

THE PEACH COBBLER



Vol 1 Issue 10 | February 2025



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Note from the Editor~



Greetings, peaches!

Hope the past month has treated you well! Please keep an eye out for an email regarding OKAJet elections, we are looking for a new Vice president as well as media assistants!

Now to get into this month's newsletter, this month we go over Valentine's day in Japan and the chocolate giving culture that exists. We also have some photos from the shrine visit, thanks again to everyone who was able to make it! This month we only have the sudoku in the newsletter keep and eye out for the crossword which will be sent out at a later date (maybe with prizes 🍷🍷)

We are planning on going to the Naked Man Festival next Saturday (the 15th) so please join the line group through the link provided on the event info page. If you are having trouble joining through the link please contact a member of OKAJet.

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

OKAJet Elections are coming!
Keep an eye on your emails
and social media!



*A Japanese Valentine's Mini-Guide: **CHOCOLATES***



In most parts of the world, when people think of Valentine's day, women can expect chocolates, candlelit dinners, roses and the like from their partner. This is *NOT* the case in Japan. In fact, it's quite the opposite! Women give chocolates to the men in their lives, from beloved partners to fellow coworkers. That being said, there is a hierarchy of chocolates that is quite important to note!

本命チョコ

義理チョコ

友チョコ

逆チョコ

自己チョコ／自分チョコ

推しチョコ



本命チョコ - Honmei choco:

"true love" chocolates, meant for your romantic interest. These chocolates are typically homemade, often seen as a true labor of love. Box mixes, cookie decoration kits and chocolate molds can be found easily in stores as early as mid-January. Recently, gourmet, high-end chocolates have become a popular choice for honmei-choco.



義理チョコ - Giri choco:

"obligatory chocolates" for coworkers and bosses

These chocolates are typically cheap, and may even come in large boxes to be passed around the office. "It's the thought that counts" type of chocolate intended for coworkers. Recently, these chocolates have become less common, with some companies having a "no-gift" policy to lighten the financial burden during the season of love.





友チョコ Tomo-choco:

"friend chocolate." chocolate for your friends

This is the second most popular chocolate, following hon-me chocolate. Other versions of this include "homo choco," chocolate gifted between men, and "yuri choco," women gifted between women.



逆チョコ Gyaku-choco:

"reverse chocolate." chocolate that is given from men to women, like an uno reverse card! This beats having to wait one month for reciprocation.



自己チョコ／自分チョコ - Jiko-choco or Jibun-choco:

chocolate for yourself. Because treat yourself!

推しチョコ - Oshi-choco:

chocolates for one's favorite idols

A more recent development, people take photos along with goods related to their favorite idols to post on SNS, or give sweets to those who support the same idols.



You may think this as paradise for men, but here's the kicker: a month later, on March 14th, men are expected to reciprocate their feelings with sanbai kaeshi, meaning three-fold reciprocation. This day is known as "Marshmallow Day" which has slowly turned into "White Day".

Some popular White Day gifts include cookies, white chocolate, jewelry, and marshmallows. So if you're lucky enough to receive Valentine's chocolates, be sure to remember to give back! :)



**HADAKA MATSURI
(NAKED MAN FESTIVAL)**



SATURDAY

**Join the
group LINE
here**

Every year in February, on one of the coldest nights of the year, thousands of men gather around Saidaiji Temple in Okayama, wearing nothing but fundoshi loincloths, in hopes of gaining luck for the entire year. First, the men are purified via buckets of icy cold water thrown upon them. Then, the crowd makes its way into the main temple building, where the lights go out at 10pm. At this time, two lucky *shingi* sticks are thrown into the swarm, and the rumble begins! Thousands of men wrestle one another in hopes to grab hold of one of the sticks and stuff it into a box filled with rice. Those that can do it are thus granted a year of good fortune!

Here's the festival's schedule

Naked Boys Festival: 15:50~

Before the main event, children compete for various items. First and second graders: rice cake throwing, 3rd and 4th graders: a five-luck box, and 5th and 6th graders: a treasure box.

Kaiyo Taiko: 18:30~20:00

Women who cannot take part in the sacred stick battle take to beating the taiko drums in the surrounding area, livening the spirits for the men and praying for their safety.

The Main Event: 22:00~23:30

Lights out, and the melee begins!





Events in Okayama

FEBRUARY - EARLY MARCH 2025

伊七 新酒まつり - Ishichi New Sake Festival



Date: Sunday February 9th

Location: Kumaya Sake Brewery (Kurashiki)

Time: 9:00 - 15:00

Admission: Entrance: *

*tasting tickets and sake are available for purchase

More info: 日本語

第2回 くらしき 蔵フェス - The 2nd Kurashiki Kura Festival

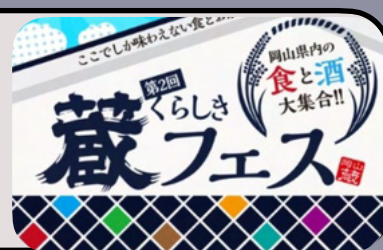
Date: February 8th and 9th

More Info: 日本語

Location: AEON MALL Kurashiki 1F Courtyard GREEN PARK

Time: 10:00 - 17:00

Admission: Free



西大寺会陽 Saidaiji Eyo (Naked Man Festival)



Date: Saturday February 15th

More Info: 日本語

Location: Saidaiji Temple

Time: 18:30 ~ Late

Admission: Standing starting at ¥1000

Seats starting at ¥6000

重曹アートでポストカードの額縁づくり - Make postcard frames with baking soda



Date: Saturday February 22nd

More Info: 日本語

Location: Ohara Art Museum

Time: Meet at 13:00 -14:30

Admission: ¥220

ひなせかき祭 Hinase Kaki Festival



Date: February 23rd
Location: GomiNo Ichi
Time: 08:00~14:00
Admission: Free

More info: [日本語](#)

