

Misawa International Association News

Sign up now!

Japanese Intermediate Class
Jan 26, Feb 2, 9, 16, 23, Mar 2, 9, 16, 23, 30
Mondays
6:00 pm - 7:00 pm
¥3,000 for 10 classes

Survival Japanese
Feb 3, 10, 17, 24, Mar 3, 10, 17 Tuesdays
10:00 am - noon
¥2,800 for 7 classes
Childcare available ¥900 for all classes!
(Including insurance)

Japanese Cooking Class
February 23, Monday
March 30, Monday
Fee ¥500 / day

All the classes required sign up!

ABC Circle
Every Wednesday, 10:30 am - 11:30 am
¥500/circle for MIA member
¥800/circle for Non-MIA member
Join our cross-cultural exchange circle. Make new friends as you learn some Japanese as well as teach some English.

All the classes and events will be held at Misawa International Center. For more information, please contact Misawa International Association.
Phone: 080-6022-1349
Email: okusai@city.misawa.lg.jp

Sign up now!

Misawa International Center
TEL:0176-51-1255 FAX:0176-51-1211 Email:okusai@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.

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

Intercultural Exchange Message Board

Come and see our message board! Located in Misawa International Center Hall, near the International Exchange Lounge (if you're standing in the entrance way, the board is off to the left). This message board is for you! Please post courteous messages or announcements for an intercultural exchange purpose such as English lessons, play dates for kids, advice in Japanese life and more. We look forward to your messages!

みさわしていにゅーす

Misawa City News

No.120

February, 2015



2015 Pageant and Light Show

Feb 6 (Fri) - Mar 1 (Sun)

3 - 9 pm on Weekdays

11 am - 9pm on Weekends

At Yasumiya, Lake Towada

GPS coordinate: N40.428513, E140.895492

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.

Performance Live Vol. 4 on Feb 8 (Sun) at 1 pm.

at the Sky Plaza Misawa (2nd floor)

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

Gokkan Matsuri Feb 7 & 8, Weekends

At Cherry House in Nanbu Town

GPS coordinate: N40.398459, 141.337701

The very first strawberry picking on 7, Saturday (1:30 - 3pm, fee ¥1,000, for first 40 people reserved), making pizza on 8, Sunday (10 am - 2 pm, fee ¥500,) sledding and many activities! Nanbu Enburi will be performed for free on 7, Saturday from 7 pm.

Oirase Winter Light 2014 from now till Feb 28 (Sat) from 4:30 pm - 10 pm

GPS coordinate: N40.580009, E140.995009

Love skiing or snowboarding? After you enjoying it at Yakeyama Ski Site, stop by the Oirase hot spring village for the 30,000 illumination lights Art Festival. A warm hot spring bath will make your day!

Hachinohe Enburi from Feb 17 (Tue) - 20 (Fri) in Downtown Hachinohe City

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.) About 30 dancing teams perform their dance around Hachinohe City for four days. It will be performed at various places, please see details on their website below.

(sorry its only Japanese)
<http://www.hachinohe-cb.jp/enburi/>

Momoishi Enburi

Feb 15 (Sun) 9:30 am at Wakamiya Hachimangu (shrine)

GPS Coordinate: N40.594170, E141.427757

Feb 16 (Mon) 9 am at Oirase Town Hall

GPS Coordinate: N40.595078, E141.428685

Feb 17 (Tue) 1:30 pm
at Oirase Town Hall Branch Office

GPS Coordinate: N40.595078, E141.428685

Noheji Lantern Festival Feb 7 (Sat), 1 - 8:30 pm

At Tourism & Product PR center

GPS coordinate: N40.856265, E141.119063

This winter friendly festival gives you activities such as snow lantern making, Mochi (rice cake) pounding, sledding and more. Enjoy fantastic atmosphere by lights of snow lantern after 5 pm.

