



# Events at TIRC and in Tokachi and Obihiro



When	What	Where/Contact
1/8 (Wed) 19:00-21:00	International Mini-Volley Night (国際ミニバレーナイト): Meet friends from all over the world while enjoying a fun and easy sport!.	森の交流館・十勝 Tokachi International Relations Center 0155-34-0122 tirc@city.obihoro.hokkaido.jp
1/18 (Sat) 10:00-11:30	21st Kids Playground (第21回キッズプレイグラウンド): Come with your children to learn and play while meeting local families. This month, you can learn and enjoy games and music from Madagascar.	森の交流館・十勝 Tokachi International Relations Center 0155-34-0122 tirc@city.obihoro.hokkaido.jp
1/25 (Sat) 19:00-21:00	41st International Talk (第41回インターナショナル・トーク): Learn more about the world and exchange ideas with other participants. This month's talk will be about Chinese New Year traditions around the world.	森の交流館・十勝 Tokachi International Relations Center 0155-34-0122 tirc@city.obihoro.hokkaido.jp
11/1 (Fri) - 3/31 (Mon)	Winter Fest in Ecopark (ウインタフェスinエコパ): Enjoy snowshoe walking, snow raft tours, a foot spa, and other fun winter activities.	Tokachi Ecology Park 十勝エコロジーパーク 0155-32-6780 www.tokachi-ecopark.jp
Early December to Late February	Shintoku Welcome Illumination (いらっしゃいしんとくイルミネーション): JR Shintoku Station, the gateway to Tokachi and Eastern Hokkaido, will be illuminated in 4 dreamy colors.	JR Shintoku Station JR新得駅前 0156-64-0522
Early December to Late February	Tokimeki Illumination 2013 (ときめきイルミネーション2013): Around 17,000 bulbs will light up the trees in the park. Perfect for night drives.	Sarabetsu Village Exercise Square 更別村運動広場 0155-52-2115
Late December to Early March	Shiroganedai Ski Resort Open (白銀台スキー場): The ski resort will be open to both advanced, novice, and family skiers. There will also be night skiing.	Churui Shiroganedai Ski Resort 忠類白銀台スキー場 0155-88-2111
Late December to Early March	Akenogaoka Ski Resort Open (明野ヶ丘スキー場): A ski resort with courses ideal for beginners. There's also a skiing school.	Akenogaoka Ski Resort 明野ヶ丘スキー場 0155-54-6606
Early January to Late February	Sahoro Lake Wakasagi Fishing (サホロ湖ワカサギ釣り): The Sahoro Lake will be open for a limited time for wakasagi ice fishing.	Sahoro Lake, Shintoku Town 新得町 サホロ湖 0156-64-0522
1/25-1/26 (Sat-Sun)	35th Nukabira Lake Time Trial on Ice (第35回糠平湖水上タイムトライアル): Watch as rally cars of various classes speed along the frozen surface of Nukabira Lake.	Nukabira Lake, Kamishihoro Town 上士幌町 糠平湖 0156-42-3355

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

Congratulations for surviving another passing of the Earth through an arbitrary, cosmologically insignificant point in its 940 million kilometer orbit around the Sun. In other words, Happy New Year! Here at the Cuisine Corner, we'd like to make a New Year's toast to another year of full of cuisine and culture, food and festivals, and restaurants and recipes. Cheers!

What better way to start off another year at the Cuisine Corner than with New Year's food. And as a tribute to the recent addition of Japanese cuisine or Washoku to UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage list, we'd like to introduce to you traditional Japanese new year's food, also known as Osechi Ryouri. If you've spent a new year's dinner with a Japanese family, you've probably had a taste of osechi before. You might have also seen it being offered by almost every restaurant, supermarket, department store, and convenience store during the last few months of the year.



Osechi Ryouri consists of a wide variety of colorful foods, each with their own auspicious meaning. It is traditionally prepared in elegant multi-layered lacquer boxes called jubako. Since tradition states that no cooking should be done on the first three days of the year, many of the foods in Osechi Ryouri are dried, or contain sugar or vinegar to make them last a few days without spoiling. Preparing complete Osechi Ryouri also takes a lot of time and effort, so nowadays, many Japanese people just order ready-made sets from their favorite store.



As with most Japanese cuisine, there are plenty of regional variations, but the following are some of the most common ingredients of Osechi Ryouri, including their meanings:

**Kuromame** – sweetened black beans; expresses hope for good health and diligent work

**Kazunoko** – herring roe; signifies a wish for many children

**Tazukuri** – dried anchovies in sweet soy sauce; signifies a wish for a good harvest

**Tatakigobō** – burdock; this root grows deep in the soil and signifies a solid foundation and steady life

**Kamaboko** – fish cake; its red and white colors and its shape are reminiscent of the rising sun

**Datemaki** – rolled omelet with fish paste; resembles a scroll and signifies culture and learning

**Kurikinton** – chestnut and sweet potato paste; its golden color signifies a wish for wealth

**Tai** – sea bream; the Japanese name forms part of the word medetai meaning "happy"

**Ebi** – shrimp; signifies longevity because of their long "beards" and bent backs, like old men

**Kobumaki** – kelp roll; associated with the Japanese word yorokobu meaning "joy"

**Kōhaku Namasu** – daikon and carrot strips; resembles the red and white mizuhiki cord used in festive occasions

**Renkon** – lotus root; its many holes signify an unobstructed view of the future

**Nishiki Tamago** – egg roulade; the egg white represents silver and the yolk represents gold

**Daidai** – Japanese bitter orange; the word can also mean "from generation to generation" and signifies the wish for many descendants



Another Japanese food tradition particularly for the New Year's Eve is the eating of toshikoshi soba which roughly means "buckwheat noodles for the passing of the year". The long, thin noodles symbolize long life, although it is considered unlucky to leave a bowl unfinished. The hot soup is also perfect for the cold winter night. So if you want to have a taste of the traditional Japanese New Year, you can't go wrong with Osechi Ryouri and Toshikoshi Soba.

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



Title	Language	Dates
Captain Phillips	English	Ends 17th
RED 2	English	Ends 17th
47 Ronin	2D Japanese	Ends 10th
The Story of Princess Kaguya	Japanese	All Month
Lupin the 3rd vs Detective Conan	Japanese	All Month
Eien no Zero	Japanese	All Month
Planes	2D Japanese	All Month
Hunter x Hunter - The Last Mission	Japanese	All Month
Trick the Movie: Last Stage	Japanese	Starts 11th
Ender's Game	Japanese	Starts 18th
Kuroshitsuji (Black Butler)	Japanese	Starts 18th

## Events (Continued)



When	What	Where/Contact
1/25-3/2 (Sat-Sun)	Tokachigawa Swan Festival "Sairinka" (十勝川白鳥まつり「彩凜華」): Come to a romantic world with a fantasy show of lights and sounds. There will be a free foot spa and other attractions.	Otofuke Town Tokachigaoka Park 音更町十勝が丘公園 0155-32-6633
1/25-3/31 (Sat-Mon)	2014 Shikaribetsu Lake Ice Village (2014 然別湖コタン): Come to this ice village built on top of the frozen lake, with an onsen, ice bar, ice theater, cross country skiing, and more.	Shikaribetsu Lake, Shikaoi Town 鹿追町 然別湖 0156-69-8181
1/31-2/2 (Fri-Sun)	51st Obihiro Ice Festival (第51回おびひろ氷まつり): Enjoy ice sculptures, ice slides, an ice candle tower, stage attractions, food stands, and many more.	Obihiro Midorigaoka Park 帯広市緑ヶ丘公園 0155-22-8600



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