Studio Ghibli Park Exhibition

Date: February 28th - May 11th
*Closed Mondays

Location: Okayama City Museum

Time: 10:00 - 18:00

Admission: General admission ¥1800 (advance timed ticket)
¥1900 (day of)

More Info: [日本語](#)



OTHER

International Meet Up Party 「せかつく」



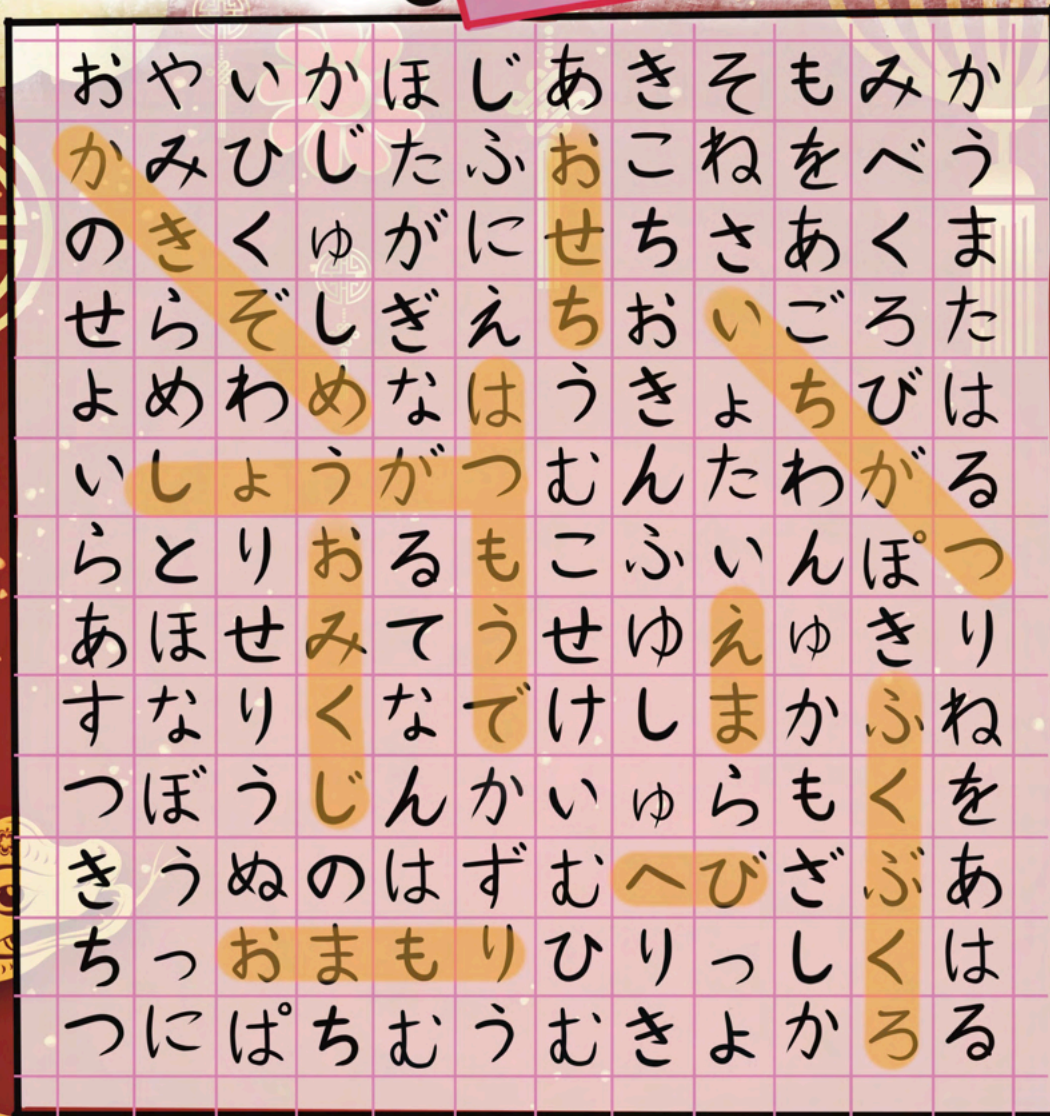
Date: Saturday March 1st
Location: Matador (Bar in Okayama City)
Time: 20:00 - 22:00
Admission:
Men ~ ¥4000
Women ~ ¥3500

More info: [Instagram](#)

All you can drink and buffet style food included

January Wordsearch

ANSWER KEY



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 | → January 一月 | ⑥ はつもうで | → The first shrine visit of the year 初詣 |
| ② へび | → snake 蛇 | ⑦ おみくじ | → Fortune slip ★ |
| ③ おまもり | → charm お守り | ⑧ えま | → Votive tablet 絵馬 |
| ④ おせち | → Japanese New Years Food / osechi ★ | ⑨ かきぞめ | → First calligraphy of the year 書き初め |
| ⑤ しょうがつ | → New Year 正月 | ⑩ ふくぶくろ | → lucky bag 福袋 |

★ = normally written in kana

ANSWER KEY

Difficulty: Easy

Monthly Sudoku

JANUARY 2025

1	5	7	2	6	4	9	3	8
4	6	3	9	8	7	1	5	2
8	2	9	3	1	5	4	7	6
2	9	8	6	5	3	7	4	1
6	1	5	7	4	8	3	2	9
7	3	4	1	2	9	8	6	5
3	7	6	5	9	1	2	8	4
5	4	1	8	7	2	6	9	3
9	8	2	4	3	6	5	1	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.

Difficulty: Evil

Monthly Sudoku

FEBRUARY 2025

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

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