

# 旭川 ASAHIKAWA Info

August 2019 VOL. 273

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## Hokkaido News Top 5



August 2019  
Compiled by AIC

### June 21

The Hokkaido Board of Education announced that starting March 2022, it will ban specialized tests and will focus solely on general tests for public high school entrance exams. The existing exam system allows some high schools to substitute general exam questions with certain "specialized" questions. In addition, students afflicted by the flu or other illnesses on exam day will be allowed to take makeup exams starting March 2021.

### June 25

Starting next February, the Hokkaido government will conduct an experiment concerning charter flights between Mombetsu and Sapporo. The Hokkaido government will pay for the expenses of a public charter flight for the first time ever. February is the high season for tourists enjoying festivals and riding on icebreaker ships.

### June 30

Willer, a major intercity bus company based in Osaka, will offer car rentals for Senmo Line users and bus users as a part of its "Eastern Hokkaido Nature Pass" starting on July 8 through the end of October. A total of six cars, all Toyota "i-Road" (an ultra-compact three-wheeled electric vehicle), will be available near famous tourist attractions. Fees vary from ¥2,000 to ¥4,500.

### July 5

Bookstores in Hokkaido have been closing at an alarming rate since May. It is said that the popularity of online shopping and struggling publishing industries are to blame. Over the last decade, 30% of bookstores in Hokkaido have closed, and more than 30% of municipalities are without a bookstore.

### July 9

Select Sale, the biggest thoroughbred auction company in Japan, set new highs for gross sales of ¥20,516,000,000. It was its first time ever breaking the 20 billion yen mark, 2.6 billion yen more than last year. The auction also set two more company highs for "average price" and "successful bid rate" with 49.32 million yen and 91.4% respectively.



### 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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**Present-day British Automata: Paul Spooner and his Contemporaries**

ブリティッシュ・オートマタ ポール・スプナーと英国現代からくり人形の世界

These mechanical contraptions were highly popular in Europe from the mid-18th century to the 19th century among the upper class. The complex movement demonstrated in these automata is powered by cranks, gears, and coil springs. In this exhibition you will see 80 different automata, will be able to try out some of the replicas the museum has available.

**Date:** Now ~ 9/1 (Sunday)**Time:** 9:30-17:00 (Last entry is at 16:30)**Location:** Hokkaido Asahikawa Museum of Art**Admission:** General ¥1,000 (¥800), High school and university students ¥600 (¥400), Junior high and elementary school students ¥300 (¥200). Prices in parenthesis are for groups over ten or for tickets purchased in advance**For Further Information Contact:** 0166-25-2577**Notes:** Please contact the museum for questions concerning repeat visitor discounts, "Museum's Linking System" discounts, and other special offers**Summer Food Festival 2019**

夏のフードフェスティバル2019

Come and relax at this beer garden featuring delicious foods made using local ingredients! The drink selection includes beer from Japan's four most popular beer companies as well as wine and Japanese sake.

**Date:** Now ~ 8/11 (Sunday)**Time:** Weekdays 17:00-22:00, Saturday 12:00-22:00, Sunday 12:00-21:00**Location:** The plaza in front of the Asahikawa Station**For Further Information Contact:** 0166-23-6266**23rd Ginza Tanabata Festival**

第23回 銀座七夕祭り

Tanabata is here! On the old Ginza Shopping Street, you will see multicolored bamboo decorations blowing in the wind. You will also be able to eat a variety of delicious foods from Sendai, such as leaf-shaped fish cakes and soft, custard-filled pastries! Don't miss out on one of Japan's oldest and most widely celebrated festivals!

**Date:** 8/7 (Wednesday) ~ 8/12 (Monday, Holiday)**Time:** All day long**Location:** Ginza Shopping Street (1-jo-dori through 4-jo-dori, 14-chome and 15-chome)**For Further Information Contact:** 0166-23-1210**Hokkaido Nippon Ham Fighters vs. Orix Buffaloes**

北海道日本ハムファイターズvs.オリックス・バファローズ

The Hokkaido Nippon Ham Fighters are coming to Asahikawa to square off against the Orix Buffaloes. This will be one of two times the Fighters will be playing in Asahikawa this year. Get your tickets before it's too late!

