かぼちゃは夏収穫されますが、この時期まで保存しておき、小豆といっしょに煮て食べます。

Pumpkins are harvested in the summer, but people keep them until winter. People cook them with red beans.

ビタミンの不足になりがちな冬のための知恵です。

They are a good source of vitamins that people tend to lack during winter.

<年の暮れ>Toshi no Kure (New Year's Eve)

12月は師走といわれ、下旬になると正月を迎えるためのたくさんの準備があります。

December is called "Shiwasu" . At the end of the year, there are many things to prepare for the New Year.

家の中や神棚をきれいにし掃除します。

People clean the house and the family altar.

でいる。 畳もきれいに拭き、障子も新しい紙で張り替えます。

Cooked rice is pounded to make rice cakes and "osechi" (the special New Year's feast) is prepared.

12月31日は大晦日といわれ、夕方には、家族全員が集まって食事をし、1年の無事を感謝して年越しをします。

The 31st of December is called "Omisoka" (New Year's Eve). All family members gather around and have dinner on New Year's Eve. We celebrate that we had a good year, and look forward to the New Year.

真夜中にお寺では除夜の鐘をつきます。108回つきます。

A New Year's bell is struck on New Year's Eve 108 times.

鐘を聞きながら年越しそばを食べると長生きができるといわれています

People believe that they will have a long life if they eat buckwheat noodles while listening to the New Year's bell.

