

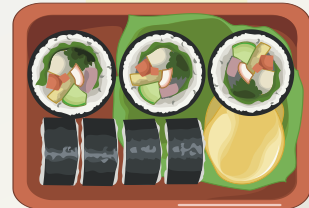
Misawa International Association News

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

NEW

Japanese Language and Cooking Class

March 22, Saturday, 11:30 am. - 2:30 pm.



We will be making sushi rolls learning useful Japanese words in cooking. Class size is limited to the first 20 people to sign up.
Fee: ¥300

Hina Matsuri Potluck Party
On March 5, Wednesday at 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!

Japanese Intermediate Class
March 4, 11 and 18, 2014, Tuesdays 6 - 8 pm.
Fee: PLEASE ASK!

Japanese Beginner Class
Every Tuesday, from 1 pm to 2pm

International Friendship Group
Every Wednesday, starting at 7 pm

All the classes will be held at the Misawa International Center.
For more information, please contact the Misawa International Association.



Misawa International Center

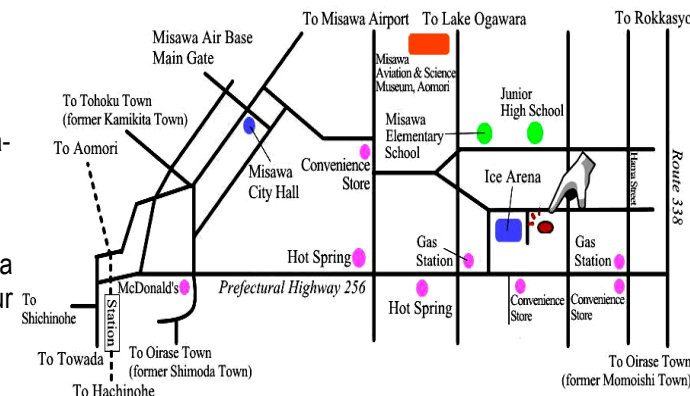
TEL:0176-51-1255 FAX:0176-51-1211 Email: kokusai@city.misawa.lg.jp
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Thank you for reading!!

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!

Subscribe Now!!

Want to stay up to date with what's going on in Misawa City? Get a FREE email subscription to the Misawa City News! Please send us your name and email address to: kokusai@city.misawa.lg.jp



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.109

Misawa City News March, 2014



雛祭り Hina Matsuri

March 3rd is known as the Doll Festival or Girl's Day. It is a day to celebrate girls. Families who have a young daughter display a set of beautiful Hina dolls and eat traditional foods such as "Chirashi sushi" and Clam Soup, to ensure their daughter's good health and happiness. This custom is believed to have started during the Heian period (about 1,000 years ago). Let's celebrate the Doll Festival with sing a Hinamatsuri song, eat sushi and cake that was decollated for special day!

ホワイトデー White Day on 14 March

March 14th is White Day. In Japan, Valentine's Day is celebrated a little differently: only women give chocolate and gifts to men on this day. So new holiday began in 1978 (by a confectionary company, of course) for men to reciprocate for the gifts received. White Day gifts are of a white-color them and include cookies, flowers, marshmallows, or even jewelry. According to the *Sanbai-Gaeshi* Rule **三倍返し**, which means, "triple return", men are to give a gift that is 3 times the value of the received Valentine's gift. Don't forget to give your Valentine a White Day present!

年度末 End of Year

March is the end of the fiscal and academic years in Japan. For both businesses and schools, the year is from 1 April to 31 March of the following year. Many graduation ceremonies and farewell parties are held at schools or companies during this time. Also, most companies become extremely busy getting their accounts and affairs in order. One result is that construction companies become busy with roadwork projects, so that they spend all the money in their budgets.

The 14th Misawa Hokki Festival (Misawa Surf Clam Festival) on Mar 16, Sun from 9:30 am to 2 pm at Misawa Fishing Port

Misawa is know for its Japanese surf clams, locally know as hokki-gai (pronounced, "hoe-key guy"). There will be many events such as a taiko drum show, a clam shucking contest, specialty dishes for sale and much more! See inside, page 3, for more information.

