

旭川 ASAHIKAWA Info

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Hokkaido News Top 5



March 2020
Compiled by AIC

Redevelopment Project Aims to Revitalize Hakodate Station Area 2/4

A redevelopment plan centered on the construction of a hotel, apartments, and a shopping facility at the site of the closed “Bonimoriya 100 Yen Shop” near JR Hakodate Station has been finalized. The budget is 19 billion yen, and will be open to the public in 2025. The city of Hakodate hopes to attract local residents downtown to revitalize the station area.

Etambetsu, Asahikawa Plummet to -36°C 2/9

A temperature of -36°C was recorded in Etambetsu, located on the outskirts of Asahikawa. A temperature this low has not been recorded in Japan in 19 years. The other nearby areas also received a strong chill: Wassamu (Kamikawa) -34.5°C, Ikutahara (Mombetsu) -33.8°C, Horokanai (Kamikawa) -33.5°C, Takinoue (Mombetsu) -33.3°C.

Lodging Tax 2/18

City officials from six cities in Hokkaido (Sapporo, Hakodate, Asahikawa, Kushiro, Obihiro, and Otaru) held a joint meeting to exchange ideas regarding a lodging tax. They discussed the different roles of the Hokkaido government and municipalities, and how to ensure there would be enough funds to support the tourism industry. City officials discussed specific details of, as well as the implementation of the tax.

Sapporo Snow Festival: Fall in visitors due to lack of snow, coronavirus concerns 2/12

The 71st Sapporo Snow Festival held in Sapporo’s downtown area ended on February 11th. According to the festival’s executive committee, 2,021,000 people visited the festival. In comparison to last year’s festival, the number of visitors fell by 716,000 people (26.2%). The decrease is believed to be due to the historically low amount of snow this year combined with the fact that China has prohibited its tour groups from traveling overseas due to the outbreak of the coronavirus.

Novel Coronavirus 2/19

As of February 19th, there are four confirmed cases of the novel coronavirus “COVID-19” in Hokkaido. The Tokyo Metropolitan Infectious Disease Surveillance Center advises those around the country to wash their hands frequently, especially after going out, coughing, or before touching your mouth, nose, or eyes. They also advise that you cover your mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze, throw the tissue away immediately, and wash your hands.



Inside This Issue...

For further information

or to register for events contact:

Asahikawa International Committee
(SUGANO Ayumi, Daniel LIZARRAGA, or
SAITO Emmy)

Location:

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

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Paintings by Asahikawa Artists 旭川ゆかりの画家たち 七彩の美

The history of art in Asahikawa goes back over 100 years. In this exhibition, you will see over 60 works of art created with a variety of hues similar to that of a rainbow with its seven brilliant colors. In these gloomy winter months, make a trip to the art museum for a breath of life!

Date: Now~3/15 (Sunday), Closed Mondays

Time: 9:30-17:00 (Last entry is at 16:30)

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

Admission: General ¥800 (¥600), High school students ¥500 (¥400), Junior high and elementary school students ¥300 (¥200). Prices in parenthesis are for groups of 10 or more purchased in advance. Those holding a disability identification booklet can enter for free

For Further Information Contact: 0166-25-2577

Notes: Contact for more info on repeater discounts, the Museums' Linking System, and for information on the museum's irregular holidays.



EOS DANCE STUDIO 4th Recital Colors of Dance

EOS DANCE STUDIO 第4回発表会 Colors of Dance

On 3/7, you will see performances from students in the EOS Dance Studio's jazz classes, and on 3/8 you will see performances from students taking hip hop classes. You might even see performances from special guests, so don't miss it!

