

# 旭川 ASAHIKAWA Info

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## Hokkaido News Top 5



May 2015

Compiled by TAKADA Nobuhiro

### March 26

An IT company, CEDARS Communications Co., Ltd. in Sapporo, is giving out a map called “Walking Map+ Asahikawa,” showing free Wi-Fi spots and duty-free shops at hotels. The guide on the map is written in English, Chinese, and Korean languages. The IT company provides information on tourism in Hokkaido on its website.

### April 3

The City of Asahikawa spent 550 million yen less than its budget for snow removal in the fiscal year 2014 due to the record light snowfall. 20 percent of the budget was not used since the city prepared 2.63 billion yen for clearing the road of snow. The total snowfall from November 10, 2014 through March 20, 2015 was 358cm, which was 63 percent of the average snowfall for the past 10 years.

### April 4

The new “AEON MALL” next to Asahikawa Station, which opened on March 27, has been attracting approximately 40,000 customers a day. According to AEON MALL Co., Ltd., the new shopping mall welcomed 46,000 shoppers both on March 27 and 28, 44,000 on 29, and around 30,000/day since then. There were also a large number of people in Kaimono Koen near the new commercial complex.

### April 18

Hokkaido Museum has opened in Nopporo Shinrin Koen Prefectural Natural Park in Sapporo City, Ebetsu City and Kitahiroshima City. Its display is made of five sections, the 1.2-million-year history of Hokkaido, the culture of the Ainu (indigenous inhabitants of Hokkaido), the nature of Hokkaido, the modern history of Hokkaido, and fauna in Hokkaido. The museum was set up by merging two organizations, the Historical Museum of Hokkaido and the Hokkaido Ainu Center.

### April 18

The Town of Higashikawa has announced to open its Japanese language school to advocate Higashikawa globally and to boost international exchange. The school will offer six-month and one-year courses for 100 students, chiefly from South East Asian countries per year. It is unprecedented for a municipality to run a language school.



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

Asahikawa International Committee (SASAKI Mai, Kim LACEY, or SAITO Emmy)

### Location:

International/City Affairs Division, Comprehensive Policy 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

## Good Boys and Girls' Magazines: Hakodate Children's Periodical Collection よいこのざつとふろく ～函館雑誌・付録コレクション

Are you interested in seeing some of the first children's magazines published in Japan? Asahikawa City Museum is holding its 74th special exhibition with the help of Hakodate City Chuo Library. Children's magazines and periodical collections will be in Asahikawa in commemoration of Children's Day. Here is your chance to get a glimpse of one of the most popular magazines for children in Japan during the 1900s, including *Shonen Kurabu* (少年倶楽部.) It will be interesting to see how each cover and content reflects the period, as you see changes over time.

**Date:** now to May 31st (Sunday), except on the 2nd and 4th Mondays and national holidays.

**Time:** 9:00 am to 5:00 pm (admission is until 4:30 pm)

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

**Admission:** Free

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



## Ancient Egyptian Art & Magic 古代エジプト美術の世界展

This exhibition brings to life one of the greatest civilizations in the history of the world, spotlighting mummy cases and sacred works in diverse media, tomb and temple reliefs, papyrus fragments, alabaster vessels, and rare objects comprised of precious stones, to name a few. The works displayed demonstrate the delicate craftsmanship and spiritual qualities of ancient Egypt. This exhibition was made possible by treasures from the Fondation Gandur pour l'Art in Geneva, Switzerland. A 30-minute special commentary on the exhibition will take place on May 9th (Sat) and 30th (Sat) from 2:00 pm, free of charge and open to the public.

**Date:** now to June 21st (Sunday), except on Mondays and holidays. Also closed on May 7th (Thursday)

**Time:** 9:30 am to 5:00 pm (admission is until 4:30 pm)

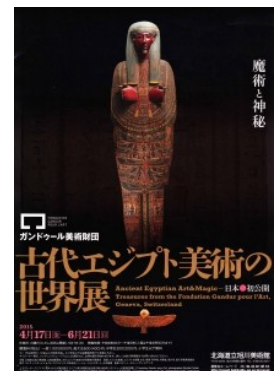
**Venue:** Hokkaido Asahikawa Museum of Art (inside Tokiwa Park)

