

旭川 ASAHIKAWA Info

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Hokkaido News Top 5



March 2016

Compiled by TAKADA Nobuhiro

January 28

“Nitori Holdings,” a major retailing company of furniture and interior goods in Sapporo, has decided to open an art museum in Otaru. The retailer plans to renovate three historic buildings, “Otaru Branch Office of Mitsui Bank,” “Takahashi Warehouse,” and the “Firm of Arata,” which are all located close to the “Otaru Canal” - a tourist spot - to set up the museum. The company also has a collection of great Japanese masterpieces, as well as glass craft works of Emile Galle and others that will be going on display.

January 30

JR Hokkaido announced on January 29 that the revenue of all fourteen lines is below the operation costs. Even in the Sapporo area, the railway company has a deficit of more than 2.6 billion yen a year. 159 out of 453 stations in Hokkaido, the average number of passengers per day is less than ten, and for 58 out of 159 stations the number is almost zero. The announcement seems to be a part of preparing to abandon unprofitable railway lines in order to allocate resources for safety measures involving 277 bridges and 21 tunnels which are more than 100 years old.

February 9

One out of fourteen residents is non-Japanese in Kutchan Town where Niseko ski resort is located. The number of registered foreign residents has reached 1,045 in December, and 1,109 in January. Seasonal employees working for hotels and ski schools in Niseko move in from December to March every year. 5.8 percent of the residents in Niseko Town and 6.5 percent in Rusutsu Village close to Kutchan are also non-Japanese as of January 31.

February 13

The 57th Asahikawa Winter Festival attracted 937,000 visitors during the event, which is an increase of 51,000 over the last year. It is the first time for the festival to have more than 900,000 visitors since 2011. That’s because more tourists came from Asian countries including China where people take a long vacation for Lunar New Year. Meanwhile, the 67th Sapporo Snow Festival attracted 2,422,000 tourists from February 5 to 11.

February 17

Hokkaido Government announced February 17 that the population of Hokkaido was 5,383,579 as of October 1st of last year according to a quick estimation of national population census in 2015. It decreased by 122,840 or 2.2 percent over the last decade. Only 18 municipalities out of 179 in Hokkaido have seen their population increase. Population in Sapporo accounting for 36.3 percent of the whole population in Hokkaido has increased by 2.1 percent. Population in Higashikagura has increased by 10.1 percent and Hikashikawa by 3.3 percent while Asahikawa has decreased by 2.1 percent.



For further information or to register for events contact:

Asahikawa International Committee (SASAKI Mai, Jacob WERSCHHEY, or SAITO Emmy)

Location:

International/City Affairs Division, Comprehensive Policy Dept.

Address:

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Feeeal Asahikawa 7F, 1-jo-dori 8 - chome, Asahikawa 070-0031

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Special Thanks to KAWAI Tatsuo, Proofreader & Advisor

Suffering in Sadness Another face of the Genius Mozart**悲しみに憂う 天才モーツァルトのもうひとつの顔**

Pianist Takanori KIMURA will perform Symphony Num. 40, Queen of the Night, and other works by Mozart alongside Soprano Yui TAKAHASHI and Violinist Shiho KITANO.

Date: March 5th (Saturday)

Time: Doors 4:30pm, Show 5:00pm

Venue: Asahikawa Taisetsu Crystal Hall, Concert Hall (Kagura 3-jo 7-chome)

Admission: General ¥2,500; Disabled/Elderly(65+) ¥2000; Students ¥1000

Ticket Office: Asahikawa Taisetsu Crystal Hall

For further information contact: 0166-69-2000

Notes: ¥500 surcharge on same day purchase; Free parking available

**Yasushi INOUE From Winning the Akutagawa prize to Hyōheki****井上 靖 芥川賞受賞から「氷壁」の頃**

Yasushi INOUE was a famous Asahikawa born novelist. If you missed the last event in January, this is another chance to see poems, pictures, etc. related to his award winning works *Tōgyū* - "Bullfighting," *Ryōjū* - "Hunting Rifle," as well as other novels such as *Hyōheki* - "Ice Ridge."

