

# 旭川 ASAHIKAWA Info

November 2017 VOL. 252

Published by AIC

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## Hokkaido News Top 5



November 2017  
Compiled by AIC

### September 30

Horonobe Town, located in Northern Hokkaido, is home to 8 train stations and 6 of them are labeled "Hikyo Eki," or "rare and remote train stations". These "Hikyo Eki" are attracting train enthusiasts from all over Japan. To promote tourism for the town, the "Hikyo Eki Festival in Horonobe 2017" was held and about 100 locals and train enthusiasts enjoyed live music and social events.

### October 1

Ikeda City's Autumn Wine Festival was held in Ikeda Wine Castle. About 5000 people tasted wine and locally produced Hokkaido beef. 1.4 tons of charcoal-grilled beef and 3000 liters of wine were prepared for the festival.

### October 2

Calbee announced that it will sell "Zangi fried chicken flavored Jagariko" in the Hokkaido and Tohoku areas. It will start being sold in convenience stores on October 2nd and in supermarkets on October 16th. Calbee considered many local Hokkaido flavors and chose Zangi fried chicken, as it was well liked by the people of Hokkaido and the flavors suited potatoes well. Its price is about 150 yen.

### October 4

Hoshino Resorts Inc., held a press conference at its hotel, the Asahikawa Grand Hotel, to announce that it is making a foray into the urban hotel market with a new brand targeting tourists, starting with the Asahikawa Grand Hotel. The name of the hotel will change to "OMO 7 Asahikawa" on April 28, 2018. "OMO" stands for the Japanese words "Omoiyari (caring)" and "Omotenashi (hospitality)."

### October 14

The 2nd Horseback Archery International Competition was held in Memuro Town, where 26 equestrians from 7 countries competed in Yabusame, a type of traditional Japanese archery in which an archer shoots three special "turnip-headed" arrows on a running horse. It was the first time this competition was held in Hokkaido. Equestrians wore traditional clothes and rode "dosanko", a horse native to Hokkaido.



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

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

#### Location:

International/City Affairs Division, Regional Development Dept.

#### Address:

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

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Special Thanks to KAWAI Tatsuo, Proofreader & Advisor

**82<sup>nd</sup> Annual Exhibition of Kogire by HAMADA Chizuko****第82回企画展 「古裂(こぎれ)あわせ～浜田智津子お細工物作品展」**

Come see this exhibition of beautiful pieces of art made from antique silk damasks and brocades, called “kogire”. Hundreds of year-old clothes are cut and reshaped to make art once again! Explore the connection between past and present in art in this breathtaking exhibition!

**Date:** 11/3 (Friday, Holiday) -12/17 (Sunday)

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

**Venue:** Asahikawa Museum (Inside Asahikawa Taisetsu Crystal Hall, Kagura 3-jo 7-chome)

**Admission:** Adults: ¥300, High School Students: ¥200, Junior High School Students: Free

**For Further Information Contact:** 0166-69-2004

**Notes:** Admission is free on 11/3!

**38th Annual Asahikawa City Wind Orchestra Concert****第38回定期演奏会 旭川市吹奏楽団**

The Asahikawa City Wind Orchestra is holding their 38<sup>th</sup> concert! It will be held in 2 parts, the first featuring classical music from various well-known composers and the second focusing on music that “captures the Japanese spirit”. One of such tunes of part 2 is the famous “Ue wo muite arukou”. If you love classical and Japanese songs alike, this is the concert for you!

**Date:** 11/18 (Saturday)

**Time:** Opens: 18:00, Starts: 18:30

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

**Admission:** ¥700

**Ticket Office:** Yamaha Music Retailing Store, Asahikawa Taisetsu Crystal Hall, Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall

**For Further Information Contact:** 0166-46-4320

**Hooray! Kid's Land****万歳！こどものくに**

Looking for a fun place to take the kids? Look no further! Kid's Land is a one-day event filled with all sorts of activities kids can enjoy! There are activities in the main play area such as “What's in the box?”, craft making, and playing with toys that are made out of household objects! Also, you can learn how to massage your baby and hands from a massage instructor. Concerts and sing-alongs are another few activities you and your kids can join in on, so be sure to keep the date open!

