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### For further information or to register for events, contact:

Asahikawa International Committee (AIC)  
(SUGANO Ayumi, SAITO Emmy, or GONZALEZ Gabriel)

### Location:

International/City Affairs Division,  
Tourism, Sports and International/City  
Affairs Dept.

### Address:

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

**Tel:** (0166) 25-7491

**Fax:** (0166) 23-4924

**Email:** cir\_kokusai@city.asahikawa.lg.jp

## Hokkaido News Top 5

*January - February 2023, compiled by the AIC*

### **Hokkaido Electric to Raise Prices by 34.87%, (1/27)**

The Hokkaido Electric Power Company (HEPCO) requested permission from the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry to raise its standard billing charges up by 34.87% starting in June. Around 2.4 million households are under their standard contract, so a committee of experts will review whether such a price raise is reasonable. If allowed, the average household's electric bill will go up to ¥11,700 a month, ¥2,833 more than current charges, placing a burden on families.

### **Sweet Potato Cultivation Sees Growth in the Dohoku Region, (2/2)**

Although normally preferring a warmer climate, sweet potato farming has been spreading throughout Hokkaido. Due partially to global warming resulting in an increase of farmable land to the north, expansion into overseas markets has allowed for production outside of Hokkaido while commercial farmers grow rice at home. The Higashi Asahikawa Agriculture Association has been tending sweet potato since 2020 thanks to its low maintenance and high economic return. Production has spread to many areas, including Pippu, Etanbetsu and Takasu.

### **The Orthodox Church of Hakodate Reopens for General Viewing, (2/5)**

Designated as an Important Cultural Property of Japan, the Orthodox Church had been closed since 2020 to undergo massive renovations to its roof and outer walls. It was built in 1916 with unique white plaster walls and copper-plated roofing, one of the buildings that represents Hakodate's famed Western District. The church reopened on 2/4 alongside a religious service so tourists were able to view inside the worship hall among the resounding hymns of the churchgoers.

### **Volunteers from Taiwan and Korea Help with Snow Lights in Otaru, (2/16)**

The Annual Otaru Snow Lights Path reopened with around 200 volunteers assisting. One quarter were members of the Korean and Taiwanese volunteer groups Okovo and You Hao, respectively. The groups created snow sculptures and candlese at sites like the Otaru Canal and Tenguyama, but also maintained them by wiping off any extra snow from their work. Although travel and food expenses were paid by the volunteers, the executive committee of the event covered all lodging fees. For some it was the first time they had touched snow.

### **American Whiskey Company Moves into Chitose, (2/18)**

The American Whiskey Company IJW Whiskey will be establishing a large-scale whiskey distillery in Chitose's industrial park this spring. Operations will commence by the end of 2024 in the hopes to produce 20 million liters annually, the most in the country. This is also the first time a foreign company sets a large-scale factory in Hokkaido, doubly rare nationally for it to be a whiskey factory. They plan to produce grain whiskey and malt whiskey, however the majority will be exported to the US. Details on employment are not yet known.

**Read the latest issue of Asahikawa Info and get to know the AIC on our website:**

**<http://asahikawaaic.jp/en/>**

## Art and Craft from the 1920's: Europe, Japan, Asahikawa

モダンの芸術 100年前のヨーロッパ、日本、旭川

*Dive into the world of art and craft from 100 years ago, when we were between World Wars and art flourished in traditional and new forms.*

Date: Until 3/12 (Sunday)

Time: 9:30-17:00 (Entry ends at 16:30), Closed: Mondays

Place: Hokkaido Asahikawa Museum of Art (Asahikawa, inside Tokiwa Park)

Admission: General ¥800(\*¥600), University and high school students ¥500(\*¥400), Middle school and elementary students ¥300(\*¥200) (\*Groups of 10+)

For more information, contact: 0166-25-2577 (Hokkaido Asahikawa Museum of Art)



## Ryunosuke Akutagawa in Asahikawa, Mini-Exhibit

ミニ展示「旭川の芥川龍之介」

*The world-famous Japanese writer made many travels in his lifetime throughout Japan, including Asahikawa. Learn more about his time here, just two months before his death.*

