

Valentine's Day in Japan 日本のバレンタインデー

The days are getting longer, the flowers are starting to bloom and life is starting to flourish once again. Just kidding! It's still very cold in Tokachi and spring is a little while away yet. But the season of love doesn't wait on the weather and so Valentine's Day has come around once again.

Valentine's Day is widely celebrated in Japan on the 14th of February. In western countries, Valentine's Day is a time when both men and women buy gifts for their partners or treat them to a romantic meal etc., but Japan has created its own tradition that's a little bit different. In Japan, Valentine's Day is when women give chocolate to the people around them. This chocolate can be split into roughly three categories:

Giri-choco 義理チョコ

This is chocolate that's required to be given to colleagues, though it's also often given to family or even exchanged between students and teachers. It's regarded as a token of thanks or appreciation, and is usually something small and somewhat inexpensive.

Tomo-choco 友チョコ

Lately it has become popular among Japanese women to give chocolate to their friends whom they love in a non-romantic

way. While this kind of chocolate is probably nicer than giri-choco, it still pales in comparison to....

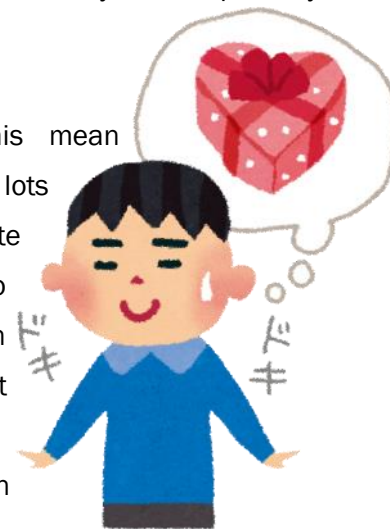
Honmei-choco 本命チョコ

This is chocolate given to your "special someone" with the intent of conveying your feelings towards them. This chocolate is usually somewhat more expensive and extravagant, or may even possibly be homemade.

So does this mean that men get lots of chocolate and have to do nothing in return? Not quite!

While men get a free

pass for Valentine's Day, men are expected to return the favor and give chocolate to all those they received chocolate from on the 14th March, which is called "White Day". So if you're lucky enough to get some chocolate on Valentine's Day, make sure to take notes on who you got chocolate from and pay them back next month!



**We hope you and all your loved ones
have a very happy Valentine's Day**

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Events at TIRC and in Tokachi and Obihiro

When	What	Where/Contact
2/15 (Sat) 19:00-21:00	International Potluck Night (Morocco) インターナショナルポットラックナイト(モロッコ) Meet local and international residents while enjoying a dish from around the world. This time, our guest Imane from Morocco will introduce us to the Moroccan pot cuisine called "Tagine" (stew with prunes and almonds). TIRC Kitchen Fee: Free of charge (no registration required) Please bring a dish and drink to share. Organized by the Committee for Improvement of the City	Tokachi International Relations Center 森の交流館・十勝 0155-34-0122 tirc@city.obihiro.hokkaido.jp
2/19 (Wed) 19:00-21:00	International Mini-Volleyball Night 国際ミニバレー・ナイト Meet new friends from around the world while enjoying a fun and easy sport. Organized by Tokachi International Association	
2/22 (Sat) 16:00-18:00	Japanese Conversation and Learning Table 日本語講座 Improve your Japanese language skills in a friendly environment. TIRC Winter Garden Fee: Free of charge Organized by Tokachi International Association	
2/1 (Sat) 2/15 (Sat) 10:00-12:00	Walking Café サンポカフェ Join this nature program designed for adults, and put on a pair of snowshoes to take a walk through a winter landscape. Look for animal tracks and observe the winter ecology of the flora and fauna. Afterwards, relax in the natural scenery while drinking warm drinks. <i>1000 Yen participation fee. Wear warm clothes and gloves.</i>	Tokachi Ecology Park 十勝エコロジーパーク 十勝エコロジーパーク財団 0155-32-6780 http://www.tokachi-ecopark.jp/
2/1 (Sat)	Roadside Station "Stella★Honbetsu" Winter Illumination 道の駅「ステラ★ほんべつ」冬あかり Have a magical nighttime experience while viewing ice candles. Various events will also be provided for your entertainment.	Roadside Station "Stella★Honbetsu" 道の駅「ステラ★ほんべつ」 0156-22-5819
2/1-2/2 (Sat-Sun)	39th Shibare Festival 第39回しばれフェスティバル The Shibare Festival is all about celebrating the coldness of Japan's coldest town, Rikubetsu. There will be plenty of activities to delight both young and old and a bonfire to warm yourself up at afterwards.	Uenbetsu Event Center, Rikubetsu 陸別町ウエンベツ イベントセンター 0156-27-3990 http://www.shibare.com
2/2 (Sun) 10:00-15:00	Children's Hall Winter Festival 児童会館冬まつり In cooperation with the Obihiro Ice Festival, the Obihiro Children's Hall will be holding craft activities, science experiments and more!	Obihiro Children's Hall 帯広市児童会館 0155-24-2434