**Date:** 11/19 (Sunday)

**Time:** 10:30-15:45

**Venue:** Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, Large meeting room (7-jo 8-chome)

**Admission:** Free

**For Further Information Contact:** 0166-27-3203

**Public Lecture by Asahiyama Zoo Director, BANDO Gen****旭川歯科医師会創立70周年記念事業—市民公開講座**

In celebration of the 70th Anniversary of the founding of the Asahikawa Dental Association, the organization is hosting a special, free public lecture with guest speaker BANDO Gen, the Zoo Director of the well-visited Asahiyama Zoo. Hear about his experiences leading the design work from concept to implementation for many of the zoo's famous exhibits, including the Penguin House, the Seal House, the Ezo Deer Forest, the Giraffe House, and more! He is also behind the implementation of ideas like Mogu Mogu Time (feeding time) and the hand-made signs found throughout the zoo. He is now finishing up the first part of his work on the construction of a “Wild Animal Rescue Center” in the state of Sabah, Malaysia. Hear more about his influential work with animals at the lecture!

**Date:** 11/20 (Monday)

**Time:** 14:00-16:00

**Venue:** Asahikawa Grand Hotel, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Banquet Hall. (6-jo 9-chome)

**Admission:** Free

**For Further Information Contact:** 0166-22-2361

**Notes:** Please call by telephone to sign up. You will be sent tickets, so make sure to bring them on the day of the event



**MIYAZAKI Yoé, Ernst's Virtuoso "Der Erlkönig" by Schubert – Chamber Music Melodies**  
宮崎陽江 ヴィルトゥオーゾ シューベルト 室内楽の調べ

MIYAZAKI Yoé was born in Ithaca, N.Y. and was raised in Paris. She started to play violin at the age of 3. MIYAZAKI graduated from the Toho Gakuen College Music Department and the Geneva Conservatoire de Musique with Le Premiere Prix. She has performed in Switzerland, France, Spain, Austria, Germany, as well as many other countries. In Japan, she has played performances at the Hamarikyu Asahi Hall, Ginza Oji Hall, and Kasarusu Hall.

**Date:** 11/20 (Monday)  
**Time:** Opens: 18:00, Starts: 18:30  
**Venue:** Asahikawa Taisetsu Crystal Hall, Concert Hall (Kagura 4-jo 7-chome)  
**Admission:** General audience: ¥4,500, Student: ¥2,000  
**Ticket Office:** Taisetsu Crystal Hall Ticket Office, Yamaha Music Retailing, Gyokkodo Ekimae Aeon Mall, Kawai Asahikawa Shop, Ticketpia (P-code 333-343), Lawson (L-code 12045)  
**For Further Information Contact:** Office One: 0116-12-8696



**Asahikawa University High School & Asahikawa University Brass Band 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Joint Concert**  
旭川大学高校 & 旭川大学吹奏楽部第30回ジョイントコンサート

The Asahikawa University High School & Asahikawa University's own Brass band clubs are holding a joint concert on the 23<sup>rd</sup>! They were awarded 1<sup>st</sup> place at the 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual Hokkaido Brass Band Competition B-level and have gotten to play in the annual East-Japan School Brass Band Tournament for 3 years in a row!

**Date:** 11/23 (Thursday, Holiday)  
**Time:** Opens: 17:30, Starts: 18:00  
**Venue:** Asahikawa Public Hall (In Tokiwa Park)  
**Admission:** ¥500  
**Ticket Office:** Asahikawa University High School, Yamaha Music Retailing Store  
**For Further Information Contact:** 0166-48-1221



**"The Newspaper" Comedy Troupe 2017 in Asahikawa**  
ザ・ニューズペーパー2017 in 旭川

In 1998, The Newspaper formed out of 3 comedy groups that had recently become jobless following the death of Emperor Showa. They decided to focus their comedy on foreign politics, economy, events, celebrities, and the state of society. They are especially talented when imitating the current and past prime ministers of Japan, almost to the point that you wonder if they are the same people. Come watch them to get a laugh out of current events!

**Date:** 11/25-26 (Saturday and Sunday)  
**Time:** Saturday: Opens: 13:30, Starts: 14:00. Sunday: Opens: 12:30, Starts: 1:00  
**Venue:** Asahikawa Public Hall (In Tokiwa Park)  
**Admission:** ¥4,000 (reserved seating)  
**Ticket Office:** Machinaka Bunka Center, Gyokkodo AEON Mall Ekimae, Junkudo, Asahikawa Civic Hall Ticket Booth, Asahikawa Civic Theater, Coach and Four  
**For Further Information Contact:** 0166-23-2801



**Seven Souls in the Skull Castle – Theater Production**  
罇髑城の七人

The date is 1590, and Oda Nobunaga has just been defeated. Japan will soon be united by Toyotomi Hideyoshi, but not if warlord Tenmao can help it. He leads an armed group hiding away in the mysterious and dark "Skull Castle". This group is on the chase after a woman containing the floor plans to their fortress, and almost succeeds in capturing her until Sutenosuke (a wandering Samurai) rescues her. Their small group acquires more people, and with just seven souls, they attempt to bring down the mad leader of Skull Castle.