Date: Until 3/31 (Friday)

Time: 10:00-16:00, Closed: Sundays, Mondays, Holidays & New Year's

Place: Asahikawa Literary Museum (Asahikawa, inside Tokiwa Park)

Admission: FREE

For more information, contact: 0166-22-3334 (Asahikawa Literary Museum)



## 60th Anniversary Sanrio Exhibition: The Beginning of Kawaii

永遠の「カワイイ」はここからはじまった サンリオ創立60周年の大博覧会開催

*Learn about how Sanrio came to define "kawaii" with its over 450 characters and share it with the world in this exhibition celebrating the company's 60th anniversary.*

Date: Until 4/2 (Sunday)

Time: 9:30-17:00 (Entry ends at 16:30), Closed: Mondays

Place: Hokkaido Museum of Modern Art (Sapporo, Chuo-ku Kita 1-jo, Nishi 17-chome)

Admission: General ¥1,600(\*¥1,400), Middle school and high school student ¥1,100(\*¥900), Elementary school student ¥800(\*¥600), Ages 3 to pre-elementary ¥400(\*¥300), Ages 2 and below FREE (\*Presale pricing, until 2/10)

For more information, contact: 011-644-6882 (Hokkaido Museum of Modern Art)



## Asahikawa Civic Wind Orchestra: Revival Concert

旭川シビックウインドオーケストラ 復活演奏会

*Listen in on this concert includes a program consisting of: Tachikusui, Moments Dance, Twilight in Upper West, Mela!, Mixed Nuts and more!*

Date: 3/5 (Sunday)

Time: (Opens) 13:15, (Starts) 14:00

Place: Takasu Melody Hall (Kamikawa, Takasu-cho, Minami 2-jo 4-chome)

Admission: ¥500 (Kindergartener and under FREE)

Ticket Office: Takasu Melody Hall, Coach & Four Asahikawa (Music Corner), Taisetsu Crystal Hall (Museum Shop), Gyokkodo (Aeon 3F)



## Winter Concert

### ウインターコンサート

Amateur musicians including piano, voice, and ensemble will perform a program consisting of well known Japanese pop songs, classical music, and more!

Date: 3/5 (Sunday)

Time: (Opens) 12:30, (Starts) 13:00

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

Admission: General FREE (\*Requires ticket for entry.)

Ticket Office: Asahikawa Taisetsu Crystal Hall or the Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall

For more information, contact: 0166-69-2000 (Asahikawa Taisetsu Crystal Hall)



## Hiro Matsumoto: Solo Live Show

### 松本ヒロ ソロライブ

Laugh the day away with Hiro Matsumoto, a stand-up comedian with rave reviews who likes to poke fun at politics and society in his very own one-man show!

Date: 3/11 (Saturday)

Time: (Opens) 1:30, (Starts) 14:00

Place: Asahikawa Public Hall (Asahikawa, inside Tokiwa Park)

Admission: General ¥2,500(\*¥3,000), High school student and under ¥1,500 (\*Day-of ticket pricing)

Ticket Office: Machinaka Bunkagoya, Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall (Store), Kodomo Fukido, Junkudo Asahikawa, Gyokkodo (Aeon 3F)

For more information, contact: 0166-23-2801 (Machinaka Bunkagoya)



## Mommy!

### ママイ!

Mom turns 60 today, Grandma's getting sicker and Dad's come back after 15 years of being a no-show. Mom's happy, but tensions fly high as the kids try to work things out.

Date: 3/20 (Monday)

Time: (Open) 18:00, (Starts) 19:00

Place: Takasu Melody Hall (Kamikawa, Takasu-cho Minami 2-jo 4-chome)

Admission: General \*¥2,500, High school student and under \*¥1,000 (\*¥500 increase day-of)

Ticket Office: Shinohara (0166-87-2004), JA Asahikawa Kitano Material Center (0166-59-3880), Hokuto Community Center (0166-87-2755), Mai Furendo (0166-54-0404), Coach & Four Asahikawa (0166-76-4002), Takasu Melody Hall (0166-87-2500)

For more information, contact: 0166-87-2500 (Takasu Melody Hall)



## Asahikawa Nishi High School Wind Ensemble: 24th Annual Concert

### 北海道旭川西高等学校吹奏楽部 第24回定期演奏会

Come and experience the stories of the Little Prince and Porco Rosso told through the power of music brought to you by one of our very own high school bands!

