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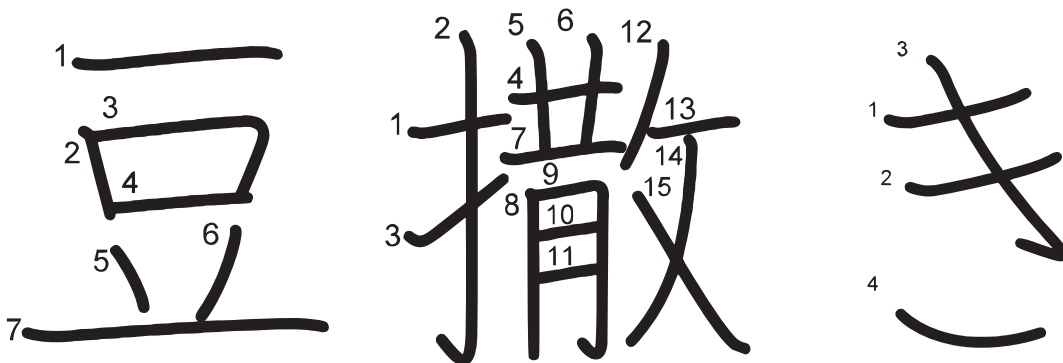
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TEACHING TUESDAY

KANJI: MAMEMAKI

JANUARY 30, 2018

Celebrated yearly on February 3rd, Setsubun is marked by a special ritual known as mamemaki 豆撒き. Mamemaki literally means “bean scattering,” and the kanji reflects this meaning. The first kanji, 豆, means bean and comes from an ancient pictograph that was originally some sort of vessel, such as for cooking beans or other items. The second kanji, 撒, is a combination of the radical for hand 扌 and a phonetic kanji 散 meaning to scatter. Together, the kanji means to scatter beans by hand, which is exactly what is done at Setsubun to cleanse away all the evil of the previous year!



Reading: まめまき mah-may-mah-kee

Meaning: ritual bean scattering, especially at setsubun