

Japanese Classes (日本語講座)

It's almost spring here, and that means we will be starting Japanese classes at City Hall again. Japanese classes will be starting in Mid-May and will be held every week Tuesday at Obihiro City Hall for a total of 10 weeks. There are two classes



being offered this year. Fun Conversation Class and a Beginner Level Class. The fun conversation class consists primarily of chatting with the teacher and fellow students. The beginner level class is aimed at students that have no or little formal study in Japanese and wish to learn the basics of the language. Classes are free and

you are not required to buy any materials, however you are asked to bring a

When: Tuesdays, Mid-May - Mid-July
Fun Conversation Class: 10:00-12:00
Beginner Class: 18:00-20:00
Where: Obihiro City Hall 10th Floor
Who: Beginner level Japanese students
Contact: international@city.obihiro.hokkaido.jp

notebook and writing implement. You must sign up for classes in advance and seating is limited so please contact us soon.

Fun Conversation Class will be in the mornings from 10:00am-12:00pm and Beginner Level Classes will be held from 6:00pm-8:00pm.

If you are interested in signing up for classes or have any questions please contact us at international@city.obihiro.hokkaido.jp with the subject "Japanese Classes". If you are signing up for classes please include your name, home country, contact information, and which class you wish to sign up for.

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Events at TIRC and in Tokachi and Obihiro



When	What	Where/Contact
4/9 (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
4/23 (Wed) 19:00-21:00	Tenipon Meetup (テニポン交流会): Let's play tenipon, a hybrid sport between tennis and pingpong that originated in Hokkaido. Organized by Dandelion.	森の交流館・十勝 Tokachi International Relations Center 0155-34-0122 tirc@city.obihoro.hokkaido.jp
4/26 (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 Indonesian crepes called "Dadar Gulung".	森の交流館・十勝 Tokachi International Relations Center 0155-34-0122 tirc@city.obihoro.hokkaido.jp
4/1 (Tue)	Michi no Eki Nakasatsunai Opening (道の駅なかさつない営業開始): The Michi no Eki Nakasatsunai outdoor market and information booth will open for the summer season.	Michi no Eki Nakasatsunai 道の駅なかさつない 0155-67-2811 www.michinoeki-nakasatsunai.jp
4/6 (Sun)	18th Tomuraushi Onsen Cross-Country Ski (第18回トムラウシ温泉歩くスキー大会): Enjoy the nature of eastern Taisetsu National Park in the Tokachi region's last cross-country tournament for the season.	Shintoku Town Tomuraushi Onsen Kokumin Shukusha Higashitaisetsusou 国民宿舎東大雪荘 www.netbeet.ne.jp/~taisetsu/ tomurausi1.html
4/13 (Sun)	Ban'ei Horseracing Season Open (ばんえい競馬): Watch Banba horses pull 1-ton sleds in this one-of-a-kind horse race. Races run on Saturdays, Sundays, and Mondays.	Obihiro Horserace Track 帯広競馬場 0155-34-0825
4/18-5/6	24th Rekifune River Carp Streamers (第24回歴舟川清流鯉のぼり): 236 carp streamers (koinobori) will fly across the Rekifune river in Taiki Town. There will also be a mini-event to celebrate Children's Day on May 5.	Taiki Bridge (along Route 236) 01558-6-2114
4/20 (Sun)	26th All-Japan Patch Championship in Rikubetsu (第26回オールジャパンパッチ選手権大会 in陸別): Watch contestants from all over Japan compete in a traditional "patch" tournament.	Rikubetsu Town Hall 陸別町タウンホール 0156-27-2141
4/26-9/28	Scenic Café Nupuka no Sato Open (シーニックカフェ士幌高原ヌプカの里): Enjoy views of the Hidaka mountains and Tokachi plains at the terrace café in the Nupuka no Sato lodge.	Shihoro Kougen Nupuka no Sato 士幌高原ヌプカの里 01564-5-4274 www.nupuka.jp



Culture & Cuisine Corner (カルチャー&キューイジーヌコーナー)

April is a time of new beginnings in Japan. It marks the start of the fiscal year (now with more taxes!), with new hires starting in their new jobs, and students starting another year of school. So we find it quite fitting to write this article under a new name, the Culture and Cuisine Corner (the alliteration is intentional). For those of you new to this newsletter, welcome! Here we will introduce various cultural topics, events, food recipes, and other useful information from the region around the world.