**Admission:** General—¥1,100, High School Students—¥600, Middle School Students—¥300, Elementary School and Under—Free

**Ticket Offices:** Hokkaido Asahikawa Museum of Art, Hokkaido Shimbun Regional Branch Offices, Asahikawa Fukido Stores, 7-Eleven (7-Code: 034-915), Lawson Ticket (L-code: 12640)

**For Further Information Contact:** 0166-25-2577 (Hokkaido Asahikawa Museum of Art)

**Official Website of the Exhibition:** <http://event.hokkaido-np.co.jp/egypt> (Japanese only)



## Squares and Circles: The Story of Art and Form

シカクイ、マルイ - 形のわけあり物語 -

Various forms in furniture have both functional and artistic meanings behind. For example, you can take a look at different angles in chairs and sit on them at this exhibition. Shapes in many different paintings, crafts, and sculptures are also examined for their characteristics and symbols.

**Date:** now to August 30th (Sunday), except on Mondays and holidays. Also closed on May 7th (Thursday)

**Time:** 9:30 am to 5:00 pm (admission is until 4:30 pm)

**Venue:** Hokkaido Asahikawa Museum of Art (inside Tokiwa Park)

**Admission:** General—¥170, High School Students—¥100

**For Further Information Contact:** 0166-25-2577 (Hokkaido Asahikawa Museum of Art)



## CoCoDe Kids' World 2015 CoCoDeキッズワールド2015

In celebration of Children's Day, *CoCoDe* is hosting special events throughout the day to keep your kids entertained. There will be juggling, a magic show, music performances, dance time, and the list goes on and on. This will be a great chance for your child to play, learn, and make new friends.

**Date:** May 5th (Tuesday)  
**Time:** 10:00 am to 4:00 pm  
**Venue:** Civic Activities and Exchange Center *CoCoDe* (Miyamae-dori 1-jo 3-chome)  
**Admission:** Free  
**For Further Information Contact:** 0166-74-4151 (*CoCoDe*)



## Kohei FUKUDA Concert: Thanks to Hometown 福田こうへいコンサート ~故郷に感謝~

FUKUDA is a relatively new enka singer, but his achievements since his first album debut in October, 2012 are quite impressive. His first single, *nambu semi shigure* ranked #1 on the Oricon enka chart and #8 overall. FUKUDA was recognized as the Best New Artist at the 55th Japan Record Awards.

**Date:** May 13th (Wednesday)  
**Time:** 1st Show: 2:00 pm, 2nd Show: 6:30 pm  
**Venue:** Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall (7-jo 9-chome)  
**Admission:** All Seats—¥6,000  
**Ticket Offices:** Doshin Play Guide, Coach & Four Music Corner, Gyokkodo Asahikawa, Lawson Ticket, Ticket Pia  
**For Further Information Contact:** 011-261-9991 (Trust Kikaku Create, Mon-Fri 9:30 am -6:00 pm)



## Hinokiya 18th Year Live Tour: A Traveling Hat ひのき屋・18年目のライブツアー「旅するぼうし」

Hinokiya is a band formed in Hakodate in 1998. Their music is unique with original compositions and arrangements that blend traditional Japanese music with a touch of modern beats and melodies. The repertoire ranges far and wide from traditional folk songs to contemporary pop. Some of the instruments often featured are Shinobue flute, taiko drums, guitar, and percussion.

**Date:** May 16th (Saturday)  
**Time:** Doors 6:00 pm Show 6:30 pm  
**Venue:** Takasago Meiji Brewery Sangokura (Miyashita-dori 17-chome)  
**Admission:** General ¥2,500 (At the Door ¥3,000), Couple \*sold in two ¥4,000 (At the Door ¥5,000, Elementary to High School Students ¥500 (At the Door ¥1,000)  
**Ticket Offices:** Lawson Ticket (L-code: 14140), Takasago Meiji Brewery  
**For Further Information Contact:** 0138-51-5727 (Except on weekends)



## Sayuri ISHIKAWA Concert 石川さゆり コンサート

ISHIKAWA is a popular Japanese enka singer, having appeared on the annual NHK Kohaku Uta Gassen 36 times since 1977. Expect to hear her unforgettable hits, such as *Amagi-goe* and *Tsugaru Kaikyo Fuyu-geshiki*, in addition to other soulful pieces when she comes to Asahikawa for a live performance.