**Date:** 8/8 (Wednesday)**Time:** Opens 16:15, Starts 18:00**Venue:** Starukhin Baseball Stadium**Admission:** SS Seating behind the net ¥6,000, S Seating behind the net ¥5,500, SS Seating in the infield ¥6,000, S Seating in the infield ¥5,500, A Seating in the infield ¥4,500, B Seating in the infield ¥4,000, Unreserved seating in the outfield (Adults) ¥2,200, Unreserved seating in the outfield (Elementary school students) ¥1,000.**Ticket Office:** Doshin Play Guide, Seven Eleven, Lawson Ticket (L-code: 14808), Ticket Pia (P-code: 843-037, Sapporo Dome Information and Ticket Sales Window (10:00-17:00, Open every day), Sapporo Dome 2nd Floor Concourse Ticket Counter (Only open on days the Fighters are playing), Fighters Home Page (<http://www.fighters.co.jp>), Fighters Official Smart Phone Site (<http://sp.fighters.co.jp>), Fighters Official Shop ON-DECK (10:00-19:00/Closed on Mondays), Asahikawa Development and Promotion Corporation, Mega Don Quijote, Asahikawa Tourism and Local Products Information Center**For Further Information Contact:** Doshin Playguide at 0570-00-3871 (10:00-18:00, Closed on Sundays)

## Darumamori's Bizarre Instrument Class

### だるま森のおもしろ楽器教室

At this unique class, children will not only make their own instruments, but will also decorate them and perform with them! Darumamori is an artist, a playwright, a composer, a picture book author, a musician, and a performer of everything art! He is joined by Eriko, a former fashion designer, who is in charge of music, costumes, and creations!

**Date:** 8/10 (Saturday)

**Time:** Opens 12:30, Starts 13:00

**Venue:** Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall, 3F Large Meeting Room (7-jo-dori 9-chome)

**Target Audience:** Elementary school students

**Admission:** ¥500 (For materials). Please pay on the day of the event. Guardians attending the event can enter for free. Elementary school grade 3 or younger must be accompanied by a guardian

**Registration Cap:** 50 people

**Items To Bring:** Crayons, Scissors, Stapler, Hand-mirror (to use when putting stickers on your face)

**For Registration Contact:** 0166-25-7331 (9:00-17:00)



## Fireworks in KAGURA Fantasy of Lights and Sound

### 花火 in KAGURA 音と光のファンタジー

To top off this explosive summer, this fireworks show will be displaying 3,000 fireworks of various types in sync with music. The entire night sky will be filled with beautiful colors! In addition, local dance groups will be performing before the show, and plenty of activities are available for children to enjoy, like yo-yo fishing, a toy rifle shooting game, and more!

**Date:** 8/14 (Wednesday)

**Time:** Event starts at 12:00, Evening stage performances start at 17:00, Fireworks start at 20:15

**Venue:** Sesaragi Park, upstream riverside area by the Ryojinbashi Bridge

**For Further Information Contact:** 0166-48-1651



## Baritone Recital TOYOSHIMA Yuichi

### バリトン リサイタル 豊嶋 祐壹

TOYOSHIMA Yuichi is a Hokkaido native, and graduated from the Musashino Academia Musicae and its corresponding graduate school. He debuted in Italy in 1998, singing in the title role of the opera "Rigoletto" and is now a member of the Fujiwara Opera. He is joined by pianist Luca Gorla and soprano vocalists TSUCHIYA Yuko and ARAGAKI Yukiko.