Date & Time: 3/7 (Saturday), Opens 17:00, Starts 17:30

3/8 (Sunday), Opens 13:30, Starts 14:00

Venue: Asahikawa Public Hall (Inside Tokiwa Park)

Admission: General ¥2,000, Elementary school students and under ¥1,000. Those that attend the 3/7 recital can see the 3/8 recital for half price

For Information on Tickets Contact: EOS Dance Studio at 0166-56-8875, send an email to miya@akimiya.net, or visit <https://www.eosdancestudio.com>



KAWABATA Narimichi A Concert to Experience with the Five Senses Baroque~Beethoven

川島成道と五感で感じる音楽会 バロック~ベートーヴェン

KAWABATA Narimichi lost his sight in his early childhood, and was soon after introduced to the violin. After graduating from university, he studied abroad in England, performing throughout Europe and Japan. He will be joined by SATO Katsushige and MINAMI Kanako.

Date: 3/8 (Sunday)

Time: Opens 13:30, Starts 14:00

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

Admission: General ¥3,500, Heartful ¥2,000, Student (Above four years, university students and under) ¥2,000. Same day purchases cost an additional ¥500. Hallmates receive a 10% discount

Ticket Office: Kawai Music Shop, Yamaha Music Retailing Store, Gyokkodo, Potato Service Center, Coach and Four, Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall Shop, Taisetsu Crystal Hall Museum Shop

For Further Information Contact: Asahikawa Taisetsu Crystal Hall at (0166-69-2000)

Notes: Please refrain from bringing children under the age of four.



ASAHIKAWA EI-RYO Wind Ensemble 4th Regular Concert - Wa!!! - 2 Days

北海道旭川永嶺高等学校吹奏楽部 第4回定期演奏会「WA!!!」2 Days!!

Eiryo high school's wind ensemble is performing an exciting two day concert with songs from "Les Miserable," a piece titled "The Bell of Notre Dame," and much more!

Date & Time: 3/14 (Saturday), Opens 17:00, Starts 17:30

3/15 (Sunday), Opens 12:30, Starts 13:00

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

Admission: Reserved seating ¥1,500, Adult (unreserved seating) ¥1,000, High school and under ¥500. Same day purchases cost an additional ¥500. You can only purchase reserved seats through Lawson Ticket

Ticket Office: Lawson Ticket (L code: 12737), online at <http://l-tike.com>, "Loppi" machines found at Lawson stores, Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall Shop, Yamaha Music Retailing Store, Coach and Four, Taisetsu Crystal Hall Museum Shop, Gyokkodo

For Further Information Contact: Asahikawa Eiryo High School, YOSHIKAWA at 0166-47-6006, or the Wind Ensemble's Guardian Association at 080-5837-4708



Chœur Jeunesse 5th Concert クール・ジュネス 第5回 演奏会

Chœur Jeunesse is hosting its 5th ever concert, and they plan on performing “Ave Maria,” a selection of songs from the famous rock group “Queen” like the world famous “Bohemian Rhapsody,” and more!

Date: 3/15 (Sunday)
Time: Opens 14:30, Starts 15:00
Venue: Asahikawa Taisetsu Crystal Hall, Concert Hall (Kagura 3-jo 7-chome)
Admission: General ¥1,000, High school students and under ¥500
Ticket Office: Yamaha Music Retailing Store, Asahikawa Taisetsu Crystal Hall Museum Shop
For Further Information Contact: KODAMA Kaori at 090-7055-1029



Asahikawa Civic Wind Orchestra 20th Regular Concert 旭川シビックウインドオーケストラ 第20回定期演奏会

The program for this concert includes classics like the “Olympic Fanfare & Theme,” and fan favorites like a selection of pieces from “Princess Mononoke,” an “Aladdin” medley, and the theme from “Lupin the Third.”

Date: 3/21 (Saturday)
Time: Opens 17:30, Starts 18:00
Venue: Asahikawa Taisetsu Crystal Hall, Concert Hall (Kagura 3-jo 7-chome)
Admission: General ¥800, Same day tickets cost an additional ¥200. Elementary school students and under are free
Ticket Office: Yamaha Music Retailing Store, Coach and Four, Gyokkodo, Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall Shop, Asahikawa Taisetsu Crystal Hall Museum Shop



Hokkaido Asahikawa Nishi High School Brass Band Club 21st Regular Concert 北海道旭川西高等学校吹奏楽部 第21回定期演奏会

This concert is divided into three parts. Part I is titled “Classics Stage,” Part II is titled “Silhouette Stage,” and Part III is titled “Pops Stage.” Each part will feature a different style of music, so come and experience the musical talent Nishi High School has to offer!