Date: 3/21 (Tuesday)

Time: (Opens) 17:15, (Starts) 18:00

Place: Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall, Large Hall (Asahikawa, 7-jo-dori 9-chome)

Admission: General ¥800, Middle school and high school student ¥500, Elementary school student and under FREE

For more information, contact: 0166-52-1215 (Asahikawa Nishi High School)



# Life in Asahikawa



## March, Herald of Spring

By KITAMURA Tadao

The month of March. How much we, the people of Hokkaido, have longed for the coming of this month more than people living in the other lands of this archipelago! We have been delivered from the back-breaking work of shoveling snow. Driving one's car has become much easier. Expenses for electricity and petroleum to heat one's home have lessened greatly. This has helped us significantly since the price hike after Putin's war.

In the early days of the month you might still have occasional heavy snow-fall; however, the spring season is nearing certainly day after day.

People are starting to prepare for their own spring tasks. If you go out to the hillside fields of Biei or Furano and look down from the highest point, you will see a vast extent of white where a great green pasture had been in summer time. Although before your eyes there appears a gigantic pattern of white and black like the art of some Japanese calligraphist, it is actually the work of a farmer. He is preparing for early spring sowing, driving a scattering machine spreading snow-melting powder.

You might see a huge cliff looming like the end of a glacier by the river's edge and some bulldozers working there. They are working to break and melt huge amounts of frozen snow brought in from town streets during the winter season.

In the botanical world here, spring comes much earlier than you think; you can find spring at first by the riverside, where early in this month, if you are strolling along the coast of Chubetsu River with skis on your feet, you'll see modest but pretty willow flowers in a thicket.

People cherish the willow's flowers, NEKOYANAGI, which means cat-willow, and enjoy its name because it looks like a feline's velvety paws. They consider this flower the messenger of spring. Twigs of NEKOYANAGI are quintessential items in the art of flower arrangement to symbolize the early spring.

Vaasaloppet Japan, an international cross-country ski festival, is Asahikawa's most important event, which had been postponed since the coronavirus pandemic broke out, will reopen on March 11 (Sat) and 12 (Sun). The event grounds are at the Kitasaito District, the background of the JR Asahikawa Station and the riverside of Chubetsu River. This is the last chance for international cross-country ski competitions in the 2022 season and the farewell event of the season too. We hope many countries participate in it and that many citizens do as well.

Around March 20 news on the cherry blossoms will be coming from the mainland.

**AIC: Please tell us about yourself and where you are from.**

**Hayla:** My name is Hayla Johnson and I am from the United States! Specifically Memphis, Tennessee where Elvis Presley is from.

**AIC: How did you first get interested in Japan?**

**Hayla:** Well, in middle school when I saw a Youtuber that was doing an exchange program in Japan, I thought I really wanted to do that too one day! So I started trying to teach myself hiragana, and as I learned more about the culture I just fell in love. By my first year in high school I started to take it more seriously, but my school was really tiny and only offered Spanish language classes, so I decided to get private tutoring lessons.

**AIC: Is this your first time in Japan? How long have you been in Japan?**

**Hayla:** It is not my first time, it's my fourth! I have been here since September and will stay here for a year. It has been almost six months now.