**Date:** May 28th (Thursday)  
**Time:** 1st Show: 2:00 pm, 2nd Show 6:30 pm  
**Venue:** Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall (7-jo 9-chome)  
**Admission:** ¥6,500  
**Ticket Offices:** Lawson Convenience Stores, Ticket Pia, Coach & Four Asahikawa Music Corner, Doshin Play Guide, Gyokkodo Asahikawa



EVENTS IN ASAHIKAWA FOR MAY



# Hello Asahikawa!

**Name: Brenda Knull**

**Hometown: Wetaskiwin, Alberta, Canada**

**Interviewed: April 1st, 2015 by AIC**

**AIC:** *First of all, what brought you to Japan?*

**Brenda:** I had been teaching elementary school for 8 years in Camrose in Alberta, Canada when I thought about applying for a leave of absence. The problem was that I couldn't think of anything in particular to do with time away from my career. A colleague of mine told me that the town of Kamifurano was looking for a new English teacher. He had actually been a teacher there several years ago. Kamifurano is a special town to Camrose because the two are sister cities. They were twinned in 1985. After finding out all of this information, I applied for the job and a new adventure unfolded.

**AIC:** *So are you originally from Camrose? What is your hometown like?*

**Brenda:** My hometown is actually Wetaskiwin (sister cities with Ashoro), but I was residing in the city of Camrose before I moved to Hokkaido. Wetaskiwin and Camrose are quite similar to each other. They have a lot in common with Kamifurano. They are small cities that are surrounded by farmland. Many farmers are in the area and agriculture is an important industry. Camrose is a city of about 17,000 people, so it's easy to get around and the people are friendly. I would say that the same qualities are found in Kamifurano.

**AIC:** *That is great that Kamifurano reminds you of home in some ways. Could you tell us a little about what your job entails? What does your typical day look like?*

**Brenda:** My job consists of teaching English to people in Kamifurano and the local area. I teach at 3 nursery schools, 1 kindergarten, 2 elementary schools, and 1 junior high school. I also teach evening community classes for adults. I've worked with students from 2 years old up to 81. My typical day starts with me going to the Board of Education office. From there I go to one or two of the schools in which I work. I teach a variety of different students throughout my week, which keeps things interesting. I also work on sister city related projects.

**AIC:** *You teach the whole town, pretty much! What was your first impression of Hokkaido?*

**Brenda:** My first impression of Hokkaido was that it was remarkably similar to Alberta. I remember a few times when I was about to take a picture only to think to myself that it looks just like home. These feelings helped me to adjust to a new life relatively fast. I couldn't believe how kind and inviting people in Hokkaido are. Complete strangers still frequently give me gifts.



A scenic view of Kamifurano (photo by Brenda)

## Hello Asahikawa!

### Brenda Knull Interview (Part 2) Continued from Page 4

**AIC:** *Is there a favorite food you've discovered since you came here?*

**Brenda:** The food is delicious here! I can't get enough of sashimi, sushi (especially ikura), miso ramen, yakitori, yakiniku, soup curry... I could go on and on. I'd say that food and eating is a passion of mine.

**AIC:** *Haha, I totally can relate to that. How do you like to spend your free time?*

**Brenda:** In my free time I usually explore a new place in Hokkaido or in other parts of Japan. I like to snowboard, run, do yoga, participate in aqua aerobics, and take pictures. I like trying new things. I'm eager to try new classes or attend an event that I've never been to before, such as taiko drumming, yuki matsuri, or cherry blossom viewing. Onsens are one of my favorite parts about living in Japan.

**AIC:** *From your experience, what are some ups and downs of living abroad, well, especially living in Japan?*

**Brenda:** I'd say that the hardest part about being far from Camrose is that I can't get together with family and friends. Technology such as Skype or LINE makes communication a lot easier, but I find it difficult just to get in touch with people on a whim. Often schedules have to be compared and then a time has to be secured in order to talk. I miss spontaneous conversations. On the upside I've been able to experience so many new things while living abroad. My time here has almost felt like a new lease on life. I've had to learn how to separate my garbage, how to get around using public transportation, etc. It's been incredibly interesting being part of a different culture. One of my favorite things to do here is to simply observe. Kamifurano and Camrose have a lot in common but there are many noticeable differences.

