

## Groundhog Day

**The  
February  
2023  
Issue**

**What is in  
this issue:**

**Groundhog  
Day**

**Setsubun**

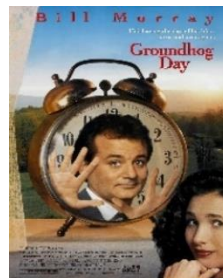
**Keika  
Chronicle  
Challenge  
All-Stars**



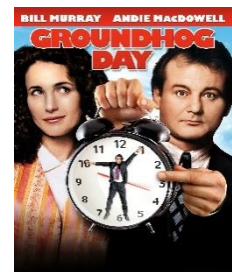
**Groundhog Day** is a **unique** holiday every February 2<sup>nd</sup> in the U.S.A. and Canada. Many people watch groundhogs **react** to the weather. Have you ever heard of an animal **predicting** the weather? Funny, right? The roots of the event come from **German-speaking** people from Europe that came to North America in the 1700's and 1800's. If you have ever heard of **Amish** (アーミッシュ) people, they are a **similar** group. Aunt Stella's Cookies here in Japan was made by an American from Amish country, did you know?

The most famous **celebration** is in the small city of Punxsutawney in **Pennsylvania** in the U.S.A. The special groundhog is named Punxsutawney Phil. He is **chubby** and cute! He lives in the **ground** but comes out on Groundhog Day morning. When he comes out, if we see his **shadow**, then that means there will be six more weeks of winter. If we do NOT see his shadow, then that means that spring is on its way! 2023 is the 137<sup>th</sup> year of the event.

February is cold in the **Northeast** part of the U.S., in cities like: Boston, Philadelphia, New York City, and Washington D.C. This is around where I (Sheila) am from, so I celebrated this fun day every year in school. I think we all just want spring to come soon!



**AUNT STELLA**



There is a classic 1990's movie called *Groundhog Day* (1993) too! It is about a mean **weatherman** who must see Punxsutawney Phil for TV news. However, something **mysterious** happens! He starts **repeating** the same day every day. Every day is the same, every day is Groundhog Day! He must learn to somehow become a good person to be **free**. So 'groundhog day' can also mean 'doing the same thing over and over again.' Many people in America said that 2020 Corona **quarantines** (staying at home for months) were like a big 'groundhog day!' This is because everyday was **boring** and at home. Everything seemed the same, like time was going in circles! Was stay-home here in Tokyo like a big 'groundhog day' for YOU?





## Setsubun



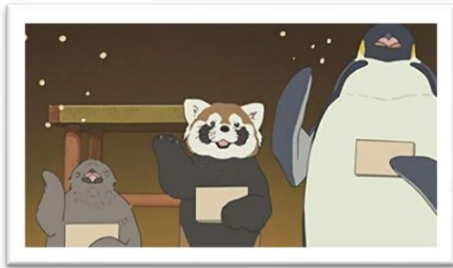
Setsubun is a Japanese holiday that happens every year on February 3<sup>rd</sup>. Even though it is **during** winter, it celebrates the spring days that are almost here. In the past, there was a Setsubun for all 4 seasons, but now we only celebrate this one. This is because spring is a season of new **beginnings** in Japan. Students start a new school year, many people start new jobs, and it is a **popular** time to move house. The Setsubun **festivities** help bring in good luck for everyone in their new **adventures**.



There are 3 main things to do for Setsubun. First, it is a time for **spring cleaning**. It is a good time to **tidy** your home and do big cleaning jobs you might have been **putting off**. For example, cleaning an air-conditioner can be very **time-consuming**, but it is important to do. Setsubun is good **motivation** to clean **troublesome** things like that. Welcoming a new season in a clean house can make you feel very happy and relaxed.

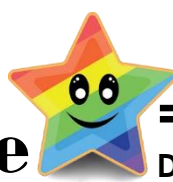


Next, people make a **special** type of sushi called *Ehomaki*. These are very large sushi rolls that are meant to be eaten **all in one go**. They are filled with 7 ingredients to **represent** the 7 gods of fortune. You can choose your own ingredients, but some popular choices are eel, egg, shiitake mushrooms, and more. When eating *Ehomaki*, you should hold it up high to your mouth, and face the right way! In 2023, the **God of Fortune** is facing south-south-east, so you should face the same way when eating. Also, once you start eating, you should not say anything until you finish! If you follow these **rules**, you will surely have a very lucky 2023!



