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TEACHING TUESDAY

RESPECT FOR THE AGED DAY

SEPTEMBER 12, 2017

Celebrated on the third Monday of every September, Keiro no Hi (敬老の日), or Respect for the Aged Day, is a special Japanese holiday that celebrates the long lives of the elderly and their years of contributions to society. Officially established by the Government of Japan in 1966, Respect for the Aged Day traces its origins back to 1947, when Nomatanimura Village (now Takacho), Hyogo Prefecture, declared September 15 as 'Old Folks' Day'.

Japan is known for its long life expectancy, and respect for one's elders has been an important tradition in Japanese society since ancient times. As Japan's population continues to age, holidays like Respect for the Aged Day become more important. This holiday is often a busy travel time as people travel around the country to visit elderly friends and family members, as it also coincides with the autumnal equinox.

Some neighborhoods will distribute free boxed lunches to their elderly neighbors, and smaller villages will hold keirokai shows where the younger people and school children prepare dances and songs for a special ceremony. Japanese citizens who turn 100 years old within the previous 12 months will also receive a silver-plated sake dish as a special thank you for their hard work.