

Winter Break

This Winter break I was lucky enough to be able to spend some time in Tokyo, Nakanojo and Saitama. I started my trip in Tokyo, meeting with my mother's friend who was travelling for the first time. I spent a couple of days with her while she got used to Japan. I was able to visit many places and attended the Monet exhibition at the Ueno Royal Museum.

Next, I went to Nakanojo where I stayed at Shima Onsen. I really enjoyed my visit and had a wonderful time exploring the nature and relaxing in the onsen. It was my first time seeing a Japanese serow and there were many monkeys by Shima Lake.

Finally, I went to Saitama to visit my Aunty and Uncle. This was my first time experiencing New Year in Japan. There were many traditions that I enjoyed and it was so different to my usual experience in Australia. While I usually spend the day with my friends, this year I relaxed with my family, greeting them with a deep bow in the morning and saying 'akemashite omedetō gozaimasu'. It was also my first time eating Oshechi-ryori. I was encouraged try everything and really liked the sweet black soybeans and daikon. I hope that I can bring some Japanese traditions with me when I go back to Australia and feel so thankful that I am able to learn more about my cultural background. I hope to continue to learn more in the future.

