

# Misawa International Association News

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Sign Up  
Now!

## Survival Japanese

Apr 21, 28, May 12, 19, 26, Jun 2, 9 and 16 Mondays  
from 10 am to noon

Cooking class on May 19  
Cross-cultural exchange potluck on June 16!  
Fee: ¥3000 for 8 classes  
Free child care available

### Japanese Intermediate Class

May 13, 20, 27, Jun 3, 10, 17 and 24  
Tuesdays 6 - 8 pm.  
Fee: ¥2500 for 7 classes

### ABC Circle

Every Wednesday, from 10:30 - 11:30 am  
Join our cross-cultural exchange circle. Make  
new friends as you learn some Japanese as  
well as teach some English.

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



## Misawa International Center

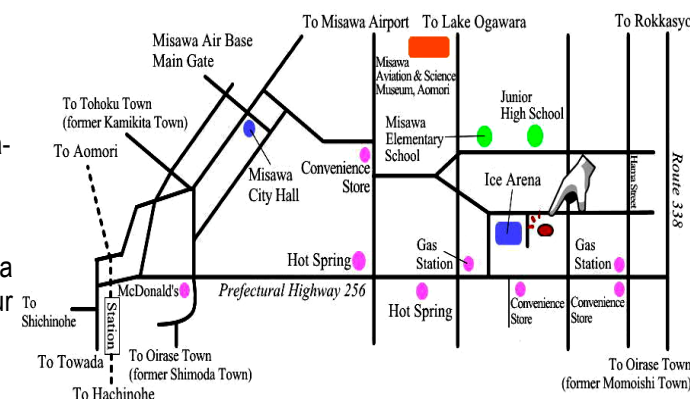
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### Thank you for reading!!

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

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## Intercultural Exchange Message Board

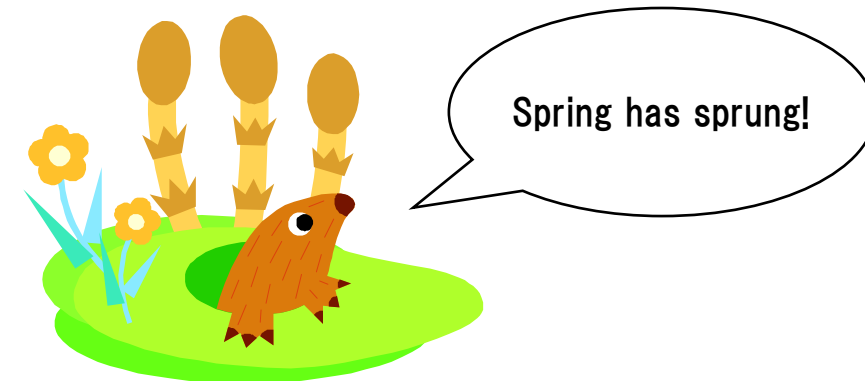
Come see our mes-  
sage board! Located in Misawa International Center Lobby, near the Interna-  
tional Exchange Lounge (if you're standing in the entrance way, the board is  
off to the left). This is message board is for you!

Please post courteous messages or announcements of an intercultural na-  
ture 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.110

Misawa City News April, 2014



## 桜 Spring for Sakura!

The 桜 *sakura*—cherry blossom—is Japan's national flower. Almost every  
school and public facility is surrounded by cherry trees. There are over 600 species  
in Japan alone. *Sakura* can vary from the traditional 5-petal flower to having nearly 100  
petals, such as the *Yae-Sakura*. The flower's color can vary--from white to deep pink--as  
well as form—from upright to willow, such as the *Shidare-Sakura*. The Japa-  
nese prize the ornamental cherry trees but there are several fruit trees too,  
such as the *Yama-Zakura* (wild cherry).

Cherry blossoms begin blooming in the south, in Okinawa, and gradually  
blossom northward, toward Hokkaido. The effect is like a slow cloud of ethe-  
real flowers moving above the land—which is known in Japan as the 桜前線  
or *sakura-zensen* or "the Cherry Blossom Front". This front begins in January  
and ends about the first week of May. With 58 observation sites nationwide,  
the Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA), together with the Japanese Weath-  
er Association, monitors the *sakura-zensen* across the nation. Both organi-  
zations give updates for the approximate flowering and full-bloom dates of  
local areas, such as below:

Area	Flowering Date	Full-Bloom Date
Hirosaki Castle Park	Apr 23, Wed	Apr 29, Tue
Aomori-city	Apr 25, Fri	Apr 30, Wed

