

International Festa (国際フェスタinとかち2014)

On Saturday 2/8 and Sunday 2/9 we will be holding the "International Festa in Tokachi 2014" at the Tokachi Plaza.

We are planning to have teachers from an area English school to help us with "Let's play in English" lessons aimed at children, a free movie viewing about fair trade and a booth about fair trade run by JICA, cultural introductions by Obihiro University International Students, and various international exchange and cooperation organizations will also be in attendance.

We will also have a special rally for toddlers, as well as free English story books for children younger than elementary school age.

The event will be from 10:00 to 15:30 and entry is free.

For more information and inquiries please contact the Tokachi International Association office at the Tokachi International Relations Center at 0155-34-0122.



Event Details

Date: 8 February–9 February 2014
Place: Tokachi Plaza
Fee: Free
Organized by: Tokachi International Association

2月8日～2月9日、とかちプラザで行う国際フェスタ2014に皆様のご来場をお待ちしております。

Traditional Japanese Dance Class (外国人向け日本舞踊体験会)

International residents, come experience the traditional art of Japanese dance. We are holding traditional Japanese Dance Classes at the Tokachi International Relations Center. The class started in January but there are still 4 sessions remaining (2 will be held in February; 2/5 and 2/26). Space in the class is limited and sign-up is required to participate. Participation is free and Kimonos and other materials needed for the class will be provided for use. Please contact Karen at the Tokachi International Relations Center for more information about the class and to sign-up at tirc@city.obihiro.hokkaido.jp or call 0155-34-0122.

Request for Articles and Feedback (記事募集)

In the past we have requested that people contact us with articles, comments, etc. but we have never gotten feedback from anyone. We would once again like to remind people that you can contact us at international@city.obihiro.hokkaido.jp. Please feel free to send us comments, ideas for articles, or anything else you would like to see in Obihiro Pioneer. Thank you.

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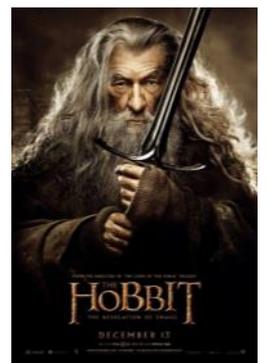
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Events at TIRC and in Tokachi and Obihiro

When	What	Where/Contact
 2/5, 2/26 (Wed) 19:00-20:00	Traditional Japanese Dance Class (外国人向け日本舞踊体験会): Experience the traditional art of Japanese dance. Participation is free. Kimonos and other materials will be provided. For international residents only. Sign-up required.	森の交流館・十勝 Tokachi International Relations Center 0155-34-0122 tirc@city.obihoro.hokkaido.jp
2/8-2/9 (Sat-Sun) 10:00-15:30	International Festa in Tokachi 2014 (国際フェスタinとかち2014): Learn more about the world through various activities. There will be a stage event, special rally, film showing, panel discussion, various exhibits, and more. Entrance is free.	Tokachi Plaza (Obihiro West 4 South 13-1) とかちプラザ 帯広市西4条南13丁目1 TEL 0155-34-0122 tirc@city.obihoro.hokkaido.jp
 2/15 (Sat) 19:00-21:00	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 enjoy Valentine's Day candy called "conversation hearts".	森の交流館・十勝 Tokachi International Relations Center 0155-34-0122 tirc@city.obihoro.hokkaido.jp
 2/19 (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
 1/31-2/2 (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
2/1 (Sat) 13:00	Winter Fireflies (冬ほたる-真冬の夜の幻): Enjoy a fantasy scene with over 1,000 ice candles lighted up. There will be free hot milk and amazake (rice drink).	Shimizu Central Park 清水町中央公園 0156-62-2357
 2/1 (Sat) 16:00-20:00	10th Honbetsu Snow and Lights Night (第10回ほんべつ雪あかりナイト): Over 8,000 ice candles will light up the town. There will also be a candle contest, games, and more.	Michi no Eki Honbetsu, etc. 道の駅ステラ★ほんべつ他 0156-22-2529
2/1 (Sat)	3rd Wood Candle Night (第3回ウッドキャンドルナイト): Ice candles and wood candles made from local pinewood will light up the town.	Michi no Eki Ashoro Ginga Hall 21 道の駅あしよろ銀河ホール21 0156-25-6131
 2/1-2/2 (Sat-Sun)	33rd Shibare Festival (第33回しばれフェスティバル): Enjoy this festival of frost in Japan's coldest town, with an endurance contest, fireworks, stage shows, horse riding, snow mobiles, prize raffle, and more.	Rikubetsu Shibare Event Ground 陸別町しばれイベント会場 0156-27-3990 www.10.ocn.ne.jp/~shibare/
2/9 (Sun)	27th Meakan Onsen Ski Hiking (第27回雌阿寒温泉スキーハイキング): Enjoy the nature of Akan National Park and Lake Onneto through cross-country skiing and snowshoeing.	Ashoro Town Meakan Onsen 足寄町 雌阿寒温泉発着 0156-25-6131
 Mid February (Sat - Sun)	32nd Winter Balloon Meeting (第32回上士幌ウインターバルーンミーティング): Watch hot air balloons teams compete in a race. There will also be a balloon ride experience and food stands.	Kamishihoro Aviation Park 上士幌町航空公園 01564-2-2111 www.kamishihoro.jp/sp/balloonmeeting
2/14 (Fri) 16:00-20:30	Memuro Ice Candle Night (氷灯夜): See over 5,000 ice candles on the evening of Valentine's Day. There will be attractions for everyone including, couples, children, and families.	Memuro Park 芽室公園内 0155-62-9736

