Happy New Year

Kyouga Shinnen 恭賀新年

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Preparation for Japanese New Year (Shogatsu)

- Clean your house
- Cook Osechi-ryori
- Decorate your house
  - Kadomatsu (*welcomes ancestral spirits*)
- New Year’s cards
  - Send to family, friends, teachers, etc
Osechi-ryori

- Each ingredient has special a meaning
  - Health
  - Happiness
  - Fertility
  - Good Harvest
  - Long Life (soba noodles)
Shogatsu Cards (*nengajō*)

- Similar to our Christmas cards
- Should arrive by January 1\textsuperscript{st}
- Write a personal message

(Shinnen) *akemashite o-medetō-gozaimasu* ((新年)あけましておめでとうございます) - “Happiness to you on the dawn of the New Year.”

New Year’s Eve (Jan. 31st)

- Families eat Toshikoshi soba (buckwheat noodles)
- Families stay up late to “ring in” the New Year
Temple Bells

- Midnight Temple
  - Temple bells are rung 108 times to welcome in the New Year & rid oneself of the 108 mortal desires/sins

**Chion-in's temple bell (cast in 1633) is the heaviest in Japan. It weighs 74 tons, and requires 17 monks to ring it at the New Year ceremony.**
New Year’s Days (Jan. 1-3)

- January 1st
- Kimonos
  - Tradition
  - Worn by women
  - Worn to temple
  - Not very comfy

http://www.thejapanfaq.com/celebrations.html
Giving Money (オトシダイマ お年玉)

- Money to children from friends and family
- $ is put in small envelopes called…
- pochibukuro
New Year’s Days

- Visit relatives
- Visit temples
- Mochi (cutting the rice cake)
  - Kagami Biraki (鏡開き)
  - Brings Good Luck!


Hand-pounded sweet rice is spread on sheets to dry and harden.