Date: March 8th (Tuesday) to May 28th (Saturday)

Time: 10:00am until 4:00pm

Venue: Tokiwa Park Literary Museum

Admission: FREE

For further information contact: 0166-22-3310 (Tokiwa Park)

Notes: Closed on weekends and holidays

**Yasuyuki KASORI Electrone Concert****加曾利康之 エレクトーンコンサート**

Yasuyuki KASORI is a Grand Prix winner of the International Electrone Festival in 1980, who is well known for his originality in arrangement, as well as his gorgeous, and transparent KSX "Kasorix" sound. His performance and concert activities in and outside of Japan, including Europe and Asian areas, have reached 2,000.

Date: March 9th (Wednesday)

Time: Doors 6:00pm, Show 6:30pm

Venue: Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall, Small Hall (7-jo-dori 9-chome)

Admission: General ¥2000; High School and under ¥1000

Ticket Office: Yamaha Music Store

For further information contact: 0166-27-0620 (Yamaha Music Store)

**Touching & Looking: Hands-on Enjoyment of Art****さわって みて 美術をまるごと楽しもう!**

Works of art aren't something you get to touch, but this exhibition is a bit different. Opening boxes, catching the scent of the sculptures, etc. allows you to appreciate these works in their entirety, as opposed to just seeing them.

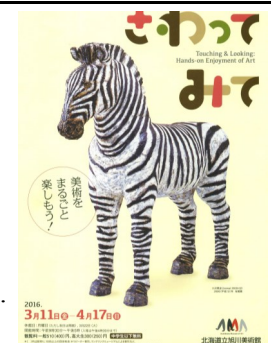
Date: *Schedule Change* March 11th (Friday) to April 17th (Sunday)

Time: 9:30am until 5:00pm

Venue: Hokkaido Asahikawa Museum of Art (Inside Tokiwa Park)

Admission: General ¥510; High School ¥300; Junior High and under FREE

***Notes:** No entry after 4:30pm. Closed on Mondays except for the 21st. Closed on the 22nd.



Asahikawa Ryo-Un Wind Crew 20th Regular Concert 北海道旭川凌雲高等学校吹奏楽局 第20回定期演奏会

The school will also be making an appearance in The 28th All Japan High School Wind Band Conference. 4 Alumni will also be taking the stage to play alongside current students

Date: March 12th (Saturday); March 13th (Sunday)
Time: Doors 5:00pm, Show 5:30pm (Saturday); Doors 12:30pm, Show 1pm (Sunday)
Venue: Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall, Large Hall (7-jo-dori 9-chome)
Admission: General ¥1000 High School and under ¥500
Ticket Office: Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall, Asahikawa Taisetsu Crystal Hall, Yamaha Music Store, Lawson (L-code 14979), Gyokkodo (3rd Floor Aeon Mall), Coach and Four
For further information contact: 080-5837-4708

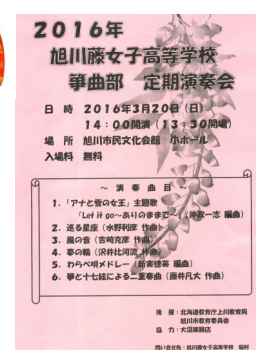


2016 Asahikawa Fuji Girls' High School Koto Music Department Regular Concert 2016年 旭川藤女子高等学校 箏曲部 定期演奏会

A koto is a traditional instrument with 13 strings over 13 bridges although there are also 17 string variants. Let it go from Disney's frozen is the main song and will be followed by works of many different Japanese composers



Date: March 20th (Sunday)
Time: Doors 1:30pm, Show 2:00pm
Venue: Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall, Small Hall (7-jo-dori 9-chome)
Admission: FREE
For further information contact: 0166-51-8125



Asahikawa Nanakamado Boys and Girls Choir 31st Regular Concert 旭川ななかまど少年少女合唱団 第31回 定期演奏会

The Asahikawa Nanakamado Boys and Girls Choir Performance includes multiple age groups outside from different schools in the area. Part one includes "Nostalgic Anime Songs" from Spaceship Battleship Yamato, Galaxy Express 999 and more. Fun Fact: The Nanakamado is the official tree of Asahikawa.

