



## Otari Village Brings Snow to Machida

Kids can play with snow slide and try regional costume on.

On January 22<sup>nd</sup> in 2012, people from Otari Village in Nagano Prefecture will bring trucks full of snow to Poppo Machida near Machida station.

It'll be the second time, and last year, many parents brought their children, and played with snow.

Otari Village recognizes footsal as their tool to revitalize the region.

Since Machida has a footsal team, Pescadola Machida, the village and the city have found a common interest.

The official brochure is not yet released, but it will be available at the Machida Tourist Gallery.

Please keep you and your kids warm if you come to this event.



Snowmen made by children at the Poppo Machida last year. It will be a great opportunity to let children have fun with snow.

## Haramachida's Seven Lucky Gods are Waiting for Your New Year Visit

Machida City Tourism & Convention Bureau recommends visiting Haramachida's Seven Lucky Gods for good luck to start the new year!



You can collect stamps by visiting the Seven Lucky Gods in Haramachida. The stamp paper is available at the Machida Tourist Gallery.

Around the beginning of a new year, inquiries about the "Seven Lucky Gods of Haramachida" increase at the Machida Tourist Gallery.

Haramachida's Seven Lucky Gods statues were built in 2008 as 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of municipal government of Machida.

Therefore, there are still many people who do not know that Machida has Seven Lucky Gods.

At the Machida Tourist Gallery, the stamp paper can be purchased for 300 yen. It comes with a map and leaflet to learn about the gods (available in Japanese only).

There are several days

touring is available.

On January 10<sup>th</sup> (Tue) and February 1<sup>st</sup> (Wed), there are antique markets at Machida Tenmangu.

On January 11<sup>th</sup> (Wed), it comes with a *zazen*, or a seated *zen* meditation.

The tour is just 2 hours (give or take) depending on which course you choose. (offered in Japanese).

If you are interested in the tour, please email Aya Itoh-Mathers. ([itou@machida-guide.or.jp](mailto:itou@machida-guide.or.jp)) If you are applying for the tour, please write your name, age, address, phone number, and email address.

We'll be waiting for your application!

### The Seven Lucky Gods

Seven Lucky Gods are believed to have the power to gain good luck.

▶ Hoteison  
The god of happy families

▶ Ebisu  
God for success in business

▶ Fukurokuju  
God of Three Great Treasures (prosperity, property, and longevity)

▶ Jurojin  
God of youth and longevity

▶ Benzaiten  
God of arts and treasure

▶ Bishamonten  
A war god and a god of happiness and thriving in life

▶ Daikokuten  
God for an abundant harvest

## Dondo Yaki Season Approaches

People gather to ferry the New Year God back to heaven by burning used New Year decorations.

We have recently started seeing New Year's ornaments at supermarkets, department stores, and even convenience stores.

In Japan, at the end of the year, people become very busy cleaning their house and putting up New Year decorations to welcome *toshigami*, or a New Year god for good luck.

After the New Year season, people gather to burn the ornaments to send the *toshigami* back to heaven.

Of course, people hold this event at several places here in Machida.

Bring your New Year goods you used and burn them up for good luck!

### Where to go for Dondo Yaki (2012)

**Machida Tenmangu**  
1-21-5, Haramachida  
Date: January 14<sup>th</sup>  
Time: Afternoon

**Sugawara Shrine**  
802 Honmachida  
Date: January 14<sup>th</sup>  
Time: Around 3pm

**Kanai Sports Hiroba**  
2-28, Kanai  
Date: January 14<sup>th</sup>  
Time: Around 5pm

**Oyama Dairi Park**  
4-4, Oyamagaoka  
Date: January 22<sup>nd</sup>  
Time: 11am-3pm

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### Machida's Crepe Map

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