

# MINNIBARAKI

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## Our Forty-second Year

*Minneapolis Ibaraki Sister City Association*



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## Family Fun Day - Go Outside with Hennepin County

MISCA will be taking part in this year's Family Fun Day - Go Outside with Hennepin County sponsored by the Minneapolis Downtown Council.

At our station will be demonstrating and helping others with the Japanese art of origami - i.e., paper folding.

Please join us - and check out the other stations as well!

Event Details:

Date: Saturday, August 19, 2023

Time: 11 am - 1 pm

Location: Target Field Station, 335 5th Street North, Minneapolis, MN 55401 United States

Website: [mplsdowntown.com/gooutside](https://mplsdowntown.com/gooutside)

**Friends of the Bell of Two Friends**

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Michael Rainville  
Karl Reinhard*



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Richard & Carol Stahl  
Vernon Wettarnach*



**2023 Cherry Tree Festival and Sister Cities Day**

MISCA held its Cherry Tree Festival on Sunday, May 14 and participated in Minneapolis' Sister Cities Day on Sunday, July 16.

Harisen Daiko again wowed the guests with their Taiko Drum performances on both dates! Closing out our Cherry Tree Festival and Opening up Sister Cities Day. Thank you to Harisen Daiko for always putting on a great show!

In addition to the drum performances, guests were able to practice both their origami skills and their skills in using chopsticks – seeing how quickly they could move ten beans from one plate to another using only chopsticks. Both were enjoyed by both young and old.

Karen Kersting again gave a Kamishibai demonstrations as well as telling the history of how the storytelling began.

We hope to see you at both events again next year!

## Recipe

### Chicken Miso Meatballs – from Daniel Rolf

Ground chicken breast meat is fairly lean, so milk is added to keep it moist and tender. As the meatballs bake, the miso caramelizes into savory bits of sweet-salty umami. Ritz crackers add richness and create a more juicy meatball (plain dry bread crumbs can also be used). They also make a tasty hors d'oeuvre. Roll mixture into smaller 1-inch balls. For a quick dipping sauce, combine 2 parts soy sauce to 1-part white vinegar, and add slice scallions, or red-pepper flakes if you like heat.

#### Ingredients

1/4 cup whole milk  
 3 tablespoons white miso  
 1 tablespoon minced garlic  
 1 teaspoon kosher salt  
 3/4 teaspoon black pepper  
 1/2 cup finely crushed Ritz crackers  
 1 pound ground chicken

#### Preparation

Heat oven to 425 degrees. In a large bowl, combine all the ingredients, and use your hands to gently mix. The mixture will be very sticky. Lightly wet your hands to prevent sticking during mixing and shaping meatballs.

Shape the meat into 12 golf-ball-size rounds, and arrange on a greased backing sheet.

Bake until golden and cooked through, about 15 minutes.

Leftover meatballs freeze well. Reheat in oven at 375 degrees for about 20 minutes.



The dining room is now open! A portion of the dining room is set aside for walk ins; seating here is first come first served. Zenbox is still offering takeout delivery and is open Tuesday through Thursday from 5:00 – 9 p.m. and Friday through Saturday from 5:00 – 10:00 p.m.

You can find their online menu at:

[Zenbox.com](http://Zenbox.com)

## NUMBERS - Part 2

By IIN working group on cultures

### The wonder of Japanese Sekku festival days

Why are all the dates of *Sekku*, beautiful cultural events, odd-numbered?

This is related to the fact that seasonal festivals were born based on the ancient Chinese idea of the Yin-Yang Five Elements theory.



The ancient Chinese believed that the seasons had knots like bamboo. *Sekku* is the day of the turning point of the season. The days when a celebration is held at the turn of the season are called “*Setsujitsu*”.

Although there were various festivals in Japan, the five days selected by the *Edo* Shogunate as holidays are Five *Sekkus* below.

### Five Japanese Cultural Festivals

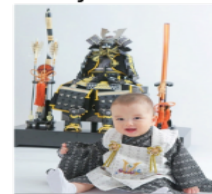
1/7 People's Festival



3/3 Girl's Festival



5/5 Boy's Festival



7/7 Tanabata Festival



9/9 Chrysanthemum Festival



Their dates were 3/3, 5/5, 7/7 and 9/9. Why were the dates of overlapped odd numbers chosen? Because they are considered good luck. Even numbers (Yin) are negative and odd numbers (Yang) are positive in Yin Yang Theory.