Date: March 20th (Sunday)
Time: Doors 2:00pm, Show 2:30pm
Venue: Asahikawa Taisetsu Crystal Hall Concert Hall (Kagura 3-jo 7-chome)
Admission: ¥500
Ticket Office: Yamaha Music Store, Asahikawa Taisetsu Crystal Hall
Special: The group is also looking for new members! 2nd year high school students and under can join the choir any time from April onward.
For further information contact: 0166-32-5590 (Kaneichi)



Hokkaido Asahikawa Higashi High School Wind Section 18th Regular Concert ~Arpeggio~ 北海道旭川東高等学校吹奏楽局 第18回定期演奏会

With the 2015 All Japan High School Culture Festival in Shiga Prefecture this past July out of the way, Asahikawa Higashi High School is ready for another performance. You can expect works of Jon Van der Roost and "high lights" from Spirited Away.

Date: March 20th (Sunday)
Time: Doors 5:30pm, Show 6:00pm
Venue: Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall, Large Hall (7-jo-dori 9-chome)
Admission: ¥500
Ticket Office: Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall, Yamaha Music Store, Gyokkodo (3rd Floor Aeon Mall), Coach and Four **Ticket Sales end the 17th**
For further information contact: 090-2695-3646



EVENTS IN ASAHIKAWA FOR MARCH

Kurumi SAWAI and Takumi KUROSAKI Piano Joint Recital ~A Present to Our Hometown~**澤井くるみ&黒崎拓海 Piano Joint Recital ~故郷への贈り物~**

Both performers were born in Asahikawa. Since then, they have spread their wings and are currently 3rd year university students living in the Tokyo area. In that time they have racked up their fair share of awards in competitions not just within their home country but some international ones as well.

Date: March 24th (Thursday)**Time:** Doors 6:00pm, Show 6:30pm**Venue:** Asahikawa Taisetsu Crystal Hall, Concert Hall (Kagura 3-jo 7-chome)**Admission:** ¥1000**Ticket Office:** Yamaha Music Store, Asahikawa Taisetsu Crystal Hall, Kawai Shop Asahikawa (3-jo-dori 7-chome)**澤井くるみ&黒崎拓海**

Piano Joint Recital ~故郷への贈り物~

2016年3月24日(木)

18時開場18時30分開演

旭川市大宮

クリスタルホール音楽堂

全席自由 1,000円

Program

ショパン

(協奏曲第1番)

リスト

(夜想曲)

ドビュッシー

ピアノ

ショパン

ピアノ

ショパン

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Fifth Hokkaido Asahikawa Minami High School Wind Instrument Department Spring Concert**第5回 北海道旭川南高等学校 吹奏学部 スプリングコンサート**

Program includes...

Part One: Arsenal; Tom Tit Tot

Part Two: J-Best *Sakura* Song Melody; Mary Go Round of Life (Howl's Moving Castle)

Part Three: Mission Impossible Theme

...and more.

Date: March 26th (Saturday)**Time:** Doors 1:30pm, Show 2:00pm**Venue:** Asahikawa Civic Action Exchange Center Cocode (Miyamae 1-jo 3-chome)**Admission:** FREE (Ticket Required—Available the day of the performance)**Ticket Office:** Yamaha Music Store**For further information contact:** 0166-65-8770 (Minami High School)

0166-27-0620 (Yamada Music store)

**Hokkaido Asahikawa Higashi High School Music Department 23rd Regular Concert****北海道旭川東高等学校 音楽部 第23定期演奏会**

In addition to their wind section playing on the 20th, the music department of Asahikawa Higashi High school will be having another concert a week later in Taisetsu Crystal hall. Who Knows, you may see some familiar faces!

Date: March 27th (Sunday)**Time:** Doors 1:30pm, Show 2:00pm**Venue:** Asahikawa Taisetsu Crystal Hall Concert Hall (Kagura 3-jo 7-chome)**Admission:** General ¥500; High School and under ¥300**Ticket Office:** Yamaha Music Store, Asahikawa Taisetsu Crystal Hall**For further information contact:** 0166-23-2855 (Higashi High School)**Asahikawa Nishi High School Wind Instrument Department 17th Regular Concert****旭川西高等学校 吹奏楽部 第17定期演奏会**

It would seem every high school in the area is having a regular concert this month and Asahikawa Nishi High School isn't about to be left out of the list.