Date: 3/22 (Sunday)
Time: Opens 17:30, Starts 18:00
Venue: Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall, Large Hall (7-jo-dori 9-chome)
Admission: General ¥800, Junior high school students ¥500 (Elementary school students and under are free)
Ticket Office: Yamaha Music Retailing Store, Gyokkodo, Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall Shop, Taisetsu Crystal Hall Museum Shop
For Further Information Contact: Asahikawa Nishi High School, IZUMI, MIYAKO-SHI, or MIYAMAE at 0166-52-1215



KIYOSHI SATO TUBA RECITAL 佐藤潔チューバリサイタル

Respected tuba player SATO Kiyoshi will be performing a variety of classical pieces like R Wilhelm’s “Concertino,” J.S. Bach’s “Flute Sonata,” and more! He will be performing alongside local pianist SHIBUYA Aika.

Date: 3/24 (Tuesday)
Time: Opens 18:30, Starts 19:00
Venue: Kagura Community Center, Kirarin Music Hall (Kagura 3-jo 6-chome)
Admission: General ¥3000, unreserved seating
Ticket Office: Asahikawa Taisetsu Crystal Hall Museum Shop, Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall Shop, Yamaha Music Retailing Store
For Further Information Contact: TAKASHIMA Akihiro at 090-6996-9641 or email akihiro.takasima812@gmail.com



EVENTS IN ASAHIKAWA FOR MARCH

Life in Asahikawa

MARCH, HERALD OF SPRING

By KITAMURA Tadao

People in Asahikawa look forward to the coming of March. A month where there is no need for the tiring work of snow shoveling. We might hear some notes of spring coming from the southern parts of this archipelago. Signs of cherry blossoms blooming will arrive here at around the end of the month. The frequency of sunny days and the duration of sunshine will gradually increase day by day.

Many people, especially school children and university students, hold hope in their hearts as they prepare to enter a new stage of their life. Most schools, from kindergartens to colleges and universities, hold their graduation ceremonies during this month. Although uncommon from an international perspective, Japanese institutions (both educational and profitable) set their fiscal/school year from April 1st to March 31st. However, opinions stating that the new school year should begin in September to meet the international standard are not uncommon.

March is the season of graduation ceremonies. Girls worry about how they will dress on that day. Many of them will put on a *kimono* for the first time. March 3rd is the girl's festival "*hinamatsuri*," where the birth of girls is celebrated and wishes are expressed for their happiness. It is also known as the "Peach Festival." Here in Hokkaido, we cannot see peach blossoms yet, but we can get peach blossom twigs from florists and use them to adorn a set of *hina-ningyo* dolls. With them, people will be able to feel the coming of spring.



Hina-ningyo are supposed to imitate a ceremony of the Imperial Court. We were able to see it last year at the enthronement ceremony of Emperor Naruhito. The ceremony was solemn and extremely beautiful, modeling rituals of the imperial palace in the Heian Era (8th-12th Century) when palace culture flowered with brilliance. In many cases, a girl is presented with *hina-ningyo* by her grandparents who are filled with joy.

The Vasaloppet Ski Competition will take place here in Asahikawa on the 7th and 8th of this month. It is an international competition for cross-country skiing, and the last sporting event to conclude this year's ski season. Citizens are glad to see first-class athletes from many countries around the world, and welcome them with open arms. Citizens will enjoy the last day of this ski season under the bright sun and blue skies, and they might just see newly sprouted buds on the willow trees growing by the river.



Please cooperate in measures against infectious diseases.

The basic measures against infectious disease, as well as the novel coronavirus, are **washing hands** and **“coughing manners”** including wearing a mask.

1. Washing hands

Correct way to wash hands.