We'd like to begin this rebranded corner by going local. For the new international residents who are just starting their lives in Tokachi and Obihiro, one thing you've probably already noticed about this place is the good food. Being an agricultural region, there's always plenty of fresh and safe produce. To quote the official line, the Tokachi region produces enough food for 11 times its own population. Local companies have also launched many of their own food brands, one of which we'd like to introduce here: the Tokachi Mushroom.



Tokachi Mushroom is a local brand of button mushrooms produced by a company called Kamada Kinoko. They originally started producing mushrooms to use as ingredients for their soy sauce, but found that they were able to produce a delicious, organically-grown mushroom that could be sold on its own. Tokachi Mushrooms are grown all year round using composts made from the straw litter beds of the famous Ban'ei horses, and water

taken from the clear Satsunai River. The mushrooms have white and brown varieties, and are available as 100 g packs in most local supermarkets.



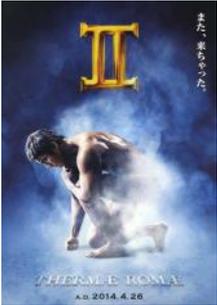
Like most mushrooms, the Tokachi Mushroom is a versatile ingredient, and can be enjoyed in countless ways. One easy and popular recipe is the ajillo, a Spanish-style dish. You'll need 100 g of Tokachi Mushrooms, a clove of garlic, a red chili pepper, and 50 ml of olive oil. Heat the olive oil in a pan and fry the sliced garlic and chili pepper. Slice the mushrooms in half then add them to the pan, frying for a few minutes until they are soft. Add some salt to taste, and you're done. You can also add carrots, potatoes, shrimps, or other foods you fancy. For a ton of other recipes, you can go to <http://kamagri.jp/recipe.php> (Japanese only).



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
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug	Japanese	Ends 4th
Robocop	English	Ends 18th
Saving Mr. Banks	English	All Month
Captain America: Winter Soldier	Undecided	Starts 19th
The Amazing Spider-Man 2	Undecided	Starts 25th
Silver Spoon	Japanese	All Month
Frozen	Japanese	Ends 25th
Kamen Teacher	Japanese	5th-18th
Detective Conan: Dimensional Sniper	Japanese	Starts 19th
Thermae Romae II	Japanese	Starts 26th

Events (Continued)

When	What	Where/Contact
4/29 (Tue) 10:00-15:00	Urahoro Forest Park Opening (うらほろ森林公園オープンイベント): The campsite and bungalows open for the season. The opening event will have food stands, an air dome, rabbits, and more.	Urahoro Shinrin Koen うらほろ森林公園 015-576-2881
Late April to Early November	Kofuku Station Happy Ceremony (幸福駅ハッピーセレモニー): Experience a wedding ceremony with your loved one and make wonderful memories in the rebuilt Kofuku Station.	Kofuku Station 幸福駅 0155-22-8600 tourism@city.obihiro.hokkaido.jp
Late April to Late October	Tokachigawa Onsen Foot Spa Open (十勝川温泉足湯めぐり): The mole onsen foot spas in Tokachigawa Onsen will open for the season and can be used for free.	Tokachigaoka Park and Tokachigawa Onsen Tourist Guide Center 十勝が丘公園／十勝川温泉観光ガイドセンター南側 0155-46-2530
Late April to Late October 10:00-15:00	Tokapuchi Scenic Café Open (トカプチ雄大空間シーニックカフェ): Enjoy free coffee or tea in the weekends while enjoying a view of the Tokachigawa River and the Hidaka mountains.	Tokachigaoka Observation Deck 十勝が丘展望台 0155-46-2530



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.