

Time Out



Iwaki City Monthly Event & Information Guide

Volume 278 December 2014

Intercultural Understanding Workshops



This November 7 (Fri), Takasaka Primary School in Uchigo once again held their annual Iwaki Friendship Ambassadors Intercultural Understanding Workshops. Twenty-three foreign residents of Iwaki from 10 different countries (Australia, Canada, China, Hungary, Korea, Mongolia, the Philippines, Tonga, the United States and Uzbekistan) volunteered to give their time to teach the workshops. The children had a wonderful time learning about the culture, lifestyle, history, geography, language and music of the different countries.

Thank you very much to everyone who volunteered to teach the workshops!

Shiramizu Amidado Illumination



From November 8 to 16, spectators gathered at the Shiramizu Amidado grounds to view the temple and the autumn foliage of the surrounding garden illuminated in the evening. Shiramizu Amidado is one spot in Iwaki renowned for its autumn colours, which looked particularly vivid lit up at night and reflected upon the surface of the pond. Stalls selling food and drink were also set up near the temple during the illumination.

The elegant temple in Uchigo was built in 1160. Enshrined within the temple are five Buddhist statues, all of which are from the Heian Period (794–1185) and are designated as National Important Cultural Properties. Shiramizu Amidado is the only building in Fukushima Prefecture to be designated as a National Treasure.

The beautiful garden and large pond surrounding the temple feature various sights that can be enjoyed with the changing seasons. As well as the rich palate of colours on display in the autumn, you can see white swans and snow in the winter, cherry blossoms in the spring and lotus flowers in the summer.

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The Division of Coordination and Citizenry Affairs and the IIA are open to the public. Please feel free to drop by, call, or e-mail us anytime. Website:

<http://www.iaa-fukushima.or.jp/>;

<http://www.city.iwaki.fukushima.jp/gaikokugo/english/>

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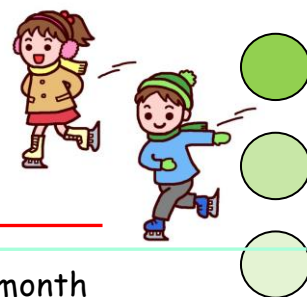
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市民協働課及び公益財団法人いわき市国際交流協会は皆
さんを歓迎します。お気軽にお立ち寄り下さい。お電話、
e-mail をお待ちしております。

Festivals & Events



Your guide to what's happening around Iwaki City and beyond this month

Iwaki

****Please refer to page 3 for events on at Alios and page 6 for IIA events.**

November 29th to December 25th: Aquamarine Christmas @ Aquamarine Fukushima, Onahama. Opening hours will be extended to 7pm on the 23rd and 24th. For details of the various Christmas activities and events on offer, please visit <http://www.marine.fks.ed.jp/news/event/2014/2014Christmas.html> (Japanese). For inquiries, please contact Aquamarine Fukushima: TEL 0246-73-2525 Email amf@marine.fks.ed.jp.

December 6th to January 12th: Iwaki Cherry Blossom Illumination Festival @ main street in front of Iwaki Station, Taira. Illumination from 5pm to 11pm. Lights will decorate the trees in Taira to give the impression of flowering cherry blossoms. On the opening night of the festival, there will be a lighting ceremony from 3:15pm and live music from 5:50pm at the plaza by the southern entrance of the station. For inquiries, please contact the Iwaki Youth Meeting Place Executive Office: TEL 0246-24-0780.

December 6th to January 26th: Iwaki New Year's Events Exhibition @ Iwaki City Museum of Folklore and Traditional Housing, Onahama. This exhibit provides an introduction many of the events and decorations that can be found in Iwaki over the New Year's period. An explanation of the exhibition will be held on January 11 from 1:30pm to 3pm. For inquiries, please contact the Iwaki City Museum of Folklore and Traditional Housing: TEL 0246-29-2230.