Direction from POL gate: Go straight and turn left at the 2nd light in front of Lawson. Drive until you hit Route 338 and turn right at the light. Go straight until you see the blue sign, "Miss Veedol Beach", and turn left. You will be at Misawa Fishing Port!

3.11 Earthquake Remembrance Moment on Mar 11, Tue at 2:46 pm

Three years ago, the Great East Japan Earthquake occurred, affecting the northeastern seaboard of Japan, from Miyagi prefecture to Misawa City. The Tohoku (northern) region has slowly recovered due to the outpouring of support from not only within Jpana but also by the international community. However, as much as lift has returned to "normal" for most, there are still some communities which are rebuilding. Please join Misawa City in a moment of silence to remember the victims and survivors as well as pray for better future.

A community siren will go off at 2:46 pm. At that time, please respectfully cease your activity for a brief moment in remembrance.

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

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

Misawa Aviation Science Museum March Event Schedule



Science Show - Math in the Lab? : Every day in March

What does math have to do with science? Come and find out in our science lab! We'll also learn about numbers and shapes! 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 following the schedule.

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

Weekends, Holiday, Spring Recess: 1st session: 12:30 pm, 2nd session: 3:30 pm.

Eco Craft: Make a Reusable Hand Warmer !: Every weekend and during Spring Break (Mar 21 - 31)

1st session: 11:00 am, 2nd session: 2:30 pm

Want to keep warm while being good to the environment? Making a reusable, hand warmer! This craft session will be held in the lab and is limited to the first 20 people each day and is only ¥150 per person, for materials used. Children must be accompanied by an adult since this craft requires the use of hot water. Please sign up at least 30 minutes in advance, to sign up for the class. 1st session: 11 am, 2nd session: 2:30 pm

3 D Movie "Pikachu's Summer Bridge Story" at the AV multimedia Hall

Pokemon movie is on the Misawa Aviation & Science Museum now! See the schedule below.

March 1-16, Weekends only: (1) 10am, (2) 10:45 am, (3) 11:30 am, (4) 1 pm, (5) 1:45 pm, (6) 2:30 pm, (7) 3:15 pm

March 21 - 30, Weekday: (1) 10am, (2) 11:30 am, (3) 1 pm, (4) 2:30pm

Weekends : (1) 10am, (2) 10:45 am, (3) 11:30 am, (4) 1 pm, (5) 1:45 pm, (6) 2:30 pm, (7) 3:15 pm

Fee is ¥100 for elementary school and junior high school student, ¥300 for High school Student and older. There is a discount for a Free Pass Member!!!

Primitive Bow & Arrow Making Workshop: Mar 23, Sun, in the Special Exhibition Room

Ever wondered what you'd do for food, if you got lost in a forest? You'd need some food. Try your hand at making your own primitive bow and arrows! Sign up between Mar 1 - 9, by Fax: 0176-50-7559 or by email: taiken@kokukagaku.jp

Please title your sign up notice with "自然の材料で弓矢をつくろう (Shizen no chikara de Yumiya wo tsukurou)", Name of all participants, Age of each child participant, Child's grade, Parent's name, Contact info (phone, email or fax #) and Class time slot: (1) 10:30AM - noon (2) 1:30 pm - 3 pm, Fee: ¥700 and limited to 20 people each time. This class is limited to children 8 yrs and older, for safety reasons. All children must be accompanied by an adult. 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 Mar 12, Wednesday.

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>



8 %

Last October 2013, Prime Minister Abe signed into law to raise taxes in many categories, including public facilities. The tax rate will go up from 5% to 8% this coming April 2014. We apologize for any inconvenience but we hope you will continue to support Misawa and the local communities.

According to this change, the fee and charges for public Misawa's public facilities will be revised as shown in the following chart.

Public facilities		current	new
Misawa Shimin No Mori Onsen (Hot spring)	Misawa city resident	100	110
	Non resident	150	160
Tonami Clan Park	1 seat Go-kart	200	210
	2 seats Go-kart	300	310
Misawa Municipal Indoor Pool	Adult	500	510
	High school student	300	310
Misawa Ice Arena	Adult	550	570
	High school student	350	360
	Junior high school student	250	260

Let's Speak in Nanbu! Part 5

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!



