



The Tsubame Traveler

ザ・ツバメ・トラベラー

燕市の無料月刊英語新聞



On Setsubun, demons visit and are chased out by children who throw dried beans at them. The beans are then eaten.

Traditionally you should eat one bean for each year you have lived.

At the temples, demons come into the crowd and grab scared children! If your child screams and shouts it is lucky. It is believed that they will grow up big and strong.

My son was caught,... three times! He is a “lucky” boy!

Setsubun Celebrations Kickstart Spring Anticipation!

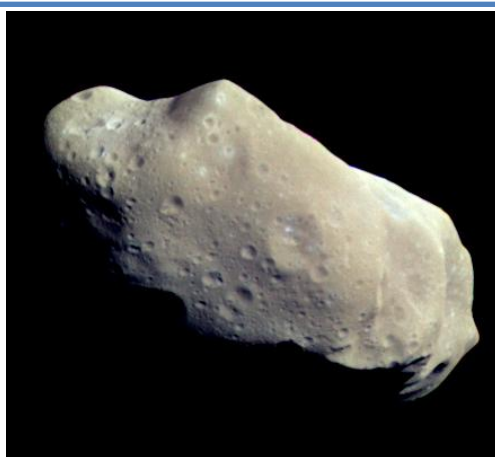
Setsubun (2nd February) was celebrated at the beginning of this month. Setsubun

kind of means “season separation” and it comes when people start to look forward to spring.

~~1.3%~~ 2.3% Chance Asteroid will hit Earth!

Asteroid 2024 YR4 has been spotted and there is the chance that it will hit the Earth. If it hits us it would cause “localised destruction”, which means it would cause massive damage in a small area. It is too small to destroy all of humankind though.

Scientists will continue to observe



the asteroid. 2004 YR4 is around 100m wide. For comparison, the asteroid that killed the dinosaurs was around 10-15 km wide. So, this asteroid is much smaller.

100m asteroids hit the Earth, on average, every few thousand years. So, they are not common. Also, the asteroid is currently moving away from us in a straight line. It is expected to come back into view in 2028.

If it is thought to be a threat then plans would be made to protect the Earth. NASA tested a method to deflect asteroids called the Dart mission two years ago.

Japanese School Experience – Experience a Real JHS!

An old school is offering Japanese school experiences to overseas tourists.

The “students” will spend a day at *Kimino* junior high school. Uniforms are provided and all the classes are in English. The day starts at 11am with homeroom class then calligraphy. School lunch is followed



by a Japanese history lesson, P.E., cleaning (of course) and a graduation ceremony.

The original school closed due to population decline and is trying to attract visitors to the area and start a discussion on possible solutions. It is in Chiba and a full day costs ¥35,000. Do you want to go?

100 things to do around Tsubame - #28

Echigo Hillside Park
(越後丘陵公園)

Echigo Hillside Park in Nagaoka is great at this time of year. There is lots of snow and there are several sledging runs.

You can rent sledges there and have a great time. You can buy food there too. It's a great place to go with the family!

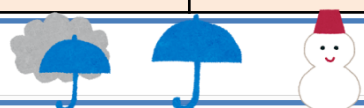


Fortune telling (星占い) – Check your birthday!

Aries (March 21 – April 19) <i>Listen to the singer.</i>	Taurus (April 20 – May 20) <i>Feb. 26th is <u>your</u> day!</i>	Gemini (May 21 – June 21) <i>High five somebody!</i>	Cancer (June 22 – July 22) <i>Don't eat chocolate this month!</i>
Leo (July 23 – August 22) <i>Yellow shoes beware!</i>	Virgo (August 23 – September 22) <i>North is unlucky.</i>	Libra (September 23 – October 23) <i>Crab cakes?</i>	Scorpius (October 24 – November 21) <i>Itchy knee.</i>
Sagittarius (November 22 – December 21) <i>Dance when there is no ice!</i>	Capricorn (December 22 – January 19) <i>More snow?</i>	Aquarius (January 20 – February 18) <i>Dodge ball is fun.</i>	Pisces (February 19 – March 20) <i>Keep smiling!</i>



Brazil Weather Report



Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
The carnival starts at the end of this month. Over 200 samba schools prepare floats and dancers. You should take a look! Summer in Rio is hot and quite humid. January is the wettest month in Rio, but February is the hottest with highs into the

Min Temperature	24°C	Rainy days	16 days
Max Temperature	32°C	Humidity	79%
Water Temperature	26°C	Windspeed	3 m/s
Chance of Rain	52%	Sunshine	202 hours
Precipitation	157 mm	Percentage Sunshine	