**Name: Hayla Johnson**

**Home Country: USA**

**Interviewed: 2023/2/10**

If you live in Asahikawa, or are just passing through and would like to be interviewed for "Hello, Asahikawa!", email us at:

[cir\\_kokusai@city.asahikawa.hokkaido.jp](mailto:cir_kokusai@city.asahikawa.hokkaido.jp)

## Hello, Asahikawa!

**AIC: What brings you to Asahikawa in particular?**

**Hayla:** I go to school at Waseda University in Tokyo, but I came on an exchange program to Asahikawa that gives students the opportunity to do an internship at the Asahiyama Zoo, since they have a relationship with each other. I was lucky enough to be chosen as the one sent up here. It was really exciting because it's the first year somebody's come to the zoo for it.

**AIC: What kind of work do you do?**

**Hayla:** I double major in biology and Japanese, so I'm obviously taking a lot of Japanese classes, but I was lucky to also get into a few biology courses. Specifically, I research fern sex determination, so when ferns begin growing, they can either become male, female or both if they so choose. My lab is researching why they choose what they do. We also study a maple tree that is native to America but all of its closest relatives are here in Asia, so it's really interesting and cool to see all the relatives over here that aren't in America. That being said, this program isn't tied into biology research! I make sure the English at the zoo is correct, and help with guests that speak English because they have a lot of guests from other countries that have difficulty communicating. I also get to walk in front of the penguins to tell English-speaking guests to stay behind the line when we parade them around the zoo.

**AIC: What are your hobbies? What do you like to do in your free time?**

**Hayla:** I enjoy arts and crafts, scrapbooking, creating things, all that kind of stuff! In the States I usually spent a lot of my free time studying Japanese, but here

# Asahikawa Info

that's sort of just become a part of life, right? I also like to read plant science journals, like a true nerd (laughs).

**AIC: Do you have any favorite Japanese foods?**

**Hayla:** Tonkatsu is probably my number one favorite, but I really like everything. I love omu-raisu and udon. I eat anything and everything!

**AIC: Any places you would recommend to others (restaurants, sight-seeing, etc.)?**

**Hayla:** I went to a good Korean BBQ place near my apartment here that was really fun, but I don't remember what it's called (laughs)!

**AIC: What have been your impressions of Asahikawa so far and how does it compare to your hometown?**

**Hayla:** It's been really good and everyone's been super-duper nice and patient with me! I was really nervous about coming on this internship and being expected to speak really good keigo and know all the Japanese mannerisms, so I really appreciate how helpful they've all been. Sometimes in Tokyo there is a little bit of friction between foreigners and Japanese people, but here it seems to be less so, so that's nice.

**AIC: Do you mind sharing any frustrations or challenges you have encountered thus far?**

**Hayla:** I haven't encountered too many in Hokkaido. I feel like Tokyo people see me and then try to revert to English which is really frustrating because I understand most Japanese, especially most simpler Japanese. There's a lot of English speakers there so they expect me not to know anything. But here they just automatically speak to me in Japanese, which lets me practice the language I've been studying for eight years. Maybe it's because it's my work environment, but they talk to me in more complex Japanese and it's nice to not feel like I'm being looked at like the toddler I sound like I am (chuckles).

**AIC: do you have any goals or things you are looking forward to doing here?**

**Hayla:** My goal when I came to Asahikawa was to say yes more. If somebody invites me out, go do it. If I have a crazy idea to do something on the weekend, go do it. I've been to every other part of Japan before but I've never been to Hokkaido, so I just want to see as much as I can while I am here. I try going out, meeting people and having fun. My other goals are to be outgoing, integrate a little more keigo into my Japanese, and be open to new

adventures and friendships.

**AIC: Is there anything else you would like to say to our readers?**

**Hayla:** Thank you for the hospitality I've been shown and all the kindness from even just random people on the street!





## Snow Festivals

*By Samuel Culver*

This is my first winter in Japan! I was very excited to get to experience Hokkaido winter and get to see a new kind of winter. Missouri, my home state in America, doesn't get very much snow. On average it receives about 45 cm of snow throughout the entirety of winter. It will snow about 8 cm at a time and melt away within a week! I was surprised by the amount of snowfall that Shibetsu received in one night and then was completely boggled when it didn't stop for well over 3 days! The snowfall was surprising, yet beautiful to watch even from the window of the office. Working during a snowstorm was something that took me a while to get used to, but now I would almost rather be at the office than at my home so I don't have to run my heater!

