. 学業成就 (Gakugyō Jōju): For academic success and good exam results.
4. 縁結び (Enmusubi): For love and strong relationships.
5. 健康祈願 (Kenkō Kigan): For good health and recovery from illness.
6. 安産 (Anzan): For a safe pregnancy and childbirth.
7. 仕事成就 (Shigoto Jōju): For success in work or business.



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First Shrine Visit at Saijo Inari

Saturday

01/18

Where: Bitchu Takamatsu Station
@11:30am



Let's celebrate the new year Japan-style together! While the official "hatsumode" season may be at its end, that doesn't mean we can't experience a January shrine visit and say a late prayer! 🙏 If you're free this Saturday, come join us at Saijo Inari, one of the three most important Inari shrines in the country! You can't miss it 🏯



**HADAKA MATSURI
(NAKED MAN FESTIVAL)**



Every year on the 3rd Saturday of February, Saidaiji Temple in Okayama hosts one of Japan's most unique and intense traditions: the Hadaka Matsuri, or Naked Man Festival. Thousands of men, dressed in nothing but fundoshi (loincloths) and tabi socks, gather to compete for sacred wooden sticks (shingi) thrown into the crowd. These sticks are believed to bring good luck for the year.

While anyone can cheer on this wild event, if you are a man you can also participate by registering beforehand (no tattoos, sorry!). Registration is now open and costs ¥3000, sign up [here](#). It's a fascinating mix of tradition, endurance, and excitement that truly showcases the spirit of Okayama. Whether you're watching or taking part, it's an experience you won't forget!

Starting at a 3:30pm and finishing after the Shingi Touka; the final/main event which starts at 10pm.

As we are hoping to get together to watch the festival together please fill out a quick survey [here](#) to let us know if you are interested!

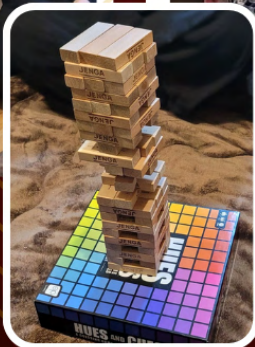
*Seats range from 6000-8000 yen
Standing viewing is 1000 yen





Merry Christmas!

OKAJET Christmas
2024



Thanks for coming

See you next year!!



Events in Okayama

JANUARY - EARLY FEBRUARY 2025

スイーツみたいなアロマワックス Aroma wax that looks like sweets



Date: January 18th

More Info: 日本語

Location: Miraikan Saipia of Okayama Prefecture Lifelong Learning Center
people and science 1st floor

Time: 10:30 - 15:30

Admission: You can make a Canelé or a Charm!

Canelé - ¥1200

Charm - ¥800

ハレマ (Harema) FARMERS MARKET (1月)

Date: Sunday January 19th

More Info: 日本語

Location: Shimoishii Park (in Okayama city along the Nishigawa river)

Time: 10:00 - 15:00

Admission: Free



岡山県産日本酒×フレンチペアリングディナー Okayama Prefecture Sake x French Pairing Dinner



Date: Sunday January 26th

More Info: 日本語

Location: ANA Crown Plaza Hotel Okayama 19th floor Sora

Time: 18:30 - 21:00

Admission: ¥15000 (On sale until the 17th)

雪合戦大会in鏡野 - Snowball fight tournament in Kagamino



Date: Saturday February 1st

More Info: 日本語

Location: Ombara Kogen Panorama Ski Field

Time: Meet at 12:40

Starts at 13:00

Admission: Participation fee ¥3000 (Teams of 3 apply until the 29th)

ひるぜん雪恋まつり Hiruzen Snow Love Festival



Date: February 1st - 2nd

Location: GREENable HIRUZEN, Hiruzen Kogen Center

Time: 10:00~19:00 (2nd until 18:00)

Admission: Free

More info: [日本語](#)

伊七 新酒まつり - Ishichi New Sake Festival

Date: Sunday February 9th

More info: [日本語](#)

Location: Miraikan Saipan of Okayama Prefecture Lifelong Learning People and Science 1st Floor Science Experience and Learning Square

Time: 9:00 - 15:00

Admission: Entrance: Free

Gorgeous style: ¥2300

*Reception ends when sold out recommended to get there early



OTHER

International Meet Up Party 「せかつく」



Date: Saturday February 1st

Location: Matador (Bar in Okayama City)

Time: 20:00 - 22:00

Admission:

Men ~ ¥4000

Women ~ ¥3500

More info: [Instagram](#)

All you can drink and buffet style food included

December Search

ANSWER KEY



Let the season of illuminations commence! It's December so sit down get cozy and enjoy this winter themed wordsearch.

Write the English translation (and/or kanji) of the words below and find them in the wordsearch above.

