

## 2016, The Year of the Monkey 2016年・申年

We celebrated the beginning of 2016 this past January. But in February, many Asian countries will be celebrating another new year, the Lunar calendar's new year. According to the lunar calendar, 2016 is the year of the monkey, the 9th animal in the Chinese Zodiac.



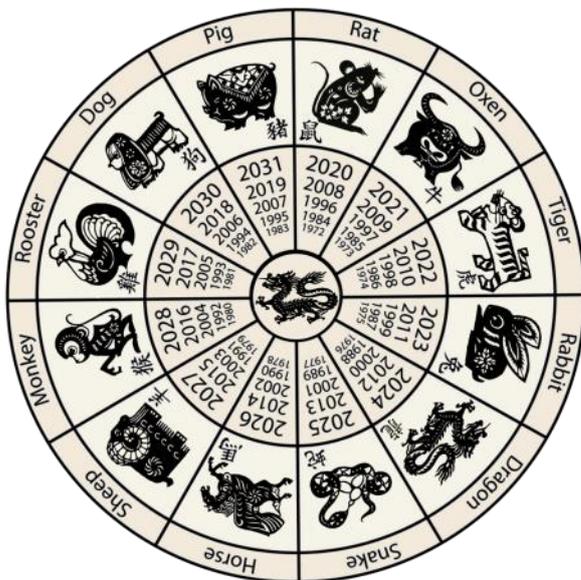
Taurus, etc.), is believed to have different traits. Monkeys are said to be curious, mischievous, and clever. Like actual monkeys, they are playful, sometimes to the point of hurting the feelings of others unintentionally. Monkeys are also considered creative and intelligent, but have difficulty expressing these traits.

### 年女・年男 *Toshi onna / Toshi otoko*

In Japan one might say they are “*Toshi onna*” or “*toshi otoko*,” literally “year’s woman” or “year’s man.” This means the year that they were born on matches the current year’s animal zodiac. Meaning, “monkeys” are this year’s *toshi onna/otoko*. In China, it is believed that those *toshi onna/otoko* will have an unlucky year. In Japan, there are unlucky years called **厄年** *yakudoshi* in Japanese (listed on right).

	Men (age)	Women (age)
	25	19
	42	33
	61	37

For good luck as *toshi onna/otoko* or preventing bad luck on *yakudoshi* many go to the local shrine to pray and buy charms, in hopes of better luck. In February many also participate in **節分** *setsubun*, a holiday marking the change from winter to spring. Read more **below** about how *setsubun* is believed to help change your luck for the better!



Those born in 1944, 1956, 1968, 1980, 1992, 2004, and of course, 2016 are monkeys. So what does being a monkey mean? Each animal in the Chinese zodiac, much like the astrological zodiac (Gemini,

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Events (pg 2 & 4)



Obihiro Ice Festival  
International Festa  
International Recipe:  
Tomato Egg Soup  
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### 節分 *Setsubun*: The Changing of Seasons

To help with a *yakudoshi* year or for general good luck, many participate in **節分** *setsubun*, a holiday marking the change from winter to spring on **February 3rd**. On *Setsubun*, families gather outside of their homes and throw soybeans at their front door (or directly at the “demons”) to “scare away” the demons and bad spirits living inside of the house. This is considered a cleansing ceremony. In Hokkaido, many homes choose to throw whole peanuts because they can still eat the peanut after throwing it for the ceremony. This event is also held at local shrines, some schools, and community centers. Keep an eye out for a *Setsubun* event near you! 鬼は外! 福は内! *Oni wa soto! Fuku wa uchi!* Demons out! Luck in!



Movies (pg 4)