Watching the snowfall I began to wonder if Sapporo would have their famous "snow festival" once again this year...and sure enough they announced the dates! The most ambitious snow-sculpture I had ever seen was a snowman that had arms made out of snow instead of the traditional tree stick, so you can imagine how eager I was to see the grand designs!

With the help of my fellow co-workers I navigated through the bus website and reserved two seats for a round trip to Sapporo! My wife and I had only taken the train to Sapporo, so we were excited to try out the bus. The bus was not only cheaper, but it had a very scenic view of the mountains! We arrived in Sapporo around 11am on Saturday, the first day of the snow festival.

It started to snow, large beautiful flakes, and the magic of the snow festival quickly set in. The first sculpture we could see was also my favorite...the dinosaurs! I could not believe the DETAILS in the sculpture! The T-Rex had some small teeth and thin arms that looked like they would break if I touched it, but the artists somehow managed to make the sculptures sturdy enough to withstand the wind and sun! We took our picture in front of the sculpture and then went on our way to the next spot.



***Fun at the Sapporo Snow Festival***



My wife and I are big fans of the anime “My Hero Academia” so we knew we had to see the sculpture that featured Deku and Shigaraki. The sculpture was a little underwhelming when compared to the dinosaur, but it was still impressive to see the detail and hard work that went into sculpting these anime characters!

We looked at the rest of the snow sculptures, reveling in their beauty and dedication, and eventually made our way back to the station for dinner and to catch our bus back home. We had a blast at the Sapporo snow festival!

The next day we went to our town’s local snow festival. It had a large ramp for children and teenagers to sled down and had a few tiny snowmen that were decorated by families. I was so excited to see so many of my students at the festival! We watched the “snow shoveling competition” which was very exciting to watch and cheer for, but I’m not entirely sure what the goal was. I just know it was fun to watch them try and find the brightly colored orbs that were hidden in the snow and then scurry across the field to get the point before the other team!

My favorite part about the Shibetsu ice festival were the food booths. I had a Shibetsu Lamb Gyoza, which tasted delicious! Gyoza was one of the first meals I had with my host family when I first visited Japan in 2015. It has a special place in my heart. My wife was very excited to see that her favorite festival food “hurricane potato” had made a special appearance. She normally doesn’t eat very much, but to my surprise she ate two of them all by herself!

Snow festival’s are my favorite festival so far. Winter can often be a little depressing as it is harder to travel and the warmth of your home begs you to stay inside. Getting to go out and see everyone so excited and enjoying themselves really brightens one’s spirit!

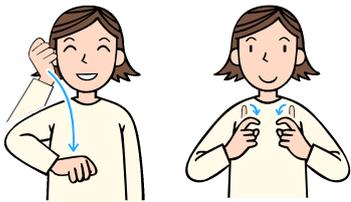


## 日本手話で話そう! Let's Use JSL!

By Gabriel Gonzalez

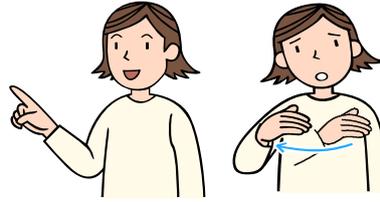


Hello, everyone! I believe access to communication is important for everyone. I mean, just look at this English-language newsletter! So I thought why not teach a little bit of Japanese Sign Language (or nihon shuwa as its called in Japanese) so that you, our readers, might take the first step to talk to someone new! You never know what (or who) you may end up discovering! Just remember, sign language is **not** universal! So just like American Sign Language, British Sign Language, Australian Sign Language are all different, **Japanese Sign Language is its own language!** Alright, now let's get learning!



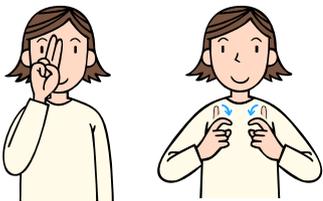
**MORNING + BOW**  
**"GOOD MORNING"**

Place closed fist next to face then move it downwards. Next, bend index fingers towards each other in a bowing fashion.