International Festa in Tokachi 2020 国際フェスタ in とかち 2020

International Festa in Tokachi is back again!

国際フェスタ in とかち 2020
Tokachi International Association

International Festa in TOKACHI 2020

入場無料 10時~15時

中勝から世界へ羽ばたく人に
2020.2/8・9 (土) (日)

森の交流館・十勝
JICA北海道センター(帯広)
帯広市西20条南6丁目(帯広2)

スペシャルラリーに参加したお子様に景品プレゼント!
来場したお子様に英語の絵本プレゼント!

会場: 森の交流館・十勝
インターナショナル・プリスクールによる子ども向けレッスン「英語で遊ぼう!」(参加無料、先着順、小学生以下)
10:00~11:30, 13:30~15:00

会場: 森の交流館・十勝
活動展示・紹介
●帯広畜産大学留学生等による料理紹介(各日3種類)
●国際姉妹・友好都市交流活動等の紹介

会場: JICA
JICA紹介
●JICA館内ツアー
●JICAブース
常設展示「おびるっく」
特設展示「SDG特集」
●JICAレストラン「国際フェスタ限定メニュー」
マレーシア料理「ナシレマ」

会場: JICA
国連UNHCR協会コーナー
●難民アスリート写真パネル展示
JICA青年海外協力隊体験談コーナー

キッズコーナー
●アフリカの楽器「レインスティック」を作ろう!
世界の民族楽器を演奏してみよう!

フェアトレードコーナー (4店舗予定)
●フェアトレード食品や雑貨などの販売

無料映画上映会 & トークショー
●「バレンタイン〜櫻」
2月8日(土) 13:00~14:30
2月9日(日) 10:30~12:00

主催: 十勝国際アンテナ協会 ●共催: 帯広市、独立行政法人国際協力機構 (JICA) 北海道センター(帯広) ●協賛: 外国人留学生まじつきりくを考える会、国際UNHCR日本委員会
問合せ先: 十勝国際アンテナ協会事務局 電話: 0155-34-0122 E-mail: toucity@obihiro.hokkaido.jp

On February 8th and 9th, experience international exchange and cooperation through various activities. Join English conversation lessons for kids, tour JICA's facilities and join a free movie viewing and talk show!

This year's activities include:

- ◇ Movie viewing and talk show
- ◇ English lessons conducted by a international preschool based in Obihiro
- ◇ Showcase of international cuisine by foreign students featuring dishes from Indonesia, Egypt, Madagascar and more!
- ◇ Kids Corner
Make your own African musical instrument called a "rain stick" and try out traditional musical instruments from around the world.

The JICA Restaurant has also prepared a special International Festa exclusive item on their menu just for the event! Head down to Tokachi International Relations Center and JICA Obihiro to enjoy the event!

Organized by Tokachi International Association
Co-organized by the City of Obihiro, JICA Hokkaido (Obihiro)
With the cooperation of the Committee for Improvement of the City, Japan for UNHCR

57th Obihiro Ice Festival 第57回おびひろ氷まつり

北国の冬に
めくもりと
よるごびを

第57回 57th Obihiro Ice Festival
おびひろ氷まつり

1月31日(土)・2月1日(日) 帯広市 緑ヶ丘公園一帯

Make the most of Obihiro's cold weather by heading to the 57th Obihiro Ice Festival being held in Midorigaoka Park!