**AIC:** *Are there any places (in Japan or abroad) that you would like to visit before heading back home?*

**Brenda:** Travel is my number one interest, so I've made it a priority since living here. The next places on my list are Tokyo, Shakotan, Laos, Ashoro, Saipan, Rebun, and Rishiri.

**AIC:** *Awesome. Let us slowly wrap up this interview. What are your future plans?*

**Brenda:** My future plans include another adventure. My 2-year leave of absence will come to a close this year, so I'm moving back to Camrose this August. I'll return to many familiar things such as my family, boyfriend, friends, job, house, and vehicle. I'll be going back with a new outlook on Camrose, Alberta, and Canada. I've started a list of things to do and see that are right in my backyard. I intend on being an active member of the Camrose/Japan Friendship Society and on talking about Kamifurano with anyone who's interested.

**AIC:** *It was great talking to you, Brenda. Enjoy the rest of your time in Japan!*

**Brenda:** Thank you.



# Life in Japan

## Golden Week By SAKURABA Satoshi

In Japan, there is a stretch of consecutive holidays called “Golden Week (ゴールデンウィーク),” which is clustered together at the end of April to the start of May. The length of Golden Week varies from year to year, and you can have four or five successive holidays. Some people take a few extra days off from work to make it even longer. Golden Week consists of following national holidays; Constitution Day 建国記念日 (May 3), a commemoration of the enactment of Japan’s postwar Constitution on May 3, 1947; Greenery Day みどりの日 (May 4), a celebration of plants and the natural world; and Children’s Day こどもの日 (May 5), a national holiday to celebrate both boys and girls. These three special days are successive and the dates do not vary from year to year.

Some people go on an overseas trip, while others go back to their parents’ house. Consequently, airports and highways get seriously jammed on the first and the last day of Golden Week. In Hokkaido, we might be able to thoroughly enjoy cherry blossoms during this time. Viewing cherry blossoms is called “Ohanami (お花見)” in the Japanese language. People bring some food and drinks along and hold a joyful party under the trees. Unlike in winter, we can easily go out to any place, so many people choose to travel to some scenic spots.

Actually, there is another string of consecutive holidays in September. Those holidays are called “Silver Week.” In 2015, since September 21 and 23 are both national holidays, there will be an extra national holiday on September 22, forming five successive holidays as Silver Week. This year can be said to be lucky, because this “bonus” holiday only occurs when an ordinary working day happens to fall between two holidays. This kind of a day off was first given in 2009, forming Silver Week, and this year will be the second one. Looking at the calendar, I see that the next Silver Week won’t come until 2026. So, I recommend that you make plans for Silver Week well in advance.

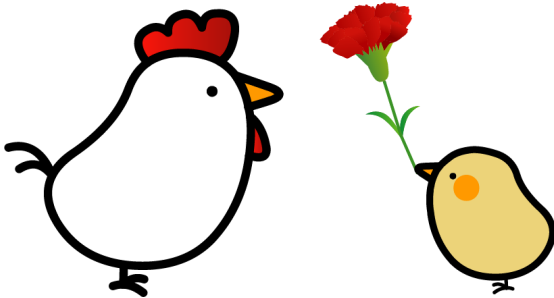
This long holiday season is a great chance to do something out of the ordinary. What are your plans for this year’s Golden Week and Silver Week?

Golden Week  
2015



# Holidays Around the World

## Mother's Day By Kim LACEY



Mother's Day is a day when we pay a special tribute to mothers, motherhood, and maternal bonds in general, as well as to the positive contributions through their personal sacrifice and love. And of course, putting up with us during those adolescent years. It is observed in different forms around the world, but in many countries, including Japan and the United States, Mother's Day is celebrated on the 2nd Sunday of May every year.

How did Mother's Day come about? Celebrations of mothers and motherhood can be traced back to the ancient Greeks and Romans, who held festivals in honor of the mother goddess Rhea and Cybele, but the clearest modern precedent for Mother's Day is the early Christian festival known as "Mothering Sunday." Once a major tradition in the United Kingdom and parts of Europe, this celebration fell on the fourth Sunday in Lent and was originally seen as a time when the faithful would return to their "mother of church"—the main church in the vicinity of their home—for a special service. Over time the Mothering Sunday tradition shifted into a more secular holiday, and children would present their mothers with flowers and other tokens of appreciation.