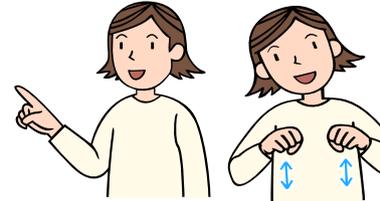
**YOU + ALRIGHT**  
**"ARE YOU ALRIGHT?"**

Point at listener. Next, tap tips of fingers on chest twice while moving to the right.



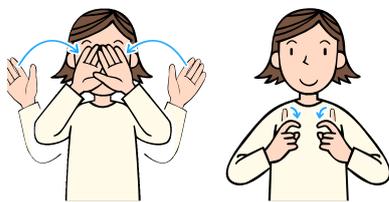
**NOON + BOW**  
**"GOOD AFTERNOON"**

Place index and middle finger in front of face. Next, bend index fingers towards each other in a bowing fashion.



**YOU + WELL**  
**"HOW ARE YOU?"**

Point at listener. Next, move closed fists down simultaneously twice.



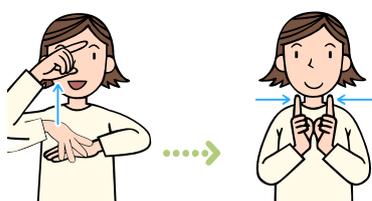
**NIGHT + BOW**  
**"GOOD EVENING"**

Bring flat hands (palms out) towards each other in front of face. Next, bend index fingers towards each other in a bowing fashion.



**"THANK YOU"**

Tap side of right hand on back side of left hand then move right hand slightly upwards.



**FIRST + MEET**  
**"NICE TO MEET YOU"**

Put right hand on top of left hand and move right hand upwards while closing it into a pointing hand. Next, bring hands with index finger extended towards each other.



**"GOODBYE"**

Wave goodbye!

# 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.

**Cineplex 7 Asahikawa and Dinos Cinemas Only:** Every Wednesday is Ladies' Day! Admission is ¥1,100 (tax included for women at all theaters.

**Aeon Cinema:** Miyashita-dori 7-chome / 0166-74-6411

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

## Now Showing

- Scroll (Japanese) ~3/9
- Yudo (Japanese)
- Ultraman Decker Finale: Journey to Beyond (Japanese)
- Shylock no Kodomotachi (Japanese)
- Blue Giant (Japanese/Anime)
- Ant-Man and the Wasp: Quantumania (English)
- #Manhole (Japanese/PG12) ~3/2
- Babylon (English/R15+) ~3/2
- Shikakenin Fujieda Baian (Japanese) ~3/2
- Damon Slayer: To the Swordsmith Village (Japanese PG12/Anime)
- The Legend & Butterfly (Japanese/PG12)
- Kin no Kuni Mizu no Kuni (Japanese/Anime)
- Aikatsu! 10th Story: Starway to the Future (Japanese/Anime) ~3/2
- Ichikei's Crow (Japanese) ~3/2
- Dr. Koto's Clinic (Japanese) ~3/2
- From Siberia with Love (Japanese) ~3/2
- The First Slam Dunk (Japanese/Anime)
- Suzume no Tojimari (Japanese/Anime)

## Coming Soon

- Doraemon: Nobita's Sky Utopia (Japanese/Anime) 3/3
- And Yet, You are So Sweet (Japanese) 3/3
- Everything Everywhere All at Once (English) 3/3
- The Fablemans (English) 3/3
- Thomas the Tank Engine Movie (Japanese/Anime) 3/10
- My Happy Marriage (Japanese) 3/17
- Puss in Boots: The Last Wish (English/Anime) 3/17
- Shin Kamen Rider (Japanese/PG12) 3/17
- Lyle, Lyle, Crocodile (Japanese, English/PG12) 3/24
- Gridman Universe (Japanese) 3/24
- Touken Ranbu 2 (Japanese) 3/31
- Nemesis: Mystery of Golden Spiral (Japanese) 3/31
- Knock at the Cabin (English) 4/7
- Detective Conan: Black Iron Submarine (Japanese/Anime) 4/14
- Tokyo Revengers 2: Bloody Halloween (Japanese) 4/21
- The Super Mario Bros. Movie (Japanese, English/Anime) 4/28

