

Japanese Classes (日本語講座)



It's that time of the year again. The leaves are budding, the snow is melting,

and we are providing Japanese classes! If you're new to the area, or just want to improve your Japanese, why not sign up for our Japanese classes. Classes are scheduled to run from 5/8 till 7/10, every week on Tuesday. There are 3 different classes: a fun conversation class held from 10:00am-12:00pm; an absolute beginner class and an upper level beginner class, both held from 6:00pm-8:00pm (yes we moved the time to be slightly earlier than previous years).

So send us an email with a subject of "Japanese Class" and put your name and contact information in the body to sign up for classes. Please also indicate which class you would like to join. The two night classes will have a short exam at the start of the first class to help determine everyone's levels and we will divide up the class based upon the outcome.

How to sign up

Contact Tokachi International Association at either:

Obihiro City Hall - International and Domestic Relations Section (3rd floor)
West 5 South 7
Tel: 0155-65-4133
Email: international@city.obihiro.hokkaido.jp

Or

Tokachi International Relations Center
West 20 South 6 (next to JICA)
Tel: 0155-34-0122
Email: tirc@city.obihiro.hokkaido.jp

If sending email please use a subject of: "Sign up for Japanese Class"

Class Details

Beginner Class: Class designed for beginners to Japanese and people who have never studied Japanese before. Classes are from 18:00-20:00.

Intermediate Class: A step above the beginner class. This course is designed for advanced beginner/lower intermediate level students. Classes are from 18:00-20:00.

Fun Conversation Class: A class you can attend and have a relaxing time chatting with the teacher and fellow students. The teacher also regularly serves tea at the end of class! Classes are from 10:00-12:00.

All classes are expected to start Tuesday, May 8th and end on July 10th. Classes will be held every Tuesday.

十勝インターナショナル協会では、十勝に住んでいる外国人のために、日本語講座を行います。日本語の勉強に興味を持っている方をご存知でしたら、是非この講座をお知らせください。授業は5月8日から7月10日まで、毎週、火曜日に行う予定です。初級レベル1と2や楽しい会話の授業があります。

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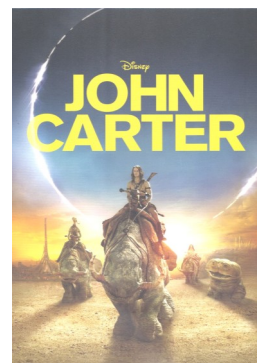
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Events in Tokachi and Obihiro

| 1/7 (Sat) 10:00-11:30 | What | Where/Contact |
|--|---|--|
|  | Mini-Volley (ミニバレー): Held every 2nd Wednesday of the month. A simple sport to play and enjoy! | 森の交流館・十勝 Tokachi International Relations Center TEL 0155-34-0122 tiro@city.obihoro.hokkaido.jp |
|  | International Potluck Night (ポットラックナイト): Bring a dish or drink to share with everyone and meet new friends while enjoying food from all over the world. This time, you can try making Myanmar snacks called Mont Lin Ma Yar. | 森の交流館・十勝 Tokachi International Relations Center 0155-34-0122 tiro@city.obihoro.hokkaido.jp |
|  | Tokachi Amigos Mini-Volleyball (とちあミーゴスミニバレー): Let's meet friends from all over the world while enjoying a fun and easy sport! Fee: 100 yen | 森の交流館・十勝 Tokachi International Relations Center Contact: Hector TEL 080-3295-4875 |
|  | Obihiro Zoo Summer Season (おびひろ動物園 夏期開園): Obihiro Zoo opens for the summer season! | おびひろ動物園 Obihiro Zoo |
|  | Koufuku Happy Ceremony (幸福ハッピーセレモニー): Participate in a mock wedding ceremony and ring the happiness bell. Fee is ¥3,000 per couple. You will receive a certificate with photograph. Tuxedo and dress are provided as part of the fee. You can find out more information at: http://www.city.obihoro.hokkaido.jp/shoukoukankoubu/kankouka/c030301happy_ceremony.jsp (there is a link to English information near the top of the page.) | Koufuku Happy Ceremony tourism@city.obihoro.hokkaido.jp |

Chef Hector's Cuisine Corner (ヘクター調理人の料理コーナー)

April has come and it's the time for new beginnings in Japan. Though winter has not quite left the building here in Hokkaido, it is the time of the year when the cherry blossoms go into full bloom in mainland Japan. Interestingly, April is also the time for new year celebrations in some parts of the world, such as the Theravada Buddhist countries of continental Southeast Asia. So to our readers from Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, and Myanmar, we'd like to wish all of you a happy new year.