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

So February is here and yet at the time of writing, many people here in Obihiro and Tokachi are still waiting for the "big one" to come. That, of course, refers to the heavy and prolonged snowfall that provides plenty of nice sceneries and outdoor fun opportunities, but also lots of headaches and backaches. The fact that there has been relatively little snow so far this season has not hindered the amount of winter events in the region however, as you can see in our events pages.

Aside from the usual skiing and outdoor options, a recurring theme in the region's events for February seems to be lights, ice candles, fantasy, and romance. For one-day events, there are the ice candle nights in Shimizu, Honbetsu, and Ashoro towns on February 1st. For longer term events, there's the Tokachigawa Swan Festival in Otofuke and the Ice Village in Lake Shikaribetsu. There's also the annual Ice Candle Night in Memuro, to be held on February 14, Valentine's Day.



If you want to enjoy something fun and romantic without the need to endure the cold outdoors, we invite you to join the International Potluck Night at the Tokachi International Relations Center on Saturday, February 15. Besides enjoying everyone's home cooking and meeting friends from around the world, you can also try your hand at making the popular Valentine's Day candies called "conversation hearts". As the name implies, these are small heart-shaped candies that have a short love-related message written on them. Of course, since you'll be making your own hearts, you can write any message you want in any language you prefer!

For those of you who want to try making these hearts on your own in time for Valentine's Day, you'll



need the following: a pack of powdered gelatin, about 1 kg powdered sugar, 2 tsp. corn syrup, ½ cup water or lemon-lime soda, assorted food colorings and flavor extracts, small heart-shaped cookie cutters, plus food-safe markers or letter rubber stamps.

Mix the gelatin, corn syrup, and water or soda in a bowl and microwave for 30 seconds to dissolve the gelatin. Pour the mixture in a large bowl and add a cup of sugar, then mix with a hand mixer on low until the sugar is incorporated. Repeat with 6 more cups of sugar, 1 cup at a time, or until you get a stiff dough. Dust your work surface with more powdered sugar, then knead the dough until smooth. Divide the dough into a number of portions according to the number of your food colorings. Add the food coloring and flavor extract to each portion then knead until well-combined. Roll the dough to a thickness of about 7 cm, then use the cookie cutter to cut out the hearts. Allow them to air-dry for 48 hours (24 hours for each side). When completely dry, use the markers (or rubber stamps with food coloring) to write your own messages. Have fun!



今月は、アメリカの人気バレンタインお菓子「カンバセーション・ハート」を紹介します。これは、メッセージが書かれたハート型のラムネ菓子です。箱入りの商品を買う人もいれば、自分で作る人もいます。日本ではなかなか売っていない物ですので、作ってみたい方は是非、今度の「ポットラック・ナイト」にお越しください。カンバセーション・ハートに自分だけのメッセージを書くことができます！2月15日(土)、森の交流館・十勝で開催されます。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。

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
Thor: The Dark World	3D Japanese / 2D English	All Month
Rush	English	Starts 7th
Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit	English	Starts 15th
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug	Undecided	Starts 28th

Events (Continued)

When	What	Where/Contact
2/16 (Sun)	31st Churui Naumann Sled Derby (第31回忠類ナウマン全道そり大会): Watch various teams compete with homemade cardboard sleds. There will also be games where anyone can join.	Churui Shiroganedai Ski Resort 忠類白銀台スキー場 01558-8-2111
11/1-3/31	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 (いらっしや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
12/1-2/14	Santaland Tree Illumination (サンタランドツリーイルミネーション): See this Santaland tree, a gift from Hiroo Town light up JR Memuro Station with 3000 light bulbs.	JR Memuro Station JR芽室駅前 0155-62-9721
1/10-2/28	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
1/25-3/2	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	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



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 (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.