

Misawa International Association News

Phone: (0176) 51-1349 Email: kokusai@city.misawa.lg.jp

★Survival Japanese: February 1, 8, 15, 22, March 1, 8, 15 and 22, Fridays 10 a.m. - Noon.
Fee: ¥3000, Free child care available

★Japanese Beginners Class: Every Tuesday, from 1pm - 2 pm

★Japanese Intermediate Class: starting on January 29, Tuesday, from 6p.m. - 7p.m.

★International Friendship Group: Every Wednesday, starting at 7pm

★Japanese Language Class: Every Tuesday, 1pm - 2 pm

★Hina Matsuri Potluck Party: March 6, Wednesday, at 10:30
Fee: ¥150 Celebrate Girls' Day (Hina Matsuri) by joining us for potluck!
Bring your favorite dish!

All the events will be held at the Misawa International Center!!!



Misawa International Center

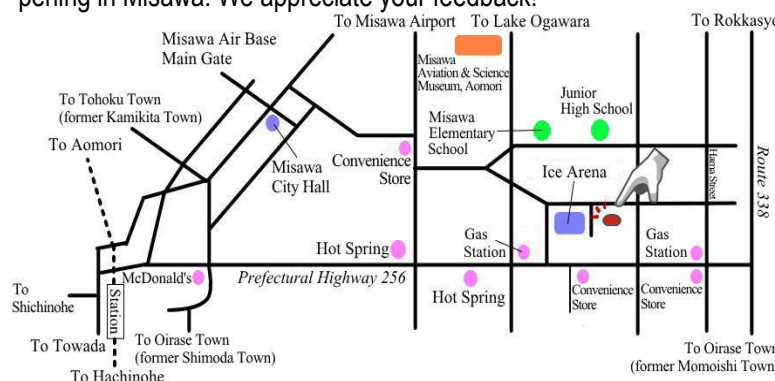
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Address: 230-1 Aza-Sonosawa, Oaza-Misawa, Misawa City 033-0022

The Misawa City Community Bus "Mi-Bus" English Map is Available Now!

This map show only the ¥100-zone fare areas. We hope this map will help you get around Misawa! Pick up copy at any of the locations below:

- Sky Plaza Misawa
- Misawa International Center
- Airmen and Family Readiness Center
- Citizens Affairs Division of the Misawa City Office (on the 1st floor)

Misawa City International Relations publishes the monthly free paper, "Misawa City News". We keep you informed of what is happening in Misawa. We appreciate your feedback!



Frozen Water Pipes

During the winter, water pipes may freeze when temperatures drop to below freezing. Outside pipes are prone to bursting. This is because any water in left in the pipes will freeze and expand. The pipes, being made of rigid material, do not expand, and therefore, crack or burst. Here are some tips to prevent frozen pipes:

- Let water run, in drops, all night.
- Drain water from the pipes, using the trap plugs, if your house have it.

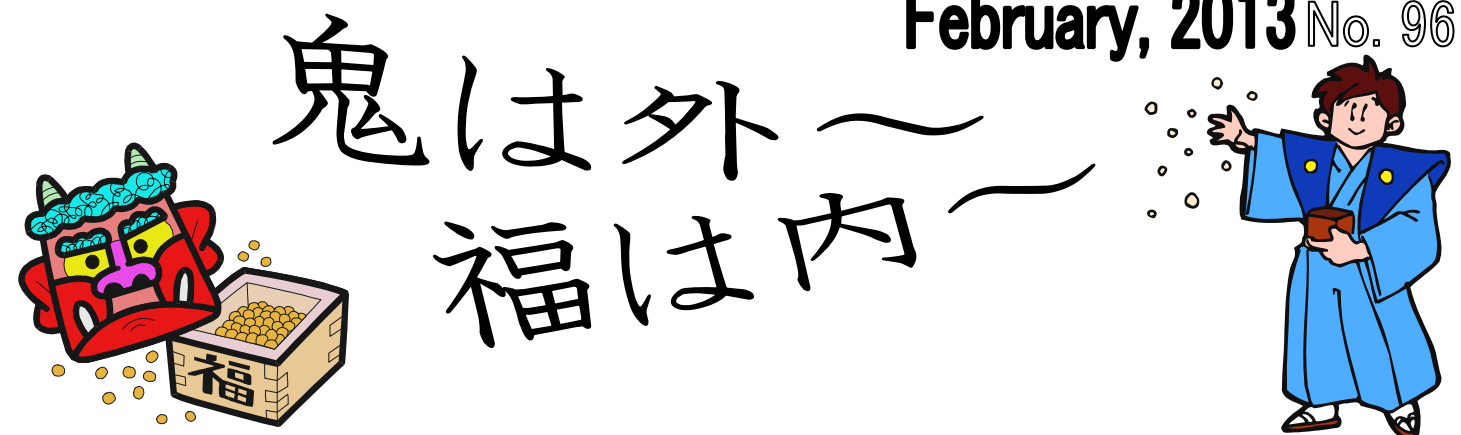
If your pipes are frozen:

Cover the frozen part with a towel or rag cloth.
Gently pour warm water on the cloth, to gradually warm up the pipes.