This custom eventually faded in popularity before merging with the American Mother's Day in the 1930s and 1940s. The roots of modern Mother's Day dates back to the 19th century. In 1870, Julia Ward Howe, who was an abolitionist, suffragette, and the author of the song you may have heard of: The Battle Hymn of the Republic, wrote a Mother's Day proclamation, asking mothers to unite for world peace. In 1873, Howe asked that Mother's Day be celebrated on the 2nd of June. However, her efforts were unsuccessful.

Other early Mother's Day pioneers include Juliet Calhoun Blakely, a temperance activist who inspired a local Mother's Day in Michigan in the 1870s. The duo of Mary Towles Sasseen and Frank Hering, meanwhile, both worked to organize a Mother's Day in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. However, Mother's Day may have never become officially recognized if it hadn't been for the work of Ann Jarvis and her daughter Anna.



*Julia Ward Howe*

Image of Julia Ward Howe  
(Source: History of Woman Suffrage, Volume 2, p 793)

# Holidays Around the World

## Mother's Day Continued from Page 7

In the years before the Civil War (1861-65), Ann Reeves Jarvis of West Virginia helped start “Mothers’ Day Work Clubs” to teach local women how to properly care for their children. These clubs later became a unifying force in a region of the country still divided over the Civil War. In 1868, Ann Jarvis created a committee to establish a “Mothers’ Friendship Day” to reunite families that have been divided by during the Civil War. Ann wanted to expand this into an annual memorial for mothers, but she died in 1905 before the celebration became popular.



Photo of Anna Jarvis  
(Source: [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anna\\_Jarvis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anna_Jarvis))

Her daughter Anna would continue to work for her mother’s efforts. In May 1908, Anna organized the first official Mother’s Day celebration at a Methodist church in West Virginia. Following the success of her first Mother’s Day, Anna and her supporters embarked on a letter-writing campaign to make Mother’s Day a recognized holiday. Her persistence paid off, and she finally succeeded in making it nationally recognized in 1914, when President Woodrow Wilson signed a measure officially establishing the second Sunday in May as Mother’s Day.

But once Mother’s Day became a national holiday, it was not long before florists, greeting card companies, and other merchants capitalized on its popularity. By the 1920s Anna Jarvis became embittered by the commercialization of the holiday. She and her sister spent the family inheritance campaigning against the holiday it had become. By the time of her death in 1948 Jarvis had disowned the holiday altogether, and even actively lobbied the government to see it removed from the American calendar.

As adopted by other countries and cultures, the holiday has different meanings and is associated with different religious or historical traditions. In Thailand, for example, Mother’s Day is always celebrated in August on the birthday of the current queen, Sirikit. In Japan, as you probably know, Mother’s Day (母の日) was initially commemorated during the Showa period as the birthday of Empress on March 6. It wasn’t until 1949 that Japanese society adopted the second Sunday of May as the official date for Mother’s Day. Many former communist countries celebrate International Women’s Day on March 8, instead of Mother’s Day. But one thing remains the same; the holiday is meant to honor the mothers whose love and sacrifice embody the ideals of motherhood.

(reference: The History Channel)





# Life in Asahikawa

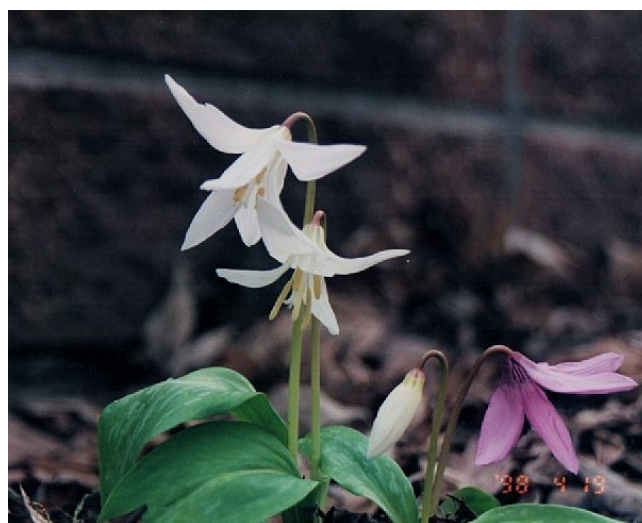
## Spring Fairies By KIMURA Tadao

Presumably, people here in Hokkaido are much more eager to see Spring Fairies than those in the rest of Japan. We have been confining ourselves to our warm and toasty houses during the long winter. But now that May is here, every life regains their vitality. People are also unable to withhold the urge to go out and see pretty wild lives. Spring-fairies, sometimes called “spring-ephemeral,” are really lovely but short-lived, as the name implies.