**Date:** 8/25 (Sunday)

**Time:** Opens 13:30, Starts 14:00

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

**Admission:** General ¥3,000, 65 and over ¥2,500

**Ticket Office:** Taisetsu Crystal Hall Museum Shop, Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall Shop, Kawai Music Shop, Gyokkodo, Yamaha Music Retailing Asahikawa, Shimada Music Academy

**For Further Information Contact:** 03-6761-6547 or email cio2232rit.gent.slt@gmail.com



## KIKKAWA Yoshihiro Solo Cello Performance

### 吉川よしひろ 一人チェロ・パフォーマンス

KIKKAWA utilizes conventional cello techniques to bring you a musical style that is unparalleled in creativity and originality to dazzle audiences around the world. He will dedicate his performance of "Hoshi meguri no uta" to the famous Japanese poet, MIYAZAWA Kenji. Come and watch a master cellist give a spectacular performance.

**Date:** 8/31 (Saturday)

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

**Venue:** Kagura Community Center, Kirarin Music Hall (Kagura 3-jo 6-chome)

**Admission:** Purchase in advance ¥3,000, Day of ¥3,500

**For Further Information and Tickets Contact:** IIDA at 090-5220-7406



EVENTS IN ASAHIKAWA FOR AUGUST



# Hello Asahikawa!

**Names: Isabelle Tapia & Jaxon DeLand**  
**Home Country: United States**  
**Interviewed: June 10th, 2019**

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:** Isabelle and Jaxon, where are you from?

**Isabelle:** Bloomington, Illinois.

**Jaxon:** Bloomington, Illinois.

**AIC:** And what brings you two to Japan?

**Jaxon:** The culture, the food, the amazing people, and the cool experiences.

**Isabelle:** I always thought that the culture of Japan was amazing. I've seen so many videos and articles on Japan online, and I've always wanted to go.

**AIC:** What made you want to join the Bloomington-Normal Junior Ambassadors Exchange program?

**Jaxon:** I thought it would give us a taste of what it would be like if we came for the ambassador program, which would be for a longer period of time.

**Isabelle:** I thought it would be a good experience. It is easier to do it now that I'm on vacation, and I thought I would have a chance to do new things if I joined this program.

**AIC:** Are you interested in joining the high school program?

**Isabelle:** I would be interested, but It would be a long time without my family. I'd have to think it through. I might want to do something like that when I'm older.

**Jaxon:** I agree.

**AIC:** What have been some of your favorite activities so far?

**Jaxon:** The zoo, chopsticks making, and the fire department. The fire department was fun because we went in that really tall arm lift that goes all the way up and saw the city.

**Isabelle:** I liked the zoo, Round One, the fire department, and the science museum. I really liked the machine where you get in and it spins around. I also really liked the snow museum because I got to buy a really pretty ring, and there were so many crystals there. I really liked the wedding room. I took thousands of photos there.



**AIC:** Are there big differences between Asahikawa compared to where you live?

**Isabelle:** The city's a lot bigger than Bloomington. There are more restaurants out on the streets. The seafood here is really cheap while in the U.S. it's really expensive. On the other hand, the fruits and vegetables here are expensive. The education system is different. Students here ride bikes to school in the morning, and they study a lot more. They don't change classes after every period. They stay with the same people all year-round. In our school we have teams, but you still change classes with people. Lastly, in the US we tend to use paper money, but in Japan they use a lot of coins.

**Jaxon:** Lots of coins.

**AIC:** What have been your favorite foods here so far?

**Isabelle:** I really liked the curry and rice, and the dumplings. The dumplings are really good.

**Jaxon:** I really liked the ebi tempura (fried shrimp). Also the dumplings were good. I don't remember the name of the other thing I liked, but they were little balls of dough with octopus inside.

**AIC:** You mean takoyaki?

**Jaxon:** Yeah! That was really good.

**AIC:** What do you like about Asahikawa or Japan in general?

**Isabelle:** I like the people. The people are really nice here.

**Jaxon:** I like the experience of being in Japan because it's different from what we usually do.

**Isabelle:** It's a new experience you can add to your life. Japan is one of the amazing places in the world. There are also so many advanced things here.

**AIC:** I'm sure you must have noticed a lot of advanced things here compared to the USA like the toilets and vending machines.

**Jaxon:** I was just going to say that I like the toilets here!

**Isabelle:** There are vending machines everywhere and you can get so many things from them. In the US when you see vending machines it's pretty rare, and they are either inside a store or in the zoo.