Date: March 27th (Sunday)**Time:** Doors 5:30pm, Show 6:00pm**Venue:** Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall, Large Hall (7-jo-dori 9-chome)**Admission:** General ¥800; Junior High School ¥500; Elementary School and under FREE**Ticket Office:** Yamaha Music Store, Gyokkodo (3rd Floor Aeon Mall), Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall**For further information contact:** 0166-52-1215 (Nishi High School)

Life In Japan

Doll's Festival By Satoshi SAKURABA

In Japan, March 3 is called Doll's Festival (ひなまつり). On this day, people who have daughters set up dolls along with some food (rice crackers, diamond-shaped rice cakes and so on).

There are different sets of dolls. The simplest of which consists of two dolls, that is, Ohina-sama (おひなさま) and Odairi-sama (おだいらさま). On the other hand, there is also a set of dolls which consists of seven steps.



Photographer: David Wiley Source: Wikipedia

This set of dolls is very large and occupies a big part of the room. Recently, the simple one has been preferred over the larger one because it is easier for the family to relocate. The position of each doll is strictly defined. For example, Ohina-sama should be placed the left of Odairi-sama. Additionally, there is a legend to do with the timing of packing dolls after March 3. If the dolls are packed up later after Doll's Festival, it is said that daughters of that family will get married later. Of course, this legend might just be superstition.

On Doll's Festival, scattered sushi (ちらし寿司) is eaten across Japan. Scattered sushi is the special dish and includes various colors of foods. For example, dembu (でんぶ) which is often used to make scattered sushi, is pink-colored fish meat powder. Moreover, rice crackers (あられ) are also eaten on this day. They are available in all seasons at the grocery store, but there are special rice crackers for Doll's Festival. They are very colorful.



Special *arare* for the festival

As you can see this is a special day for girls in March. However, there is also a special day for boys on May 5, which is named *Tango-no-sekku* (端午の節句) or "Boys' Festival." On this day, people also display dolls, but those dolls are different from the ones displayed on March 3. In Japan, there are special days for boys and girls and people display dolls on both days.

Life in Asahikawa

Kirenjaku - The City's Bird

By KITAMURA Tadao

March is the very month that everyone living here in Asahikawa has been looking forward to see after having endured that long and gloomy season. You might see lots of snow still remaining here and there in shady places of town, however, you can still feel spring coming if you listen carefully. The sun gets brighter day by day, there is less and less snow on the ground. Word of cherries blooming comes from the southern remote places of this archipelago.

A bird - the '*uguisu*' - has been very popular as 'a herald messenger of spring'; she twitters so merrily and so sweet that people feel the pleasure of a coming spring. Her English name is 'Bush Warbler.' What does her vice sound like to you? We Japanese hear it as "Hoh—Hokekyo." 'Hokekyo' is a sutra of Buddhism, so our ancestors might have regarded the *uguisu* as an angel of Buddha. The *uguisu* has long been a symbol of spring together with plum blossoms. You'll frequently see the bird perching on a twig with plum blossoms in Japanese paintings.



Things work differently here in this town of Hokkaido. The star of early spring is not an *uguisu* but a Waxwing, a *Bombycillia garrulous*, or '*kirenjaku*' in Japanese. It is a bird, appointed as the official bird of Asahikawa, together with the Japanese Rowan, or *nanakamado* tree which is the official tree of Asahikawa. The Waxwing is very pretty with the characteristics of a long crest feather on top of her crown and yellow tip on her tail, body size is about 19.5 cm, colored reddish ash-gray. Flocks of *kirenjaku* spend winter in the mountains of this town picking at mistletoe berries. When winter season draws near to end, there, red clusters of rowan berries are still hanging on street trees in the town.

One day, a very big flock of nearly one hundred suddenly come from somewhere in heaven, sweep down into the street trees, and noisily pick all the rowan berries up in the blink of an eye before flying away to the south. People are struck dumb with amazement seeing this scene, and at the same time, realize the coming of spring. You can have a lot of fun bird watching in this thawing season.

You might try to set a simple bird table outside of your window to invite cute visitors from the mountains by treating them with some slices of fruit or something on it. Dusky thrushes and Brown-eared bulbuls will come, but they will take care of the crows.



Hello Asahikawa!

Name: Lauren Laine

Hometown: Normal, Illinois, USA

Interviewed: February 19th, By AIC

AIC: So Lauren, how did you first get interest in Japan?

Lauren: What really sparked my interest in Japan was my fifth grade teacher who had come to Japan as a chaperone; he brought my class Japanese snacks and told us about how much he loved Japan. He also introduced me to the Sister Cities Program that has both Jr. High and High school exchange programs between Bloomington/Normal and Asahikawa. My first time coming to Japan was in 2010 for around two weeks when I came in a group of eight students and two chaperones. Japan is the only country other than the U.S. that I've been to.