**Date:** 11/25-26 (Saturday and Sunday).  
**Time:** Saturday: Opens: 18:30, Starts: 19:00.  
Sunday: Performance #1 Opens: 11:00, Starts: 11:30  
Performance #2 Opens: 16:00, Starts: 16:30  
**Venue:** Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall  
**Admission:** ¥2,000  
**Ticket Office:** 090-6875-4020 or email: ts.pro@mopera.net for tickets and questions. Please respond with your name, number of tickets, and requested day/time



EVENTS IN ASAHIKAWA FOR NOVEMBER

# Explore Asahikawa!



*In this edition, we are interviewing Mr. YOSHIKAWA Masahide, the owner and manager of Usagiya Café & Shop. Formerly Yoshikawa-en, a tea distribution company, the company went under rebranding and made it's first debut as a café in addition to its regular shop. Read more about Usagiya and Mr. YOSHIKAWA's thoughts below!*

**AIC:** Did you set your sights on working in the tea industry from the time you were young?

**Yoshikawa:** Not at all (laughs). My father owned a tea store that was connected to our own house so I would occasionally help out from when I was very young, but I had no plans to work with tea in the future because I figured one of my 4 brothers would take over the business. When I was in high school, I wanted to be an architect. After I graduated from university with a degree in architecture I went to Tokyo to work at a construction company. I never once considered working at and owning a cafe.

**AIC:** What made you decide to open up your own store?

**Yoshikawa:** So, I graduated from university, and I worked at the construction company for 7 years. And, I really did like working in construction, however, the architecture I studied in college and what I was actually doing in the company were completely different. Also, none of my four brothers were planning to take over the family business so I thought about it for a bit, and decided to move back to Asahikawa and enter the family business when I was 30. However, business at the store had been getting worse and worse from my grandfather's generation to my father's. I worked there for 10 years continuing the usual business of selling tea, and I spent my time thinking about how to revitalize the business. So, I opened up this new Café & Shop "Usagiya". If I continued to just sell tea like a store, the sales would just continue to decrease and I would have to close the business. So I thought, "I wonder if there's a way that people can enjoy drinking tea in this day and age?" and that led to Usagiya.



**AIC:** What kind of customers would you say are your target audience?

**Yoshikawa:** Well, I am in my 40s right now and I suppose I have a natural bias towards designing café that people in their 30s and 40s would like, particularly women because they have traditionally been the majority of our customers. And even though this is the case, surprisingly, we have many high school students that regularly come to our café. Also, more men visit our café than we expected.





**AIC:** Can you tell me a little about the philosophy behind Usagiya?

**Yoshikawa:** We embrace the concept of an “Everyday tea”, and that’s apparent in our slogan “Seven Days, Seven Teas.” We want our customers to be able to enjoy drinking tea in a casual manner as if it was just another part of their daily life. I want to show people that making tea and preparing it isn’t difficult, and that anyone can do it!

**AIC:** I’ve heard that opening a store can be quite tasking. Have you had any difficulties in opening Usagiya?

**Yoshikawa:** Ever since the family tea store started back in 1945, we’ve had many faithful customers. When we changed the old tea store to a casual, modern Café & Shop, many of these customers stopped coming. Also, when I started working, the Yoshikawa-en tea store just wasn’t making a profit, so we actually started Usagiya while still in deficit, which has made many things difficult like getting a loan from a bank. Another is that Yoshikawa-en was suffering from the state of the tea industry.

It’s called a “sunset industry”, or an industry that is in a state of constant decline. No matter how hard you try, tea is something that won’t ever be a great seller. Not as many people want it anymore.

