



Japanese Beginner's Class

Feb 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, March 7, 14, 21, Mondays, 5 pm - 6 pm
Fee: Please ask!

Japanese Intermediate Class

Feb 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, March 7, 14, 21, Mondays, 6 pm - 7 pm
Fee: Please ask!

Japanese Advanced Class

Feb 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, March 7, 14, 21, Mondays, 6 pm - 7 pm
Fee: Please ask!

日本語 Nihongo Beginner Class

Feb 2, 9, 16, 23, Mar 1, 8 and 15, Tuesdays, 10 am - noon
Fee: Please ask!
Come and learn Japanese conversation!

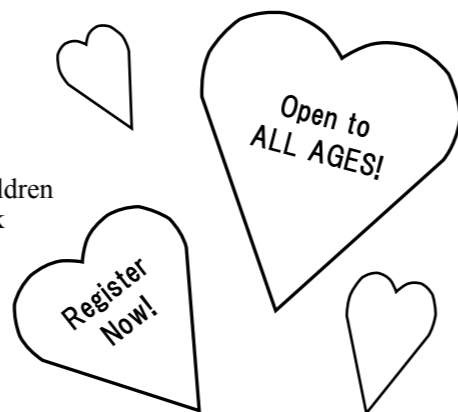
ABC Circle

Feb 3, 10, 17, 24, Mar 2, 9, 16 Wednesdays, 10:30 am - 11:30 am
500 yen / circle for MIA member
800yen / 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.

Setsubun & Valentine's Celebration Wednesday, 17 February, from 5 pm to 6 pm at Misawa International Center

Participate in Setsubun and Valentine's Day celebration with Japanese friends. Children will do Mamemaki (bean scattering) to get rid of the bad from the previous and seek good fortune for the upcoming year as well as make Valentines.

Register with the A&FRC at (from base phone) 226-4735 or (from cell phone) 0176-77-4735 by Friday, 12 February



Bus Schedule

Between Sky Plaza Misawa and Misawa International Education Center



To MIEC*	Bus #75	Bus #63	Bus #75	Bus #63	Bus #63	Bus #75	Bus #63
America Hiroba	9:11	10:59	12:11	12:59	14:49	15:51	17:49
Ice Arena	9:30		12:30			16:10	
Fukaya *	9:31	11:23	12:31	13:23	15:13	16:11	18:13

To Sky Plaza	Bus #75	Bus #75	Bus #63	Bus #63	Bus #75
Fukaya *	9:09	11:09	12:21	14:21	14:39
Ice Arena	9:10	11:10			14:40
America Hiroba	9:28	11:28	12:46	14:46	14:58

MIEC: Misawa International Education Center
America Hiroba is front of Sky Plaza Misawa.
Fukaya: front of Taro Onsen.
(GPS coordinate: 40.675868, 141.392492)

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: kokusai@city.misawa.lg.jp



Performance Live Vol. 6 Feb 7, Sun, at 1 pm at the Misawa Civic Center

This event will features live music, dance, and 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!!!

Heart Full Concert Feb 28 (Sun), starting from 4:00 pm At the Misawa City Hospital in the Atrium (on the 1st Floor)

GPS coordinate: N40.6669614, E141.389802
Local performance group "Rising Star" will perform. Fee is FREE!!!

Oirase Winter Light 2014 from now till February 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 or Mt. Hakkoda, stop by the Oirase hot spring village for the 30,000 illumination lights Art Festival.

2016 Pageant and Light Snow Feb 5 (Fri) - 28 (Sun) 3 - 9 pm on Weekdays 11 am - 9pm on Weekends At Yasumiya, Lake Towada

GPS coordinate: N40.428513, E140.895492
The festival features wonderful ice sculptures, a huge snow slide, live music and fireworks. There will be an igloo bar and local dishes to enjoy. Let's chill out!