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

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**CinePlex 7 Asahikawa:** Nagayama 12-jo 3-chome Western Powers Nagayama

0166-49-1000 / URL: <http://www.unitedcinemas.jp/asahikawa/index.html> (Japanese)

## Now Showing

- Yudo (Japanese)
- Empire of Light (English/PG12)
- Three Thousand Years of Longing (English/PG12)
- Decision to Leave (Korean)
- Ant-Man and the Wasp: Quantumania (English 4DX)
- Shylock no Kodomotachi (Japanese)
- Damon Slayer: To the Swordsmith Village (Japanese 4DX PG12/Anime)
- Darwin's Amazing Animals (Japanese)
- The Legend & Butterfly (Japanese/PG12)
- The Banshees of Inisherin (English/PG12) 3/2
- Ichikei's Crow (Japanese) ~3/2
- From Siberia with Love (Japanese)
- The First Slam Dunk (Japanese/Anime)
- Suzume no Tojimari (Japanese/Anime)

## Coming Soon

- Doraemon: Nobita's Sky Utopia (Japanese/Anime) 3/3
- Everything Everywhere All at Once (English) 3/3
- My Happy Marriage (Japanese) 3/17
- Shazam! Fury of the Gods (English) 3/17
- Shin Kamen Rider (Japanese) 3/17
- Do Unto Others (Japanese) 3/24
- Lyle, Lyle, Crocodile (Japanese, English/PG12) 3/24
- Touken Ranbu 2 (Japanese) 3/31
- Nemesis: Mystery of Golden Spiral (Japanese) 3/31
- Dungeons & Dragons: Honor Among Thieves (English) 3/31
- Detective Conan: Black Iron Submarine (Japanese/Anime) 4/14
- Tokyo Revengers 2: Bloody Halloween (Japanese) 4/21
- GenePro 7 (Japanese/PG12) 4/21

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

# AIC Bulletin Board

## Need Help?

北海道 外国人 相談 センター  
Hokkaido Foreign Resident Support Center  
北海道外国人咨询中心 홋카이도 외국인 상담 센터  
Trung tâm hỗ trợ người nước ngoài Hokkaido

ASK US ANYTHING!

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support@hiecc.or.jp  
www.hiecc.or.jp/soudan

If you ever find yourself in need of assistance, know that the Hokkaido Foreign Resident Support Center is here for you! They are able to provide you with consultation services in various languages (Japanese, English, Chinese, Korean, Tagalog, Vietnamese, Russian, Indonesian, Thai, Nepalese, Burmese) on residence procedures, employment, medical care, welfare, childbirth, childcare, education, and more for FREE! Call them at 011-200-9595 or go to: [www.hiecc.or.jp/soudan](http://www.hiecc.or.jp/soudan)

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



**Dates:** March 10th & 24th, April 14th & 28th, May 12th and 26th  
**Times:** 1:00pm-2:00pm ~Afternoon~ 2nd and 4th Friday of the month  
6:30-8:30pm ~Night~ 2nd Friday of the month  
**Location:** Asahikawa International Center, Common Meeting Room (1)  
(Feeeal 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 an afternoon visit.



The Asahikawa International Center (Feeeal Asahikawa 7F 1-jo-dori 8-chome) has free Wi-Fi available for public use. If you reside in Asahikawa, registration for a user card is required. 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/shell, offers for culture/language exchange, 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  
Asahikawa International Center Feeeal Asahikawa 7F, 1-jo-dori 8-chome,  
Asahikawa 070-0031  
TEL: (0166)25-7491 FAX: (0166)23-4924  
E-mail: [cir\\_kokusai@city.asahikawa.hokkaido.jp](mailto:cir_kokusai@city.asahikawa.hokkaido.jp)

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