**Jaxon:** We need more vending machines.

**Isabelle:** Yeah we do.

**AIC:** What kind of activities are you into?

**Jaxon:** Eating (laughs).

**Isabelle:** I like playing sports a lot, like lacrosse. Just doing active things in general. I also like painting.

**Jaxon:** I play football and a lot of board games and card games. I tried this one game here called Reversi, where you have a black and white side of a plastic coin, kind of like checkers. You put them on the board, and if you cross over other pieces you take them. It was pretty fun.



*Continued on Page 6*

**AIC:** How long are you going to be in Asahikawa?

**Isabelle:** For two weeks. We leave the 16th in the morning.

**AIC:** Have fun with the rest of your trip! Have you ever done karaoke before?

**Isabelle:** I've done karaoke with friends inside a house. Does that count?

**AIC:** Have you ever done it here?

**Isabelle:** No, but my host family is most likely going to bring me tomorrow night.

**Jaxon:** I've done it in my shower when I was alone, but otherwise no.

**AIC:** (laughs) I hope you're able to do the real thing sometime! It's a lot of fun.

**Jaxon:** I don't like singing in front of other people. That's why I do it in my shower (laughs).

**Isabelle:** You know he's putting this in a newsletter, right?

**Jaxon:** Everything we say?

**AIC:** Just the important stuff.

**Jaxon:** See? We'll be fine. No one is going to hear about the shower stuff.

**AIC:** Exactly, don't worry about it.

**AIC:** Those are all the questions I have. Thank you so much! I hope you enjoy the rest of your time in Asahikawa!

**Together:** Thank you! We will.



## ★ Movies ~ August ★

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

### Now Showing

- The Great War of Archimedes (Japanese)
- The Secret Life of Pets 2 (English)
- Kamen Rider Zi-O: Over Quartzer / Kishiryu Sentai Ryusoulger the Movie: Time Slip! Dinosaur Panic!! (Japanese)
- Weathering with You (Japanese/Anime)
- Tokyo Ghoul S (Japanese/R15+)
- Toy Story 4 (English/Anime)
- Pokemon the Movie: Mewtwo Strikes Back Evolution (Japanese/Anime)
- Diner (Japanese)
- Spider-Man: Far from Home (English)
- Newspaper Reporter (Japanese)
- Ride Your Wave (Japanese/Anime)
- The Fable (Japanese)
- Aladdin (English)
- Almost a Miracle (Japanese)
- Godzilla: King of the Monsters (English)
- Promare (Japanese/Anime)

### Coming Soon

- Dragon Quest: Your Story (Japanese/Anime) 8/2
- Fast & Furious Presents: Hobbs & Shaw (English) 8/2
- One Piece Stampede (Japanese/Anime) 8/9
- The Lion King (English) 8/9
- Dance with Me (Japanese) 8/16
- Aesop's Game (Japanese) 8/16
- Ossan's Love: LOVE or DEAD (Japanese) 8/23
- Ni no Kuni (Japanese/Anime) 8/23
- Rocketman (English) 8/23
- Samurai Shifters! (Japanese) 8/30
- Kaguya-sama: Love is War! (Japanese) 9/6

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

## ★ *Movies ~ August* ★

\*<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

- The Secret Life of Pets 2 (English)
- The Great War of Archimedes (Japanese)
- Kamen Rider Zi-O: Over Quartzer / Kishiryu Sentai Ryusoulger the Movie: Time Slip! Dinosaur Panic! (Japanese)
- Weathering with You (Japanese/Anime)
- Tokyo Ghoul S (Japanese/R15+)
- Toy Story 4 (English, Japanese 4DX/Anime)
- Pokemon the Movie: Mewtwo Strikes Back Evolution (Japanese 4DX/Anime)
- Diner (Japanese)
- Sore Ike! Anpanman: Kirameke! Ice no Kuni no Vanilla-hime (Japanese/Anime)
- Spider-Man: Far from Home (English 4DX)
- The Fable (Japanese)
- Uta no Prince-sama (Japanese/Anime)
- Aladdin (English 4DX, Japanese 2D)
- Detective Conan: The Fist of Blue Sapphire (Japanese/Anime)