AIC: Where are you from originally?

Lauren: I'm from Normal Illinois, a town in the middle of Illinois, which is in the middle of America. Normal is a college town so the atmosphere is very different than Asahikawa. Even though Asahikawa isn't necessarily a big city it feels very urban to me. I really like the view of the city from Ryoujinbashi. It looks very metropolitan which is a big difference from my town, which is full of corn fields. Although winters in Normal are usually cold (-20F last with wind chill last year) with the exception of this year, there isn't that much snow. I love the way snow piles up to form shimmering white walls around the sidewalks in Asahikawa.

AIC: How long do you see yourself staying here in Asahikawa?

Lauren: I will be in Asahikawa until early June. I am very glad that I will leave after the cherry blossoms bloom, because I've never seen them before. My entire exchange is for ten months from August to June.

AIC: That's nice. It would be awful to miss out on something like that. How is your Japanese coming along by the way?

Lauren: I like to think that I can speak Japanese though there are definitely times when I have no idea what anyone is saying. I studied Japanese with an amazing teacher for about two years before coming to Japan. I still can't read kanji very well, but all in good time. I studied Spanish in school for four years but while I can read and write in Spanish, I have a hard time speaking it.



Hello Asahikawa!

Lauren Interview (Part 2) Continued from page 7

AIC: I know how you feel sometimes. What do you do for fun? Any hobbies?

Lauren: In terms of hobbies I really like anything that has to do with singing or dancing. I'm in my school's *gasshoubu* (chorus club) as well as Seikatai the Buddhist choir at my school. I also belly dance. I started belly dancing over two years ago after being berated by my friend for months to try a class, and I ended up liking it so much I have taken lessons ever since. I am also lucky enough to continue taking lessons here in Asahikawa.

AIC: Belly Dancing! That's not something I hear very often. I cant believe you found a place here as well. What about Karaoke?

Lauren: Since I love singing I love karaoke but I don't know that many songs in Japanese so with the exception of Mongol800's *chiisana koi no uta*, I mainly sing in English. I've slowly started to learn the melodies of songs that my friends and host siblings like but I almost never know the lyrics.

AIC: Karaoke really is a great way to learn I think. The pronunciation keys are usually written above the characters too so you can learn new words as well. Thanks for letting me interview you!

Lauren: No problem!

★ *Movies ~ March* ★

*The 1st day of every month is "Movie Day" in Asahikawa. Admission (tax included) is ¥1,100 for Adults, ¥800 for High School Students and Under at all theaters.

*<Aeon Cinema Only> Every Monday is "Happy Monday." Admission is ¥1,100 (tax included) for all.

★ **Aeon Cinema:** Miyashita-dori 7-chome / ☎ 74 - 6411

URL: cinema.aeoncinema.com/wm/asahikawa (Japanese)

Now Showing

- She is Funny that Way (English) ~3/4
- Girls und Panzer der Film (Japanese/ Animation) ~3/4
- PADDINGTON (Japanese) ~3/4
- He Named Me Malala (English) ~3/11
- Les Souvenirs (French) ~3/11
- While the Women are Sleeping (Japanese/ PG12)
- The Finest Hours (English)
- Point Break (English/ 2D 3D)
- Kentakun to Tetsudouhakase no Go! Go! 100 no Densha (Japanese/ Animation)
- The Martian (English 2D/Japanese 3D)
- The Inerasable (Japanese)
- Saraba Abunai Deka (Japanese)
- Black Mass (English/R15+)
- Nobunaga-Concerto (Japanese)
- Shuriken Sentai Ninninjer vs. ToQger The Movie: Ninjas in Wonderland
- Sindbad: The Flying princess and the Secret Island Pt 2 (Japanese/ Animation)
- Les Saisons (Japanese)
- Yokai-Watch the Movie (Japanese/Animation)
- Star Wars: The Force Awakens (English 3D/ Japanese 2D)
- orange (Japanese)

