

Some International Events being held in Obihiro!



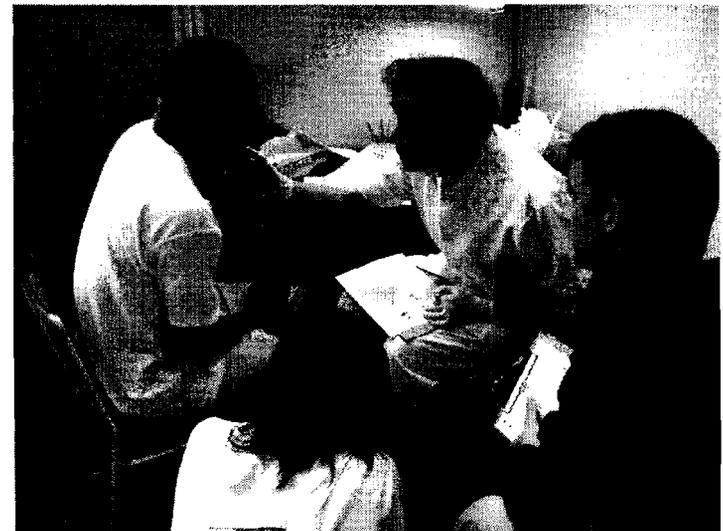
Story Telling Around the World: Every month we have someone read a childrens' book from their homeland in their native tongue as we translate it into Japanese.



Country Introductions: We have Obihiro residents teach something about their unique culture; be it language, cooking, or even dance!



International Festa: We hold a large event in a local department store that anyone can come to and learn about the world! (see back page for details)



Various Other Events: We also hold various events to support the health and daily lives of native and foreign Obihiro residents. This is a dental health event.

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Last Year at the Sledding Tournament

(see 2/17)
below!



