

Misawa International Association News

Survival Japanese

January 24, 31, February 7, 14, 21, 28 and March 7, 2014, Fridays, 10 am - Noon

Fee: ¥2,700 for 9 classes

Free childcare available

** The class days of Feb 7 and Mar 7 will also include a Japanese cooking class session. The cooking class will be from 10 am - noon. Then the language class will be from 12 noon - 2 pm.

Sign Up TODAY

Intermediate Level

January 28, February 4, 18, 25, March 4, 11 and 18, 2014, Tuesdays 6 - 8 pm.

Fee: ¥2100 for 7 classes

All the classes will be held at the Misawa International Center.

For more information, please contact the Misawa International Association.

Phone: 080-6022-1349 Email: kokusai@city.misawa.lg.jp

みさわしていにゅーす Misawa City News



January, 2014
No.107

迎春

Happy New Year!

May 2014 be a Happy and Wonderful Year!

This year is the Year of the Horse or 午, *uma*, in the Chinese zodiac. There are 12 symbolic animals for each year and the cycle is completed after the 12th year. Like Western astrology, each animal represents a basic personality type or certain characteristics. For relationships, each animal gets along with certain animal personalities better than others. Quite simply, everyone is born under a Chinese zodiac animal, which comes once every 12 years. So if you're born in 1942, 1954, 1966, 1978, 1990, 2002 and 2014- this is your year!

子 Rat - 丑 Ox - 寅 Tiger - 卯 Rabbit - 辰 Dragon - 巳 Snake -
午 Horse - 未 Sheep - 申 Monkey - 酉 Rooster - 戌 Dog - 亥 Boar

What is 正月 Sho-gatsu?

Shogatsu is probably the most important holiday in Japan. It is a 3-day holiday, January 1 - 3. School and business are closed, and people return home to be with their families for the many special foods that are eaten and the holiday games, which are played.

鏡餅 Kagamimochi

This is a traditional decoration of rice cakes (*mochi*) and a tangerine, which almost looks like a snowman, sitting on a wooden stand. The bottom of mochi is bigger than the top mochi, and the whole thing is topped with a tangerine (*mikan*). Then on the 11th of Jan, the mochi is broken, by hand or hammer, into edible-size pieces, cooked, and eaten. A knife is never used because that would mean cutting family ties.



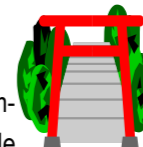
御節料理 Osechi-ryori



There are special dishes which are eaten during the first 3 days of the new year. Each dish and ingredients has a symbolic meaning. For example, *kuro-mame* (shimmered black beans) are for health; *kuri-kinton* (mashed sweet potatoes with candied chestnut), for wealth; and *kazu-no-ko* (salted herring roe), for a bountiful harvest.

初詣 Hatsu-mode

The first visit to a Shinto shrine during the new year is so important, it has its own name: *hatsu* 初 (first) *mode* 詣 (temple visit). This is usually done during the first 3 days of January. People pray for health & happiness in the new year, for their family and themselves. They also buy good luck charms (*o-mamori* お守り) such as a sacred arrow (*hama-ya* 破魔矢) or write their wishes on a painted wooden plaque



Cerebrate New Year
On Jan 2nd & 3rd (Thurs, Fri), 2014
From 11am ~ 3 pm
at the Misawa Aviation & Science Museum

Pound in the new year with mochi-making! Come to the Aviation & Science Museum and try your hand at making rice cakes, the traditional way: pounding it with a wooden hammer and bowl. This event is free. Also, if you spend ¥2,000 in the gift shop, you can participate in a lottery! A small prize will be given out, while supplies last.

New Year Mochi Pounding
On Jan 4, Saturday, 2014
at 10 am & 2 pm
at the Lake Ogawara Citizen's Forestry Park

Experience this Japanese New Year's tradition-- and maybe make it one of your own, during your stay in Japan! Nowadays, mochi is more commonly made by machine-- which makes this traditional method all the more endearing.