1 After thoroughly wetting your hands with running water, apply soap and rub the palms well.



2 Rub the back of your hands up and down.



3 Thoroughly rub the fingertips and nails.



4 Wash between your fingers.



5 Twist and wash your thumbs with the palms of your hands.



6 Don't forget to clean your wrists.

Before washing hands

- Keep your fingernails short.
- Remove wristwatches and rings.

After cleaning with soap thoroughly rinse with water and wipe dry with a clean towel or paper towel.

2. “Coughing manners”

Three “coughing manners”



Coughing or sneezing without shielding your mouth or nose.

Using your hands to cover coughs or sneezing.



Wear a mask. (covering mouth and nose)

Cover your mouth or nose with a tissue/handkerchief.

Cough or sneeze into your sleeve.

- Observe the manners on a train, at work, school or wherever people gather.

Correct way to wear a mask.



1 Ensure both your nose and mouth are covered.



2 Place the rubber string over your ears.



3 Cover up to your nose so there are no gaps.



Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare



Hello Asahikawa!

Name: Mariana Sayuri Udo

Home Country: Brazil

Interviewed: 2/5/2020

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!

AIC: Hello Mariana! Where are you from?

Mariana: I'm from Brazil.

AIC: And what brings you to Japan?

Mariana: I came here to do research. I'm a researcher at the Asahikawa Medical University.

AIC: How long have you been living in Japan?

Mariana: I've been here since last April, and I will stay here until next year.

AIC: How does living in Japan compare to the Brazil?

Mariana: It's really different from Brazil. In Asahikawa it is safer, it is quieter, and everyone is so polite and gentle.

AIC: Really? What's it like in Brazil?

Mariana: I'm from San Paolo. It's a big city in Brazil. It's so crazy because it seems like the whole world is living there. Some people are not very patient, and it's not that safe. Asahikawa is really different from there.

AIC: Are there any big differences between Asahikawa compared to San Paolo?

Mariana: Asahikawa is small. It's difficult to get anywhere because you need to take a bus and walk. In San Paolo we have subways. I think the quality of life here in Asahikawa is better because it's not so stressful. San Paolo is nice, because if there's something you want, you can find it. Anything. Here, it's a little different. It can be difficult to find things you want or need.

AIC: What do you like about Asahikawa?

Mariana: I love all of the Matsuri. I've been here since April, so I went to the Kamikawa Shrine Festival, to the Summer Festival where I saw the fireworks, and this week I will go to the Winter Festival. I'm having a great time here.

AIC: How do you feel about the snow?

Mariana: The first time was so exciting because it was my first time seeing snow. It was amazing, but, it's so cold! I'm having a really good time, but my colleagues from work say I only think that because it's just my first year. They tell me next year I won't enjoy it so much (laughs).



AIC: **What are your favorite spots here?**

Mariana: The Asahibashi bridge. It's beautiful there. Close to my university there is a riverside and it's really beautiful there as well. I like the downtown area, too. Also, the Kaguraoka Park. One place I want to go to is the zoo because I haven't been there yet.



AIC: **Do you like Japanese food?**

Mariana: Yeah, I love Japanese food. The interesting thing is that Japanese food in Brazil is quite different from Japanese food here.

AIC: **What's Japanese food like in Brazil?**

Mariana: We have soba, noodles, and all that stuff, but when you have sushi, we have made some adaptations (laughs). Some scary adaptations.

AIC: **Scary adaptations? Like what?**

Mariana: Like cream cheese and mango.

AIC: **Woah! Mango? That's new to me. We have cream cheese in the U.S.**

Mariana: In Brazil we have mango. We also have type of really strange "sushi" roll. We have banana and we put Nutella inside and call it a "banana roll." Sometimes we use banana and guava jam. Sometimes we do some really scary stuff like "sushi pizza." Brazilians are scary (laughs).

AIC: **We do horrible things to Japanese food in the U.S, too (laughs). What are some of your hobbies?**

Mariana: I love crafts. I love making things by myself. I don't know why I like to make things, but sometimes I don't know what to do with the things that I make so I throw them in the trash (laughs).