**Fukujuso**, Amur Adonis (*Adonis amurensis*), is the earliest wild flower to be seen in this locality. A hasty amateur “plant hunter” would put on his rubber long boots and go into a wood only to find that *Fukujuso* has no color yet. Just wait, and you will be very pleased to see a bright yellow flower on a wet soil. Having received sufficient warmth of the sun, *Fukujiso* will show its gracious flower. Height of the plant is no more than 10cm; diameter of a flower is 3cm, more or less, with many (about thirteen) petals. At an early stage of growth, only its flower is seen as if a tiny sun has popped up directly from the ground.



**Katakuri**, Dogtooth violet (*Erythronium japonicum*), is endangered in many places, and volunteers here are very active in an effort to conserve this species. While rumors of sakura blooming are still on the way northward to Hokkaido, what pleases people’s eyes is the brilliance of a great colony of *Katakuri*, a family member of lily. Its pinkish violet flower is pretty and soothing. The plant itself is not big, with a height of its stem about 15cm. If you run across a great patch of colony, a marvelous scenery will unfold before your eyes. *Katakuri* is also known to be a honey provider and a pollinator for a very precious species of butterflies, *Hime-gifucho*, which is a small subspecies of swallowtail. You are likely to see this butterfly sometime. However, you must not catch it because it is classified as a natural treasure, a protected species. If you would like to see a *Katakuri* colony in person, I recommend that you check out the west side of Arashiyama or Toshozan on the north of the City.



# Life in Asahikawa

## Spring Fairies Continued from Page 9

**Ezoichige**, Wood anemone (*Anemone yezoensis*), is a very small, lovely white ephemeral flower, about 5cm in length. *Ezo* means “of Hokkaido” and *Ichige* means “a single flower.” As one can tell from the name, a single stem holds only one white flower which has six to seven petals. The English equivalent name, Anemone, might sound a bit strange to many Japanese. The plant gives off a lonesome feeling in a single form. However, when a lot of flowers are seen together as a colony, the view is splendid with clear white colors.



**Ezoengosaku** (*Corydalis ambigua*), a member of the poppy family, is my personal favorite among spring fairies, with many curiously shaped flowers of various colors which range from pink to light violet. The stem is about 15cm tall. It prefers similar environments as with *Katakuri* and also tends to form a big colony. Whenever I see this plant in bloom, I can't help picturing tiny nymphs playing midair around the top of the stem.



\*I've only mentioned four species of Spring Fairies here, but at least a dozen can be seen during this season. I personally recommend HoppoYaso-en and Boreal Wild Plants Garden southwest of Asahikawa.

## ★ **Movies ~ May** ★

\*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

- Dragon Ball the Movie (Japanese/Animation)
- Crayon Shinchan the Movie (Japanese/Animation)
- Fast & Furious 7 (English)
- Solomon no Gisho Part2 (Japanese)
- Birdman ~The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance~ (English/PG12)
- April Fools (Japanese)
- Ansatsukyoshitsu (Japanese)
- Kazetatsu Lion (Japanese)
- Strobe Edge (Japanese)
- Doraemon the Movie (Japanese/Animation)

### Coming Soon

- Focus (English) 5/1
- Birigal (Japanese) 5/1
- Nounai Poison Berry (Japanese) 5/9
- Kakekomi Onna to Kakedashi Otoko (Japanese) 5/16
- Elsa & Fred (English) 5/16
- Sponge Bob the Movie (English/Animation) 5/16
- Z Island (Japanese/PG12) 5/16
- The Maze Runner (English) 5/22
- Initiation Love (Japanese) 5/23
- Shinjuku Swan (Japanese/PG12) 5/30
- An (Japanese) 5/30



## Movies ~ May

(Continued from Page 10)

\*<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: [www.unitedcinemas.jp/asahikawa/daily.php](http://www.unitedcinemas.jp/asahikawa/daily.php) (Japanese)