Misawa International Center

TEL:0176-51-1255 FAX:0176-51-1211 Email: kokusai@city.misawa.lg.jp

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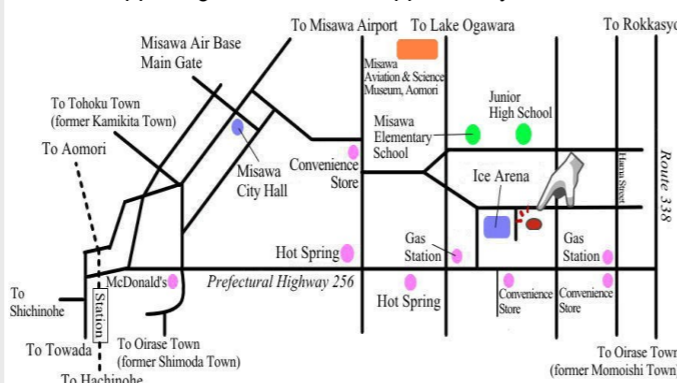
Intercultural Exchange Message Board

Come see our new message board! Located in Misawa International Center Lobby, near the International Exchange Lounge (if you're standing in the entrance way, the board is off to the left). This is message board is for you!



Please post courteous messages or announcements of an intercultural nature such as English lessons, play dates, advice and more. We look forward to hearing from you!

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!



Year-end and new year holiday closures

We will be closed on December 26, 2013 Thursday through January 5, 2014 Sunday for year-end and new year holidays. Thank you very much for your understanding.

The 24th Fresh New Year Concert
On Jan 5, Sunday, 2014 starting from 3 pm
At the Misawa Civic Center

Start off the new year on a good note! Sit back and enjoy the musical talents of the students and graduates of several local music college. Plus, it's FREE! Door will open at 2:30 pm.

Misawa Folklore Performing Arts Show
On Jan 13, Monday, starting at 10am
at the Misawa Civic Center

The show will be performed the Misawa Folklore Performance Conservation Group and will feature a traditional Japanese story. It's FREE!!

New Year Parade of Fire Brigades
On Jan 19, Sunday, starting at 10am
in front of Train Park.

This exhilarating parade is held to pray for no accidents during the new year of 2014. Come and watch the firefighters gallant march!!!

Coming of Age Ceremony
On Jan 12, Sunday, starting from 12:15 pm
at the Misawa Civic Center

This day is a big celebration for all the young men and women in Japan who have turned 20 since April 2, 2013 or will be before April 1, 2014 (based on the Japanese fiscal year). When Japanese turn 20 years old, they are considered legal adults and are allowed to smoke, buy & drink alcohol, and vote.

To mark the occasion, the young ladies often wear *furisode* (a kimono with long sleeves) while the well-wishes, before the young go out to celebrate their new rights with their friends.

This year in Misawa, 198 young ladies and 219 young men will be celebrating their Coming-of-Age. Feel free to wish them well as well as see them in their best finery!



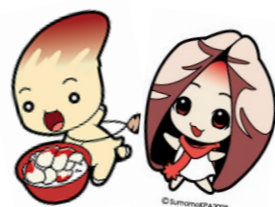
ほっき貝

The Pacific coast near Misawa is home to the clam beds of "Hokkigai" (pronounce "hoke-key guy"), a type of surf clam. The clam digging season is from December to March.

Hokkigai is a medium-sized clam, growing up to 2 1/2 inches (5 cm) tall. The meat is thick and, has rich, sweet flavor. You can enjoy it raw, steamed, stir-fried with butter, and more! "Hokki don" is one of Misawa's winter specialties. Don is a Japanese dish of toppings atop a layer of rice. *Hokki-don* is a big bowl of hot rice topped with clams. (raw or cooked)

This season 32 restaurants in Misawa are offering *Hokki-don* on their winter menus - but each restaurant has their own unique, secret recipe. Take a *Hokki-don* adventure and try them all! Check the following website for a list of participating restaurants and their price range. (Japanese only)

<http://kite-misawa.com/eat/hokki-don/>



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. DO NOT use hot water as the extreme temperature difference will cause the pipe to crack.