Also, when I first started I didn’t have much in savings, but I still wanted to start up Usagiya regardless. There are a lot of things that you want to do, but in order to do it you need money (laughs). And to make money you need people to come to your shop but in order to advertise you need money (laughs). When we first founded the company in October of 2014, we were in another building, and just 2 months later they told us they were going to demolish the building and we needed to move locations. But moving costs money too! So, we began looking for another building for the shop, and we finally found one that seemed like a good fit. It was a great fit, but we had no money (laughs), so we went to four different banks and they all rejected us. “This is bad...” I thought (laughs).

We were finally able to open on November in 2015. We didn’t have much familiarity with how to run the business smoothly until about 6 months after opening. When things were finally going all right, our largest buyer of tea (from the store) suddenly announced that it was going out of business in 6 months! They were buying about 60% of our stock, so you can imagine this was quite a big shock. “Not again!!!” I thought (laughs). So right when I thought everything was going well, another disaster lands in my lap. Ever since we started we’ve encountered nothing but trouble! After going through all of this I couldn’t believe how Yoshikawa-en had managed to survive for so long (laughs).



**AIC:** I've noticed that Usagiya has a lot of open space! Do you ever hold events here?

**Yoshikawa:** Yes, we do hold events here. Normally people will come and gather here and chat while drinking tea, but I wanted to make full use out of all the space we have for this new shop. I didn't want this to be an ordinary café. We ended up designing the space in a way that people could use it for events, and bought a projector screen for showing films. For example, if somebody wanted to organize a Japanese etiquette class, they could host that here, or if somebody wanted to organize a Japanese confectionery workshop, they could spread the word and host one. So, rather than Usagiya organizing events, it's actually the people in the community who organize and host them here. We put these events up on Facebook sometimes but it would be more reliable to come and check here in person until we make an events calendar.



**AIC:** What do you want to do from here on out?

**Yoshikawa:** I'm hoping that we can grow and build more shops in various locations. For example, another store in Asahikawa, or one in Sapporo or Chitose. Also, I think it would be great if we could go overseas or attract more foreign customers. I think people in Asahikawa become very attached to the city and feel "at home", and although I think that is a good thing, there are many people live in Asahikawa their whole life and they never leave once. Again, I think that's a great thing, but there is so much out there in the world, like talking to different people and seeing new things. I think if we help change this aspect of the city and bring in more exchange, Asahikawa can be an even more successful city and it will improve the lives of our children and the generations after. Even though we're just a simple café, we can strive to help facilitate cultural exchange, and hopefully recruit more people who share our ideas and spread this change all over the country. I think it's really interesting.

**AIC:** Lastly, please give a message to our readers!

**Yoshikawa:** Now that you've been living in Asahikawa, you probably already know all the good and bad things about living here. I've had my fair share of time living in Tokyo and seeing other areas, and what I can tell you, is that the people of Asahikawa are truly kind. It's my hope that you will be able to talk with and make good memories with the people here. It would be great if people here had a greater passion for learning English, but unfortunately that's not the case (laughs), and many Japanese people are too shy to speak with people from other countries. So I think they would appreciate it if you took the initiative to talk to them! Of course it would be best if they could build up the courage to talk to foreigners, but I think they would gain so much from this experience. They would learn about the friendliness of people from other countries and would be making new discoveries. I really hope that Usagiya can become a place where this type of connection is possible. So, if you have the time, please come visit Usagiya!



**We would like to thank the owner of Usagiya, Mr. YOSHIKAWA Masahide for granting us the opportunity to interview him. Photos are used with permission from Usagiya. Please visit the Usagiya website for information concerning location and hours: [www.usagiya-tea.jp](http://www.usagiya-tea.jp)**



# Hello Asahikawa!

**Name: Sam Pocock**

**Home Country: New Zealand**

**Interviewed: October 11th, By AIC**

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)!

**AIC: So Sam, what brings you to Japan? Is this your first time abroad?**

**Sam:** I came to teach English with AEON. I was looking for a new job and it seemed like a good idea. And yes, it's my first time abroad.

**AIC: How do you like it?**

**Sam:** It's great! It's so much fun.

**AIC: Where are you from originally?**

**Sam:** New Zealand.

**AIC: How does that compare to living in Asahikawa? How has your daily life changed?**

**Sam:** In New Zealand I was in the countryside so I used to drive everywhere. Now that I'm here, obviously I walk everywhere. It's just kind of different. It's noisier, it's busier, and more convenient. Also, I love convenient stores. They're great. Oh, and cash. Cash is weird. We use cards back home. It's the first time I've used actual money in years.

