

Iwaki City Monthly Event & Information Guide

Konpira-sama Festival



This January 10, Kotohira Shrine in Yumoto held its Annual Kotohira Shrine Festival, known by locals as "Konpira-sama". The festival is held in prayer for household and traffic safety, and prosperous business. Kotohira Shrine is one of the Three Great Konpira Shines in Japan.

The streets leading up to the shrine were filled with around 400 stalls selling festival food and lucky charms such as Iwaki Daruma dolls and decorative bamboo rakes (or *kumade* in Japanese). Iwaki Daruma dolls are notable for their ultramarine markings and already painted-in eyes. Kumade are said to "rake in" good fortune.

It is estimated that over 150,000 people visited the shrine on the day of the festival making prayers for the year to come.



Mizushugi in Numanouchi

On January 12, Mizushugi was carried out at Atago Shrine in Numanouchi, Taira. Mizushugi is a traditional festival carried out in prayer for sound health and household safety. It has been held at Numanouchi for around 400 years and is designated by Iwaki City as an Intangible Folk Cultural Asset.

At the festival, cold water is poured over local men who were married in the previous year. The men stand outdoors in the cold winter wearing only a yukata (cotton summer kimono) and straw sandals. This year, three bridegrooms participated in the event.

The festival's bucket carriers are known for "accidentally" spilling water on onlookers, becoming more and more brazen in their attempts to douse those in attendance as the festival goes on. Every year there are a few unlucky spectators who attend the festival hoping only to watch, but end up going home wet.



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

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

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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.**

February 3rd: Setsubun Festival @ Iwaki La La Mew, Onahama. Bean throwing is from 11am and again from 2pm. Ehomaki (sushi roll eaten during Setsubun), dried pilchard, sightseeing cruise ship tickets among other things will also be thrown for the visitors to catch. For inquiries, please contact Iwaki La La Mew: TEL 0246-92-3701.

February 3rd: Setsubun Festival @ Shogyoin Temple, Yumoto. From noon. Bean throwing is from 1pm. For inquiries, please contact Shogyoin Temple: TEL 0246-43-2576.

February 3rd: Setsubun Festival @ Iinohachimangu Shrine, Taira. Bean throwing is from 2pm. For inquiries, please contact Iinohachimangu Shrine: TEL 0246-21-2444.

February 7th to 22nd: Furusato-dayori Exhibition @ 2nd floor Citizens' Gallery, Iwaki La La Mew, Onahama. From 9am to 6pm. Furusato-dayori is a monthly publication that documents the progress of recovery in tsunami damaged areas of Iwaki. This exhibition will feature various articles from the magazine as well as unpublished photos taken for the magazine. For inquiries, please contact Iwaki City Coordination and Citizenry Affairs Division: TEL 0246-22-7414.

February 8th: Iwaki Sunshine Marathon @ Start: Iwaki Athletics Stadium (Rikujo Kyogijo). Finish: Aquamarine Park, Onahama (Full Marathon). All other courses start and finish at Aquamarine Park. 9am start. Courses: Full marathon, 10km, 5km, 2km and 2km for parents and children. While entries have closed for the marathon, spectators are free to come and watch and support the runners. For more information and inquiries, please contact the Iwaki Sunshine Marathon Committee: TEL 0246-22-7607. Website: www.iwaki-marathon.jp (Japanese).

February 14th: Dutch Oven and Star Gazing @ Tono Auto Camping Ground, Tono. From 1pm to 8pm. Participation is free, but you must make a reservation by phone. At this event you can enjoy viewing the stars in Tono's clear sky while experiencing cooking using a Dutch oven. For inquiries, please contact Tono Auto Camping Ground: TEL 0246-74-1031.

February 14th & 15th: Flower Centre Winter Festival @ Iwaki City Flower Centre, Yotsunami, Taira. From 10am to 4pm. Entry to the Flower Centre is free. There will be a Christmas rose exhibition, fresh local produce for sale, various craft and flower related workshops, a lottery, booths selling food, and live music. On the Saturday, Valentine's Day chocolate will be given to the first 100 children to arrive. For inquiries, please contact the Iwaki City Flower Centre: TEL 0246-22-5667. Website <http://www.jobankaihatsu.co.jp/flower-center/> -(Japanese).