Children's Chorus Feb 15 (Sun), from 1:30 pm At Misawa Civic Center

GPS coordinate: N40.684306, E141.369785

Children's chorus group "Mini Veedol" features popular songs such as medley of "Frozen" with their cheerful singing. It's free and held at the small hall.

The 16th Annual Misawa International Children's Ice Festival On Mar 7 (Sat), from 8:30 am at the Misawa Ice Arena

GPS coordinate: N40.679910, E141.398621

This free event is open to all children, aged 6 - 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.

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FEBRUARY TIMELINE

プロ野球キャンプイン:

Professional Baseball Spring Camps Start

Japanese professional baseball teams head off to tropical island "Okinawa" for their spring training camps. This year Nine out of twelve teams start their camps in Okinawa prefecture.

The teams work out through a month to improve their skills and prepare for the coming new baseball season. All baseball fans are welcomed to their training stadium to see their practices so close and have great chance to see exhibition games before regular games start!



立春 Rishun: First day of Spring

According to the Japanese lunar calendar, February 4 is Rishun, the first day of spring. The lunar calendar was used until it adopted the Gregorian Calendar in 1873. There is no special events for the day.

バレンタインデー Valentine's Day

It's a popular event around the world and each country celebrates it in a different way. In Japan, only 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 as courtesy by sense of obligation or politeness. 友チョコ (tomo-choco) is shortened Tomodachi (friend) and it means "friendship chocolate." Women give these chocolates to their friends, both male and female. And last, there is 本命チョコ (honmei-choco) or "lover's chocolate" which a women gives to her special man in her life. Continued to next page.



February 1

February 3

February 4

February 11

February 14

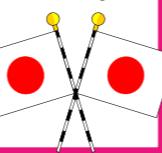
節分 Setsubun: The day before a change in seasons

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 houses and first throw soy-beans (or peanuts) twice outside, 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 houses and shout "福は内" (Fuku wa uchi: "Fortune in.") For children, a father pretends to be a monster, and they chase him around the house throwing soybeans at him while yelling, "Oni wa soto!" See next page for more details.



建国記念日 Kenkoku Kinenbi: National Foundation Day

It's a day the first Emperor Jinmu acceded to the throne and founded the imperial line on this day. Later it became a national holiday in 1967.



Enjoy Winter!



8 Ways to Avoid Cold and Flu

Here are common 8 tips in Japan to help preventing colds and flu naturally.

Do gargle: When you come home from outside, gargling flush out germs in your mouth.

Wash your hands: Frequent hand washing can destroy viruses and germs.

Wear facemask: It's not only preventing you from catching a cold or flu but also preventing from spreading viruses once you catch them.

Ventilate the room: Open windows or use an air conditioner to keep fresh air in you room.

Keep fluids: Drinking water makes your body moisture and flushing toxins out.

Healthy food: Eating nutrient-rich foods such as fresh fruits and vegetables supports your immune system.

Go to bed: Feel your body tired? Get some good rest.

Work out: Getting sweats and working out enhances immune system.

