

Misawa International Association News

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

Survival Japanese

February 7, 14, 21, 28 and March 7, Fridays, 10 am - Noon

Fee: ¥2,100

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.

Japanese Intermediate Class

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

Fee: ¥1,800 for 6 classes

Japanese Beginner Class

Every Tuesday, from 1 pm to 2pm

International Friendship Group

Every Wednesday, starting at 7 pm

Hina Matsuri Potluck Party: March 5, Wednesday starting from 10:30am

Fee: ¥100 for MIA member, ¥150 for non-MIA member

Celebrate Girls' Day (Hina Matsuri) by joining us for potluck!

Bring your favorite dish!

Sign Up TODAY

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

For more information, please contact the Misawa International Association.



Misawa International Center

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

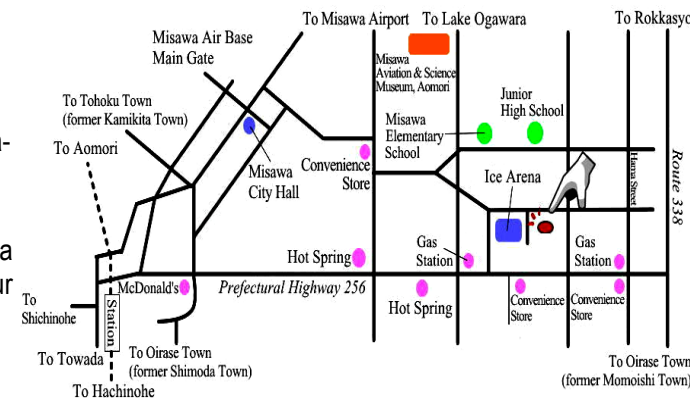
Address: 230-1 Aza-Sonosawa, Oaza-Misawa, Misawa City 033-0022

Thank you for reading!!

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!

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Intercultural Exchange Message Board

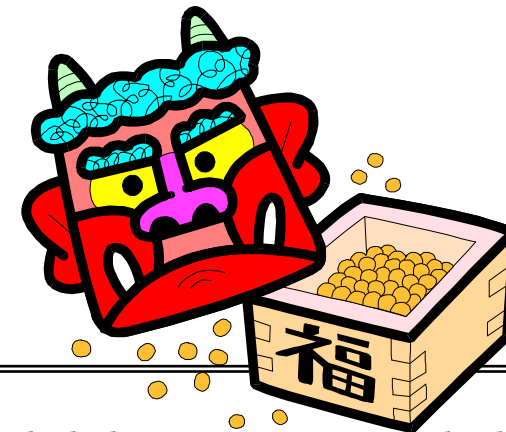
Come see our message board! Located in Misawa International Center Lobby, near the International Exchange Lounge (if you're standing in the entrance way, the board is off to the left). This is message board is for you!

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!



みさわしていにゅーす No.108

Misawa City News February, 2014



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 twice, while shouting, "鬼は外" (Oni wa soto: "Demons, get out"). Then we close the doors or windows and throw the soy beans twice inside our house and shout "福は内" (Fuku wa uchi: "Fortune in"). 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. The tradition of eating Ehou maki originated in the Kansai Area (Hyogo, Kyoto, Nara, Osaka, Shiga and Wakayama). Then the convenience store started selling Ehou maki in 1990, which spread its popularity throughout all Japan. Nowadays, you can easily find ehou maki in convenience stores, groceries, and sushi restaurant. This year's Lucky Direction is "East-Northeast". Good luck!!!

In Tohoku region (Aomori, Akita, Iwate, Miyagi, Fukushima and Yamagata prefectures) and Hokkaido, people throw and eat peanut instead of soybeans. This is because peanuts are easy to clean up. Also, in Japan, peanut are harvested in autumn and winter. Not only are they very nutritious, but they are also very delicious!

Performance Live Vol. 4 on Feb 9, Sun, at 1 pm. at the Sky Plaza Misawa (2nd floor)

This event will be features live music, dance, comedy. All presented by Misawa's own local high students! Come and show your support for the young people of Misawa! Best of all, the show is FREE!!!

Citizen's College Student Show at the Misawa Civic Center

March 1 - 2, Weekend: in the 3rd floor Conference Room

Come and view the artistic displays of pottery, ikebana (Japanese flower arrangement), ink wash painting, calligraphy, tanka & haiku (poetry), and Shigin (Chinese performance poetry). You'll be surprised how near virtuoso these works are.

March 2, Sun: in the Small Hall of the 1st Basement

Traditional Japanese performance arts show in dance, taichi, and shigin.

Flower Arrangement Class on Feb 19, Wed, between 1:30 - 4 pm at the Misawa Civic Center

March 3rd is Hina-matsuri, or Girl's Day. On this day, Japan celebrate its girls and prays for their health and happiness. This class will teach you how to make appropriate floral displays for Girl's Day. Instruction is Japanese but the first 5 people to sign up before Feb 18 will be welcome. Class fee is ¥1,000. All you need to bring are gardening scissors. For more information, please contact at Misawa International Center at kokusai@city.misawa.lg.jp

Free Movie Showing in the Misawa City Library on Feb 8, Sat, at 1 pm

The movie, "March of Dinosaur", will be shown FREE of charge, in the library's Conference Room (on the 3rd floor) (This movie will be shown in Japanese only).

