

A taste of Japan's culture

Thousands of Misawans pack high school for base's annual Japan Day celebration



Under the tutelage of her instructor Ritsuko Hakamada, Crystal Thompson creates an ohara flower arrangement. The demonstration was one of many hands-on crafts people at Misawa had a chance to create during the day.



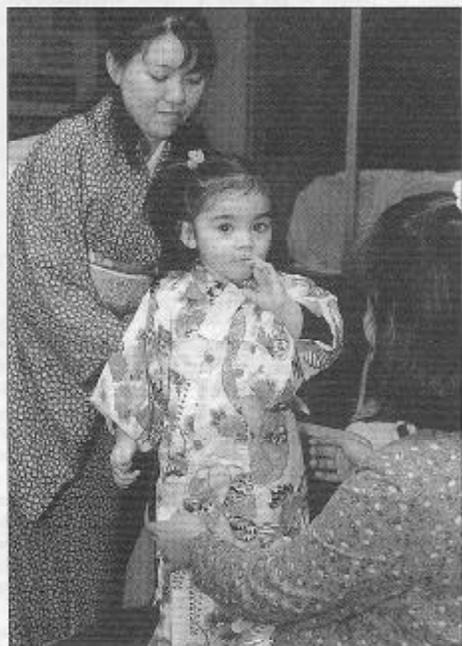
photos by Staff Sgt. Thomas Fischer

A Japanese musician gets into the rhythm of celebration by strumming on a shamisen, a traditional Japanese string instrument, during the 13th annual Japan Day celebration Saturday at Edgren High School. The event allows Americans at Misawa as well as their Japanese neighbors to share their cultures as a way to enhance a deeper relationship between both cultures, according to Capt. Ashley Heineman, base project officer.

More than 600 artists, musicians and craftsmen traveled from as far away as Tokyo so they could share the unique aspects of their culture with the people based at Misawa.



Mitsumi Matsuzaki, left, and Sono Furuta teach Katy Rew the finer points of Japanese weaving. Katy's father, Col. Bill Rew, is the 35th Operations Group commander.



Kayla Metz "goes formal" as she tries on a kimono.