### Coming Soon

- Fast & Furious Presents: Hobbs & Shaw (English) 8/2
- Dragon Quest: Your Story (Japanese/Anime) 8/2
- One Piece Stampede (Japanese/Anime) 8/9
- The Lion King (English 4DX) 8/9
- Dance with Me (Japanese) 8/16
- Detective Conan: The Fist of Blue Sapphire (Japanese 4DX/Anime) 8/23
- Rocketman (English) 8/23
- Ni no Kuni (Japanese/Anime) 8/23
- Ossan's Love: LOVE or DEAD (Japanese) 8/23
- Kono Subarashii Sekai ni Shukufuku wo! Kurenai Densetsu (Japanese/Anime) 8/30
- Samurai Shifters! (Japanese) 8/30
- No Longer Human (Japanese/R15+) 9/13
- A Dog's Journey (English) 9/13

★ **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

- The Secret Life of Pets 2 (English)
- Kamen Rider Zi-O: Over Quartzer / Kishiryu Sentai Ryusoulger the Movie: Time Slip! Dinosaur Panic!! (Japanese)
- The Great War of Archimedes (Japanese)
- The 2nd Girls und Panzer das Finale (Japanese/Anime) ~8/8
- Child's Play (English)
- Tokyo Ghoul S (Japanese/R15+)
- Weathering with You (Japanese/Anime)
- Pokemon the Movie: Mewtwo Strikes Back Evolution (Japanese/Anime)
- Toy Story 4 (English/Anime)
- Diner (Japanese)
- Spider-Man: Far from Home (English)
- The Fable (Japanese)
- Aladdin (English)

### Coming Soon

- Fast & Furious Presents: Hobbs & Shaw (English) 8/2
- One Piece Stampede (Japanese/Anime) 8/9
- The Lion King (English) 8/9
- Dance with Me (Japanese) 8/16
- Ni no Kuni (Japanese/Anime) 8/23
- Rocketman (English) 8/23
- Boku wa Iesu-sama ga Kirai (Japanese) 8/30~9/12
- Samurai Shifters! (Japanese) 8/30
- Once Upon a Time in Hollywood (English) 8/30
- Us (English) 9/6
- Seishun Buta Yaro wa Yume Miru Shoujo no Yume wo Minai (Japanese/Anime) 9/6~9/26
- Shadow (Japanese) 9/6
- No Longer Human (Japanese/R15+) 9/13
- Hit Me Anyone One More Time (Japanese) 9/13

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

# Asahikawa Summer Festival!



Can you feel the heat? Grab your sunscreen because Asahikawa's annual summer festival is here! Experience three days packed full of unique events like the Fireworks Display, Citizen Dance Parade, Portable Shrine Procession, Disco Night, and more from **August 1st (Thursday) to the 3rd (Saturday)**!



Date	Time	Event	Location
8/1 (Thu)	18:00 to 19:30 19:45 to 20:45	Opening Ceremony Fireworks Display	Riverine Park Ishikari Riverside near Asahibashi
8/2 (Fri)	17:00 to 19:30 19:20 to 21:00	Citizen Dance Parade YOSAKOI Soran Night	Kaimono Koen Shopping Street 3-jo-dori 6-chome Special Stage
8/3 (Sat)	17:00 to 20:00 17:00 to 22:00 20:20 to 22:00	Portable Shrine Procession Rekka Summer Festival Disco Night	Kaimono Koen Shopping Street / Showa-dori Showa-dori and Tokiwa Park 3-jo-dori 6-chome Special Stage
8/1 (Thu) 8/2 (Fri) 8/3 (Sat)	16:00 to 22:00 14:00 to 22:00 11:00 to 22:00	Sanroku Festival	Around 3-jo-dori 6-chome

## FUN FRIDAYS

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

**Note: The August 9th Afternoon Class for this month will be held on August 2nd.**

**Dates:** August 9th & 23rd, September 13th & 27th, October 11th & 25th

**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.\*\***