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

Hachinohe Enburi from Feb 17 (Wed) - 20 (Sat) 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/>

Komakko Land Winter Fiesta
Feb 14 (Sun) 4:30 pm - 9:00 pm
At "Komakko land" (Towada)
GPS coordinate: N40.6146661, E141.130321

Come out and enjoy this winter wonderland!
There will be a day full of activities such as sledding, tubing, treasure-hunting, story time and more!



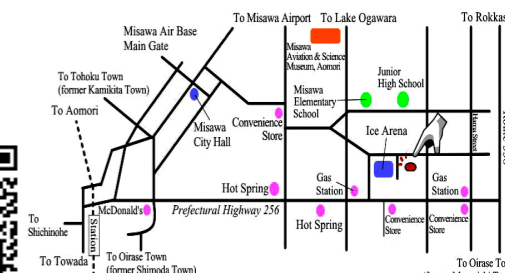
Misawa City Office, International Relations Division

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FEBRUARY TIMELINE

2月 如月 Nigatsu; Nigatsu is February in Japanese and is also called "Kisaragi." Kisaragi means the month of wearing extra layers of clothes that it gives you the idea and feeling of how cold the weather can be in this month.

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 throughout the 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 and have great chances to see exhibition games before regular games start!



立春 Rishshun: First day of Spring

According to the Japanese lunar calendar, February 4 is Rishshun, the first day of spring. The lunar calendar was used until Japan 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, usually 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.



In recent years, share-chocolates such as Tomo-chocolates 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!

According to surveys, only 8.3% of women buy Honmei-choco "Lover's chocolate". You can tell most chocolates are cute and it for sharing among women.



Let's Speak in Nanbu! Part 25

Believe it or not, even though Japan is a small country, it has a 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!

火さあだれ Hisa adare

Get warm by the fire (heater)!

道路がしみてる Doro ga shimi teru
Roads get freeze.



February 1

February 3

February 4

February 11

February 14

節分 Setsubun:

The day before a change in seasons

"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.



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.

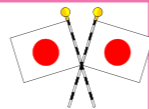


Also, it is believed that eating the same number of beans as one's age will ensure good health for the year. This year's Lucky Direction is "南南東" South-southeast." Good luck!!!

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.



Thank you for reading our Misawa City

Misawa Aviation & Science Museum Event Schedule



Science Show - Learn about microwave! : Feb 1 (Mon) - 28 (Sun) at Museum Lab

What happen when you put something that you shouldn't in the Microwave? Come and learn about principle of lever at the 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 at the schedule time:

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

Work Shop - Make a Air Racer : Feb 6 (Sat) - 28 (Sun) at Museum Lab

Come and make a Air Racer like a hovercraft. This special weekend event is for first-come, first-served people, and it is limited to 20. Fee is only ¥50 per person including materials. Children must be accompanied by an adult all the time. Please sign up at least 30minutes prior to the schedule time: (1) 11:00 am (2) 2:30 pm

Valentine Craft: Feb 6 (Sat) - 7 (Sun) at front of Museum Lab

Learn how to make your own sweets key chain! It's only ¥200 for instruction and materials. Limited to the first 100 people each day. Children must be accompanied by an adult all the time. Start accepting from 9:15 am till reaching 100 participants.

Toy Hospital in Museum: Feb 28 (Sun) , 10:00 am - noon

Do you have any toys that need to be repaired? Toys worth repairing often have sentimental value, monetary value or both. Bring them to the Toy Hospital and have the toy doctor bring new life to your broken toys!! Medical care is FREE!!! We will ask you to pay for repair parts and hospitalization fee as needed. (¥100 / time). Please bring the power cable, instruction manuals and all accessories that comes with electronic toys. Dangerous toys such as "Toy Guns" are not acceptable due to safety reasons.

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 under. For more information, check out their website at <http://www.kokukagaku.jp/english.html>

ほっき貝

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 it is better known in English as the Japanese Surf Clam and as the "king of the king" of the 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 have a slightly sweet taste and mild aroma. They can be eaten raw, steamed, stir-fried with butter!

"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!

Frequently Asked Questions

How are Hokki-gai caught?

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 at 6:00 am and return between 8:00 - 10:00 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. 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.