# Events at TIRC and in Tokachi and Obihiro

When	What	Where/Contact
2/10 (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! Free of charge!	Tokachi International Relations Center 森の交流館・十勝 0155-34-0122 tirc@city.obihiro.hokkaido.jp
2/2, 4 (Sat) 16:00-18:00	Japanese Conversation and Learning Table Improve your Japanese language skills in a friendly environment. Japanese volunteers will be there to help you.	
2/20 (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. The theme dish is a traditional Greek winter dish made of pork and celery called "fricassee."	
2/13~14 (Sat-Sun) 10:00-15:00	International Festa in Tokachi 2016 国際フェスタ in とかち 2016 Experience international exchange and cooperation through various activities including English lessons, a film showing, culture corner, panel exhibitions, and more.	Tokachi International Relations Center & JICA Hokkaido International Center 森の交流館・十勝及び JICA国際センター 0155-34-0122
2/4(Thur)-2/7 (Sun)	53rd Obihiro Ice Festival 第53回おびひろ氷まつり Enjoy ice statues, a giant slide, ice carvings, a citizen ice/snow sculpture contest, and more!	Obihiro Green Park, Hirokoji, Yume no Kitahiroba, & Obihiro Bannei Horse Track 帯広市緑ヶ丘公園一帯・広小路・夢の 北広場・帯広競馬場 0155-22-8600
2/6 (Sat) 17:00 - 2/7 (Sun) 14:00	35th Shibare Festival 第35回しばれフェスティバル Come to Rikubetsu Town's festival where people put their cold tolerance to the test! There will also be games, performances and food including a festival exclusive Ezo Shika (deer) steak!	Rikubetsu Town Event Square 陸別町イベント広場 陸別町ウエンベツ 0156-27-3990
2/7(Sun)	29th Meakan Hot Spring Ski Hiking 第29回 雌阿寒温泉スキーハイキング Try walking in skis or snow shoes in the Akan National Park and the Onneto area. Afterwards, relax in the famous Akan hot spring.	Meakan Hot Springs 雌阿寒温泉を発着するコース NPO 法人 あしよろ観光協会 0156-25-6131
2/7(Sun) 10:00 - 15:00	Children's Hall Winter Festival 児童会館 冬まつり With cooperation from the 53rd Obihiro Ice Festival, the Children's Hall will be holding its own winter festival. Free of admission.	Obihiro City Children's Hall 児童会館 0155-24-2434
2/14 (Sun)	26th Ice Candle Night 第26回氷灯夜 Every Valentine's Day evening in Memuro Village, 5000 ice candles are lit and shine through the night to create a fabulous atmosphere. Couples, families, young or old, everyone is welcome to enjoy Memuro's Ice Candle Night.	Memuro Park 芽室公園内 芽室町観光物産協会 0155-66-6522
2/21 (Sun) 10:30 - 13:30	33rd Churui Nauman Sled Contest 第33回 忠類ナウマン全道そり大会 Using cardboard, participants will make and design sleds of their imaginations. They will compete for a monetary prize. There will also be events for audience members.	Churui Hakugindai Ski Area 忠類白銀台スキー場特設会場 01558-8-2141
2/28 (Sun) 10:00-11:00	Fish Day 魚の日 Every 4th Sunday is "fish day." To celebrate, fish and other ingredients taken from the sea are used to make healthy dishes native to the north. A variety of products are on sale for the event.	Hiroo Town Fisheries Cooperative Food Division 広尾漁協食品部(広尾郡広尾町会所 前2丁目79番地先)



# 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
Star Wars: Episode VII—The Force Awakens	2D EN/3D JP	Until 26th
Bridge of Spies	English	Until 12th
In the Heart of the Sea	English	Until 26th
The Walk	English	All Month
The Martian ( <i>Odyssey</i> )	2D EN/3D JP	From 5th
The Blizzard	3D English	From 27th
Last Knights	Eng PG 12	From 27th

## Events Continued

On-going Events		
When	What	Where/Contact
11/1–3/31 (Sun-Thu)	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 <a href="http://www.tokachi-ecopark.jp">www.tokachi-ecopark.jp</a>
12/1(Tue) - 2/14 (Sun) 17:00–21:30	Santa Land Tree Illumination サンタランドツリー・イルミネーション Recognized by Santa's hometown of Oslo, Norway, Memoro's Santa Land tree will be lit from 17:00 to 21:30. In commemoration of Memoro's 100th anniversary of its opening, Friendship City Hiroo Town has donated trees that will be lit by 3000 lights.	JR Memuro JR芽室駅前 0155-62-9721
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 lighted up in various colors.	JR Shintoku Station JR新得駅前 0156-64-0522
1/23-2/28 (Sat-Sun)	Tokachigawa Swan Festival "Sairinka" 十勝川白鳥まつり「彩凜華」 Come and enjoy: • a fantasy show of lights and sounds • snow rafting • walking in the forest of lights, including a stamp rally • a tunnel of beautiful lights & a "zoo" of lights • winter playground (slide, frozen bubbles etc.) • resting at the warm ice promenade with Moor Choc-o-lait (chocolate and milk drink), Moor Pork Sausages, etc.	Otofuke Town Tokachigaoka Park 音更町十勝が丘公園 0155-32-6633 <a href="http://www.tokachigawa.net/">http://www.tokachigawa.net/</a>

**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")

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