In the surrounding areas

February 7th & 8th: Yanaizu Winter Festival @ Michinoeki, Aizu-Yanaizu. There will be snow sculptures, refreshment booths, Setsubun bean throwing with prizes, an awamanju (millet cake) eating contest and other events for visitors to participate in. For inquiries, please contact the Yanaizu Town Hall Tourism and Commerce Section: TEL 0241-42-2114. Website <http://www.town.yanaizu.fukushima.jp/> (Japanese).

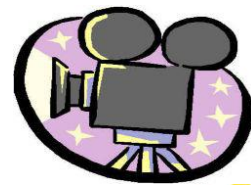
February 10th & 11th: Shinobu Sanzan Akatsuki Festival @ In and around Haguro Shrine, Shinobu Mountain, Fukushima City. The main attraction of this 300-year-old festival is a 12-meter-long giant straw sandal, the largest in Japan, weighing 2 tons. Around one hundred people will carry the sandal down the main street of the city. It will then be offered to Haguro Shrine. For inquiries, please contact the Shinobu Sanzan Executive Office: TEL 024-525-3720.

February 13th & 14th: Aizu Picture Candle Festival @ Tsuruga-jo Castle and Matsudaira's Royal Garden (Oyakuen) as well as various other locations around the city, Aizuwakamatsu. From 5:30pm to 9pm (lighting ceremony from 5pm). This festival showcases a large array of picture candles, a traditional handicraft of the Aizu Region, by lighting up the beautiful snowscape at Tsuruga-jo Castle and Matsudaira's Royal Garden (Oyakuen). For inquiries, please contact the Aizu-Wakamatsu City Tourism Bureau: TEL 0242-23-4141. Website <http://www.aizu.com/erousoku/> (Japanese).

February 14th: Snow and Fire Festival @ Town Sports Ground, Mishima-machi. From 12 noon to 7:30pm. Folk cultures of Mishima-machi will be recreated for the festival, including dango-sashi (traditional tree decorations for welcoming the coming of spring) and tori-oi (procession held in start of the year, originally carried out to drive off birds that damage crops). The primary folk culture attraction is Mishima no Sai no Kami (or the Travelers' Guardian Deity of Mishima), which is designated as a National Important Intangible Folk Cultural Asset. These are large structures made from old New Year's decorations and wood cut from the mountains and are set alight at night. There will also be fireworks shot up into the winter night sky. For inquiries, please contact the Mishima-machi Tourism Bureau: TEL 0241-48-5000. Website <http://www.mishima-kankou.net/> (Japanese).

February 20th to 22nd: Urabandai Snow Festival 2015 @ Site Station and Renge Marsh, Urabandai. Friday and Sunday – from 5:30pm to 8pm, Saturday – from 5:30pm to 9pm. Three thousand candles will be lit and placed on the frozen surface of the lake as part of the festival. There will be other activities during the day, including ice cream making and treasure hunting in the snow. Fireworks are on Saturday. For more information and inquiries, please contact the Urabandai Tourist Association: TEL 0241-32-2349. Website <http://www.urabandai-inf.com/> (Japanese).

Entertainment Guide



ON @ ALIOS



February TV **Movie Picks**

Tue 3	Welcome Back, Mr. McDonald (Japanese)	Toshiaki Karasawa	BSP	9:00pm
Wed 4	Charade (1963)	Audrey Hepburn	BSP	1:00pm
Fri 6	Babette's Feast (Danish, Swedish, French)	Stephane Audran	BSP	11:45pm
Mon 9	Abashiri Prison (Japanese)	Ken Takakura	BSP	9:00pm
Fri 10	Hibotan Bakuto: Hanafuda Shobu (Japanese)	Ken Takakura	BSP	9:00pm
Wed 11	The Wizard of Oz (1939)	Judy Garland	BSP	1:00pm
Fri 13	Chariots of Fire	Ben Cross	BSP	11:45pm
Mon 16	Showa Zankyo-den: Shinde Moraimasu (Japanese)	Ken Takakura	BSP	9:00pm
Tue 17	Riding Alone for Thousands of Miles (Japanese, Chinese)	Ken Takakura	BSP	9:00pm
Wed 18	Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon (Chinese)	Chow Yun-fat	BSP	1:00pm
Thu 19	Gone with the Wind	Vivien Leigh	BSP	1:00pm
Fri 20	The English Patient	Ralph Fiennes	BSP	11:45pm
Mon 23	Good Will Hunting	Matt Damon	BSP	1:00pm
Mon 23	Hannin ni Tsugu (Japanese)	Etsushi Toyokawa	BSP	9:00pm
Thu 26	Glory	Matthew Broderick	BSP	1:00pm
Fri 27	Shakespeare in Love	Gwyneth Paltrow	BSP	1:00pm
Fri 27	Oliver!	Mark Lester	BSP	11:45pm

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. 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 (¥800 for JHS and under).** 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. SHS friends discount ¥1000 each for groups of 3 or more SHS students. Married couples with at least one member over 50 ¥2000 (per couple). Discount for people with disabilities ¥800 (also applies to one companion). 3D films cost an additional ¥300.

