

NKKS Annual Picnic



As the calendar rolled towards the end and the temperature gradually plummeted, leaving a crisp chill in the air, it was time for one of the most awaited events of NKKS, the Annual Picnic. This year the picnic was organized on 17th of December 2023 at a fantastic picnic spot at Burul near the river Hooghly. It was a chilly Sunday morning when everybody gathered and after a fairly long bus ride along with cheering and Japanese songs being played we finally reached our destination and were welcomed by delicious Peas Kachori and Aloo r Dum and a winter staple sweet, the Moa. Post-Breakfast, several fun activities such as “Karuta” (A Japanese card game), Chinese Whisper with Japanese Words, Spoon and Marble race were held which magnified the jolliness of the picnic. Some of us also played games like Football and Badminton. Light Snacks and Soft Drinks were served. Time passed without any of us noticing as we immersed ourselves in the merrymaking. As it was time for lunch, various delicacies such as Dal, Fried Potatoes, Fish and Chicken Curry, Paneer and sweets were served. Soon it was time to say goodbye. Though it was a bit sad, the day ended on good note with a group picture and some beautiful memories to be cherished forever.

~ Titas Chatterjee



*Greetings of the season and
best compliments to all
readers and NKKS
members!!!*

Meet NAKAGAWA Yayoi

Mrs. NAKAGAWA Yayoi came to Kolkata in May 2022 as the spouse of Consul General of Japan in Kolkata. This is her first time in India and she has shared her experiences in this interview.

Self-introduction: I was born and raised in Hiroshima until I graduated from high school.

Academic background: I majored in Law (Public International Law) at university, with a thesis on the "Tokyo Trials" in my junior year and a thesis on the "Commonwealth of Nations" in my senior year, in which I discussed Justice Radhabinod Pal's judgment and traced the history of India. Now, many years have passed since then, and I feel a sense of wonder that I have had the opportunity to be associated with India, the home of the people and the matters I discussed at that time.

Work experience: After graduating from university, I worked for the Association for International Exchange Services, an affiliated organization of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

After getting married, I worked as a housewife, translated books on developmental disabilities, wrote, and gave lectures. From 2013, when I returned from New York, to 2020, I worked as a professor's secretary in a science laboratory at a national university in Tokyo for seven years.

Your experience and opinion about Indian life, culture, and people and similarity with Japanese culture: I am often struck by the "preciousness" in the daily lives of the people of Kolkata. The fact that religion is at the center of their lives, that they are devoutly religious, and that they value family ties above all else, makes me feel nostalgic, perhaps because it is similar to the way Japanese people used to be. I often feel that Kolkata is a place where I can encounter the things that we have eliminated in pursuit of "convenience" in our modern society.

Special interest in any subject: My hobbies include watching Broadway musicals, music, sports, reading, traveling, craft work, and yoga. When I was younger, I enjoyed playing instruments (piano, violin, koto), writing songs, and going to the gym. When living abroad, you could say that my hobby is to delve into the culture and history that I encounter there as my interests lead me. So, my current interest in Kolkata is "The History of the Indian Independence Movement." I am interested in the history of the Indian Independence Movement, including Swamy Vivekananda, a religious leader who greatly influenced not only India but also the world; Rabindranath Tagore, the poet who became the first Asian to win the Nobel Prize; Rash Bihari Bose, the "Bose of Nakamura," who served as a bridge between India and Japan before independence; and Subhas Chandra Bose, who led the Indian National Army; and Judge Radhabinod Pal, who maintained Japan's innocence at the Tokyo Trials, I am overwhelmed by the strong ties between the people of Bengal and Japan. Fieldwork to trace the history of the long friendship between the two countries is one of the things I am looking forward to. *(to be continued.....)*

~ Alope Basu

The Kanji
of 2023

税

The kanji "zei" (税), which means taxes, was selected as the character that best represents 2023, the Japan Kanji Aptitude Testing Foundation announced. Look up and find out why!!

Exciting Japanese films are coming to a Kolkata multiplex from 18 to 21 January 2024. Block your dates!