Coming Soon

- The Big Short (English) 3/4
- Doraemon: Nobita and the Birth of Japan 2016 (Japanese/ Animation) 3/5
- Sailor Suit and Machine Gun (Japanese/PG12) 3/5
- Shaun the Sheep: the Farmer's Llamas (English/Animation) 3/5
- Shimajiro no Wao! Shimajiro to Ehon no Kuni (Japanese) 3/11
- What a Wonderful Family! (Japanese) 3/12
- The Good Dinosaur (Japanese) 3/12
- The Summit of the Gods (Japanese) 3/12
- The Good Dinosaur (Japanese) 3/12
- PriPara Movie: Minna no Akogare Let's Go Prix Paris (Japanese/ Animation) 3/12
- Chihayafuru 【Kaminoku】 (Japanese) 3/19
- Boku Dake ga Inai Machi (Japanese) 3/19
- Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice (English) 3/25
- Assassination Classroom: Graduation (Japanese) 3/25
- Kamen Rider 1 (Japanese) 3/26
- Miss Granny (Japanese) 4/1

★ *Movies ~ March* ★

*<Cineplex 7 Asahikawa and Dinos Cinemas Only> Every Wednesday is “Ladies’ Day.” Admission is ¥1,100 (tax included) for women at all theaters.

*<Dinos Cinemas Only> Every Thursday is “Men’s Day.” Admission is ¥1,100 (tax included) for men.

★ **Cineplex 7 Asahikawa:** Nagayama 12-jo 3-chome Western Powers Nagayama / ☎ 49 – 1000

URL: <http://www.kadokawa-cineplex.co.jp/asahikawa/> (Japanese)

Directions: Take Dohoku Bus No. 66, 72 or 665 at Bus stop No. 18 in front of Feeal Asahikawa Department Store (1-jo-dori 8-chome). Get off at “Nagayama 10 (ju)-jo 3 (san)-chome.”

Now Showing

- The Finest Hours (English 3D)
- Hotel Transylvania 2 (Japanese)
- Miyuki Nakajima Yakai Vol.18: Arcadia under the Bridge (Japanese)
- Point Break (English 3D)
- Born in the EXILE (Japanese)
- The Martian (English 2D/Japanese 3D)
- Saraba Abunai Deka (Japanese)
- Nobunaga-Concerto (Japanese)
- Shuriken Sentai Ninninjer vs. ToQger The Movie: Ninjas in Wonderland
- The Actor (Japanese)
- PADDINGTON (Japanese)
- Les Saisons (Japanese)
- Jinsei no Yakusoku (Japanese)
- Yokai-Watch the Movie (Japanese/Animation)
- Star Wars: The Force Awakens (English 2D/ Japanese 3D)

Coming Soon

- Sailor Suit and Machine Gun (Japanese/PG12) 3/5
- Doraemon: Nobita and the Birth of Japan 2016 (Japanese/ Animation) 3/5
- Sakura no Ame (Japanese) 3/5
- What a Wonderful Family! (Japanese) 3/12
- The Good Dinosaur (Japanese) 3/12
- The Summit of the Gods (Japanese) 3/12
- Chihayafuru 【Kaminoku】 (Japanese) 3/19
- Pretty Cure All Stars:Minna de Utau Kiseki no Mahou (Japanese) 3/19
- Boku Dake ga Inai Machi (Japanese) 3/19
- Assassination Classroom: Graduation (Japanese) 3/25
- Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice (English) 3/25
- Kamen Rider 1 (Japanese) 3/26
- Miss Granny (Japanese) 4/1
- The Stare (Japanese) 4/2

★ **Dinos Cinemas:** Taisetsu-dori 5-chome / ☎ 21 – 1218

URL: http://www.geodinos.jp/cinema/asa_schedule.php?StoreID=5 (Japanese)

Directions: Take Dohoku Bus No. 61, 62, 67 or 667 at Bus stop No. 18 in front of Feeal Asahikawa Department Store (1-jo-dori 8-chome). Get off at “Nippon Seishi mae.”