December 12th: Iwaki Citizens' Christmas @ Iwaki City Cultural Centre, Taira. From 6:30pm. Tickets are ¥2000 in advance or ¥2500 on the day. Entry is free for JHS and under, but a numbered ticket is required. Tenor Tsutomu Aragaki will be welcomed as a guest performer. There will be a candle service and Christmas carols by kindergarteners from Taira, a women's choir performance and a performance by the charity idol group Baby Tiara. For inquiries, please contact Global Mission Japan: TEL 0246-23-5490.

December 13th: Telling Folklore – Learning Through Doing @ Iwaki City Museum of Folklore and Traditional Housing, Onahama. From 1:30pm to 2:30pm. For inquiries, please contact the Iwaki City Museum of Folklore and Traditional Housing: TEL 0246-29-2230.

December 20th: Park Festival and Yosakoi @ the taxi pool in front of Iwaki Station, Taira. Park Festival from 11am to 2:30pm, yosakoi from 2:30am to 7:30pm. This event is part of the Cherry Blossom Illumination Festival. The Park Festival will include a variety of performances including choral performances, Jangara, high school hula and other dance performances. There will be two rounds of yosakoi (first round from 2:45pm, second round from 5:30pm) with a lighting ceremony including a daruma-mikoshi from 4:45pm. For more information and inquiries, please contact the Iwaki Youth Meeting Place Executive Office: TEL: 0246-24-0780

December 20th: Xmas Parade 2014 @ meeting place: 2nd floor Sakamoto-kamiten, Taira. Reception is from 10:10am and the parade starts at 11am (there is a waiting room on the second floor of the meeting place). Take to the streets of Taira in your favourite Christmas cosplay. Prize money is as follows: Family Prize ¥10,000 (for those accompanied by children), Award for Excellence ¥10,000, Jury's Special Award ¥10,000. There is also a participation award. When applying, please give your name, address, contact details, number of participants, and whether or not you will be bringing children. For inquiries and applications, please contact the Taira Shopping District Executive Office: TEL 0246-25-9151 FAX 0246-25-9155.

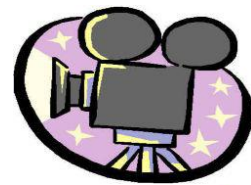
December 20th to January 12th: Fire Department Exhibition @ 2nd floor Live Iwaki Museum, Iwaki La La Mew, Onahama. Exhibition organised by the Onahama Fire Department. Come and learn about the daily activities of the fire department! For inquiries, please contact Iwaki La La Mew: TEL 0246-92-3701.

In the surrounding areas

November 21st to February 14th: Big Tree Pageant Festival IN KORIYAMA @ Koriyama Station west entrance plaza. From 5:00pm to 11:30pm (November 22 to January 14), from 5:30pm to 11:30pm (January 15 to February 14). The area around Koriyama station will be decorated for the winter period (including Christmas and Valentine's Day). There will be music concerts on December 19 and January 16 from 5pm. There will also be a closing event on February 14 from 5pm. For more information, please visit the website: <http://www.ko-cci.or.jp/bigtree/> (Japanese). For inquiries, please contact the Big Tree Pageant Festival IN KORIYAMA Executive Committee: TEL 024-921-2610 FAX 024-921-2640.

December 7th: Kohata Flag Festival @ former Kohata Daiichi Primary School Grounds (starting place), Nihonmatsu. From 9am to 3:30pm (flags are brought together at 8:30am). This festival has a history of over 950 years and is one of the big three flag festivals in Japan. It is a National Important Intangible Folk Culture Asset. There is a procession of coloured flags that moves from village to village towards Okitsushima Shrine to the sound of conch shells. For details, please visit <http://www.nihonmatsu-kanko.jp/nhmkanko-kohata-flagfes.html> (Japanese). For inquiries, please contact the Towa Tourism Association: TEL 0243-46-2490.