**AIC: (Laughs) Same for me.**

**Sam:** Also the language. I still get confused every day... (Laughs)

**AIC: Speaking of which, how's your Japanese studying coming along?**

**Sam:** I don't have much time to study so it's not progressing very quickly, but it's still good. It's happening.

**AIC: Is there something that you particularly like about Asahikawa or Japan in general?**

**Sam:** Food. I love the food. Especially Shabu Shabu. Judy and I go every weekend. I love ramen too... just the general food. Even the stuff you buy at the supermarket is quite high quality and it's good.

**AIC: What do you think of Japanese convenience store food compared to New Zealand convenience store food?**

**Sam:** We don't have convenience stores in New Zealand. It's amazing. We don't have that kind of ready-made, normal food. We have fast food or restaurant food.

**AIC: Wow, no convenience stores? That's a shock! Alright, what are your hobbies?**

**Sam:** I like to read, but I don't have much time. I mostly read manga at the moment because it's easy. I do like reading fantasy novels but it requires more time than I have. I like to have about 4 or 5 hours to really get into a book, but I don't have that option. Other than that, I like art. My degree was in digital art. Other than that, I like drawing pictures, studying Japanese, and I have my camera here so I do a bit of photography, meeting people, drinking... (laughs)

**AIC: Haha. Is there anything you miss about New Zealand?**

**Sam:** Dairy products and the food.

**AIC: But you like Japanese food too, yes?**

**Sam:** The difference is, New Zealand is a dairy-based country. We have so many cows. And the dairy products are really high quality. For example, the butter, ice cream and yogurt just doesn't taste as good here. Even in Hokkaido. I miss dairy products. I miss



cheese! Also, I miss being able to see the stars and the New Zealand sunsets. I didn't know they were so amazing until I came here.

**AIC:** **Why do you think that is?**

**Sam:** Light pollution, the air is a little bit different here. It's a lot cleaner than New Zealand. And I miss my family, obviously.

**AIC:** **Do you speak any other languages?**

**Sam:** Nope. (Laughs).

**AIC:** **But you are studying Japanese, yes?**

**Sam:** Yeah, I've been studying it for a year and a half, now.

**AIC:** **So you were studying before you came, then?**

**Sam:** I made the decision to come a year before I arrived. So I've been studying the day I made the decision to come.

**AIC:** **So, why Japan?**

**Sam:** Hmm, anime. Manga, I wanted to learn Japanese, and immersion seemed like the best option. There are not many options for studying Japanese in New Zealand unless you go to university, but I can't afford that. Also, I wanted to travel but I didn't have any real plans on where. And when I started studying Japanese it just seemed like a really good idea to go to Japan. The more I started learning about it the more I wanted to go. The culture is very interesting.

**AIC:** **I'm glad you like it so much! How long do you plan to be in Asahikawa?**

**Sam:** My contract is for a year, but I will probably stay longer. Don't know how much longer. I'm waiting to see how winter goes. I've never lived somewhere that snows before.

**AIC:** **Woah. Does it snow in New Zealand?**

**Sam:** In the south... but I'm in the north. In my life, it snowed only 7 times in my hometown. And it's not even real snow. (laughs). So, I think I'll stay until the start of winter next year and I'll decide over this winter whether or not I want to stay for another one. That's why I'm holding back. I don't want to say I'll stay forever.

**AIC:** **Winter can be rough indeed. This is a bit of a random question, but how do you feel about karaoke?**

**Sam:** It's fun. I love karaoke. Can't sing, but I love karaoke.

**AIC:** **And that's all I have! Thank you for the interview.**

**Sam:** You're welcome!

## ★ *Movies ~ November* ★

\*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](http://cinema.aeoncinema.com/wm/asahikawa) (Japanese)

### Now Showing

- My Teacher (Japanese)
- Blade Runner 2049 (English/PG12)
- American Made (English)
- Mix (Japanese)
- The Disastrous Life of Saiki K (Japanese)
- Love and Lies (Japanese)
- War for the Planet of the Apes (English)
- Narratage (Japanese)
- Ajin: Demi-Human (Japanese)
- A Dog's Purpose (English)
- The Miracles of the Namiya General Store (Japanese)
- Dunkirk (English)
- The Third Murder (Japanese)
- Sekigahara (Japanese)

