

# MUSTARD ROOT

## Class Match and Christmas – *Josh Fandel*



*Basketball game between 2<sup>nd</sup>-year students during Class Match.*

This month, the most exciting event was definitely the Class Match! I really enjoyed watching all of the students playing sports, and I took many pictures. Some of the games were very exciting (especially the final rugby game and the final volleyball game). I hope that you can see the pictures sometime. However, now I am looking forward to winter vacation. Even though I'm not a student, I need a break. What are your plans for Christmas and New Year's?

I think the differences between Christmas and New Year's in America and Japan are very interesting. In America, Christmas is the time that people spend with their families, and New Year's is when people go to parties with friends. However, in Japan it is the opposite! People spend Christmas away from their families (with boyfriends or girlfriends), and they spend New Year's with their families. Also, I have never eaten Christmas cake in America, but I learned that it is a tradition in Japan to eat Christmas cake. I love cake (my favorite is white cake with vanilla frosting), but where did this tradition come from?

No matter what, I hope that you all have a safe and fun winter vacation. Please try to finish your homework, but also relax and rest. Get ready for the next (and last) school term!



*1<sup>st</sup>-year students playing a rugby game during the Class Match.*

## Best Time of the Year – *Valeria Magallan*

Christmas is one of my favorite holidays! There is so much to do! There are many ways to celebrate Christmas, but today I want to share with you how I celebrated Christmas as a child. During December, we visit many people and eat delicious home-cooked meals with all of our family (grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, etc.). On the days leading up to Christmas, we sometimes have a party with a star-shaped *piñata*! All the kids line-up to hit it until it breaks. The *piñata* has candy inside so, after it breaks, the kids can take the candy that flies out of it. This type of Christmas party is called a *posada* and it is celebrated by Hispanics and Latinos.



*This is a painting named "La Piñata" by Diego Rivera. The children are running to pick up the candy that is falling out of the piñata. You have to be fast in order to get some candy, or else you will end up crying like the kid on the right side...*

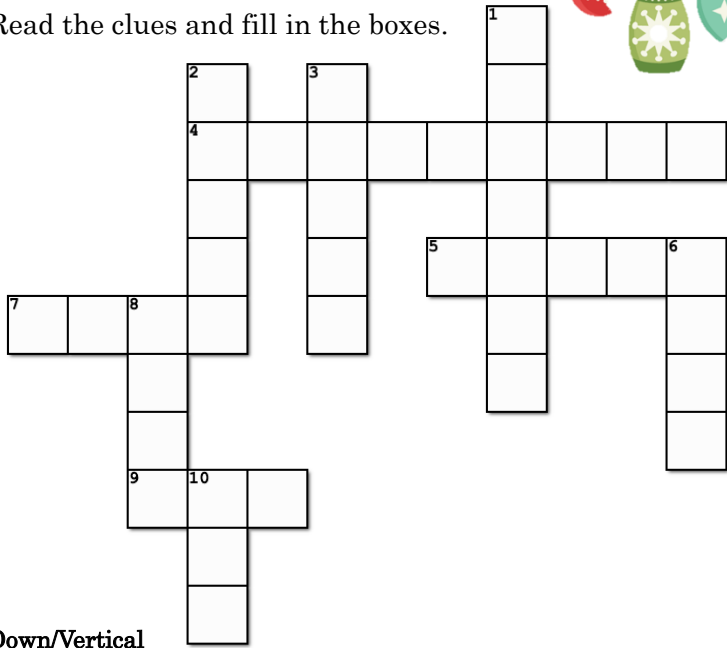
Finally, on Christmas we open our presents and we have a great time!

This will be my first Christmas away from home. My parents are sending me a present through the mail, so I am looking forward to that. Although I miss my family, I am excited to celebrate a Japanese-style Christmas, complete with KFC chicken and a Christmas cake! Is there something else that is a key point in a Japanese Christmas? Let me know!

Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!  
See you in 2021!

## Crossword Puzzle #4

Read the clues and fill in the boxes.



### Down/Vertical

- 1 It can be found under the Christmas tree.
- 2 They keep your feet warm.
- 3 A being that lives in heaven and has wings is an \_\_\_\_\_.
- 6 It is white and icy cold.
- 8 One of the little lights in the night sky.
- 10 One of Santa's helpers.

### Across/Horizontal

- 4 What are the decorations on the Christmas tree called?
- 5 Name of the baby whose birth is celebrated on Dec. 25th.
- 7 What do people usually do under the mistletoe?
- 9 What is the main color of Santa's suit?

## Eikaiwa Pointers

今回は “**Hang in there.**” 「あきらめないで、頑張って」  
単語の hang は他の語とくっついて様々な意味を作ることが  
できる便利な言葉です。(^^) 是非使ってみてください。

*Dr. Lancaster's lecture is over now. They are going to a cafeteria to chat.*

Daniel: What is your plan for this winter vacation, Kumi?

Kumi: Well, I want to visit my grandparents, but it seems to be difficult in this situation... How about you, Daniel?

Daniel: Yeah, you are right... Well, maybe I will watch all the episodes of a new show coming out this month online.

Kumi: Oh, that's a good idea! Okay then...



I will try to watch a movie in English without any Japanese subtitles.

Daniel: Nice! That is a good way to improve your English! **Hang in there**, Kumi! You can do it!

Kumi: Well, I'll try hard! Thanks!

Students!! Have a nice winter vacation and try to do a new thing like Kumi! (^^♪

## Crime Puzzle Story #4 – Justin Case

A convenience store was robbed late the previous night. The cashier, Justin Case, was telling Dr. Quicksolve what happened.

“I was standing here at the counter when a big guy walks in. He reaches over the counter and grabs me with both hands. He pulls me toward him and right over the counter. Then he throws me down on the floor. My glasses come off, and I hit my head. Then, he goes behind the counter and takes all the money out of the cash register. He walks back around the counter. He sees my glasses on the floor, walks on them, and breaks them. Then he laughs and leaves with the money.”



### Toy-Money Thief – ANSWER

The guard said he couldn't see the robber because the sun was shining in his eyes. However, he said he was on the West side of the building. It was morning, and the sun comes from the East, so the sun could not have been shining in his eyes.

“Can you tell me what this man looked like?” Dr. Quicksolve asked.

“No, I only know that he was big. He broke my glasses, like I said. I can't see anything without my glasses. Anybody can tell you that,” Justin explained to Dr. Quicksolve.

“I think you're lying, Justin Case. Now, tell me what you did with the money,” Dr. Quicksolve said.

**Why does Dr. Quicksolve suspect Justin Case?**