Entertainment Guide



ON @ ALIOS



December TV **Movie Picks**

Fri 5	White Hunter Black Heart	Clint Eastwood	BSP	11:45pm
Mon 8	Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind	Jim Carrey	BSP	9:00pm
Tue 9	Chronicles of My Mother (Japanese)	Koji Yakusho	BSP	9:00pm
Fri 12	The Dark Knight Rises	Christian Bale	FCT	9:00pm
Fri 12	Defiance	Daniel Craig	BSP	11:45pm
Mon 15	National Treasure	Nicolas Cage	BSP	8:00pm
Tue 16	Gachi☆Boy	Ryuta Sato	BSP	9:00pm
Fri 19	Le Concert (French)	Aleksey Guskov	BSP	11:45pm
Mon 22	Under Siege	Steven Seagal	BSP	9:00pm
Tue 23	Christmas on July 24th Avenue (Japanese)	Takao Osawa	BSP	9:00pm
Fri 26	Letters to Juliet	Amanda Seyfried	BSP	11:45pm
Tue 30	The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey	Martin Freeman	BSP	7:00pm
Wed 31	The Fast and the Furious	Paul Walker	BSP	10:03am
Wed 31	2 Fast 2 Furious	Paul Walker	BSP	11:55am
Wed 31	Love in the Afternoon	Audrey Hepburn	BSP	1:45pm
Wed 31	The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring	Elijah Wood	BSP	4:00pm
Wed 31	The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers	Elijah Wood	BSP	7:00pm
Wed 31	The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King	Elijah Wood	BSP	10:00pm

Movie names, times and other information are believed to be correct at the time of printing. However, information changes quickly, so please confirm before making plans.

Pole Pole Cinemas are located in the Sekaikan Building near Iwaki Station. TEL: 0246-22-3394. Adults: ¥1800; university and SHS: ¥1400; seniors (sixty years and older), JHS and under: ¥1000. The first of every month is discount day: ¥1000. **Movies after 6:30pm are ¥1000.** Monday is Men's Day ¥1000, Wednesday is Student's Day ¥1000, Thursday is Couple's Day ¥2000 (per couple), and Friday is Ladies' Day ¥1000. 3D films cost an additional ¥300.

Thu 4 **Christmas with Alfie Silas**
Main Theatre. From 6:30pm (doors open at 5:30pm). Tickets: ¥2,500.

Thu 11 **Turandot**
Performed by Kiev Opera
Main Hall. From 6:30pm (doors open at 5:45pm). Tickets: S ¥15,000, A ¥12,000, B ¥9,000, C ¥7,000. Children below primary school age will not be admitted.

Sun 14 **Fukushima Prefecture 39th Ensemble Contest Iwaki Regional Contest**

Main Hall. From 10am. Free entry.

Tue 16 **Requiem-kai Christmas Concert**
Recital Hall. From 10am. Free entry.

Sun 21 **Taira Commercial High School Brass Band Concert**
Main Hall. From 2pm (doors open at 1:30pm). Tickets: ¥300.

Wed 24 **Minako Tsukatani Positiv Organ Concert 10th Alios Kids' Room Theatre**

Kids' Room. From 10:30am to 11:10am. Free entry. Booking in advance is essential. This concert is held for children below primary school age and their parents/guardians.

Wed 24 **Minako Tsukatani Positiv Organ Christmas Concert**
Cascade. From 12:15pm to 1pm (doors open at 11:45pm). Free entry (booking in advance is not necessary).

Alios Ticket Centre: 0246-22-5800

To see the full list of events at Alios, please visit the website:
<http://iwaki-alios.jp/cd/app/?A=schedule> (Japanese)

Movies@Pole Pole Iwaki



Miracle: Devil Claus' Love and Magic (Japanese)

Masaki Aiba

Kamisama no Iu Tori (Japanese)

Sota Fukushi

Clover (Japanese)

Emi Takei

The Expendables 3 (English)

Sylvester Stallone

Dracula Untold (English)

Luke Evans

Fury (English)

Brad Pitt

Parasyte (Japanese)

Sota Sometani

A Samurai Chronicle (Japanese) Until December 12

Koji Yakusho

Cape Nostalgia (Japanese) Until December 12

Sayuri Yoshinaga

Gone Girl (Languages not released at time of printing) From December 12

Ben Affleck

Blue Spring Ride (Japanese) From December 13

Tsubasa Honda

Kamen Rider Drive & Gaim: Movie War Full Throttle (Japanese) From December 13

Ryoma Takeuchi

Yo-Kai Watch the Movie: The Secret is Created, Nyan! (Japanese) From December 20

Tomatsu Haruka

The Vancouver Asahi (Japanese) From December 20

Satoshi Tsumabuki

Big Hero 6 (Japanese)

Yutaro Honjo

Pole Pole Ticket Office: 0246-22-3394



Iwaki Hospital Guide



The following is a guide to hospitals open on Sundays and public holidays in Iwaki City during December.