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

### Now Showing

- Ouhi no Yakata (Japanese)
- Ryuzo to Nananin no Kobuntachi (Japanese)
- Cinderella (English)
- Kiseiju part2 (Japanese/PG12)
- Detective Conan the Movie (Japanese/Animation)
- Crayon Shinchan the Movie (Japanese/Animation)
- Fast & Furious 7 (English)
- Dragon Ball the Movie (Japanese/Animation/3D)
- Solomon no Gisho Part2 (Japanese)
- April Fools (Japanese)
- Ansatsukyoshitsu (Japanese)
- Kazetatsu Lion (Japanese)
- Strobe Edge (Japanese)

### Coming Soon

- Focus (English) 5/1
- Nounai Poison Berry (Japanese) 5/9
- Kakekomi Onna to Kakedashi Otoko (Japanese) 5/16
- Run All Night (English/R15) 5/16
- The Maze Runner (English) 5/22
- Initiation Love (Japanese) 5/23
- Shinjuku Swan (Japanese/PG12) 5/30
- Tomorrowland (English) 6/6

★ **Dinos Cinemas:** Taisetsu-dori 5-chome / ☎ 21 – 1233

URL: [cinema.sugai-dinos.jp/pc/asahikawa/schedule.php](http://cinema.sugai-dinos.jp/pc/asahikawa/schedule.php) (Japanese)

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

### Now Showing

- Cinderella (English)
- Kiseiju part2 (Japanese/PG12)
- Ouhi no Yakata (Japanese)
- Ryuzo to Nananin no Kobuntachi (Japanese)
- Dragon Ball the Movie (Japanese/Animation)
- Crayon Shinchan the Movie (Japanese/Animation)
- Detective Conan the Movie (Japanese/Animation)
- Fast & Furious 7 (English)
- Solomon no Gisho Part2 (Japanese)
- Ansatsukyoshitsu (Japanese)
- Strobe Edge (Japanese)
- Solomon no Gisho Part1 (Japanese)
- Kazetatsu Lion (Japanese)

### Coming Soon

- Focus (English) 5/1
- Patlabor The Next Generation (Japanese) 5/1
- Birigal (Japanese) 5/1
- Kakekomi Onna to Kakedashi Otoko (Japanese) 5/16
- Run All Night (English/R15) 5/16
- Chappie (English/PG12) 5/22
- The Maze Runner (English) 5/22
- San Andreas (English) 5/30
- Kagami no naka no Egaotachi (Japanese) 5/30
- Shinjuku Swan (Japanese/PG12) 5/30

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

# 31st Takasu Jogging Festival

Do you feel like getting some exercise done after the long winter in Hokkaido? Takasu, a small town located near Asahikawa, is holding its annual jogging festival this year as well.

Variety of race distances are offered for all levels, including half-marathon, 10km, 5km, 3km, 1.5km, and a Parent-Child Pairs Race. The fresh northern air and a cozy setting will make the race enjoyable for all ages.

Sign-up period ends when all spots are filled, so hurry up if you are interested in participating.

**Date:** June 28th (Sunday), rain or shine

**Time:** Varies for each event. Please refer to the website below.

**Location:** Takasu Town Sports Park, Townspeople Baseball Stadium (Takasu Town minami 2-jo 3-chome)

**Charge:** General ¥2,500, High School Students ¥2,000, Middle & Elementary School Students ¥1,000, Parent-Child Pair ¥3,000

**Deadline for Registration:** May 22nd (Friday)

**You can also register online via SPORTS ENTRY or RUNNET.**

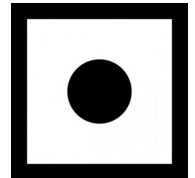
**For more information please visit the website:**

<http://town.takasu.hokkaido.jp/event/joginf/> (Japanese)

# Japanese Language Course

A Beginner/Intermediate Japanese course will be offered at the Asahikawa International Center starting May 13 (Wednesday). A total of 10 weekly class sessions are scheduled, which will go on until July.

If you are interested, please contact the AIC (via email or phone) to receive more information, or just drop by the center.



**Date:** Every Wednesday

**Time:** 3:45 pm - 5:00 pm

**Fee:** ¥3,000 for 10 sessions (Free for students)

# 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:** May 8th&22nd, June 12th&26th

\*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)  
(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.

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



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.\*\***