Enjoy nighty fireworks, local food, beautiful ice sculptures and events to warm you up this cold February!

January 31st to February 2nd @ Midorigaoka Park

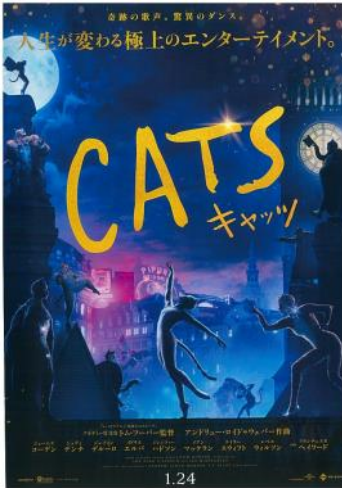
<http://obihiro-icefes.com/> ←Check up on the latest info on their homepage!

Movies At Cinema Taiyo, in Obihiro

(Nishi 3, Minami 11)
Tel: (0155) 20-1525

Times and movies are subject to change! (for space reasons not all movies are listed)

To confirm, call or check online at: http://www.taiyogroup.jp/cinema/theater/_obihiro/movie.shtml



Title	Language	Dates
Ford vs Ferarri	Jpn Sub	Until 20 th
Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker (スカイウォーカーの夜明け/ <i>Sukai uōkaa no yoake</i>)	Jpn Sub/Dub	Until 27 th
Cats	Jpn Sub/Dub	All Month
Bad Boys for Life	TBD	All Month
Parasite	TBD	From 14 th Until 26 th

Events Continued

When	What	Where/Contact
2/8-2/9 (Sat-Sun)	38th Kamishihoro Winter Balloon Meeting 第38回上士幌ウインターバルーンミーティング Witness the magical contrast of colourful hot air balloons between the blue sky and snowy white ground. You can also ride in a balloon for a fee, and get a 360°	Kamishihoro Koukuu Park 上士幌町航空公園 北海道バルーンフェスティバル 組織委員会 01564-2-2111
2/14 (Fri) 15:00-20:30	30th Ice Candle Night 第30回氷灯夜 On the evening of Valentine's Day about 5000 ice candles light up the night in Memuro Town. An evening of fun is guaranteed not just for couples, but for families and everybody else as well.	Memuro Park 芽室公園内 芽室町 商工観光課観光物産係 0155-62-9736 s-kankou@memuro.net
2/15-2/16 (Sat-Sun) 10:00-15:00	Nakasatsunai Snow Art Village 2020 スノーアートヴィレッジ なかさつない2020 Come play with the snow to your hearts content! This is a hands-on event where you can experience the most the Tokachi winter has to offer via tours and of snow art drawn on a large snowy field, activities such as dog sledding and snow tubes, and a snowy gym at Chikudai KIP. Admission is free!	Nakasatsunai Rural Holiday Village Feriendorf 中札内農村休暇村 フェーリエンドルフ 中札内村観光協会 0155-68-3390 http://www.facebook.com/tenwinters/
2/16 (Sun)	37th Churui Nauman All Hokkaido Sled Race 第37回忠類ナウマン全道そり大会 Come watch this special sledding tournament, where all the sleds are made of cardboard! Sleds are judged based on their speed and design, and winners are chosen for each category.	Churui Hakugindai Ski Area, Makubetsu 幕別町忠類白銀台スキー場 幕別町商工会忠類支所地域振興課 01558-8-2111 http://www.makubetsu.jp/kankobussankyokai/?p=4919

Obihiro Pioneer can be found at the following locations: Obihiro City Hall, Tokachi International Relations Center, Obihiro University International Center, Obihiro Tourism and Convention Center inside the Obihiro JR Station, Obihiro Public Library, Tokachi Plaza, Cinema Taiyo, Joy English Academy and online at www.city.obihiro.hokkaido.jp (click on "Information for Foreigners")

"Obihiro Pioneer" is a newsletter published monthly by the Obihiro International and Domestic Relations Section for residents of the Tokachi District and related parties. The contents of this newsletter do not necessarily represent the official views or opinions of the International and Domestic Relations Section or the City of Obihiro. Questions? Tel (0155) 65-4133 or send e-mail to the Editing Team at international@city.obihiro.hokkaido.jp.