Misawa City News

February, 2013 No. 96



節分 (Setsubun) literally means, "the day between two seasons". People celebrate Setsubun on the 3rd of February, the day before the beginning of spring according to the lunisolar calendar. On the evening of this day, we open the doors or windows of our house and first throw soy-beans (or peanuts) to the outside, while shouting, "鬼は外" (Oni wa soto: "Demons, get out"). Then we throw the soy beans from outside to inside our house and shout "福は内" (Fuku wa uchi: "Fortune in"). Then for the children, the father pretends to be a monster and the children chase him around the house throwing soybeans at him while yelling, "Oni wa soto!"

Also, **恵方巻** (Ehou maki: "Fortune sushi roll") is a popular dish for Setsubun. And it must be eaten in a certain way: face the lucky direction of the year and eat the whole sushi roll without stopping or speaking. Also, it is believed that eating the same number of beans as one's age will ensure good health for the year. This year the Lucky direction is "South-Southeast". Good luck!!!

In Tohoku region (Aomori, Akita, Iwate, Miyagi, Fukushima and Yamagata prefectures) and Hokkaido, people throw and eat peanut instead of soybeans. Because peanuts are easy to clean and pick up.

What's So Special About February?

バレンタインデー (Valentine's Day) on February 14, is popular event around the world and each country celebrate it in a different way. And this includes Japan. In Japan, only the women buy and give chocolates to men. Also, there are 3 different types of chocolates, each with a special meaning.

義理チョコ (giri-choco) means "obligation chocolate"; so-called because women give this chocolate to their colleagues and bosses out of a sense of obligation or politeness. **友チョコ** (tomo-choco) means "friendship chocolate". Women give chocolate to their friend, both male and female. And last, there is **本命チョコ** (honmei-choco) or "lover's chocolate" which women give to the special man in their life. The prices of these chocolates also vary, with giri-choco at the lower price range (of ¥500 - ¥1,000) and honmei-choco, at the higher price range (¥3,000 or more). The chocolates you see in the convenience and grocery stores are usually giri- or tomo- chocolates; honmei-chocolates are usually sold in department stores or upscale shops. Recently, it has become fashionable to hand-make your Valentine chocolates.

But this gift-giving is not one-side. On March 14, White day **ホワイトデー**, men return the favor and give the women gifts of a "white theme". White day was started in 1978 by the National Confectionary Industry of Japan as a reciprocal day for Valentine's and originally started out with packaged gifts of marshmallows and white chocolates. Nowadays, men may also give cookies, flowers or jewelry.

Add a new twist to your celebrations! Next time you're out and about, look for these special Valentine's and White Day displays and sales!



The 14th Annual Misawa International Children's Ice Festival

**9 March, Saturday
Starting at 8:30 a.m.
at Misawa Ice Arena**

This free event is open to all children, aged 4 - 12 years old and their parents. There will be many activities for entire family, including: Tug of War, Bowling on the Ice and more!
Please bring your own gloves, winter boots, warm clothes, some cash (yen) for the food and drink vending machines.



Come and Experience KinderJam!

**February 16, Saturday
at 1:00 am**

at Fun & Learning Center in Sky Plaza Misawa, on the 3rd Floor

Fees: \$5 or ¥500

What to bring: Indoor Shoes

Introducing Kinder Jam instructor, Ms. Margaret, who will provides fun activities for 30 minutes, to young children, upto preschool age. KinderJam is a fun, exciting, and high-energy "Music and Movement" program that emphasizes kinesthetic and tactile learning of pre-academic skills and concepts while promoting positive parent engagement. Parents, join in and have a rockin' good time with your tot or preschooler. Make it a play date! Afterwards, enjoy paper puppets show "The Mitten" by Fun and Learning Center.

For more information, please contact at Misawa Access Publications
at TEL: 080-1692-9960 or Email: npo.map@gmail.com

around Misawa city...

**Snow and Light Festival
at Lake Towada
Feb 1, Fri - 24, Sun
At Yasumiya, Lake Towada**

The festival features wonderful ice sculptures, a huge snow slide, live music and fireworks. There will be beautiful handicrafts, local dishes, and hot wine for sale and so much more!