Let's Speak in Nanbu! Part 14

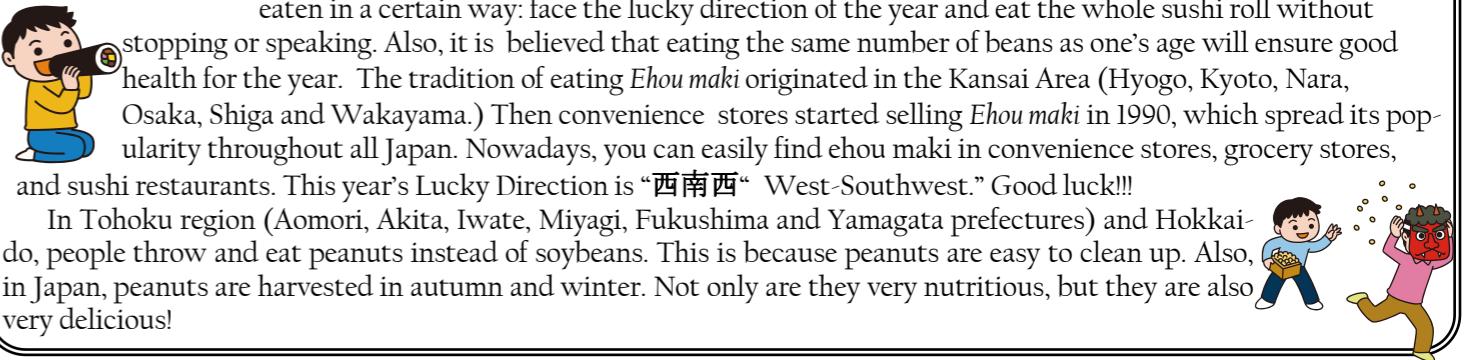
Believe it or not, even though Japan is a small country, it has a variety of unique accents and dialects. Not far from Misawa-- the area from southern Aomori to northern Iwate Prefectures--one of the main dialects is Nanbuben (ben弁 means "dialect; speech-type.") Here are some useful expressions!

せば わかえる すけ Se ba, wa kaeru suke
So I'm out now. / I'm leaving.

せば Seba: so わかえる Kaeru: leave
わ Wa: me / I

西南西

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 convenience stores started selling Ehou maki in 1990, which spread its popularity throughout all Japan. Nowadays, you can easily find ehou maki in convenience stores, grocery stores, and sushi restaurants. This year's Lucky Direction is "西南西" West-Southwest." Good luck!!!



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

バレンタインデー Valentinesday

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. In recent years, *Tomo-* chocolates (friendship chocolate) and *Gohoubi-chocolates* (treat yourself) are popular among young women. They enjoy to make homemade chocolates or buy chocolates to exchange between girlfriends. *Gohoubi-chocolates* are to treat themselves with fancy chocolates for their hard work!



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 a jewelry.

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

Misawa Aviation & Science Museum Event Schedule

Science Show - Powering light bulbs!

Why the light bulbs work without batteries? Come and find out at Museum Lab. The show is free but participants still need to pay for the museum entrance fee. No advanced sign up is required, just show up at the lab on time schedule.

Weekdays: (1) 11:00 am (2) 12:30 pm (3) 3:30 pm

Weekends, Holiday: (1) 12:30 pm (2) 3:30 pm

Work Shop - Rubber-Band Powered Car: Feb 1 - 28 (Sat, Sun and Holiday) at Museum Lab

Make a rubber-band powered car, and you can learn about characteristics of rubber-band! This special holiday weekend event is first come, first served, and It is limited to 20 people. Fee is only ¥100 per person including materials. Children must be accompanied by an adult all the time. Please sign up at least 30minutes prior to the schedules below.

(1) 11:00 - 11:40 am (2) 2:30 - 3:10 pm

Valentine Craft: Feb 7 - 8, Weekend at the Special Exhibition Room

Learn how to make your own REAL sweets Fridge Magnet using cast resin! It's only ¥200 for instruction and materials. Limited to the first 100 people each day. Children under 9 years old must be accompanied by an adult all the time. Start accepting from 9:15 am till reaching 70 participants.

Lampwork Glass Bead Craft: Feb 21 - 22 Weekend at the Special Exhibition Room

Try your hand at making your own original lamp work glass beads! Fee is between ¥1,000- and ¥1,200- for materials and limited to 33 people each day. Required to be 7 years old or older. Children 9 years old and under must be accompanied by an adult all that time since this craft requires the use of an open flame. Start accepting from 9:10 am till reaching 33 participants.

General Information: Misawa Aviation & Science Museum is open 9:00 am -5:00 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 ¥510; High School Student ¥300; Free for 15 years old and younger. For more information, check out their website at <http://www.kokukagaku.jp/english.html>