Now Showing

- Black Mass (English/R15+) ~3/4
- Shuriken Sentai Ninninjer vs. ToQger The Movie: Ninjas in Wonderland ~3/4
- Akito the Exiled: To Beloved One (Japanese/Animation) ~3/11
- Crimson Peak (English/ R15+) ~3/11
- The Martian (English)
- Sherlock: The Abominable Bride (English)
- Dragon Blade (English)
- The Gunman (English/PG12)
- The Martian (English 2D/Japanese 3D)
- Kizumonogatari 1 (Japanese/ Animation)
- The Finest Hours (English)

Coming Soon

- The Big Short (English) 3/4
- Doraemon: Nobita and the Birth of Japan 2016 (Japanese/Animation) 3/5
- Neko Nanka Yondemo Konai (Japanese) 3/5~3/18
- What a Wonderful Family! (Japanese) 3/12
- The Good Dinosaur (Japanese) 3/12
- The Summit of the Gods (Japanese) 3/12
- Tenshi ni "I'm fine" (Japanese) 3/19
- Boku Dake ga Inai Machi (Japanese) 3/19
- Chihayafuru 【Kaminoku】 (Japanese) 3/19
- Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice (English) 3/25
- Assassination Classroom: Graduation (Japanese) 3/25
- Kamen Rider 1 (Japanese) 3/26
- Miss Granny (Japanese) 4/1

Movie schedules change often. Please call the theater for confirmation and details.

36th Vasaloppet Japan Yuki no Mura Snow Village

This year marks the 36th anniversary of Vasaloppet Japan, which is an annual long distance cross-country ski race originated in Sweden.

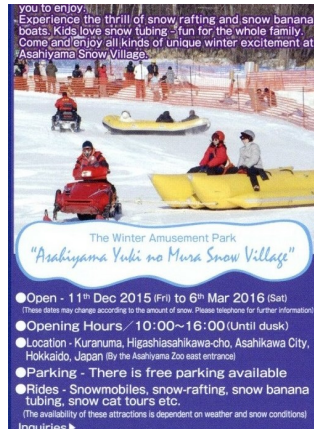
Competitive races for professional skiers will take place on the 12th (Sat) with longer distances, up to 45km, at Tomisawa Course. The races on the 13th (Sun) will take place on Kitasaito Course. Mini-loppe with young skiers under 9 will also be held.

On top of watching the race, you can also enjoy various activities and warm local winter food.

To find out more about Vasaloppet Japan, including the daily schedule, race venue, transportation, and more, please visit the official website:

<http://www.ahmic21.ne.jp/asahikawa-sports/35th/vasa-toppage-english.htm>

Note Although the link says "35th," information displayed is for this year.



A winter amusement park! Numerous attractions like snow mobiles, snow-rafting, snow banana tubing, snow cat tours, and more!

Date: Now until March 6th (Saturday)

Time: 10:00am to 4:00pm (Until Sunset)

Venue:

Outside of Asahiyama Zoo East Side Entrance

Notes: Free Parking. Prices vary by attraction. Attractions may close depending on the weather.

Interesting activities, such as quizzes, discussions, songs, games, handcrafts and many more, all in English! Come meet new people, relax, and relate on Fun Fridays!

FUN FRIDAYS

Dates: March 11th&25th, April 8th&22nd, May 13&27

*Fun Fridays are held only on the 2nd Friday of every month for the evening session (2 hours)

Time: 1:00-2:00pm & 6:30-8:30pm

Location: Asahikawa International Center, Common Meeting Room (1)
(Feeal Asahikawa 7F 1-jo-dori 8-chome)

Charge: ¥1,500 for 3 months (Free for volunteer leaders)

The AIC offers many services to make your life in Asahikawa more enjoyable. Here are just a few:

Volunteer Guide: Volunteers are registered to help translate and interpret.

Event Volunteer: The AIC plans many exciting events throughout the year, such as Friendship Parties. Why not become a volunteer and help plan these events?

Homestay: Families are registered to welcome you into their homes for an overnight stay or just for an afternoon visit.

For further information or to register, please contact AIC.



The Asahikawa International Center (Feeal Asahikawa 7F 1-jo-dori 8-chome) has free wifi available for public use free of charge. Registration for a user card is needed, if you are residing in Asahikawa. Please feel free to come by anytime, as well as check out some of the other services and activities available at the Asahikawa International Center.

Spread the Word...

Contribute to the AIC newsletter and share any interesting information you may have with other readers. You may write on any topic including, items to buy or sell, offers for culture/language exchanges, or write an essay about your life in Asahikawa or your hometown. The article should not be profit related! Please send your submissions to us at the AIC.



Asahikawa International Committee

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****The opinions expressed in the essays are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Asahikawa International Committee or the City of Asahikawa.****