The JMA defines the flowering date as when a tree has 5 - 6 blossomed flowers and the full-bloom date  
as when 80% of the tree has blossomed. [For more information, check out the following website:  
[www.tenki.jp/sakura/](http://www.tenki.jp/sakura/)

While the blossoms are in bloom, we have 花見 *hanami* picnics under the sakura. *Hanami* means to  
"to view the flowers" and we take time to enjoy this brief beauty with our family and friends. In the evening,  
paper lanterns are lit around the trees for *Yozakura* or "night-time cherry blossom viewing". *Yozakura* lends  
itself for a magical evening. For some, it can be romantic and for others, another beer party.

Hanami was first held the Heian period 平安時代 (ca. 794—1185) among the gentry but by the Edo period  
江戸時代 (1603—1868), had become a popular event for all people. During this season, many companies  
make items decorated with sakura. Food is no exception--- sakura shapes & colors as well as being used as an  
ingredient. There is no specific way to enjoy a hanami picnic. All you need are some friends, a picnic mat,  
and some favorite foods & drinks. (The grocery stores are also full of ideas for picnic foods).

From April 29, Tuesday through May 6, Tuesday at the Chuo Park (next to the Misawa Civic Center) will  
lit up nightly between 6 - 9 pm. Also opening event will be held on April 29, Tuesday. Come and en-  
joy beautiful Sakura!!

After you had a good time, do your part to enhance the beauty of the cherry blossoms—  
tidy your picnic area and take your trash home.



# 2014 Events and Festivals

Events	Date	Place
<b>Misawa Cherry Blossom Festival</b> Opening ceremony will be held on Apr 27, Sat	April 29, Tue - May 6, Tue Lit up nightly between 6 - 9 p.m.	Chuo Park (next to the Misawa Civic Center)
<b>Spring Onsen Festival</b>	End of April	Citizen's Forestry Park (public spa bath site)
<b>Citizen's Forestry Park Cherry Blossom Festival</b>	April 29, Tue	Citizen's Forestry Park (next to Lake Ogawara)
<b>Shuji Terayama Museum Spring Festival</b>	May 3 - 5, Sat - Mon	Shuji Terayama Museum
<b>American Day</b>	June 1, Sun	From Main Gate to the Civic Center
<b>Lake Ogawara Festival</b>	July 20, Sun	Lake Ogawara Beach
<b>Misawa Tanabata Festival</b>	July 25 - 27, Fri - Sun	Downtown, Main Street
<b>Shuji Terayama Museum Summer Festival</b>	Aug 2 - 3, Sat - Sun	Shuji Terayama Museum
<b>Farm Fiesta in Tonami (Farm Festival of Tonami)</b>	August 3, Sun	Tonami Clan Memorial Village (Roadside Station Misawa)
<b>Misawa Festival</b>	August 21, Thu, Evening to Aug 24, Sun	Miss Veedol Dome on Aug 21 Main Street Downtown
<b>Misawa Port Festival</b>	Aug 31, Sun	Misawa Fishing Port
<b>Misawa Air Show</b>	Sep 7, Sun or 14 Sun *Subject to change	Misawa Air Base
<b>Chuo Park Festival</b>	Early Sep.	Chuo Park
<b>Misawa Sky Festival &amp; Paper Plane Contest</b>	Oct 5, Sun	Hirahata Field #70, Which is on the way to Lake Ogawara
<b>Citizen's Sports Festival</b>	Oct 13, Mon	Minamiyama Multi-purpose Field
<b>Misawa Halloween Festival</b>	Oct 18, Sat	Misawa Downtown& Main Street
<b>Misawa Local Food Festival</b>	Mid-Oct	American Park
<b>Christmas Festival</b>	End of Nov until Christmas Day (Dec 25)	Main Downtown & MainStreet
<b>Tonami Winter Fantasy</b>	Dec 6, Sat: Opening Ceremony. Until Christ- mas Day: lit nightly	Tonami Clan Memorial Village (Roadside Station Misawa)
<b>Misawa Hokki Clam Festival</b>	Mid-March 2015	Misawa Fishing Port
<b>Manpuku Festival</b>	About every 3 months	American Park and/or Miss Veedol Plaza

## 入学式

In Japan, April is the beginning of a new academic year for schools and a new fiscal year for businesses.