At the same time, people were also afraid that positive energy of the dates was too strong. Therefore, ceremonies of exorcism and purification were performed.

It is said that this is the beginning of the *Sekku* festival events. The unlucky idea faded away and the *Edo* Shogunate established them in the calendar as auspicious days.



## Celebrations for Children

***Oshichiya***, name-giving ceremony: the 7<sup>th</sup> day after the babies' birth

It was difficult for newborn babies to live for seven days 1000years ago. So, people have thanked and celebrated the babies' birth and prayed for their sound growth. Today, most babies are given their names by this day and the name is displayed on the alcove.



***Omiya-mairi***, the first shrine visit : 30 days after the babies' birth

People take their babies to a shrine about 30 days after their birth to receive purification and blessing.

A special kimono is draped over the baby.

***Okuizome* first meal**: 100 days celebration after the babies' birth

Parents prepare celebratory meals for the baby and attendants. A person pretends to feed the baby wishing that the baby will never starve.



### **One- year- old celebration**

#### 1) *Isshou-mochi* celebration

People have cherished the first birthday because only 10% of newborn babies could live for one year in the olden days. Some parents prepare a 4pounds *isshou-mochi* rice cake. *Isshou* also means lifelong in Japanese. People believe that the round flat mochi brings the baby a peaceful long life. They let the baby shoulder it or step on it.

2) birthday- grab celebration

Others display several items, a book, a calculator and so on to get to the baby chose one of them. People predict the baby who grabbed a book will become a scholar and who chose a ball will become a sports player.



**Shichi-go-san shrine visit:** 7-5-3 celebration

7-5-3 shrine visit takes place on or around November 15<sup>th</sup> to pray for children's happy growth. Boys aged three and five and girls aged three and seven dressed up in kimonos or formal clothes visit a shrine. There, children receive long stick *Chitose-ame* candies. *Chitose* means one thousand years and symbolizes health and longevity.

**20-year-old celebration:** The Coming-of-Age Day

We celebrate people who have turned 20 years old on the Coming-of-Age Day. The new adults attend the celebration ceremony held by a local government mostly in *furisode* kimono or formal clothing and enjoy a reunion with friends.

Ibaraki city held the 75<sup>th</sup> celebration event as the Gathering of the 20-year-old on January 9<sup>th</sup>, in 2023.



## Special Celebrations for Longevity

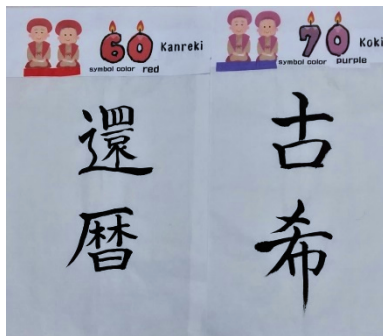
### Roof Tiles of Houses



Crane said to live for 1,000 years

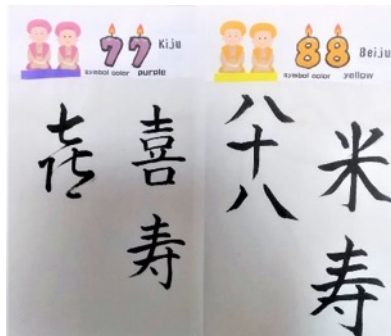


Turtle said to live for 10,000 years



When we become 60, we celebrate *Kanreki*. *Kanreki* means coming to the same sign of the 60-year-cycle of the old *Eto* calendar.

The celebration of 70 is called *Koki* meaning it is rare age in the old days.



At the age of 77, we celebrate *Kiju*. *Ki* means joy and *ju* means celebration. *Ki*'s cursive writing looks like 77.

*Beiju* is celebrated at 88. *Bei*, rice, is taken apart to 88 in Chinese characters. Rice plants also need 88 cares until their harvest.



*Hyakuju* is celebrated at the age of 100. Take one line from 百 (a hundred), it becomes 白 (*haku*). 99's celebration is called *Hakuju*.

May all of us live happy long lives!



## Various calculation methods that differ in Japan and other countries



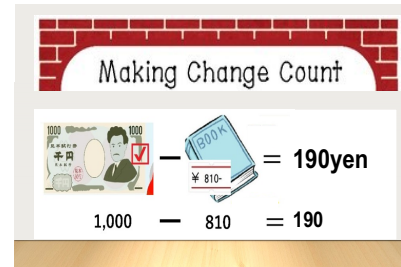
How do people count on their fingers around the world?