Last, but not **least**, is the most famous Setsubun tradition- bean throwing! I (Erin) am sure many of you do this (or maybe you did when you were younger). One person dresses like an *Oni*- a **monster** from Japanese **folklore**, and tries to scare everyone. They might yell and roar, but they are no match for **soybeans**. When soybeans are roasted, they make a popping noise which scares **evil spirits**. So you can throw them at the *Oni* while yelling 'Oni wa Soto, Fuku wa Uchi!' or, 'Bad spirits out, **Blessings** in!'. After the *Oni* runs away in **fear**, everyone can enjoy eating their age in soybeans.





## Keika Chronicle Challenge

**ALL - STARS 2022**

We slowly started the Keika Chronicle Challenge in April 2021. Now in February 2023, we have almost the whole school reading the newspaper every month then answering a question worksheet. It is a wonderful way to learn new **vocabulary**, test reading **comprehension**, see other cultures, and share your own **opinions**. We love to hear what you girls think! Hopefully, it will prepare you for the difficult essays on **university entrance exams**. ;)



Here is a list of girls who completed every Keika Chronicle Challenge worksheet AND did their very best each time. We could see that they were interested in the topics and worked hard to understand English. Thank you all for your hard work this school year! お疲れ様でした!

### Junior High School English Conversation Classes:

#### Special 中1 Challenge




##### 1-1

#9 SEJIMO Amane  
#11 TOMITA Sayaka  
#12 NAKAMURA Momoka  
#14 NAMIKI Lynn  
#16 FUJIWARA Aoi



##### 1-2

#2 IWASAKI Fuka  
#9 SUZUKI Aoi  
#10 TANAKA Yukimi  
#15 HOSHINO Jun  
#18 MIKAMI Mao





##### 2-1

#2 UCHIDA Yuna   
#11 KUMAGAI Miku   
#15 TAMAMOTO Yuna  
#16 NISHIYAMA Mika  
#21 MIYAO Kaho 


##### 2-2

#3 INUKAI Nono  
#8 KANAMORI Ema   
#14 SEKIMOTO Rija   
#17 TEZUKA Hinata

##### 3-1

#4 OTSU Kaede   
#8 KUMAGAI Natsumi   
#11 TAKADA Karin   
#13 TERAJ Kaho  
#21 YAMAMOTO Aina 

##### 3-2

#2 ISHII Momo  
#6 KAMEMOTO Ryo  
#7 KAWAHARA Rina   
#10 SATO Honoka  
#16 NAKAYAMA Asahi



## Senior High School English Classes:

**No All-Stars for 1A, 1B, 1C, 1D**  
Please do your best next year! Let's try!



### 2A

- #3 (Name redacted)
- #8 KANAKUBO Asuka
- #22 FUJIKURA Miwa
- #23 FUJITA Mirai 🌟
- #31 YOSHIDA Ema 🌟

### 2B

- #4 EBISU Wakana
- #12 SAITO Sakura
- #21 NAGASAKA Yui 🌟
- #25 FURUYA Harune 🌟
- #32 WATANABE Kae

### 2C

- #6 OJIMA Haruka 🌟
- #12 KITAZAWA Misaki
- #25 NUMAO Saika
- #34 MITSUI Riku
- #37 YAMAYOSHI Ran 🌟

### 2D

- #1 IIZUMI Naho
- #2 ISHII Nana 🌟
- #12 TACHIYAMA Makana 🌟
- #13 DATE Aruha 🌟
- #21 MATSUSHIMA Kana

## Senior High School 3<sup>rd</sup> year elective English Conversation Class

This is a special class that you can choose to do. Please take our class!

### 3A

- #6 UEMURA Eimi
- #12 KIMURA Miu
- #19 SUMIYAMA Nagisa
- #31 HINANO Mori

### 3B

- #35 MASAKI Mio

ありがとうございました。来年度もよろしく願っています！