Sunday, December 7

Taira Area	Takahashi Clinic	9-12, 2-5	46-1231
Taira Area	Yamaguchi Iin	9-12, 2-5	24-1811
Taira Area	Shirai Geka Ichoka Iin (surgery & gastroenterology)	8:30-12	25-3788
Uchigo Area	Suda Iin	8:30-12	27-6060
Onahama Area	Muraoka Sanka Fujinka Iin (obstetrics & gynaecology)	9-5	92-4578
Nakoso Area	Kureha General Hospital	9-5	63-2181
Joban Area	Tokiwakai Joban Hospital	9-5	43-4175
Onahama Area	Shiga Kodomo Clinic (paediatrics)	9-12	58-5505

Sunday, December 14

Taira Area	Takahashi Clinic	9-12, 2-5	46-1231
Taira Area	Yamaguchi Iin	9-12, 2-5	24-1811
Taira Area	Shirai Geka Ichoka Iin (surgery & gastroenterology)	8:30-12	25-3788
Uchigo Area	Suda Iin	8:30-12	27-6060
Taira Area	Shiga Seikeigeka (orthopaedic surgery)	9-12	23-5050
Onahama Area	Izumi Chuo Clinic	9-5	56-6677
Nakoso Area	Kojima Jiai Hospital	9-5	63-5141
Joban Area	Iwaki Yumoto Hospital	9-5	42-3188
Onahama Area	Konnai Kodomo Clinic (paediatrics)	9-12	73-8815

Sunday, December 21

Taira Area	Takahashi Clinic	9-12, 2-5	46-1231
Taira Area	Yamaguchi Iin	9-12, 2-5	24-1811
Taira Area	Sakamoto Orthopaedic Surgery	9-12, 2-5	38-2830
Taira Area	Shirai Geka Ichoka Iin (surgery & gastroenterology)	8:30-12	25-3788
Uchigo Area	Suda Iin	8:30-12	27-6060
Onahama Area	Kashima Ladies Clinic	9-5	58-8577
Nakoso Area	Nakoso Hospital	9-5	65-7755
Joban Area	Katayose Clinic (obstetrics and gynaecology)	9-5	42-4135
Nakoso Area	Mori no Kodomo Clinic (paediatrics)	9-12	38-7227

Tuesday, December 23

Uchigo Area	Suda Iin	8:30-12	27-6060
Taira Area	Hasegawa Seikeigeka Iin (orthopaedic surgery)	8:30-11:30	25-5691
Onahama Area	Ushiroda Naika Clinic (internal)	9-5	92-1222
Nakoso Area	Yu Clinic	9-5	63-1611
Joban Area	Nemoto Naika Ichoka Iin (internal & gastroenterology)	9-5	43-4100

Sunday, December 28

Taira Area	Yamaguchi Iin	9-12, 2-5	24-1811
Taira Area	Shirai Geka Ichoka Iin (surgery & gastroenterology)	8:30-12	25-3788
Uchigo Area	Suda Iin	8:30-12	27-6060
Onahama Area	Iizuka Clinic	9-5	52-2225
Nakoso Area	Kushida Hospital	9-5	63-3202
Joban Area	Hisa Iin	9-5	43-2313
Uchigo Area	Aihara Shonika Iin (paediatrics)	9-12	26-5551

Tuesday, December 30

Taira Area	Shirai Geka Ichoka Iin (surgery & gastroenterology)	8:30-12	25-3788
Uchigo Area	Suda Iin	8:30-12	27-6060
Onahama Area	Kashima Hospital	9-5	58-8010
Nakoso Area	Kojima Jiai Hospital	9-5	63-5141
Nakoso Area	Sukegawa Naika Clinic	9-5	77-0710