Many schools have **入学式** *Nyu-gaku Shiki*---an Entrance Ceremony for all the new students. This ceremony is very important, right along with the Graduation Ceremony. Whereas graduation ceremonies are times of sadness, the entrance ceremony is more cheerful and full of hope. Students are dressed in their new uniforms or their best clothes. Parents dress formally (suit and tie for men) and mothers sometimes wear kimono. Employees also wear formal business suits. The principal or company head gives a rousing speech of encouragement. Everyone is excited to start fresh.

## 8%

Last October 2013, Prime Minister Abe signed into law, a tax increase in many categories, including public facilities. The tax rate will go up from 5% to 8% this coming April 2014. According to this change, the fees and charges for Misawa's public facilities will slightly be increased. We apologize for any inconvenience but we hope you will continue to support Misawa and the local communities.

## 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!



ここ おへでける *Ko-ko O-hede Kero*

Can you tell me about this?

いんずい *In - zui : not comfortable*

When you have something in your teeth and not comfortable. You say "In-zui".

## Misawa Aviation & Science Museum

### Event Schedule for April

#### Science Show - Heat power! : Every day in April

*What happens when hot meets cold? Come and find out in our science lab!*

*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. Apr 19 & 20 weekend wont be held due to the craft workshop.*

*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.*

#### Marble Bracelet Craft Workshop: Every weekend & During Spring Break (Apr 1 - 6)

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

*Turn marble into jewelry to make your original bracelet! 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 all the time. Pleases sign up at least 30 minutes in advance, to sign up for the class. 1st session: 11 am, 2nd session: 2:30 pm*

#### "Pikachu's Summer Bridge Story", a 3D Movie, playing in the AV multimedia Hall

*Come see the Pokemon movie in 3D! See the following schedule for show times:*

*Every weekend: (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*

*Weekdays, during the following days: April 1 - 6 & April 26 - 30: (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.*

#### The 55th Science Technology Week! : Apr 14, Mon - 20, Sun

*How does scientific technology affect our lives? Come and find out! Also, over the weekend---Apr 19 & 20, 9:30 am - 3:30 pm---there will be 6 craft workshops in the Special Exhibition Room and Entrance Hall. Try your hand at making a lamp work glass bead keychainm acrylic resin keychain, a snow glove, a shrink-dink, and more! Each workshop will charge a nominal fee, ranging from ¥150 - ¥200, to over cost of materials.*

**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>*

#### Family Spring Festival

Apr 29, Mon, 9 am to 3 pm  
At Misawa Citizen's Forestry Park

This event will features crafting, go-carts and 鯉のぼり *Koi-no-bori* or *carp streamers* (fish-shaped windsock kites) waving in the wind. The koi-no-bori are flown every spring to pray for the good health and welfare of children. You can see them from Apr 21 to May 9!

#### The 27th Japan Day on Apr 5, Sat

10 am - 4 pm  
at the Collocated Club  
(on Misawa Air Base)

#### Cherry Blossom and Onsen Festival

Apr 29, Tue, 9:30 am to 5 pm  
At Misawa Citizen's Forestry Park

Enjoy the onsen (public spa bath) with a karaoke show, berry dance performance! Mochi pounding will also be held and you can try it. This event will be held at the Citizen's Forestry Onsen that is next to Park.

#### Spring Festival in Towada

Apr 20, Sun to May 5, Mon  
At Kancho-gai Street of Towada City

This event will features 桜流鏝馬 *Sakura-Yabusame*-- a traditional horseback archery, よさこい踊り *Yosakoi-odori*-- a dance that modern rendition of Kochi prefecture's summer dance "Awa Odori" and more!!!

#### Hirosaki Cherry Blossom Festival

Apr 23, Wed - May 6, Tue  
At the Hirosaki Castle Park

This is considered to be the best cherry blossom viewing site in Tohoku. At the park, there are about 2,600 cherry trees, comprised of nearly 50 species. Of the park's somei-yoshino cherry trees, some 300 of them are over 100 years old! Enjoy the arcades of cherry blossoms, petal -filled moats and huge picnic areas. There will also be some rowboats available to rent. You can also enjoy cherry blossoms at night., when the lanterns are lit for the evening. <http://www.hirosakipark.jp/>

#### 2014 Nano-Hana Festival

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!

## And Not Far from Misawa City..

#### Misawa City Indoor Heated Pool Closures

April 14, Mon - 18, Fri  
For facility maintenance

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