6 January 2024 (Sat)
3.00 PM

4th Japanese Language
Singing Contest
Birla Industrial and
Technological Museum



NKKS Bijoya Sammiloni

The annual NKKS Bijoya Sammiloni was held on the 19th of November, Sunday. It was a very homely get together at Sarat Samity where all our members had gathered after a long time. The celebration started with a beautiful Japanese retro song by Smritiman Barua San. His song was followed by a group performance by Riddhika Chatterjee San, Soham Sankar Mukherjee San and Aayushi Sengupta San who sang the Japanese song "Namae wo yobu yo" which immersed the audience. Gaurav Chakraborty San volunteered and sang a soulful Japanese song, followed by Reema Basu San singing a beautiful ballad. Anjana Banerjee San, Khushboo Agarwal San and Anupam Das San put on a spectacular singing performance where Anupam San played the guitar and then the mouth organ to a well-known song that captivated the audience. Rupashree Biswas San added more cheer and vigor, displaying her amazing vocal skills by performing two Japanese songs- Haru and Hana wa Saku. The evening celebration came to a close with a final performance by Soham Sankar Mukherjee San who sang two beautiful Rabindranath Sangeets. Refreshments were distributed towards the end after which everyone dispersed and retired for the night.

~ Shreya Bose

39th In-Nichi Bunkasai

9 Mar'24
(Saturday)



Contact Nigam sensei or Sumana sensei to participate & get your cultural ideas on stage!



The Ruma Sensei Foundation Study Support

Congratulations to Ms. Puspita Adhikary, Japanese Language student at RMIC, for being awarded the foundation's 1st study support, that will cover her 3rd year tuition fee for the session Jan - Dec 2024.



Word Grid

~ Nivi Pal

く	も	か	を	へ	け	で	ま	ぼ	ん	べ	づ
わ	て	の	ひ	ら	へ	ん	ぺ	か	ら	そ	め
わ	い	ち	ね	え	こ	な	ぴ	あ	ら	ぼ	で
る	ぜ	ど	ぴ	ぺ	か	い	ふ	ぶ	び	か	ら
れ	げ	か	ば	よ	い	れ	ん	ぼ	ち	ぬ	ら
ぎ	ぶ	づ	し	ひ	る	び	ゆ	さ	ふ	づ	の
す	ま	び	ら	が	ば	う	わ	よ	つ	も	り
め	べ	ひ	ん	じ	か	む	た	い	か	く	も
ふ	ら	ら	ほ	ん	ん	ひ	ぼ	ぞ	び	め	の
ず	い	れ	み	み	ら	か	そ	ど	ぎ	み	せ
に	で	ち	よ	り	つ	を	く	め	は	ひ	た
さ	が	や	と	へ	の	た	く	さ	ん	つ	ぼ

Find out at least ten **4 letter** Japanese words present in the above grid. You can go vertically, diagonally and horizontally.

Word Grid Solution

(Nov – Dec 2023)

が	お	ど	ふ	ぎ	だ	び	き	べ	ふ	ぎ	び
へ	げ	よ	ぎ	ち	ぶ	ぼ	か	ぼ	つ	て	ぞ
く	は	る	い	ぎ	だ	わ	な	つ	か	べ	ら
た	い	せ	い	へ	ぶ	こ	に	せ	も	の	つ
へ	し	ぺ	ま	よ	い	せ	ぐ	そ	ぜ	る	み
や	す	わ	こ	す	ぎ	た	そ	う	よ	か	い
よ	かん	そう	び	ひ	い	が	す	く	つ	ご	ろ
な	が	らす	ど	と	よ	ぶ	や	れ	う	ご	ろ
こ	ん	だ	ご	く	う	だ	み	び	な	さ	ろ
わ	う	と	ち	つ	ぶ	や	く	ぼ	ん	ゆ	ほ
あ	お	つ	か	せ	び	ぜ	え	ひ	だ	ず	し
ふ	ろ	う	う	な	ふ	た	し	か	か	お	ぬ

Find the Person

~ Tisyagupta Pyne

Fill in the Blanks to Find Out the Famous Japanese Personality

1. けさの__ __ぶんはよみましたか？おもしろいはなしかレポートがありますか？
2. あしたのパーティーのために__ __ものを楽しみましょう。いろいろなきりょうをかわなければなりません。
3. なつやすみがちかいですね。はい、なつ__ つりもありますよ。
4. こんなことは __どもでもしているよ。
5. にほんのしゅとは__うきょうです。

Ans: _____ さん.

Find the Person Solution

(Nov – Dec 2023)

ゆ かわ ひで き
湯川 秀樹



Scan the QR codes to watch the videos !

Japanese New Year Guide



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