Wednesday, December 31

Onahama Area	Ishii Hospital of Neurosurgery & Ophthalmology	9-5	58-3121
Nakoso Area	Nakoso Hospital	9-5	65-7755
Nakoso Area	Yokogi Naika Ichoka Clinic (internal & gastroenterology)	9-5	65-1111
Joban Area	Hatano Ganka (ophthalmology)	9-5	42-2040

Thursday, January 1

Onahama Area	Onahama Seikyo Hospital	9-5	53-4374
Nakoso Area	Yabuki Hospital	9-5	63-1818
Nakoso Area	Matsuzaki Naika (internal)	9-5	63-3358
Joban Area	Kato Naika Clinic (internal)	9-5	72-0072

Friday, January 2

Onahama Area	Nakamura Hospital	9-5	53-3141
Nakoso Area	Kureha General Hospital	9-5	63-2181
Nakoso Area	Kojima Jiai Hospital	9-5	63-5141
Joban Area	Sakamoto Naika Ichoka Clinic (internal & gastroenterology)	9-5	72-2022

Saturday, January 3

Taira Area	New Town Jin Naika Clinic (internal & nephrology)	9-12	46-0606
Onahama Area	Iwaki Chuo Hospital Fuzoku Shinryojo	9-5	53-3511
Nakoso Area	Kushida Hospital	9-5	63-3202
Nakoso Area	Saito Naika Clinic (internal)	9-5	77-1001
Joban Area	Yoshinari Naika (internal)	9-5	42-2220

Sunday, January 4

Taira Area	Takahashi Clinic	9-12, 2-5	46-1231
Taira Area	Yamaguchi Iin	9-12, 2-5	24-1811
Taira Area	Shirai Geka Ichoka Iin (surgery & gastroenterology)	8:30-12	25-3788
Uchigo Area	Suda Iin	8:30-12	27-6060
Onahama Area	Kashima Hospital	9-5	58-8010
Nakoso Area	Kojima Jiai Hospital	9-5	63-5141
Joban Area	Tokiwakai Joban Hospital	9-5	43-4175

Emergencies

Emergency Dental Care

All emergency dental care will be provided at the **General Health and Welfare Centre (Sogo Hoken Fukushima Senta)** in Uchigo. This centre is open on Sundays and all national holidays from 9am to 12pm and 1pm to 4pm. The reception closes at 3:30pm. For more information please contact the centre on 27-8620.

After Hours and Holiday Emergency Treatment Centre

(Located in Iwaki Kyoritsu Hospital)
If you need to see a doctor urgently in the evening on a weekday or on a weekend or public holiday, the **After Hours and Holiday Emergency Treatment Centre** is open at the following times:

Weekdays: 8pm - 12am
Saturdays: 8pm - 7am (next day)
Sundays: 1pm - 12am.
Public Holidays: 9am - 12am.
TEL: 27-1208

Please make sure whenever possible to bring a Japanese-speaker with you when visiting the hospital in Iwaki.

Emergency Contact Numbers

Police: 110
Fire & Ambulance: 119

Children Emergency, First-Aid Telephone Consultations

The Fukushima Prefecture Children Emergency, First-Aid Telephone Consultation Centre (*Fukushima-ken Kodomo Kyukyu Denwa Sodan*) is a free telephone service that provides professional advice when your child has become sick during the night. This telephone service is available in Japanese only.

TEL: 024-521-3790
or #8000
From 7pm to 8am.

Counselling Services for Foreigners

Counselling Centre for Women: Counsellors can assist you in Japanese, Chinese, English, Korean, Portuguese, Spanish, Thai and Tagalog. Available languages differ each day. TEL: 050-1501-2803. Mon-Fri, 10am-5pm.

OC NET: Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 7pm - 9pm. TEL: 03-3730-0556. English, Chinese, Portuguese, Korean, Spanish, and Thai.