AIC: **The trash (laughs)?**

Mariana: I'll keep it for a little while, but then I trash it (laughs). So I like crafts, and I also love anime and manga. But here, everything is in Japanese, so I cannot watch anime or read manga here. I want to see anime, but I can't understand it. It's so difficult because I cannot watch T.V., I cannot go to the movie theater, and I feel like I cannot do anything because I do not understand Japanese. I'm taking Japanese classes here, and I think I'm improving little by little. English wasn't so difficult to learn because some words are similar to Portuguese, but with Japanese everything is different. I'm trying my best.



AIC: **Good luck with your Japanese! Do you miss anything about Brazil?**

Mariana: I miss the food. The beef is really cheap in Brazil. Here it's so expensive. In Brazil, we have a great variety of fruits, and I miss them so much. Here, I can't find all the types of fruits I'm used to, and when I do they're so expensive. So I miss beef, and fruits. It's funny, because when I was in Brazil, I didn't miss them that much. But now, that I'm here, I miss them so much.

Continued on Page 8

AIC: Do you have plans to visit home?

Mariana: No, it's so far from here. It is 32 hours by plane. So, it will be really difficult and expensive to go back. I went from Brazil to Dubai, from Dubai to Hong Kong, from Hong Kong to Tokyo, and from Tokyo to Asahikawa. I saw some flights last week that were 96,000 yen... I will probably not go back soon.



AIC: Do you like Karaoke?

Mariana: In Brazil, karaoke is amazing! We have a stage, and everyone sings together. Here, it's so awkward. You sing in a little room, and just one person sings. The good thing about Karaoke in Brazil, is that you sing for everyone, and everyone sings together. You don't know who they are, and they don't know who you are, but everyone sings together! Here, they also don't know any famous American songs so it's a little sad. I went to karaoke twice here, and it wasn't that fun. Maybe I need to learn some Japanese songs.

AIC: That's a good idea! It will be difficult, but definitely worth it if you do karaoke a lot. That's all I have, so thank you for participating!

Mariana: Thank you!

★ 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 / 0166 - 74 - 6411

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

Now Showing

- 1917 (English)
- Wotakoi: Love is Hard for Otaku (Japanese)
- The Peanut Butter Falcon (English)
- AI Amok (Japanese)
- Maeda Kensetsu Fantasy Eigyobu (Japanese)
- Bad Boys for Life (English)
- Okasan to Issho: Surikae Kamen wo Tsukamaero! (Japanese)
- Cats (English/Japanese)
- Last Letter (Japanese)
- The Memory Eraser (Japanese)
- Parasite (Korean/PG12)
- Kaiji: Final Game (Japanese)
- My Hero Academia: Heroes: Rising (Japanese/Anime)
- Frozen 2 (English)
- Stolen Identity 2 (Japanese)
- Charlie's Angels (English)
- Bombshell (English)
- Meow Meow Japanese History (Japanese/Anime)
- 37 Seconds (Japanese/PG12)
- The Call of the Wild (English)
- L.O.L. Surprise! Winter Disco (Japanese)

Coming Soon

- Fukushima 50 (Japanese) 3/6
- Judy (English) 3/6
- Mask Ward (Japanese) 3/6
- Doraemon:Nobita's New Dinosaur (Japanese/Anime) 3/6
- Onward (English) 3/13
- Prince of Legend (Japanese) 3/13
- Birds of Prey (and the Fantabulous Emancipation of One Harley Quinn) (English/PG12) 3/20
- Sonic the Hedgehog (3/27)

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

★ 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 / 0166 – 49 – 1000

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

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

Now Showing

- Goodbye: Life Comedy of Starting From a Lie (Japanese)
- Kishiryu Sentai Ryusoulger vs. Lupinranger vs. Patoranger/Mashin Sentai Kiramager Episode ZERO (Super Sentai Movie Party) (Japanese)
- AI Amok (Japanese)
- Bad Boys for Life (English)
- Knives Out (English)
- Cats (English)
- King of Prism All Stars -Prism Show Best 10- (Japanese/Anime)
- Kaiji: Final Game (Japanese)
- Darwin's Amazing Animals (Japanese)
- Red (R15+) (Japanese)
- Midsommar (English)
- Charlie's Angels (English)
- Made in Abyss Fukaki Tamashii no Renmei (Japanese/Anime/R15+)
- Escape Room (English)
- Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark (English)
- The Call of the Wild (English)

