

What's Happening in Obihiro?

International and Domestic Relations Section Newsletter

Issue 215

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International Festa 2011 (国際フェスタ2011)



Join us on February 5th and 6th (Sat & Sun) in the Tokachi Plaza's Atrium for the 2011 International Festa!

The International Festa is an event where you can come to learn more about international relations and cooperation, as well as interact and communicate with foreign residents in the Tokachi area. The goal of the event is for everyone to learn more about the great big world around them and better understand their fellow neighbors while advancing international cooperation.

We'll be having events up on stage, a quiz rally, a display of various picture books from around the world, information panels about various countries around the world, as well as various other activities.

We'll be there most of the day so don't

worry that you have to come at a specific time, just come down and check out what we have when you get a chance. Tokachi Plaza, where the event is being held, is right by the JR Obihiro Station, on the south side, so it's very easy to get to by train or bus and you have access to great downtown shopping and other activities once you've stopped by to see us!

For more details please contact the Tokachi International Relations Center at 0155-34-0122 or tirc@city.obihiro.hokkaido.jp. We'll be waiting to see you on Saturday and Sunday!

Event Details

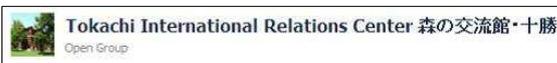
Cost: Free!

Where: Tokachi Plaza Atrium

When: 2/5 (Sat) 10:00-17:00
2/6 (Sun) 10:00-16:00

2月5日(土)、6日(日)の2日間、とかちプラザ1階のアトリウムで、国際フェスタ2011を開催します。ステージイベント、クイズラリーの実施、外国の絵本の展示、国際交流団体の活動のパネル展示などを行います。どうぞお気軽にお立ち寄りになってください。更に詳しい情報は、森の交流館・十勝までお問い合わせください。

TIRC is now on Facebook! (フェイスブック)



The Tokachi International Relations Center (TIRC) now has a group page on Facebook. Come and join us to receive information on our events and other announcements. You can also provide comments and suggestions regarding our events and services, or interact with the other members of the group.

To join the group, you need to have a Facebook account. Just log on and search for "Tokachi International Relations Center" or "森

の交流館・十勝", then click "Join Group". If you're already in the group and you know someone who might be interested, feel free to invite them as well.

If you don't have a Facebook account, why not sign up now? It's a fun and popular way of keeping in touch with friends, family, colleagues, or any social group, and it's totally free. For more information, please contact TIRC Coordinator Hector at 0155-34-0122 or by email at tirc@city.obihiro.hokkaido.jp.

森の交流館・十勝のグループページがFacebook (フェイスブック)に登場しました! このグループ(コミュニティ)では、森の交流館・十勝のイベント情報やお知らせ等を英語と日本語でお届けします。Facebookのアカウントをお持ちの方はぜひご参加ください。Facebook内の検索で「森の交流館」で検索してください。沢山のご参加をお待ちしております。

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Events in Tokachi and Obihiro



When	What	Where/ Contact
2/5 (Sun) 10:00-17:00	International Festa: (国際フェスタ) Come learn about different countries and cultures from all around the world! We'll have plenty of people to chat with so you'll be able to learn more about their counties directly from them. It's a great chance to learn more about this world we live in!	森の交流館・十勝 Tokachi International Relations Center TEL 0155-34-0122 FAX 0155-34-0165 tirc@city.obihoro.hokkaido.jp
2/6 (Sun) 10:00-16:00		
2/9 (Wed)	Mini-Volley. (ミニバレー) Held every 2nd Wednesday of the month. Played with an inflatable ball, this is a much less intense version of volleyball for all ages.	森の交流館・十勝 Tokachi International Relations Center TEL 0155-34-0122 FAX 0155-34-0165 tirc@city.obihoro.hokkaido.jp
2/7-13 (Mon - Sun)	Sapporo Snow Festival: (さっぽろ雪まつり) Did you make it to the ice festival in Obihiro last month? Did you enjoy all that ice and snow sculpted into cool things? Then you'll probably like the snow festival in Sapporo too!	札幌 Sapporo
2/12-2/13 (Sat) 6:30-17:30 (Sun) 7:00-13:00	Kamishihoro Winter Hotair Balloon Meeting: (第29回上士幌ウインターバルーンミーティング) Like hot air balloons? There are going to be a lot of them in Kamishihoro on the 12th and 13th, so go check it out.	上士幌町航空公園周辺 Kamishihoro Koukuu Park TEL 0156-42-2111 FAX 0156-42-3355 syoukougankouka@town.kamishihoro.hokkaido.jp
2/20 (Sun) 5:00	Sledding Tournament: (第28回忠類カウマン全道そり大会) Come watch people fly down an iced up hill in homemade vehicles that would make an vehicle inspector cry. Check out the pictures below!	幕別町白銀台スキー場 Makubetsu Hakugindai Ski Slope TEL 0155-54-2703



Setsubun (節分) - Demons out! Happiness in!