Speaking of Myanmar, this month we'd like to introduce to you an interesting Burmese snack called "Mont Lin Ma Yar". Its name means "husband and wife snack", and it consists of two small circular cakes that are joined together to make a whole (hence the name). It is made from rice flour and is cooked in large iron pans with shallow hemispherical molds, strikingly similar to the pans used to make Japanese takoyaki. It is a popular snack commonly sold in street food stalls all over Myanmar.

To make Mont Lin Ma Yar, you will need rice flour, baking soda, water, chopped green onions, ground ginger, salt, and sugar. Mix all the ingredients together to make the batter. Heat up the pan and grease the molds with cooking oil. If you do not have the traditional iron pan, you can use a takoyaki pan instead.

Put the batter into the molds and fry until the outer part is brown and crispy. You can also add boiled beans, sesame seeds, or raw quail eggs on top while frying. When cooked, place one mini-cake on top of another before serving.



Of course, reading about Mont Lin Ma Yar isn't nearly as satisfying as actually making and tasting it, so we're offering you a chance to experience it on your own. Join us at the International Potluck Night on Saturday, March 21st, 7:00 PM at the Tokachi International Relations Center, where you can get to meet local and international residents while enjoying food from around the world. Don't forget to bring a dish or drink to share with everyone.



Join us on Saturday the 21st and try out some Mont Lin Ma Yar and fun conversation with local and international residents.

今月の料理コーナーでは、たこ焼きに似ているミャンマーのお菓子「モンリンマヤー」をご紹介します。モンリンマヤーは、「夫婦のお菓子」という意味で、二つの半球を組み合わせたお菓子です。米粉、ベーキングパウダー、ネギ、しょうが、豆、うずらの卵で作られ、たこ焼き鉄板に似ているもので焼きます。また、4月21日(土)19:00から森の交流館・十勝で開催する予定の「ポットラック・ナイト」では、モンリンマヤー作り体験コーナーを行いますので、作ってみたい方はぜひご参加ください。参加は無料で、食べ物または飲み物一人一品をご持参ください。多くの皆様のご参加をお待ちしております。

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 |
|--|-------------------------------|-------------|
| John Carter | English (2D) Japanese (3D) | Ends 25th |
| Battleship | English | Ends 25th |
| This Means War (Black & White) | English | Ends 25th |
| Larry Crowne (Shiawase No Kyoushitsu) | English | Starts 11th |
| Dark Shadows | English | Starts 19th |
| Men in Black 3 | Not yet decided | Starts 25th |
| Bokura Ga Ita (First Half) | Japanese | Ends 4th |
| Bokura Ga Ita (Second Half) | Japanese | All Month |
| Detective Conan: The Eleventh Striker | Japanese | All Month |
| Crayon Shin-chan: Arashi o Yobu! Ora to Uchū no Princess | Japanese | Ends 20th |
| THERMAE ROMAE | Japanese | All Month |

New Residency Card for Foreigners (新しい在留管理制度)

A new residency system will start on 7/9 for foreigners residing in Japan. This new system will replace the old system (Alien Registration Card) that is run by individual municipalities.

The new system is for medium and long term residents of Japan, and will not apply to the following individuals: (1) Persons granted permission to stay for 3 months or less; (2) Persons granted "Temporary Visitor" status; (3) Persons granted "Diplomat" or "Official" status; (4) Persons recognized by Ministry of Justice ordinance as equivalent to the foreign nationals in the aforementioned (1) to (3); (5) Special permanent residents; Persons with no resident status.

New residents should have their card issued at the airport when entering Japan (only issued at Narita, Haneda, Chubu, and Kansai airports when the system starts in July). Residents already residing in Japan will be able to continue to use their current Alien Registration Card until they are issued a new card. For most individuals already residing in Japan, you will get your card when you apply for an extension to stay in Japan, though you can apply for a card before then. There are cases where it may be necessary to apply for your card before applying for an extension for stay in Japan, so please verify your situation.

Please visiting the following website for more details on the new system:

http://www.immi-moj.go.jp/newimmiact_1/en/index.html

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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, 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.