

# What's Happening in Obihiro?

International and Domestic Relations Section Newsletter

Issue 214

Jan 2011

## Obihiro Ice Festival



One of the biggest events of the year! Come check out some cool ice and snow sculptures while enjoying some fresh air!

Since the end of January is the coldest time of the year, in order to get people out from under their kotatsu and outside, the city of Obihiro holds an annual Ice Festival in Midorigaoka Park (around West 12 South 19). There will be plenty of hot food and drinks to keep everyone going and of course a lot of amazing ice and snow sculptures. There will also be fireworks at night!

I encourage everyone to come check it out, but remember that it's cold outside so wear a lot of warm clothes and consider bringing some hand warmers (called kairo) with you.



おびひろ氷まつりは帯広市の三大祭りの一つです。ご家族の皆さんで参加してみませんか？  
とても寒いので、防寒対策をして、お出かけください。

### Event Details

**Date:** January 28~30

**Time:** 10:00-20:00 (17:00 Sun)

**Place:** Midorigaoka Park (West 12 South 19, Obihiro)

**Fee:** Free!



### Sapporo Snow Festival (February 7th—13th)

In addition to the ice festival here in Obihiro, there is also the snow festival in Sapporo. This is probably the biggest tourist attraction in Hokkaido, so if you've never been there, take advantage of the chance to go check it out!

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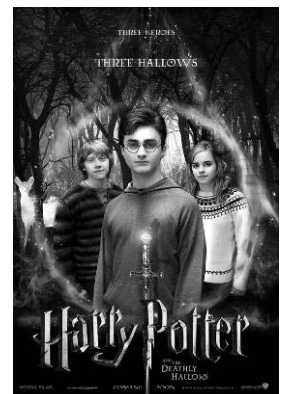
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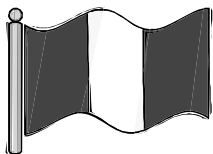
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## Events in Tokachi and Obihiro

When	What	Where/Contact
1/8 (Sat) 10:00	<b>Cross Country Skiing Class: (クロスカントリースキー講座) (Free!)</b> Learn how to cross country ski! Contact Mr. Ono at the TIRC for details or to sign up. If you are interested in participating you will need to tell him your height and shoe size. No previous experience needed!	森の交流館・十勝 Tokachi International Relations Center TEL 0155-34-0122 FAX 0155-34-0165 tiro@city.obihiro.hokkaido.jp
1/10 (Mon)	<b>Coming of Age Day: (成人の日)</b> Held every year on the second Monday of January. See article on page 3 for details.	帯広市役所 Obihiro City Hall
1/12 (Wed)	<b>Mini-Volley: (ミニバレー)</b> 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 tiro@city.obihiro.hokkaido.jp
1/15 (Sat) 19:00-21:00	<b>Potluck Night: (ポットラックナイト)</b> Bring a dish or drink to share with everyone and enjoy the great food and conversation while making new friends	森の交流館・十勝 Tokachi International Relations Center TEL 0155-34-0122 FAX 0155-34-0165 tiro@city.obihiro.hokkaido.jp
1/22 (Sat) 10:00-11:30	<b>Kids' Playground: (キッズ・プレーグラウンド)</b> Want to have fun with your kids on the weekend? Bring them to our playground! They can play and interact with Japanese kids and you can make friends with other parents! Children from 0 to 6 years old are welcome!	森の交流館・十勝 Tokachi International Relations Center TEL 0155-34-0122 FAX 0155-34-0165 tiro@city.obihiro.hokkaido.jp
1/22 (Sat) 19:00-21:00	<b>23rd International Talk: (第23回インターナショナル・トーク)</b> This month's talk will be about the West African nation of Nigeria. Seats are limited to 25 people and sign up is from the 4th to the 22nd. Please register by phone, fax, or email.	森の交流館・十勝 Tokachi International Relations Center TEL 0155-34-0122 FAX 0155-34-0165 tiro@city.obihiro.hokkaido.jp
1/30 (Sun)	<b>Children's Hall Winter Festival: (児童会館冬まつり)</b> <a href="http://www.city.obihiro.hokkaido.jp/jidoukaikan">http://www.city.obihiro.hokkaido.jp/jidoukaikan</a>	帯広市児童会館 Obihiro Children's Hall 0155-24-2434
1/28-1/30 (Fri - Sun) 10:00-20:00 (Sun till 17:00)	<b>Obihiro Ice Festival: (第48回おびひろ氷まつり)</b> This is one of the 3 big festivals of the year! Come check out some great ice and snow sculptures and play in the snow!	緑ヶ丘公園 Midorigaoka Park
2/7-13 (Mon - Sun)	<b>Sapporo Snow Festival: (さっぽろ雪まつり)</b> Go see what all those tourists come up to Hokkaido for! Snow, Ice, Cold!	札幌 Sapporo