Sat 7	Harmonica Gathering in Iwaki 2nd Harmonica Recital Small Theatre. From 1:30pm. Free Entry.
Sun 8	Reach the Heart – Revival Taiko Concert 2015 Main Theatre. From 12:30pm (doors open at 12 noon). Tickets: ¥2,000, JHS and under ¥1,000 (tickets cost an additional ¥500 if purchased on the day).
Sun 15	Alios Ballet Theatre 2014 Fantasy Main Hall. From 3pm (doors open at 2:30pm). Tickets: ¥1,500, JHS and SHS ¥500. Entry is free for primary school students and children 4 years old and over (application in advance required). Children 3 years and under will not be admitted
Sat 21	Hino Terumasa with Big Band in Iwaki Vol. 1 Five Stripes Concert <i>Special Guest Hino Terumasa Quartet</i> Main Theatre. From 6pm (doors open at 5:30pm). Tickets: ¥3,000. Children below primary school age will not be admitted.
Sun 22	Iwaki Wind Orchestra The Concert 2015 Main Hall. From 1:30pm (doors open at 1pm). Tickets: ¥300.

Alios Ticket Centre: 0246-22-5800

For further details including a complete schedule of events at Alios, please visit the website: <http://iwaki-alios.jp/> (Japanese)

Movies@ Pole Pole Iwaki



Miyuki Nakajima 'Enkai 2012-3 Movie Version' (Japanese) <i>Until February 6</i> Miyuki Nakajima
Aikatsu: The Movie (Japanese) <i>Until February 6</i> Sumire Morohoshi
Gone Girl (English) <i>Until February 6</i> Ben Affleck
Parasyte (Japanese) <i>Until February 13</i> Shota Sometani
Yo-Kai Watch the Movie: The Secret is Created, Nyan! (Japanese) <i>Until February 15, Weekends only after February 15</i> Haruka Tomatsu
Blue Spring Ride (Japanese) <i>Until February 20</i> Tsubasa Honda
Annie (English) Quvenzhané Wallis
Ressha Sentai ToQger vs. Kyoryuger: The Movie (Japanese) Jun Shison
ST Aka to Shiro no Sosa File: The Movie (Japanese) Tatsuya Fujiwara
The Vancouver Asahi (Japanese) Satoshi Tsumabuki
Big Hero 6 (Japanese) Yutaro Honjo
Exodus: Gods and Kings (2D-English, 3D-Japanese Dub) Christian Bale
Joker Game (Japanese) Kazuya Kamenashi
Maestro! (Japanese) Tori Matsuzaka
Mortdecai (English, Japanese Dub) <i>From February 6</i> Johnny Depp
Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles (2D-English, 3D-Japanese Dub) <i>From February 7</i> Megan Fox
Fifty Shades of Grey (Languages not released at time of printing) <i>From February 13</i> Dakota Johnson
The Last: Naruto the Movie (Japanese) <i>From February 14 to 27 (two weeks only)</i> Junko Takeuchi
Happiness Charge Pretty Cure!: Ballerina of the Doll Kingdom (Japanese) <i>From February 14 to 27 (two weeks only)</i> Megumi Nakajima
5th Pole Pole Film Festival <i>From February 14 to 22 (nine days only)</i> <i>Films: 12 Years a Slave / In The Hero / The Garden of Words / On the Way to School</i> With one single ticket you can view all the festival films during the festival period. The ticket is ¥1,000 if bought in advance or ¥1,800 if bought on the day.