TELL Lifeline: TELL is a professional non-profit organisation that provides counselling to English-speaking foreigners all over Japan. The Lifeline is staffed by highly trained volunteer phone counsellors and provides free non-judgemental phone counselling and information 365 days a year from 9am to 4pm and 7pm to 11pm. TEL: 03-5774-0992. For more information, check out their website at <http://www.telljp.com> or e-mail them at admin@telljp.com.

Safety and Consultation Centre for Women (Police Box at Iwaki Train Station): For people who have suffered from any crime-related problem or injury. Free. Can only speak Japanese. 10am-6pm daily. TEL: (0246) 23-9344.

Information from the City Government

Taking Care of Yourself this Influenza Season

We have now entered the time of year when outbreaks of influenza are common. Let's be sure to take measures to prevent the spread of the virus.

Three General Rules for Prevention

1 *Cut off the Route of Infection*

- After you have been outside, be sure to gargle and **wash your hands** with soap. Also wash your face and glasses.
- When someone near you is coughing, or you are in crowded areas such as a hospital or on the train, apply a mask so that it leaves no gaps and take extra care to gargle and wash your hands.
- Regularly **ventilate** the room to reduce the risk of virus-containing droplets floating through the air.
- During epidemic periods, avoid crowds and activities where people congregate.

2 *Build Up Resistance*

- Eat well balanced meals, three times a day.
- Regulate one's daily life and get plenty of sleep.
- Avoid wearing excessively thick clothing and perform moderate amounts of physical exercise.

3 *Isolation from the Virus*

- In rooms with an infected person, be sure to ventilate the air frequently. Use separate eating utensils.
- If you get sick, wear a **mask** and avoid going outside so that it does not spread to others.

Vaccinations

Taking a vaccine before the virus becomes prevalent is one effective method and it may prevent complications or serious illness even if you do get sick. Consult with your doctor to learn more.

If You Get Influenza...

- See a doctor when symptoms (fever, fatigue, coughing or painful throat, muscle pain etc.) first appear. Wear a mask when you go to see the doctor.
- Be sure to take lots of fluids as it is easy to get dehydrated from a high fever.
- Get plenty of sleep and allow yourself to rest in bed.
- Eat nutritious foods (with vitamins and proteins etc.) that can be digested easily.
- Maintain moderate humidity indoors.

N.B. When you are experiencing coughing, practice **Cough Etiquette** (see below).

If you are about to cough or sneeze, cover your mouth and nose with a handkerchief or tissue.

After that, wash your hands properly. If you are experiencing continual coughing, wear a mask.

☆When using medicine at home for treatment, parents or guardians should not leave underage children alone and should watch out for abnormal behaviour for a few days.

☆As for schools etc. wait until two days have passed since the fever resolves and five days have passed since symptoms first developed before returning to school.

Cough Etiquette – When you are coughing/sneezing:

1. First, cover your mouth and nose with a tissue. (Dispose of used tissues in the bin.)
2. Wear a mask as much as possible.
3. When covering a cough or sneeze with your hands, clean your hands afterwards. (When you do not have access to a place to wash them, use hand antiseptics/sanitizing wipes.)
4. When you are feeling under the weather, see your doctor early.

For inquiries, please contact the Infectious Diseases Countermeasures Section of the Iwaki City Public Health Centre: TEL 0246-27-8595 FAX 0246-27-8607



General Notices

For applications and more information on IIA events, please contact the IIA.
TEL: 0246-22-7409 FAX: 0246-22-7609 Email: info@iia-fukushima.or.jp Website: www.iia-fukushima.or.jp/

Seeking Native English Teacher

I am seeking a native English teacher to teach English to kindergarteners and children of primary school age in Taira. I hope to hear from someone who loves playing with children and has a wonderful smile!

Students: Kindergarteners and primary school students

Place: Taira, Iwaki

Time: 10am to noon, 3pm to 7pm

For further details such as day of the week etc., please make an inquiry. I look forward to hearing from you.

Tomomi Ogawa:
TEL 080-5226-6750

Spanish Cooking Class

Please note that the venue for the IIA Spanish Cooking Class has changed.



Date: January 17 (Sat), 2015

Time: 10am – 1pm

Venue: Chuodai Community Centre, cooking room

Content: Spanish cuisine

Dishes: Paella, Tortilla Española, Potaje de Calamares, dessert etc.