かかさんない *Ka-ka san nai*
This pen doesn't work.

きらさんない *Ki-ra san nai*
This scissor doesn't work.

ほっき貝 Surf Clam



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The Pacific coast near Misawa is home to the clam beds of "Hokki-gai" (pronounce "hoke-key guy")--- which translates as "Outback Northern Clam", but is better known in English as the Japanese Surf Clam. The Japanese Surf Clam is known as the king of winter clams in Japan, since it is one of the bigger clams and has a lifespan of over 30 years. Japanese Surf Clams can be harvested all year round but the preferred clamming season in Misawa is from December to March. This is because many connoisseurs believe that the hokki-gai meat is at its peak---plump and tasty---having been conditioned by the cold winter ocean. And also, because the sand of the Pacific Coast is fine, Japanese Surf Clams are less sandy than many other clams.

Japanese Surf Clams are plumb and have a slightly sweet taste and mild aroma. They can be eaten 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 30 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! See below for restaurant and map. (Japanese Only) <http://kite-misawa.com/eat/hokki-don/>

Frequently Asked Questions

How are Hokki-gai caught?

Japanese Surf Clams are harvested offshore by mechanical dredging, to ensure that the clam shells are not scratched nor broken.

What is Misawa's annual haul of Hokki-gai?

The overall annual haul is about 375 tons. Per day, each boat is allowed a maximum harvest of 200kg. The harvest season is only 4 months long. The boats leave port 6 am and return between 8 - 10 am. The daily harvest is brought into the port market building for bidding by wholesale buyers. And then the purchased clams are usually delivered by 12 noon, the same day.

How much does a Hokki-gai grow, in a year?

The clam growth rate is 1cm (between 3/8 - 7/16 inches) per year. The Japanese Surf Clams which you see in the stores are about 9 - 10 yrs old.

Where is most of Misawa's Hokki-gai catch sold to?

About 80 % of the Hokki-gai caught off the shores of Misawa are sold outside Aomori Prefecture and includes the Kanto area (includes Tokyo). Hokki-gai is rarely sold to the Kansai area, since it is not very popular there.

How to keep in fresh?

Misawa's Japanese Surf Clam are best kept at a temperature of 32 -35 F, which is your average refrigerator temperature. Put the hokki-gai in an open container such as bowl and cover with a moist cloth or paper towels. Place the bowl in a cool, dark area of the refrigerator. Do not store the hokki-gai on ice, submerged in fresh water, or in an air-tight container---all such methods will kill the hokki-gai. Under ideal conditions, the hokki-gai will stay alive for up to a week. In general, clams should not be de-gritted until about 1 - 4 hrs before cooking.

And Not Far from Misawa City...

2014 Nano-hana Festival and Marathon

May 17 - 18 Weekend, 10:00 am to 3 pm
In Yokohama Town



Yokohama Town (not to be confused with Yokohama City) is located northwest of Misawa City and is home to fields of nano-hana or canola plants. Every year in May, the fields of Yokohama Town become canvases of bright yellow flowers, signaling the arrival of spring. Come join the fun! There will be nano-hana field maze, local food specialties, live entertainment, and a marathon!

The 24th Annual Nanohana Marathon will be held on May 18, Sunday. The marathon is open to all but you must sign up on the website listed below, by Mar 28, Friday:

<http://www.lap.co.jp/nanohana2014/index.html> (JP only)

Pray for the Earth 2014

March 9, Sun, 10 am - 4:30 pm
at Komakko Land (Horse Park), Towada City

This is remembrance event for the 3.11 Great East Japan Earthquake is different, being a joyous occasion as opposed to a somber one. This event will feature live entertainment, handicrafts & products from the affected regions and more!

The 27th JAPAN DAY 2014 on Apr 5, Sat

From 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
at the Collocated Club (on Misawa Air Base)

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