# White Stone Journal



Newsletter by the ALTs of Shiroishi Vol.97, February 2015



2015 年がスタートしましたね。みなさんの今年の決意は何ですか。 お正月が終わったと思うと次は「節分」「ヴァレンタイン・デー」と行事が続きますね(^^♪

During winter vacation, I had many great times. But the most exciting time was when I was with Simon! Do you remember Simon Gough? He is the man from Australia who was an ALT in Shiroishi two years ago. He has curly red hair and went to Shiroishi JHS and Number Two ES. Now, he is studying to get his Ph.D.

First, I went to Tokyo to meet Simon. We went to Odaiba, Akihabara, and Asakusa. Simon knows a cute little hot spring in Asakusa called *Jakotsu-yu*. After we finished our bath, we drank fruit milk.

Then, Simon came back to Shiroishi! He came back on New Year's Day. We went to Café Milton and joined in *mochi tsuki*. Before he left, he came to my apartment and we ate *osechi* food. We talked about our time in Shiroishi together. Simon told me to say "Hello!" to everyone for him.

Here's to a Happy New Year for Simon!

Max マックス

## ◆◆単語ヒント◆◆

\*JHS: Junior High School \*ES: Elementary School \*Ph.D: 博士号 \*Jakotsu-yu:(東京・浅草にある)蛇骨湯

\*Here's to…: …に(のために)乾杯!Here's to+名詞=乾杯の決まり 文句。口語では、Here's を略して例などのように使います。

(例)To our friendship!(私たちの友情に乾杯!)

To our reunion!(再会を祝って!)

白石のみなさん、"Hello!" サイモン・ゴーフです。 覚えてるかな? サイモンは、2012 年 8 月から 2013 年 7 月までの 1 年間白石市 の ALT として小・中学校で英語を教えていました。 在職中本紙が休刊していたため、みなさんに紹介する機会があり ませんでした。(>\_<) 白石での餅つきと御節料理、東京を満喫 したようですね。(^\_-)-☆ Simon, all the best!



編集室~今年の干支は「羊」ということで羊について調べてみました。羊は群れる性質を持ち群れ から引き離されると強いストレスを受けます。先導するものに従う傾向が強い為家畜に向いていま した。「迷える子羊」という言葉はこの辺に由来するようです。また「羊」の字を含む漢字を調べてみ ると良い意味のものが多いようです(^^♪ 美・義・善・養・膳・翔・羨・達・詳・鮮・躾などなど。 I've been learning the art of tea ceremony since August 2013. Long before I came to work in Japan, I've been interested in it. I didn't know why but now I know...

Tea ceremony is about respect and beauty. It is a respect for tea and all the Japanese traditions. From the beauty of the fine art on the tea bowls and utensils, the hanging calligraphy piece to the flower arrangement, all being carefully picked each time. The beauty in them shine in tea ceremony and that's what makes it fascinating to me.

I am thankful for this beautiful Japanese tradition and more thankful for my strict and lovable teacher and all the sweet and friendly members. Come join us!

Sarah セーラ

#### ◆◆単語ヒント◆◆

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\*utensil(s): 道具、用具 \*fascinating: 魅力的な、すごく美しい、興味津々たる \*strict: 厳しい \*sweet: 優しい \*lovable: 愛すべき

#### Hello everyone!

Polite, or not polite?

Among many cultural differences between Japan and France, there's how people behave socially.

I think people in France are usually polite, but they express themselves even when it's not the nicest thing to say. If there's something they don't like, they say it. For example, if someone does something you think is not right or nice, you tell them! Here, people don't really do that. They probably think about it, but they say nothing in front of other people. So it's difficult for a foreigner to know what Japanese people think!

But isn't it one of the reasons why Japanese people are seen as kind and peaceful people?

And so polite! "Happy Valentine's Day!"





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### ◆◆単語ヒント◆◆

\*polite: 礼儀正しい(相手の気持ちを 思いやり、礼儀をわきまえている気持ちを 表す→失礼にならないの意にもなる) \*behave: ふるまう \*socially: 社交上、社会的に \*express 表現する、表す



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