Fee: 1,500 yen for IIA members,
2,000 yen for non-members

Instructor: Ms Yayoi Kusano

Applications: The application deadline is January 9 (Fri).

Please apply by mail, fax or e-mail to the IIA.

Finger Painting Experience

Let's reduce your stress

Date: February 14 (Sat), 2015

Time: 10am – noon

Venue: Iwaki City Cultural Centre, conference room

Content: Through experiencing art therapy, participants will identify their stresses and learn how to clear their minds of worry.

Instructor: Ms Kou Ukawa Lecturer at Taisho University, School of Human and Environmental Studies, Faculty of Human Studies

Fee: IIA members 500 yen, Non-members 1,000 yen

Capacity: 30 people

Participants: Foreign residents of Iwaki, general citizens, anyone interested in the theme

Children are very welcome!



Please apply by mail, fax or e-mail to the IIA.

HEART CAFÉ

Childrearing, as well as providing much fun and joy, is mentally and physically the undertaking of a lifetime. To the mums and dads in our city making great efforts to raise children with foreign roots, the children themselves, and the people around them who are looking out for them – let's take some time to think together about the mental wellbeing and support of parents and children struggling with childrearing. Everyone, regardless of nationality or childrearing experience, is welcome to participate!



Date: February 14 (Sat), 2015

Time: 1pm – 3pm

Venue: Iwaki City Cultural Centre, conference room

Content: "Mental and emotional support for children with foreign roots"

Instructor: Ms Kou Ukawa Lecturer at Taisho University, School of Human and Environmental Studies, Faculty of Human Studies

Fee: Free

Capacity: 30 people

Participants: Foreign residents of Iwaki, general citizens, anyone interested in the theme

Please apply by mail, fax or e-mail to the IIA.

Kimono Tea Ceremony (Cérémonie du thé avec des kimonos)



The "Très Bien" French study group will be hosting a Kimono Tea Ceremony (Cérémonie du thé avec des kimonos) special event at the Iwaki City Cultural Centre on January 17 (Sat) of next year. There is space for 15 participants, so be sure to get applications in early. Participation fee: 1000 yen (includes the cost of the tea and sweets). Any Japanese people who are able to assist (with anything from helping participants dress to serving the tea) are also more than welcome! Please get in touch with us.

For applications and inquiries, please contact Ms Yamazaki (kazukohimeko@yahoo.co.jp, TEL 090-1934-0506)

Nous t'attendons!



Rikusho – Six Types of Kanji

The Rikusho (六書) system for classifying Kanji sorts them into six categories based on how they are formed. Learning about the different ways kanji are formed can help to build an association between a character's form and meaning (and in some cases, reading too). It is often easier to learn and remember a character by considering how its form relates to its meaning, rather than simply trying to commit to memory each character as a seemingly arbitrary visual symbol.

When learning about the rikusho, keep in mind that some characters may fit into more than one category. Moreover, the last two categories relate more to how new meanings have evolved over time, rather than how a character was originally formed. There are relatively few characters in either of the last two categories. These categories are only included here for the sake of completion. The six categories are described below with examples.

Pictographs (象形文字)

Characters based on rough drawings of what they represent are called pictographs. Many of the kanji that students of Japanese learn early on are pictographs, such as 目 “eye”, 口 “mouth”, 女 “woman”, 母 “mother”, 人 “person”, 山 “mountain”, 日 “sun” and 木 “tree”. Learning such characters as pictographs can make them easier to remember. A few of these characters have been stylised to such an extent that they no longer resemble drawings.

Simple Ideographs (指事文字)

These characters express abstract concepts through an icon. The characters 一 “one”, 二 “two” and 三 “three” are good examples. The characters 上 “above” and 下 “below” are also clearly iconic representations of their meanings.

Compound Ideographs (会意文字)

These are formed through combining two or more existing kanji, where the new character's meaning is derived from the meanings of its components. For example, two trees (木) combine to give 林 “grove”, and three combine to give 森 “forest”. One example often given in introductory textbooks is the character 家 “home/family”, formed by combining the components 宀 and 豕 (representing a house and a pig respectively). This character reflects a time in China where domesticated pigs were kept inside the home.