Tokachi Events

2008

February

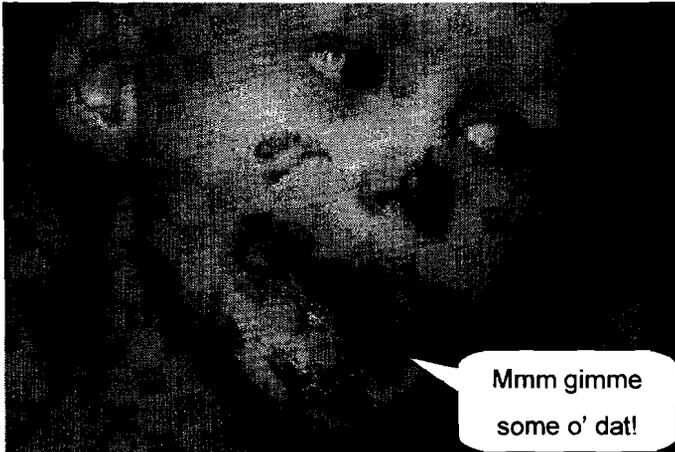
When	What	Where/Contact #
Some Ongoing Events (End in March)	<p>Draft Horse Racing: They've renovated all of the Obihiro racetrack facilities, so it smells nice now!</p> <p>Shikaribetsu Lake Kotan: A bar made completely of ice, outdoor onsen, and igloos too!</p> <p>Tokachi River Hakucho Festival : Pretty lights!</p>	<p>FOR MORE INFO Refer to past WHIO or email us at international@city.obihoro.hokkaido.jp</p>
2/2 - 3 (Sat - Sun) 17:00- 20:00	<p>Ice Candle Night: There will be lots of ice-candles creating a serene winter display. This year there will be free hot milk or sweet sake for the first 100 people to show up! There will also be pig soup and oden for sale.</p>	<p>道の駅なかさつない Michi no Eki in Nakasatsunai 0155-67-2321</p>
Must sign-up this month!!! Battle on 3/9 (Sun) 9:00~	<p>All Tokachi Snowball Battle: We aim to use snow to the maximum in order to popularize winter leisure sports, as well as create a meeting place for the people of Tokachi. We will be using Japanese rules. There will be 2 divisions: ①Elementary/Middle School kids and Girls ②Normal Division Please contact us for application details (see editor contact info on back page)</p>	<p>旧中札内高校グラウンド Former Nakasatsunai High School Playing Field (30 minutes from Obihiro) 0155-67-2929</p>
2/14 (Thu) 15:00 - 20:00 (fireworks@19:30)	<p>Ice Light Fantastic World: Memuro is at it again. This year, Memuro park will be filled with the a fantastic glow of 4000 candles to set the mood. There will be a snow slide and maze as well as hot air balloon rides. The climax will be fireworks launched into the serene night sky. Hot food and drink will be on sale.</p>	<p>旧芽室高校多目的広場 Former Highschool Playground (near Koritsu Memuro Hospital) 0155-62-9726</p>
2/16 (Sat) 18:00~19:30	<p>English Rakugo: A famous comedian, Mr. Kaishi Katsura, is coming up from the main island just to do a live performance here in Obihiro! He will be mixing English and Japanese for a hilarious comedic show! Check it out, for FREE!</p>	<p>とかちプラザレインボーホール Tokachi Plaza, Rainbow Hall RSVP ASAP 0155-34-0122</p>
2/17 (Sun) 9:30~	<p>Nauman All Hokkaido Sledding Tournament: Sledding Speed Attacks, Sledding technique performances, parent and child races, cardboard sledding, human bowling, grab-the-flag-at-the-top-of-the-hill race, and more! Sign up for activities is 8:30 to 9:25AM</p>	<p>幕別白銀台 スキー場 Hakugindai Ski Hill in Makubetsu 01558-8-2141</p>
2/23 (Sat) 14:00 - 15:00	<p>Story Telling Around the World: This month's children's book is going to be from RUSSIA, read in both Russian and Japanese. We're going to play games and have fun while listening to a story from a distant, yet wonderful land. Our target audience is children from 3 to 8 yrs. old.</p>	<p>森の交流館・十勝 Tokachi International Relations Center (in the library room) 0155-34-0122</p>

February Home Cookin'

Valentine's Day is in the middle of this month, and things can get a little confusing because they do things different here in Japan. In the past, it was more of a Sadie Hawkins thing, where the girls gave chocolates to guys they like, guys they had to kiss up to, and guys they felt sorry for. The men reciprocated a month later on White Day (March 14).

These days, customs vary – some offices have banned the obligatory chocolate exchange, while others see it as a fun way to cement human relations. If you plan to give, ask the other women in your office. If you find yourself receiving chocolate, be sure to keep a list, and buy something of approximately equal value on White Day.

It can be a nice gesture to bring in a home-made treat, not to mention a great way to promote your culture. One problem is that many treats from North America require an oven . . . a big oven, if you are mass producing goodies. So here are a couple of simple recipes that you can make on the stove-top or even the microwave.



***Yes, that's *chocolate* on his face.

Rice Crispy Chocolates

2 bars (about 140 g.) of good quality chocolate. I prefer Ghana.

1/2 cup of cocoa-flavored puffed rice cereal (or other cereal will work)

Butter some candy molds (100 yen shop) or line a baking tray with aluminum foil and butter it.

Melt the chocolate in a double boiler on the stove, or put it in a glass bowl and microwave it for two minutes. Stir, and microwave for 30 seconds. Repeat until the chocolate is smooth and creamy. Add the cereal, and stir until coated. Transfer to the molds or smooth out on the baking tray. (Be sure that you don't drip ANY water in the chocolate during the warming process – your chocolate will “seize up,” and while it'll be edible, it won't be pretty.)

When cool and solid, pop out of the molds or cut into squares or diamonds. Wrap decoratively and present.