### Coming Soon

- The Last Recipe (Japanese) 11/3
- Thor/Ragnarok (English) 11/3
- Hyouka:Forbidden Secrets (Japanese) 11/3
- Shashin Koshien Summer in 0.5 Seconds (Japanese) 11/11
- Panpaka Pants the Movie: Pudding a la Domo (Japanese/Anime) 11/11
- Hibana: Spark (Japanese) 11/23
- Justice League (English) 11/23
- Anonymous Noise (Japanese) 11/25
- Kaiketsu Zorori Movie: ZZ no Himitsu (Japanese/Anime) 11/25
- Fullmetal Alchemist (Japanese) 12/1
- Destiny: Kamakura Monogatari (Japanese) 12/9

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

## ★ Movies ~ November ★

\*<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.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

- My Teacher (Japanese)
- Kirakira PreCure a la Mode (Japanese/Anime)
- Blade Runner 2049 (English 2D, Japanese 4DX3D)
- Iwaai Mitsuaki's Cat Walk in the World the Movie (Japanese)
- American Made (English)
- The Disastrous Life of Saiki K (Japanese)
- Wilderness: Part Two (Japanese/R15+)
- Atomic Blonde (English 2D, 4DX2D/R15+)
- Wilderness: Part One (Japanese/R15+)
- Ajin: Demi-Human (Japanese 4DX, 2D)
- Hidden Figures (English)
- The Miracles of the Namiya General Store (Japanese)
- Dunkirk (English)
- The Third Murder (Japanese)

### Coming Soon

- Thor/Ragnarock (English 2D, Japanese 4DX3D) 11/3
- The Last Recipe (Japanese) 11/3
- HiGH & LOW the Movie 3: Final Mission (Japanese) 11/11
- Shashin Koshien Summer in 0.5 Seconds (Japanese) 11/11
- Terminator 2: Judgement Day 3D (English 4DX3D/PG12) 11/18
- Logan Lucky (English) 11/18
- Justice League (English) 11/23
- Gifted (English) 11/23
- Master (English) 11/25
- Fullmetal Alchemist (Japanese 4DX) 12/1
- The Detective is in the Bar 3 (Japanese) 12/1

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

- Birds Without Names (Japanese/R15+)
- My Teacher (Japanese)
- Blade Runner 2049 (English/PG12)
- The Disastrous Life of Saiki K (Japanese)
- American Made (English)
- Fate/kaleid liner Prisma Illya Movie: Sekka no Chikai (Japanese/Anime)
- War for the Planet of the Apes (English)
- Narratage (Japanese)
- Outrage Coda (Japanese/R15+)
- Ajin: Demi-Human (Japanese)
- The Miracles of the Namiya General Store (Japanese)
- Asahinagu (Japanese)
- Eureka Seven - Hi-Evolution 1 (Japanese/Anime)
- Dunkirk (English)
- Sekigahara (Japanese)
- I Want to Eat Your Pancreas (Japanese)
- Despicable Me 3 (English/Anime)

### Coming Soon

- It (English/R15+) 11/3
- Thor/Ragnarock (English) 11/3
- Jigsaw (English) 11/10
- Shashin Koshien Summer in 0.5 Seconds (Japanese) 11/11
- HiGH & LOW the Movie 3: Final Mission (Japanese) 11/11
- Logan Lucky (English) 11/18
- Dorobo Yakusya (Japanese) 11/18
- Justice League (English) 11/23
- Hibana: Spark (Japanese) 11/23
- The Detective is in the Bar 3 (Japanese) 12/1
- Fullmetal Alchemist (Japanese) 12/1

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

## Asahiyama Zoo Winter Preparations and Opening

# Bus Kita!

Do you know about [asahi.buskita.com](http://asahi.buskita.com)? Use this website to easily navigate the buses in Asahikawa.

It is currently only available in Japanese, but parts of the site can be automatically translated through services like Google. You can choose the departure or destination point from a map of the city instead of having to input kanji.

You can even create a free account to save your favorite bus routes!

Asahiyama Zoo will be closing from November 4th (Saturday) to November 10th (Friday) to prepare for the winter season! They will be using this time to do things like repair and maintain facilities, clean the feeding grounds, and replace exhibit signs. It is their hope that you can enjoy the wonderful winter exhibits.

If there is snow on the ground, you may even get to see the penguins out and about on their walk! The Winter season begins on the November 11th (Saturday). Be sure to take note of these closure days before you plan any trips up to the Asahiyama Zoo!



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:** November 10th & 24th, December 8th & 22nd, January 12th & 26th  
**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.**



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.\*\***