Phono-semantic Compound Characters (形声文字)

The vast majority of kanji fall into this category. These are typically made of two components: one indicating a broad meaning (意符), and the other a rough indication of pronunciation (音符). The pronunciation component relates to the character's original Chinese pronunciation and only sometimes indicates a kanji's on-reading (and never its kun-reading). Phonetic components can be used as excellent memory aids. For example, 拍 “clap”, 舶 “ship”, 泊 “overnight stay”, 迫 “urge” and 伯 “chief” all have the on-reading of ハク, which is indicated by the 白 phonetic component (the character 白 “white” also has the on-reading ハク, but is not a phono-semantic compound). Another example can be seen in the characters 抱 “embrace”, 砲 “cannon”, 泡 “bubbles”, 胞 “placenta” and 飽 “sated”, which all have the on-reading of ホウ, and all contain the 包 phonetic component (again the character 包 “wrap” shares the ホウ on-reading but is of a different category). Keeping an eye out for phonetic components when you study will make learning on-readings much easier. Also, the more kanji you learn, the more you will be able to recognise these sorts of patterns. Be aware, however, that there are plenty of exceptions – you can easily learn these as such as you progress.

Phonetic Loan Characters (假借文字)

These characters were “borrowed” for their phonetic value to write homophones or similar sounding words (in Chinese) that had no existing character. Often the new meaning became the standard and a new character would be coined to represent the old meaning. For example, the character 北 “north” was originally a pictograph of two people facing their backs to each other and meant “back” (the body part). The character was borrowed for its phonetic value to write “north” as well. Eventually a new character (背) was created to be used to distinguish “back” (背) from “north” (北).

Derivative Characters (転注文字)

This category is the vaguest of the lot. While there is no widely accepted definition, it generally refers to characters that have been given a new meaning. However, the relationship between the new meaning and the character's phonetic value is disputed. One example is the character 長 “length”, which may also mean “head/elder”. This character is pronounced differently in Chinese depending on which meaning it refers to.

Importantly, don't stress over these categories! Learn what is useful to you and don't let yourself get bogged down in the details. Knowing about the ways kanji are formed can help you to identify patterns and remember characters. If you are interested, there are also plenty of good books out there that give etymologies, which you may find helpful in your studies.

See <http://www.csse.monash.edu.au/~jwb/kanjitypes.html> for a table of the kanji taught in Japanese primary schools sorted into the six categories.















From the Editor

Every winter, flocks of swans fly south to Iwaki from colder areas in the north. You can see them in various places along the banks of the Natsugawa River. You can also sometimes see them at Shiramizu Amidado. The swans are already here for this season. One place where you are sure to catch a glimpse of them is the Swans' Meeting Place (Hakucho Fureai Hiroba) in Hirakubo. It is located northeast of Akai Station, on the other side of the Natsugawa River.

The New Year's break is a time when lots of people choose to fly home or travel. Wherever you decide to spend the holidays, have fun and see you next year!





Sebastian

DECEMBER 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Nov 30	1	2 Daily Life Information Seminar and Consultations – What to do following a death. 	3	4	5	6 Tongan Culture Class 
7	8  Southern Cross	9	10	11	12	13  Wa
14	15	16	17  Très bien	18	19	20  Wa
21	22  Southern Cross	23 The Emperor's Birthday 	24	25 	26	27
28	29 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 10px auto;">City offices and facilities closed from December 27 (Sat) to January 4 (Sun)</div>	30	31 	Jan 1 New Year's Day 	Jan 2 	Jan 3



IIA Custom-made Plans

-  Très bien – Inquiries to Yamazaki-san 090-1934-0506
-  Wa – Inquiries to Sho-san 070-6493-2859
-  Southern Cross – Inquiries to Hosono-san: thehosonoes@docomo.ne.jp, Sebastian: sebastian-w@city.iwaki.fukushima.jp
-  For more information on any of the IIA events, please contact Suko-san 22-7409

January 2015

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				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31