Pole Pole Ticket Office: 0246-22-3394
Website: <http://www.polepoleiwaki.com/>



Iwaki Hospital Guide



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

Sunday, February 1

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	Kusano Clinic	9-5	56-1060
Nakoso Area	Nakoso Hospital	9-5	65-7755
Joban Area	Tokiwakai Joban Hospital	9-5	43-4175
Onahama Area	Konnai Kodomo Clinic (paediatrics)	9-12	73-8815

Sunday, February 8

Taira Area	Takahashi Clinic	9-12, 2-5	46-1231
Taira Area	Yamauchi Clinic	9-12, 2-5	25-8181
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 Geka (orthopaedics & surgery)	9-12	23-5050
Onahama Area	Nakamura Hospital	9-5	53-3141
Nakoso Area	Kushida Hospital	9-5	63-3202
Joban Area	Iwaki Yumoto Hospital	9-5	42-3188
Onahama Area	Shiga Kodomo Clinic (paediatrics)	9-12	58-5505

Wednesday, February 11

Uchigo Area	Suda Iin	8:30-12	27-6060
Taira Area	Hasegawa Seikeigeka Iin (orthopaedic surgery)	8:30-11:30	25-5691
Onahama Area	Kashima Hospital	9-5	58-8010
Nakoso Area	Sato Maternity Clinic (obstetrics)	9-5	65-6900
Joban Area	Iwaki Kusakidai Sogo Clinic	9-5	28-1145

Sunday, February 15

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	Ishii Noshinkei Geka Ganka Hospital (neurosurgery & ophthalmology)	9-5	58-3121
Nakoso Area	Kureha General Hospital	9-5	63-2181
Joban Area	Watanabe Sanka Fujinka (obstetrics & gynaecology)	9-5	42-4567
Izumi Area	Kodomo Clinic Suzuki (paediatrics)	9-12	56-6336

Sunday, February 22

Taira Area	Takahashi Clinic	9-12, 2-5	46-1231
Taira Area	Sakamoto Seikeigeka Iin (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	Nakayama Clinic	9-5	73-1112
Nakoso Area	Kojima Jiai Hospital	9-5	63-5141
Joban Area	Haruyama Iin	9-5	44-4011
Joban Area	Muramatsu Shonika (paediatrics)	9-12	72-0707

Sunday, March 1

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	Ozaka Clinic	9-5	56-8777
Nakoso Area	Kushida Hospital	9-5	63-3202
Joban Area	Tokiwakai Joban Hospital	9-5	43-4175

Sunday, March 8

Taira Area	Takahashi Clinic	9-12, 2-5	46-1231
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 Geka (orthopaedics & surgery)	9-12	23-5050
Onahama Area	Kazawa Naika Ichoka Iin (internal & gastroenterology)	9-5	54-6200
Nakoso Area	Nakoso Hospital	9-5	65-7755
Joban Area	Iwaki Yumoto Hospital	9-5	42-3188

Sunday, March 15

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	Kamome Clinic	9-5	28-1010

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 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.

Iwaki City 50th Anniversary Commemorative Project Presentation Contest

1 Purpose

October 1, 2016, will mark the 50th anniversary of the foundation of Iwaki City. The City hopes to encourage citizens to feel excited about this momentous occasion and will carry out a commemorative project which reflects proposals from citizens. Iwaki City is currently seeking ideas from the public for the commemorative project. Successful applicants will outline their ideas at the "Iwaki City 50th Anniversary Commemorative Project Presentation Contest". One project will be selected from the presentation contest to be implemented by the City to commemorate the City's anniversary.

2 Presentation Contest Date

16 May (Saturday) 2015

3 Venue

Iwaki City Cultural Centre, Large Hall

4 Outline of the Contest

a. Theme

"About the City's 50th Anniversary Commemorative Project"
Requirements

- The project is to be implemented in the period between April 2016 and March 2017.
- The project must be a "soft project" (a project whose final result is not in itself a tangible asset) made in line with the basic philosophy of the City 50th Anniversary Commemorative Project

b. Number of Participants

10 to 15 (individuals or groups)

Note: A screening panel established in City Hall will carry out an initial round of judging of the entries and select the participants for the presentation contest.

c. Method of Presentation

Applicants are free to choose the method of presentation they use. It is possible to use PowerPoint etc.
The time limit is 10 minutes, followed by 5 minutes of question/answer time.

d. Examination Method

A total of 7 judges consisting of the mayor and 6 various experts, will judge the entries based on the criteria below. Those in attendance will also vote on the presentations and the results of this will be factored into the final decision.