Let's Speak in Nanbu! Part 3

Believe it or not, even though Japan is a small country, it has variety of colorful accents and dialects. Not far from Misawa-- the area from southern Aomori to northern Iwate Prefectures--one of the main dialects is Nanbu-ben (ben 弁 means "dialect; speech-type"). Here are some useful expressions!



Pull yourself together !

ほんず 落とすな *Hon-zu oto-su-na!*

Hon-zu : ほんず *right mind*

Otosu-na : おとすな *Don't drop, Don't lose*

You're a crybaby! (You cry too easily!)

お前 なげつつ だなあ *Omae Nage-ttsu da na-*

Omae : おまえ *you*

Nage-ttsu : なげつつ *Cry baby*

新春日本の正月遊び

2014 Shogatsu Celebration by the Misawa International Association

January 26, 2014, Sunday, 1:30~3:30PM
at the Misawa International Center

New to Japan? Or, want to start off the New Year on a good food? Come join us as we demonstrate how to celebrate the New Year, Japanese-style! The New Year season is one of the most important holidays in Japan. Everyone goes home to spend time with the extended family and many activities are done to ensure good luck for the year--- such as eating lucky dishes, writing beautiful calligraphy, and pounding mochi!

Fee for MIA member s :
 ¥600 for adults (7 years/+)
 ¥300 for children (3-6 years)
 Fee for non-member s :
 ¥800 for adults (7 years/+)
 ¥500 for children (3-6 years)



Some of the activities planned:

- * Mochi Tsuki (Rice cake pounding)
- * Makizushi (Rolled-sushi) Making
- * Kakizome (New Year Calligraphy)

Please sign up and pay in advance by 24 Jan 2014, with the Misawa International Association, at the Misawa International Center.

Tel: 080-6022-1349 Email: kokusai@city.misawa.lg.jp

Let's Go See the First Sunrise of the Year!



In Japanese, the name of Japan is spelled 日本, and is read as *Nippon* or *Nihon*, which literally means the "place where the Sun originates from". More poetically, Japan is "the land of the rising sun". In Shinto, the sun goddess, Amaterasu, is the head deity. And so, another New Year's tradition in Japan is to greet the sun and catch the first sunrays of the new year --- even better, from the East Coast! --- for good fortune, health, and happiness. This year, the sunrise in Misawa will be 6:57 am (6:51am in Tokyo). So rise and shine, and head to one of the most popular places to catch the first rays!



① Sabashiro Beach (Ms. Veedol's take off location)

Head North on Route 338. After about a 10-minute drive, you'll see a sign on your right. Turn right at the sign. Drive down the country lane, to the beach parking lot.

② Konpira Shrine

Head North on Route 338, towards Rokkasho. You will see the shrine on your right.

③ Misawa Veedol Beach (next the Misawa Fishing Port)

Head South on Route 338, towards Hachinohe. You will see a sign on your left. Turn left at the sign (traffic light).

④ Kabushima Island

Head South on Route 338 and it turn onto Route 45, towards Hachinohe. After 4.3km, turn left onto Route 19. After 11.8 km, turn left at the 蓮沼 (*Hasunuma*) intersection then turn right at the first traffic light. Then turn right at the first light and stay about 4.5 km. Turn left onto Route 1. After 1.3km, turn right and turn left at the corner. You will see Kabushima Island on your left.

⑤ Ashigezaki Lookout

Head South on Route 1 from Kabushima Island. After about 5 minutes you will see parking lot, coffee shop ホロンバイル and lookout on your left.