バレンタインデー (Valentine's Day) on February 14, is a popular event around the world and each country celebrates 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 these chocolate to their friends, 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 make your Valentine chocolates by hand.

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!

Misawa Aviation Science Museum Event

Science Show: Magnets--- What's the Attraction? Feb, Every Day, in the Lab

Learn how magnets work and do simple experiments with them. The show is free but participants still need to pay for the museum entrance fee. You don't need to sign up ahead of time but just show up at the lab.

Weekdays: 1st session: 11 am, 2nd session: 12:30pm, 3rd session: 3:30pm, Weekends: 1st session: 12:30 pm, 2nd session: 3:30 pm.

Valentine Craft : Make a Deco-Chocolate Cell Phone Strap

Feb 1 - 2, Weekend, 9:30 am - 3:30 pm in the Special Exhibition Room

*Learn how to make your own Valentine deco-chocolate charm for your cell phone! It's only ¥200 per person, for instruction and materials. Limited to the first 70 people each day. **ALLEGY NOTICE: Epoxy resin adhesive is used for this craft.*

Make a Lampwork Glass Bead

Feb 22 - 23, Weekend, in the Special Exhibition Room

*Try your hand at making your own original lamp work glass beads! Sign up is required by Email: taiken@kokukagaku.jp or Fax: 0176-50-7559 between Feb 1, Sat and Feb 17, Mon. Send your information: Title: “とんぼ玉をつくろう (Tonbo-dama wo Tsukurou”, Name (need all participants name), Age (**Due to safety reasons, children under 6 yrs can not do this craft**), Contact information (phone number), Fax number or Email address and Time that you wish to participate: (1)Feb 22, Sat AM, (2)Feb 22, Sat PM, (3)Feb 23, Sun, AM, (4)Feb 23, Sun, PM. Am will be 9:30- noon, PM will be 12:30- 3:30pm Fee: ¥1,000~¥1,200 and limited to 35 people each day. Children 9years old and under must be accompanied by an adult since this craft requires the use of an open flame. If there is great interest for this class or a certain time, we will hold a drawing for the class seats. And if you qualify, you will be notified by email or Fax, by Feb 19, Wednesday, 5 pm.*

General Information: Misawa Aviation & Science Museum is open 9 am -5 pm, every day except 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.*

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/english.html>

Become a Free Pass Member!!!

Love the museum? Do you know about the free pass? It is also called an “annual passport” and is valid for a year. The annual passport gives you unlimited access to the permanent collection exhibition, a 20% discount on special exhibits, and a 10% discount at the souvenir shop.

There are 3 type of passport available: a Pair Passport (2 people) for ¥2,500 ; an Adult Passport for ¥1,400 and a High school student pass for ¥1,000.

Let's Speak in Nanbu! Part 4

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!



Let's say body parts in Nanbu !

Forehead : なずぎ *Nazugi*

Eye : まなぐ *Managu*

Back of the head : うしろこんど *Ushiro-kond*

Hair : じゃんぼ *Janbo*

Bellybutton : へっちょ *Heccho*

Heel : あぐど *Agudo*

The 15th Annual Misawa International Children's Ice Festival 1 March, Saturday at the Misawa Ice Arena

PROGRAM

8:30 - 9:10 Sign-in and Reception

9:15 - 9:25 Opening Remarks

9:30 - 9:35 Warm-up Exercises

9:40 - 10:10 Ice Bowling

10:15 - 10:50 Dribble & Shot Drills

10:55 - 11:20 Sled Races

11:25 - 11:45 Tug-of-War

11:50 - 12:20 Closing Remarks



Open to
the public!

This free event is open to all children, aged 4 - 12 years old and their parents. There will be many activities for the entire family, including: Tug-of-War, Ice Bowling and more!

Please bring your own gloves, winter boots, warm clothes, and some cash (yen) for the food and drink vending machines.

And Not Far from Misawa City...

Lake Towada Winter Festival 2014

Feb 7, Fri - Mar 2, Sun,
3 - 9 pm on Weekdays, 11 am - 9pm on Weekends
At Yasumiya, Lake Towada

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

Hirosaki Castle Snow Lantern Festival

Feb 8 - 11, Sat - Tue, 9 am - 9 pm, each day.
At Hirosaki Castle Park Site

This festival was started in 1977, to enjoy the mystical magic of winter. It features about 150 snow lanterns, 300 snow sculptures, and a huge snow slide (free of charge). The lanterns and sculptures will be lit from 4:30 - 9 pm, each evening. The beauty and splendor of this castle and its winter landscape will surely take your breath away.

Hirosaki Electrical Fantasy

from Today until 28 Feb, Fri
from Sunset until 11 pm
At the Castle Town of Hirosaki City

Hirosaki city is one of 12 original castle town of Japan and is renowned 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, Mon- 20 Feb, Thu
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).

Nanbu Enburi

Feb 8 - 9, Weekend
in Downtown Nanbu Town
(near the Kenyoshi Train Station)

8:30 am Hono Enburi at Kenyoshi Suwa Shrine
9:00 am Tamakake Enburi at Nanbu Furusato Bussannkan
10:00 am Parade of Enburi at downtown
and Nanbu-geino-densho-kan
Ando more events will be held around downtown and Nanbu-geino-densho-kan.

Momoishi Enburi

Feb 15 - 17, Extended Weekend (Sat - Mon)
in Wakamiya Hachimangu (shrine) and
Down town Momoishi-town

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