Coming Soon

- Fukushima 50 (Japanese) 3/6
- Doraemon: Nobita's New Dinosaur (Japanese/Anime) 3/6
- Mask Ward (Japanese) 3/6
- Oishii Kyushoku Final Battle (Japanese) 3/6
- Onward (English) 3/13
- Not Quite Dead Yet (Japanese) 3/20
- Birds of Prey (and the Fantabulous Emancipation of One Harley Quinn) (English/PG12) 3/20
- Dolittle (English) 3/20
- Pretty Cure Miracle Leap: A Wonderful Day with Everyone (Japanese/Anime) 3/20
- Saaho (English) 3/27

★ **Dinos Cinemas:** Taisetsu-dori 5-chome / 0166 – 21 – 1218

URL: <http://cinema.sugai-dinos.jp/pc/> (Japanese)

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

Now Showing

- Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker (English)
- Parasite (English)
- Eiri (Japanese)
- 1917 (English)
- Howling Village (Japanese)
- AI Amok (Japanese)
- Bad Boys for Life (English)
- Cats (English)
- High School Fleet (Japanese/Anime)
- The Memory Eraser (Japanese)
- Frozen 2 (English)
- Stolen Identity 2 (Japanese)
- Charlie's Angels (English)
- Shimajiro and the Flying Ship (Japanese/Anime)
- First Love (Japanese)
- Shirobako (Japanese/Anime)

Coming Soon

- Fukushima 50 (Japanese) 3/6
- Mask Ward (Japanese) 3/6
- Doraemon: Nobita's New Dinosaur (Japanese/Anime) 3/6
- Onward (English) 3/13
- We Make Antiques! Kyomachi Royale (Japanese) 3/13~4/14
- Not Quite Dead Yet (Japanese) 3/20
- Dolittle (English) 3/20
- Birds of Prey (and the Fantabulous Emancipation of One Harley Quinn) (English/PG12) 3/20
- Little Women (English) 3/27
- Fate/Stay Night Heaven's Feel III. Spring Song (Japanese/Anime) 3/28

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

Advisory from the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, Event Cancellations

The following is a summary of an advisory from the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare:

“Now is a critical time to prevent the spread of the novel coronavirus. The risk of spread greatly increases if you are indoors with many people for an extended period of time. To event organizers, please reevaluate the necessity of holding your event if it puts many people in close contact. If possible, please consider measures like preparing alcohol-based hand disinfectants, having participants frequently wash their hands, and having anyone who shows cold or flu-like symptoms to refrain from participating. To citizens, please take time off from school or work if you have cold or flu-like symptoms, and try to keep the number of trips outside your home to a minimum. The elderly, as well as those with underlying health conditions should especially avoid going to crowded areas as much as possible. Also, please adhere to good hand washing and coughing etiquette, as well as any other methods to help prevent the spread of coronavirus. This is why it is important for schools, companies, and institutions to fully understand the situation at hand and foster an environment where it is easier for students and employees to take time off. Thank you for your cooperation.”

You may notice that various events in Asahikawa are being cancelled or postponed in order to help prevent the spread of the novel coronavirus. For example, the 40th Vasaloppet Japan scheduled for early March has been cancelled this year, and AIC's very own “American Culture Class: Learn About American Culture through Snacks” event will be postponed. Fun Friday will be taking a break for the month of March. Stay safe out there!

FUN FRIDAYS

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!

Dates: March (Cancelled), April 10th & 24th, May 8th & 22nd

Times: 1:00pm-2:00pm ~Afternoon~ 2nd and 4th Friday of the month
6:30pm-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 for an afternoon visit.

For further information or to register, please contact AIC.

FREE Wi-Fi

The Asahikawa International Center (Feeeal 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.****