**Hirosaki Electrical Fantasy
from Today - 28, Thurs
At the Castle Town of Hirosaki City**

Hirosaki city is one of 12 original castle town of Japan and is renown for its architectural blending of traditional Japanese, foreign-style, and retro modern buildings. For a truly magical experience, come see the city's fantastical light displays draped against the beauty of the winter skies.

**Hachinohe Enburi
from 17 Feb, Sun- 20 Feb, Wed
in Downtown Hachinohe City
(city centre)**

Exhort the end of winter with this ancient snow festival! Begun 800 years ago to pray for a good harvest, this event features Northern Japanese cultural dancing in beautiful costume and with "enburi" (a traditional farm tool).



Free Shuttle Bus



Have you ever tried riding the bus around Misawa? Now is the best time to try it! From now until 31 March, 2013, every Sat, Sun and Japanese holiday, the "Misawa Gurutto Bus" is free. So get out and explore Misawa!

To Misawa Aviation & Science Museum, Terayama Shuji Memorial Museum

Hoshino Resort Aomoriya	9:15			12:15	13:10	
Misawa Station - East Entrance	9:20			12:20	13:15	
Sky Plaza Misawa	9:28			12:28	13:23	
Misawa Airport	9:34			↓	↓	14:15
Misawa Aviation & Science Museum	9:40		10:45	12:38	13:33	14:20
Terayama Shuji Memorial Museum	9:49	10:15	10:54		13:42	
Tonami Clan memorial Tourism Village	10:02	10:28	11:07		14:55	

To Misawa Airport, Misawa Station

Tonami Clan memorial Tourism Village	10:30	11:15		13:55	14:35	
Terayama Shuji Memorial Museum	↓	11:28		13:42	14:48	
Misawa Aviation & Science Museum	10:45	11:40	12:40	14:10	15:00	15:55
Misawa Airport		↓	↓	14:15	↓	↓
Sky Plaza Misawa		11:52	12:52		15:12	16:08
Misawa Station East Entrance		12:02	13:02		15:22	16:18
Hoshino Resort Aomoriya		12:07	13:07		15:27	16:23

Make a Lampwork Glass Bead!

23 & 24 February Weekend

**at the Misawa Aviation & Science Museum
between 9:30 am - 3:30 pm**



Try your hand at making your own original lamp work glass beads! Sign up starts at 9:10 am, to craft in the Special Exhibition Room. Limited to the first 48 people each day. Fee: ¥1,000 - ¥1,200.

The museum is open 9:00-17:00 and closed on Mondays.

* If a Japanese holiday falls on a Monday, then the museum will be open on that Monday but will be closed the following day (Tuesday).

Admission: Adult ¥500; High School Student ¥300; Free for 15 years old and under. For more information, check out their website at

<http://www.kokukagaku.jp/nglish.html>

Hoshino Resort Aomoriya

This is the resort hotel which is well-known for its Komaki Onsens! Hoshino Resort also has 3 fine-dining restaurants, each featuring a unique cuisine; a Japanese garden; Tohoku cultural exhibits and more!

The Onsen (bath spa) features 2 temperatures of hot water, 2 outdoor pools, and a sauna. Bathing toiletries are provided. Open every day from 8 am to 12 midnight (except on Mondays, when it is closed from 12 noon - 1 pm, for cleaning). Bath spa pricing: Adults (13 yrs and older)-- ¥1,200. Children (4- 12 years old)-- ¥600. Children 3 years old and younger: Free.

Look up their website at <http://www.komaki-onsen.co.jp/>

くるバスのりば
乗車無料

Sky Plaza Misawa

12:30 - 13:30-- 14:00
12:30 - 13:30-- 14:00
13:30 - 14:40 -15:50
16:50 - 17:00 - 18:00
12:30 - 13:30-- 14:00
12:30 - 13:30-- 14:00
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16:50 - 17:00 - 18:00
12:30 - 13:30-- 14:00
12:30 - 13:30-- 14:00
13:30 - 14:40 -15:50
16:50 - 17:00 - 18:00

Stops:

Sky Plaza Misawa
Hoshino Resort Aomoriya
Misawa Station East Entrance
Misawa Aviation & Science Museum
Terayama Shuji Memorial Museum
Tonami Clan Memorial Tourism Village
Misawa Airport

Tonami Clan Memorial Tourism Village

<http://tonamihan.misawasi.com/> (Japanese Only)

Open 9:00-19:00 (Apr thru Oct)

9:00-18:00 (Nov thru Mar)

Closed Mondays

(If it's holiday on a Monday, the museum will be open but closed the following day (Tuesday))

Memorial Hall for Forerunners (City Founders)

Museum: ¥50 - ¥100

Outdoor village exhibit, Mini Zoo, and playground: Free

Variable but low fees per use for miniature golf and vending kiddie rides.

Also available: gift shop, restaurant, tourist information, and drink vending machines.