

Joylife Yusuhara : 9. Ready for Winter

Ivan Shimats

Looking back, last winter was very challenging. I was told it was an unusually cold winter, even for Yusuhara. We had a lot of snow and despite the challenging weather conditions, the teachers and the students did their best and turned up every day when other schools around the country would have taken a day off. This is something I have come to admire about the town of Yusuhara and the people that live and work here. It is the never give up attitude!

There is talk from other teachers that maybe this winter won't be as cold. This makes me both happy and sad. Happy

because maybe this winter my house won't lose water for 2 weeks due to frozen pipes. Sad because maybe we won't get as much snow as we got last winter.

Whatever the outcome, I'm surely looking forward to 'fighting the cold' together with the students and the teachers; building *kamakura* and snowmen and enjoying the occasional snowball fight. I am excited and welcome the change in weather conditions. I have already started using my *kotatsu* heavily and I have invested in warm socks and heat tech wear. Yep, I am ready! 😊



Remembering the last year winter scene and looking forward to seeing this again!