Chocolate Covered Almond Toffee

1/2 cup sliced almonds, toasted

1 cup (200g) butter

1 cup (200g) sugar

3 Tbsp. water

1 Tbsp. light-colored “origoto” syrup or “mizuame”

150 g. good chocolate, chopped

Line a large tray with aluminum foil, making sure you can grab the edges. Butter it and scatter the almonds over the tray.

Take a heavy saucepan and butter it. Melt the butter, then add the sugar, water and syrup or mizuame. Cook and stir over medium heat until the mixture boils. Reduce to medium, and continue stirring and boiling at a steady rate until your candy thermometer reads 290F/143C. Watch out for scorching after 280F/137C. You can also test the candy with a cup of cold water. It will make a distinct “crack” when a drop of candy hits the cold water.

Remove from heat and pour the candy into the prepared pan. Let stand about 5 minutes, then score (make lines in the top so it's easy to break later), and scatter the top with chocolate. The chocolate will soften, and you can spread it easily across all the toffee. Chill until firm, then lift out of pan, remove foil, and break into pieces. Store in an airtight container, or wrap in decorative film or foil.

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The Japanese Corner (vocab found in or related to this month's issue)

雪合戦 (ゆきがつせん): “snow-ball battle” The Japanese are pretty serious about their snowball fights.

アイス (あいう): “ice” but this can also mean “ice cream,” and even though the Japanese word for ice is 氷 (こおり), they tend to use the katakana アイス for events and such in Hokkaido.

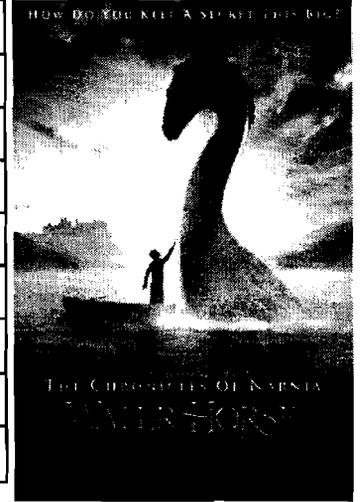
水飴 (みずあめ): “starch syrup” used in the recipe above

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

February Movies At Cinema Taiyo, Obihiro

(Nishi 3, Minami 7) Tel: (0155) 20-1525

Title	Language	Starts - Ends
American Gangster (violent gangster flick)	English	Feb 1 – Mar
The Water Horse: Legend of the Deep	English	Feb 1 – Mar
Elizabeth: The Golden Age (starring Cate Blanchett)	English	Feb 16 – Mar
Silk (Europe-on-Japan romance)	English	Jan 12 – Mar
Bridge to Terabithia	English	Jan 26 – Feb 22
Sweeney Todd (starring Johnny Depp)	English	Jan 19 – Mar
L: change the worLd	Japanese	Feb 9 – Mar
Team Bachisuta no Eikou	Japanese	Feb 9 – Mar



KIDS (japanese movie)	Japanese	Feb 2 – Mar
Mouryou no hako	Japanese	Feb 2 – Feb 15
Bleach (from the manga)	Japanese	Feb 2 – Feb 22
Ginshoku Season	Japanese	Feb 1 – Feb 22
Okabeh	Japanese	Jan 26 – Mar
Kagehinata ni saku	Japanese	Jan 26 – Feb

International Festa!!!

Come to the 8th floor of the Fujimaru department store in Obihiro to learn about cultures from around the world directly from people of those countries! Also come learn about the different international organizations Obihiro-Tokachi has to offer. There will be free international food and drink, international fun and games, and even international story time for the kids.



Place: Fujimaru Department Store, Downtown Obihiro

Date: February 8th to the 13th

Time: Feb.8-12th 10:00 to 18:00

Feb.13th 10:00 to 16:00

Entrance is free so, come as you are!

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What's Happening in Obihiro?

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, Joy English Academy and

online at www.city.obihiro.hokkaido.jp

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