Do you start counting with your thumb for one or start counting with the index finger for one? Let's try counting!

Generally, Japanese will start counting by beginning with their thumbs for one with the palm of one hand open.

How do you get the amount of change in Japan and the US? Japanese calculate subtraction. Americans use either subtraction or count-up.

When you buy a book in Japan that costs 810 yen and pays a 1000-yen bill, a cashier says 190 yen is your change. She says the amount of change itself.



When you buy French fries that cost 93 cents and pay one dollar bill, a cashier counts your change up until the amount you paid.

There is a term in Japanese called *Yomi, Kaki, Soroban*. It means reading, writing, and an abacus. In Japan, from the end of the *Edo* to the *Meiji* period, calculations were mainly done using the abacus. These three methods are the foundational skills for the education of children.



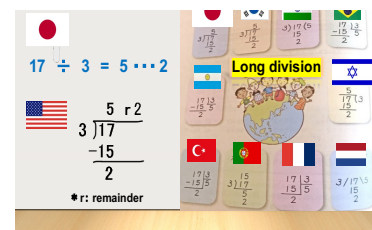
There is a term in English called the 3Rs as well.

It means reading, writing, and arithmetic.

As these two pictures show, the fundamentals of education are the same in the world.

17 divided by 3 equals 5 with a remainder of 2.

There are many methods to calculate long division. Each result is the same answer, even when you use a different process.



We focused on numbers relating to our daily lives, such as celebrations, counting, lucky and unlucky numbers, or ages. And we found some tips on the similarities and differences between the countries. We are happy that you enjoyed it.



## 数字のあれこれ IIN 国際交流分科会

### 日本の節句の日の不思議

美しい文化的行事である節句の日取りは、なぜすべて奇数なのでしょう。

それは、節句が、古代中国の陰陽五行説の考えに基づいて生まれたからです。

古代中国では、季節には竹のような節があると考えられていました。節句とは季節の変わり目の日で、その季節の変わり目にお祝いをする日を「節日」と呼んでいました。

日本にはさまざまな節句がありましたが、江戸幕府が選んだ5日が下の五節句です。

その日付は、1/7以外は、3/3、5/5、7/7、9/9です。なぜ、奇数が重なった日が選ばれたのでしょうか。それは、奇数は縁起が良いとされるからです。陰陽道では、偶数(陰)はマイナスで縁起が悪く、奇数(陽)はプラスで縁起が良いとされているのです。

その一方で人々が節句の日付の持つ縁起の良いプラスのエネルギーが強すぎることを恐れたため、厄払いやお祓いの儀式が行われるようになったと言われていています。これが節句行事の始まりと考えられているのです。その後、プラスのエネルギーが強すぎて不吉だという考えは薄れ、江戸幕府はそれぞれの節句を吉日として暦に定着させました。

### 子どものためのお祝い

#### **お七夜(おしちや):生後7日目の命名式**

約1000年前、生まれたばかりの赤ちゃんが7日間生きるのは難しいことでした。そのため、長い間、人々は赤ちゃんの誕生を感謝し、祝い、健やかな成長を祈ってきました。現在では、ほとんどの赤ちゃんがこの日までに名前を付けられ、命名書が床の間に飾られます。

#### **お宮参り:生後30日頃**

赤ちゃんが生まれてから約30日後に初めて神社にお参りし、お祓いと祝福を受けます。

その時には、特別な着物が赤ちゃんにかけられます。

## お食い初め:生後 100 日のお祝い

親が、赤ちゃんとお祝いに来られた親戚のために、祝い膳を用意します。赤ちゃんに食べ物を与えるふりをするので、生涯飢えることがないようにと願いを込めます。

## 1 歳のお祝い

### 1) 一升餅の祝い

昔、生まれたばかりの赤ちゃんが 1 年生きられる確率は 1 割程度だったため、1 歳の誕生日は特別な日でした。親は、わが子のために「一升(2kg)の餅」を用意します。「いっしょう」には「一生」という意味もあります。丸い平たいお餅は、赤ちゃんの安らかな長寿を願うものとされています。この餅を赤ちゃんに背負わせたり、踏ませたりします。