① じゅうにかが → December 十二月

② せきたん → coal 石炭

③ ゆき → snow 雪

④ さむい → cold 寒い

⑤ ふゆ → winter 冬

⑥ ほっきょく → North Pole 北極

⑦ ゆきばな → snowflake 雪花

⑧ そり → sleigh 橇

⑨ ぼうねんかい → year end party 忘年会

⑩ かざる → to decorate 飾る

ANSWER KEY

Difficulty: Medium

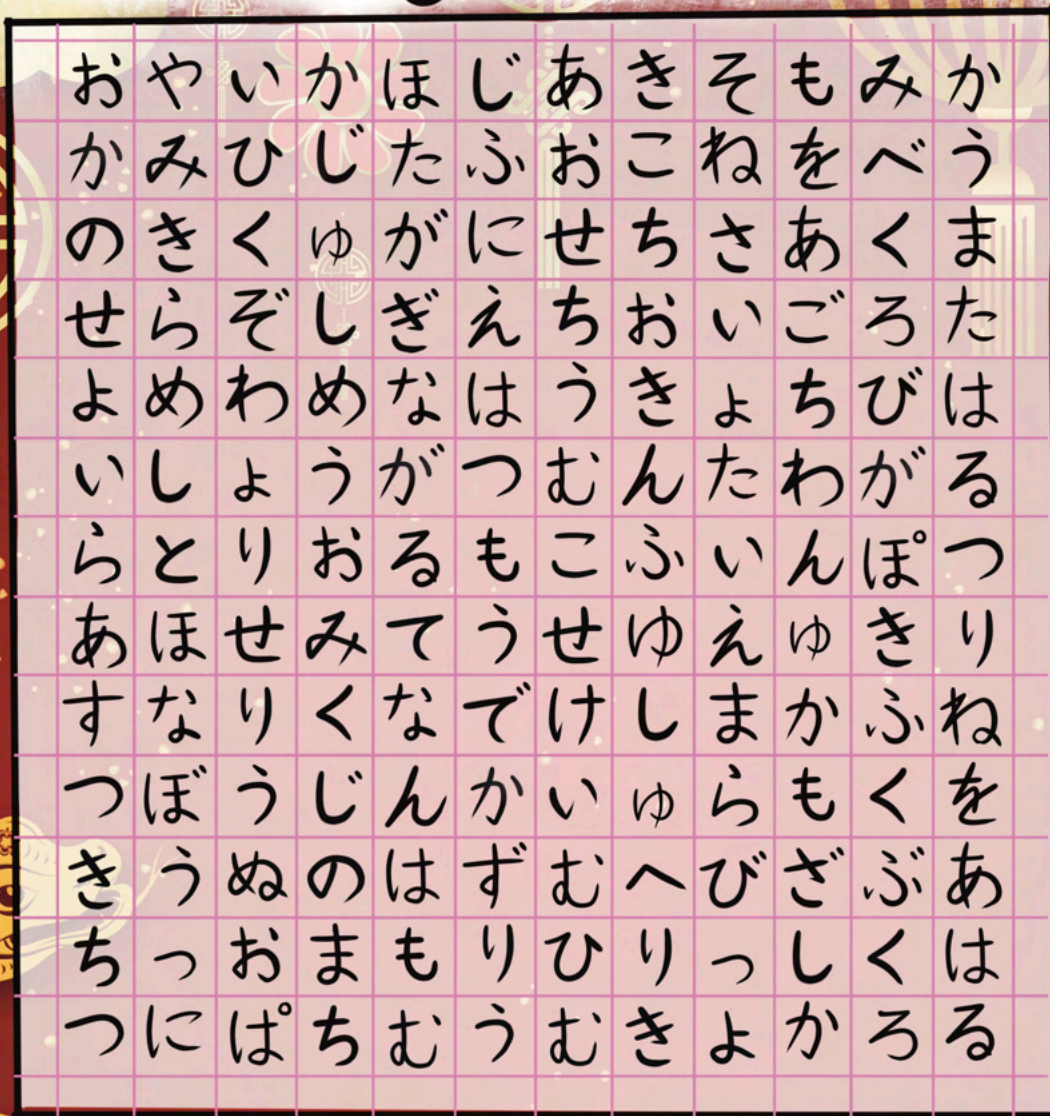
Monthly Sudoku

DECEMBER 2024

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5 | 1 | 7 | 4 | 2 | 8 | 9 | 6 | 3 |
| 2 | 9 | 4 | 7 | 6 | 3 | 1 | 8 | 5 |
| 3 | 8 | 6 | 5 | 1 | 9 | 7 | 2 | 4 |
| 7 | 4 | 2 | 6 | 8 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 9 |
| 8 | 3 | 5 | 9 | 4 | 7 | 6 | 1 | 2 |
| 9 | 6 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 8 | 4 | 7 |
| 1 | 5 | 8 | 3 | 9 | 4 | 2 | 7 | 6 |
| 6 | 7 | 9 | 8 | 5 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 1 |
| 4 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 9 | 8 |

Fill in the puzzle so that every row across, every column down and every 9 by 9 box contains the numbers 1 to 9.

January Word Search



Happy New Year! (明けましておめでとうございます)

I hope everyone is enjoying the new year, as you may have guessed all this month's words are all New Years themed.

Write the English translation (and/or kanji) of the words below and find them in the wordsearch above.

① いちがつ →

② へび →

③ おまむり →

④ おせち →

⑤ しょうがつ →

⑥ はつもうで →

⑦ おみくじ →

⑧ えま →

⑨ かきぞめ →

⑩ ふくふくろ →

Difficulty: Easy

Monthly Sudoku

JANUARY 2025

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | | 7 | | 6 | | 9 | 3 | 8 |
| | | | | | 7 | | 5 | 2 |
| 8 | | 9 | | | 5 | | 7 | 6 |
| | | | 6 | | 3 | | 4 | |
| | 1 | 5 | 7 | 4 | | 3 | 2 | |
| | | | 1 | 2 | | | | |
| 3 | | | | 9 | 1 | | 8 | |
| 5 | | | | 7 | 2 | | | |
| | 8 | 2 | | 3 | 6 | 5 | | 7 |

Fill in the puzzle so that every row across, every column down and every 9 by 9 box contains the numbers 1 to 9.



Want to be part of
The Peach Cobbler!?!?!



If you want to
contribute photos or
stories please contact
us at
newsletter@okayama-ajet.com
OR
okayama.rose@gmail.com



more info available on www.okayama-ajet.com