Criterion	Evaluation
1. Level of citizen satisfaction	Can it receive the wide support of citizens
2. Level of citizen participation	Can many citizens participate
3. Creativity	Is it excellent in focus and conceptualisation / imaginative
4. Presentation method	Is it easy to understand and elaborately planned

e. Awards

The following awards will be granted to contestants

Award Type	Prize
Highest Award	Iwaki Special Products (to the value of 50,000 yen)
Excellence Award	Iwaki Special Products (to the value of 30,000 yen)
Mayor's Special Award	Iwaki Special Products (to the value of 50,000 yen)
Challenger Award	Iwaki Special Products (to the value of 10,000 yen)

f. Implementation of the Idea

After discussing with the contestant, the City will implement the winning idea wherever possible in line with the content as presented.

5. Applications for Contestants

a. Application Requirements

Anyone who lives in Iwaki or has a connection with Iwaki (such as people from Iwaki or people who commute to Iwaki for work or school etc.) may apply as an individual or as part of a group.

b. Application Method

Fill in the necessary information in the application form (in Japanese) and send it to the Iwaki City Hometown Revitalisation Division (in person, by post, fax, or email). The application form is available from the Hometown Revitalisation Division (level 1 of City Hall), Citizens Service Centre, City Branch Offices, Community Halls etc, as well as being available for download from the City's official website: <http://www.city.iwaki.fukushima.jp/topics/019709.html> (Japanese)

c. Application Deadline

Applications close on February 23 (Mon), 2015

Multilingual Radio Show "World Ear" Begins

The Iwaki International Association (IIA) will now announce information about events it is hosting and other useful information as a part of FM Iwaki's Iwaki City Administration information programme "Iwaki With". The name of the segment is "World Ear". The segment is broadcast in English, Korean and Chinese. It is also intended to be used during an emergency to provide accurate information to people who speak these languages.

We would like for you to make use of the programme as listening practice if you are studying any of the languages. The time of the broadcast is as follows. Please tune in and give it a listen!



Iwaki Citizens' Community Broadcasting SEA WAVE 76.2 MHz

Main broadcast: Monday 7:00pm – 7:30pm (the segment is broadcast during the second half)

Repeat broadcast: Saturday 8:30am – 9:00am



IIA Official Facebook Address : www.facebook.com/IwakiiA



At the IIA, we would like to inform not just the people of Iwaki, but of the whole world, about our activities. We also hope to provide meaningful information we receive from various organizations. To achieve these goals, we have set up a Facebook Page. Please "like" and "share" our posts and introduce your friends to us on Facebook.

Disaster Preparedness Class

Learn to Prepare Simple Japanese Food Using Stockpiled Food Supplies

Date: February 24 (Tue), 2015

Time: 10am – 1pm

Venue: Iwaki City Cultural Centre, cooking room

Content: Learning to prepare simple Japanese food using stockpiled food

Instructor: Ms Toyoko Hirasawa,

Fee: Head of the Uchigo Branch of the Iwaki City Council of Health Promoters

Capacity: IIA members 1,000 yen, non-members 1,500 yen

Participants: 30 people

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



A Request from the IIA



This is a request to all members and volunteers registered with the Iwaki International Association. If there is ever a change in your registration information such as your address, phone number, FAX number or email address, please let the IIA know. Also, as there may be times when we contact you, please set your spam filter to allow emails from the IIA's address (info@iia-fukushima.or.jp).



Stress Management & HEART CAFÉ



Date: February 14 (Sat), 2015

Time: 10am – noon

Venue: Iwaki City Cultural Centre, large conference room 1

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

Date: February 14 (Sat), 2015

Time: 1pm – 3pm

Venue: Iwaki City Cultural Centre, large conference room 1

Content: Thinking together about the mental wellbeing and support of parents struggling with childrearing and their children.

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

Children are very welcome!

Ijidoukun – Writing Kun-homophones in Kanji

A homophone is a word that is pronounced the same as another but differs in meaning. Ijidoukun (異字同訓, also called 同訓異字) are kun-reading based homophones. But before we get into this month's topic, let's take a quick look at on-reading based homophones.