It's an all out war on the demons and you've already been drafted for service! Grab your bean-shooter and aim at anything that's red and has horns! Setsubun (which is written 節分) literally refers to the changing of the season. It is the holiday that celebrates the beginning of spring, and it is quite a unique event.

On February 3rd (or 4th depending on the year), Japanese people celebrate Setsubun with a Bean Throwing Ceremony or "Mamemaki". They throw beans all around their house shouting "Oni wa soto! Fuku wa uchi!" which means "Out with demons! In with good luck and happiness!". This is an old tradition related to the planting of beans in the spring, but it mixed with other traditions and now it is a ceremony for driving out evil spirits and calling in happiness and good luck into your home. One person might act the part of a demon and run all around the house, while everyone else in the family throws beans at him or her. Another tradition is to pick up and eat the same number of beans as your

age. Seeing as how Japanese people are some of the longest lived people in the world, they're going to be eating a lot of beans this year!

There is another Setsubun tradition that is most commonly practiced by those funny people in Kansai (western Japan). Eating an entire roll of sushi on the night of Setsubun is said to make your dream come true. Yep, that's right; you have to devour the entire thing. You have to eat it correctly though. First, face that year's lucky direction. Then, down the entire roll without saying a word! The sushi roll is said to "roll in" good fortune, and people eat it without cutting it in the hopes that their human relationships with friends, family, and other won't be cut off. Lately they have become popular all over the country.

節分とは、毎年2月3日の行事です。新しい年（春）を幸多き年にするために、大豆の炒り豆（北海道は落花生をまく家が多い）をまいて、災いをもたらす「鬼」を追い払います。豆をまくときには「オニは外、福は内」と掛け声をかけます。豆まきが終わったら、自分の歳+1個の豆を食べます。豆を食べることで邪気を祓い、病に勝つ力もついて福を呼ぶとされています。

また、「恵方巻」という海苔巻きを1本、その年の恵方を向いて丸かじりすると、願い事が叶ったり幸運に恵まれ、無病息災や商売繁盛をもたらすとされています。福を逃さぬよう、海苔巻きを包丁で切ったり、食べている途中で喋ったりしてはいけません。



Time to drive the demons out of your house for the year!

Valentine's Day (バレンタインデー)

February 14th is the day to confess your love to the man of your dreams. Yes, unlike in the west, Valentine's Day in Japan is all about women giving chocolates to the men in their lives. Confess your love to that guy you've had your eye on with some chocolates.



Men, don't think you're off the hook! On March 14th, also known as White Day, you

will be expected to give candies or other goodies to any girl who gave you chocolates for Valentine's Day!



バレンタインデーは2月14日で、女性が男性にチョコをあげます。

男性たちは来月、ホワイトデー、3月14日を忘れないでください。チョコを貰った女性にあめなどを渡してください。



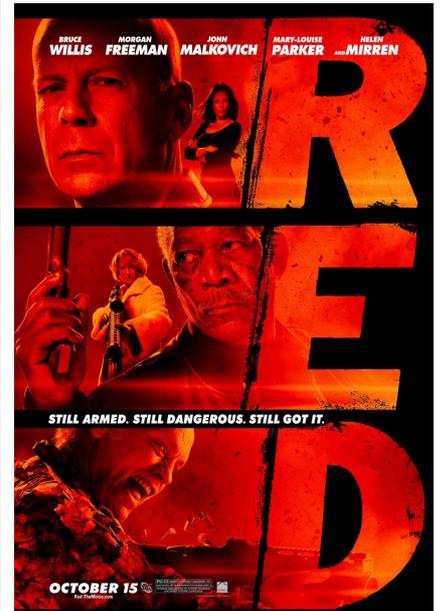
Got chocolates this month? Don't forget about white day next month!

Movies At Cinema Taiyo, in Obihiro

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

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

Title	Language	Dates
Unstoppable	English	Ends 4th
Robin Hood	English	Ends 10th
The Green Hornet	English	Ends 25th
The Social Network	English (PG12)	All Month
Red	English	All Month
Space Battleship Yamato	Japanese	Ends 10th
Aibou – The Movie II –	Japanese	Ends 10th
Leonie	Japanese	Ends 10th
Abacus and Sword (Bushi no Kakebou)	Japanese	5th–25th
Taiheiyou no Kiseki—Fox to Yobareta Otoko—	Japanese	Starts 11th
Ashita no Joe	Japanese	Starts 11th
1778 Stories of Me and My Wife (Boku to Tsuma no 1778 no Monogatari)	Japanese	All Month
GANTZ	Japanese (PG12)	All Month



Movies Ending This Month: Unstoppable, Robin Hood, The Green Hornet, Space Battleship Yamato, Aibou, Leonie, Abacus and Sword

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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, Cinema Taiyo, Joy English Academy and online at www.city.obihiro.hokkaido.jp

“WHIO?” 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 WHIO Editing Team at international@city.obihiro.hokkaido.jp.