## Kid's Playground

### Join our playground!

Have kids? How about bringing your kids to play with other kids in our playground on a Saturday morning? Like kids, but don't have your own? Come down as a volunteer and give the Japanese kids and parents who come an opportunity to interact with foreigners. You can have fun playing with the kids, become acquainted with locals and help build a foreigner friendly city!

Kids' playground is a large indoor space filled with toys arranged in different corners, where kids and their parents can play freely.

Parents who bring their kids to our playground want to make friends with foreigners. "I knew people from different countries would be here, so I thought I could meet them and practice my English", said a Japanese mother who came to the event last November. "The Japanese are sometimes hesitant about talking



to foreigners because they are not used to them. Having kids interact with people from various countries from an early age helps them develop a positive attitude towards foreign people", added a preschool teacher who also participated in the event. Playing with Japanese kids and their parents, you help them realize there's a whole world around Japan, so why not come join us?

Kids' playground is taking place January 22nd at the Tokachi International Relations Center from 10:00 to 11:30. Don't miss it! For questions or information call (0155) 34-0122.

いろいろな国の親子に出会ってみませんか？  
キッズ・プレイグラウンドでは、お子さんと遊びながら、異文化に触れ合えます。  
1月22日10:00～11:30に森の交流館のキッズプレイグラウンドに遊びに来てください。  
お問い合わせ：森の交流館・十勝  
TEL: (0155) 34-0122



Bring your kids down to the TIRC for some fun!

## Coming of Age Day (成人式)



Every year in January, all of the people who turned 20 over the past year (or will turn 20 before April, depending upon the locality), get dressed up in fancy kimonos and suits and gather together at their local city hall. The ceremony is significant for them to celebrate their new life as adults and be aware of the new responsibilities that come with being an adult.

成人式とは、毎年1月に、20歳を迎えた新成人が、着物やスーツなどを着て、住所地や出身地の成人式会場に集まり、スピーチを聞きます。成人となった門出を祝い、社会人としての責任を自覚する、という意義があります。式典が終わると、新成人達は友人との再会の時間を楽しみます。



Turned 20 over the past year? Come down to city hall to officially become an adult.

# 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](http://www.taiyogroup.jp/cinema/theater/_obihiro/movie.shtml)

Title	Language	Dates
Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Part 1	English & Japanese	Ends 28th
Red	English	Starts 29th
Unstoppable	English	Starts 7th
Kamen Rider Ozu & W	Japanese	Ends 23rd
HeartCatch PreCure	Japanese / Anime	8th - 28th
Shrek Forever After	Japanese / Anime	Ends 28th
1778 Stories of Me and My Wife (Boku to Tsuma no 1778 no Monogatari)	Japanese	Starts 15th
Leonie	Japanese	Starts 22nd
Gantz	Japanese (PG12)	Starts 29th
Space Battleship Yamato	Japanese	All Month
Norwegian Wood	Japanese (PG12)	All Month
Saigo no Chushingura	Japanese	All Month
Aibou - The Movie II -	Japanese	All Month



**Movies Ending This Month:** Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Part 1, Kamen Rider Ozu & W, HeartCatch PreCure, Shrek Forever After

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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](http://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](mailto:international@city.obihiro.hokkaido.jp).