### 2) 選び取りの祝い

本や電卓など、いくつもの品物を並べて、赤ちゃんがその中から一つを選ぶように仕向けます。例えば、本を選んだ赤ちゃんは学者に、ボールを選んだ赤ちゃんはスポーツマンになる等と赤ちゃんの明るい将来を占います。

## 七五三詣り:七五三のお祝い

11 月 15 日前後に行われる七五三のお参りは、子どもの健やかな成長を祈る行事です。3 歳/5 歳の男の子と 3 歳/7 歳の女の子が、着物などで盛装して、神社にお参りします。そこで、長い棒状の「千歳飴」をもらいます。千歳は千年という意味で、健康と長寿を象徴しています。

## 20 歳のお祝い:成人の日

20 歳になった人を祝うのが成人の日です。新成人は主に振袖や礼服で自治体主催の祝賀会に出席し、友人たちとの再会を楽しみます。茨木市では 2023 年 1 月 9 日に「二十歳の集い」として第 75 回目の記念行事が行われました。

## 長寿のための特別なお祝い

日本の家屋には、長寿を願い、屋根に千年生きると言われる鶴・万年生きると言われる亀のデザインが飾られているところがあります。

60 歳になると、「還暦」を迎えます。還暦とは、60 年周期の干支(えと)の暦で 60 歳になり同じ干支が巡ってくることです。

70 歳のお祝いは「古希」といい、珍しいほどの長寿、という意味です。

77歳では「喜寿」を祝います。喜は喜び、寿は祝いの意味です。「喜」の草書体は漢字の「七十七」に見えます。

88歳には「米寿」を祝います。「米」の漢字は「八、十、八」と分解することができます。また、米の収穫まで88回の世話が必要なことも「米寿」とされた理由です。

「百寿」は100歳のお祝いです。百から一を取ると白となるので99歳のお祝いを「白寿」といいます。

私たちみんなが、長生きできますように。

### 日本と外国で異なる様々な計算方法

世界の人々はどのように指折り数えているのでしょうか。

親指で1を数えるのか、人差し指で1を数えるのか、どちらから始めるのでしょうか。試しに数えてみましょう。

一般的に日本人は、片方の手のひらを開いた状態で、親指から1を数え始めます。

日本とアメリカでは、お釣りの金額をどうやって出すのでしょうか。

日本人は引き算で計算します。アメリカ人は引き算かカウントアップで計算します。

日本で810円の本を買って1000円札を払うと、レジ係は「190円がお釣りです」と言います。お釣りの金額そのものを言うのです。

一方、アメリカで93セントのフライドポテトを買って1ドル札を払うと、レジ係はお釣りを払った金額まで数えます。

日本語に「読み・書き・そろばん」という言葉があります。「読むこと、書くこと、計算すること」を意味します。江戸末期から明治にかけての日本では、主にそろばんで計算していました。この3つの方法は、子どもたちの教育の基礎となる能力です。

英語にも3Rという言葉があり、読み・書き・算数の3つを意味します。

この2枚の絵が示すように、教育の基本は世界共通なのです。

17を3で割ると5となり、余りは2です。その筆算の書き方はたくさんあります。勿論、それぞれの答えは同じです。

今回は日常の生活の中にある数字に関連した日本、各国の考え方・お祝い事などについてご紹介させていただきました。国による共通点・違いなど、楽しんでいただけましたら幸いです。

*The MINNIBARAKI newsletter is published quarterly (February, May, August and November) by the Minneapolis-Ibaraki Sister City Association.*

## MINNEAPOLIS IBARAKI SISTER CITY ASSOCIATION

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### More Information

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801 Marquette Ave S. Suite 100  
Minneapolis, MN 55402

## MINNEAPOLIS- IBARAKI SISTER CITY ASSOCIATION

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### Upcoming Board Meetings:

TBD

Board meetings are held vis Zoom

If you would like to participate,  
please email Karl Reinhard at:

[misca.info@gmail.com](mailto:misca.info@gmail.com)

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### Upcoming Events

Family Fun Day

August 19, 2023

11 am - 1 pm

Target Field Station

Please check out or  
Facebook page for other  
events and information.

MISCA/IIN Zoom  
Meeting

Monday, Sept 11  
7:30 pm

If you would like to  
participate email us  
at:

[misca.info@gmail.com](mailto:misca.info@gmail.com)