Many of the homophones in Japanese are words of Chinese-origin that have been imported into the language. As the set of possible sounds in Japanese is narrower than in Chinese, words that were not originally homophones in Chinese may become homophones when pronounced in Japanese. For example, the words 効果 "effect", 校歌 "school song", 高価 "high price", 硬化 "hardening", and 降下 "descent" are all pronounced differently in Chinese, but are pronounced the same in Japanese. Personally, I have found that attempting to take advantage of shared sounds and learning compounds like these alongside each other only makes things more confusing. It is best to disregard their shared sounds and learn homophones of this type as you would any other vocabulary. Learning kanji will help you a lot in distinguishing these sorts of homophones.

But let's move on to kun-homophones, which can often be a source of confusion for students of Japanese and even natives. Some kun-homophones are easy enough to keep separate as their meanings are unrelated and they simply happen to share the same sound: the verbs 折る "to break, to fold" and 織る "to weave" are one example of this. The confusion arises when kun-homophones are written with different kanji but are still very close in meaning. You may have come across words such as 基, 本, 元, 下, and 許; and wondered what the difference between them is. Unlike homophones that are not close in meaning, it pays off to study kun-homophones like these alongside each other. Doing so allows you to learn the (often subtle) differences in their meaning.

Here are a few examples of easily confused kun-homophones with examples illustrating their usage:

Kanji	English Meaning	Example
上る	to go up (general)	川を上る go up stream
登る	to climb up (indicates intention)	山に登る climb a mountain
昇る	to rise upwards (naturally towards the sky / in rank)	日が昇(上)る the sun rises 最高の地位に昇る rise to the top position
答える	to respond to words or questions etc.	質問に答える answer the question
応える	to respond to or meet demands, expectations etc.	期待に応える meet expectations
早い	early; ahead of schedule	気が早い short-tempered; hasty
速い	having speed	物覚えが速い quick to learn
技	technique; art; skill	技を磨く hone one's skills
業	deed; act; work	手業 work using the hands
努める	to make an effort; to exert oneself	完成に努める work towards completion
勤める	to work (for); to be employed (at);	図書館に勤める work at a library
務める	to play the role (of); fulfil a responsibility	議長を務める act as chairperson
越える	to go beyond a time, point or place	国境を越える問題 transnational issue
超える	to exceed a quantity, standard or limit	人間の能力を超(越)える* surpass human ability

One trick to help remember the correct kanji is to make associations with related compounds that use each of the kanji but are not homophones. For example, the words 努力 "great effort", 通勤 "commuting to work", and 任務 "duty" all provide a good indication as to differences in meaning of the three characters that can be read "つとめる" in the table above. While it is easy to confuse the characters in the homophones 努める, 勤める, and 務める, keeping in mind related compounds like these can help you remember the difference.

You can also quickly look up the difference in meaning when typing Japanese on a computer. When selecting the correct kanji you can always refer to the dictionary that pops up to explain the difference between homophones. While this dictionary is convenient, it is in Japanese only. Therefore it may only be of limited use to beginners.

The following reference list and supplement list provided by the Agency for Cultural Affairs give examples of usage for common Kun-homophones: http://www.bunka.go.jp/kokugo_nihongo/joho/kijun/sanko/yoho/pdf/yoho.pdf (Japanese) http://www.bunka.go.jp/kokugo_nihongo/joho/kijun/sanko/yohorei/pdf/yohorei.pdf (Japanese)

As both of the lists are in Japanese only, you may prefer to find a guide that has English, such as the following: <http://www.busensei.com/ijidoukun.htm>















* Note that more than one character may be correct in some cases. These are indicated with parentheses in the lists provided by the Agency for Cultural Affairs.

From the Editor

The 6th Iwaki Sunshine Marathon will be held on February 8 (Sun). Over 10,000 people are scheduled to participate in the full marathon and other races. This year there will be a service in place that allows you to check the position of the runner you are supporting using your computer or smartphone. Unfortunately last year's marathon had to be cancelled due to heavy snowfall. Let's all hope that this year's marathon, true to its name, is one with plenty of sunshine. Good luck to everyone who will be running!


Sebastian



FEBRUARY 2015


Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3 Setsubun おにはそとー!! 	4	5	6	7
8 Iwaki Sunshine Marathon 	9  Southern Cross	10	11 National Foundation Day 2月11日  建国記念日	12	13	14  Valentine's Day Gets!  Stress Management and Heart Café  Wa
15	16	17  English Class 1 (daytime and evening)	18	19  English Class 2 (daytime and evening)	20  Wa	21
22	23  Southern Cross	24  Disaster Preparedness Class	25  Très bien	26  English Class 3 (daytime and evening)	27	28



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

March 2015

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