

# 旭川 ASAHIKAWA Info

January 2020 VOL. 278

Published by AIC

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## Hokkaido News Top 5



January 2020  
Compiled by AIC

### Nov. 21

The Civil Engineering Research Institute for Cold Regions from the Public Works Research Institute announced that it will start posting information regarding visibility conditions during blizzards this winter season on its website. This service started in 2009 and covers 221 areas in Hokkaido.

### Nov. 23

The Foundation for Ainu Culture hosted the 23rd Ainu Speech Contest (Itak=an ro!) in Chitose City. Thirty six people studying the Ainu language from all over Japan participated in the contest. In addition, a group of children performed a play titled "Firefly's Husband Hunting."

### Nov. 25

A group from Kushiro City called the "Kushiro Nanmara Moriage Tai" won second place at the 11th B-1 Grand Prix food contest in Akashi City, Hyogo Prefecture. The group "Otaru Ankake Yaki Soba Shineitai" from Otaru won fourth place. A total of 55 groups competed in the 2-day contest.

### Dec.1

Hokkaido has been a big producer of agricultural products for a long time. However, in the past 40 years, its presence has significantly increased. The acreage allocated for the production of root vegetables in mainland Japan, such as potatoes and Daikon, has decreased due to a shortage of farmers and the effects of global warming.

### Dec. 16

Direct flights from Shin Chitose Airport to Helsinki Airport, and New Chitose Airport to Sidney Airport have launched. Flights between Europe and Hokkaido have not been in service for over 17 years, with 12 years for Australia. They are hoping to attract more tourists to Hokkaido for skiing.



### 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.

#### Address:

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

Tel: (0166) 25-7491

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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.



### 12th OB CONCERT ASAHIKAWA RYO-UN EI-RYO

#### 第12回 旭川凌雲・永嶺高校吹奏楽局 OB演奏会

Graduates from the RYO-UN and EI-RYO high schools are putting on a concert! They will be performing "Paprika," "Nothern Dance," a song about if Godzilla came to Hokkaido, pieces from "Les Misérables," and more!

**Date:** 1/5 (Sunday)

**Time:** Opens 17:00, Starts 17:30

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

**Admission:** ¥500. Free seating, pre-school age children are allowed to join

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

**For Further Information Contact:** YOSHIDA at 080-6099-6988



### Asahikawa Muse Saxophone Quartet 38th Regular Concert

#### 旭川ミュージックサクソフォンカルテット 第38回定演奏会

The Asahikawa Muse Saxophone Quartet will be performing a variety of tunes with guest performers. Their program includes a Glen Miller Medley, the theme for "Lupin the 3rd," "This is Halloween," "Good Summer Pictures," and more!

**Date:** 1/9 (Thursday)

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

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

**Admission:** General ¥1,000, Junior high school students and under are free

**Ticket Office:** Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall Shop, Yamaha Music Retailing Store, or buy tickets from one of the members of the quartet. Tickets will also be available on the day of the concert



### Swan Pure Sound Bouquet vol. 9

#### スワン ピュア サウンド ブーケ vol. 9

Students of the SHIBUYA Chisato Piano School will be demonstrating the results of their hard work through a concert for all to attend! Not only do these students perform in Asahikawa, but they perform all throughout Japan as well. You will see students ranging from elementary school to university, so get ready for a wide variety of performances, sit back, and enjoy the music!

**Date:** 1/12 (Sunday)

**Time:** Opens 14:30, Starts 15:00

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

**Admission:** General ¥1,000, Same-day purchase ¥1,500. Free seating

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

**For Further Information Contact:** SHIBUYA at 0166-53-5540

**Notes:** Please refrain from bringing children under the age of five. Please contact the number above to request wheelchair seating



## Passionate Stage Performances of Light and Sound Kamidon Festival 光と音の熱き舞台 かみどん祭り

Kamikawa Central Division Yosakoi dance teams are coming to Asahikawa to give a heated performance! With almost four hours of performances from 30 different groups, you will surely be captivated by one of Japan's most widely known traditional forms of dance!

**Date:** 1/19 (Sunday)

**Time:** Opens 12:30, Starts 13:00. Finishes at around 17:00

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

**Admission:** Purchase in advance ¥1,500, Same-day purchase ¥2,000

**Ticket Office:** Yosakoi Soran Festival Organization Committee, Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall Shop, Machinaka Koryukan, LINER KIKAKU, and from Kamikawa Central Division Yosakoi dance teams

**For Further Information Contact:** 090-5071-3791 on Saturdays, Sundays, and Holidays

**Notes:** Tickets are necessary for children aged 3 and up



## THE BRIOSO BRASS 15th Concert 2020

### THE BRIOSO BRASS 15th Concert 2020

The Brioso Brass is the only British style brass band in Asahikawa! At this concert, you will see them perform the fanfare and theme for the Olympics by J. Williams, the "Year of the Dragon" by P. Spark, "Winter Games" by D. Foster, and more!

**Date:** 1/25 (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 purchase ¥1,000. Free seating

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

**For Further Information Contact:** The Brioso Brass Office, KUTSUZAWA at 090-5982-6095



## Theatre Troupe à la carte 1st Performance "Restaurant à la carte"

### 演劇ユニット à la carte 第1回公演 レストラン アラカルト

Although "à la carte" is just an ordinary restaurant, it attracts a variety of customers, each with their own stories and particular preferences for food. Watch as these customers deal with different conflicts, and see the inner workings of their lives unfold at this performance.

**Date &** 1/25 (Saturday) Opens 18:30, Starts 19:00 and

**Time:** 1/26 (Sunday) Opens 13:30, Starts 14:00

**Venue:** Asahikawa Public Hall (Inside Tokiwa Park)

**Admission:** ¥2,000. Free Seating

**For Ticket Reservations and Further Information Contact:** SHIMANO at 090-8898-6621 or KINOSHITA at 080-3237-1066, or email gekidan.alacarte.asahikawa@gmail.com

**Notes:** A childcare service is available for those attending the performance. Children between 6 months of age up until 6th grade in elementary school can be accepted. Please contact either of the numbers above to use this paid service. The fee for one child is ¥500, two children is ¥800, and three children is ¥1,000



## KANAYAMA SATORU "The Gift of Flute"

### 金山 聡 フルートの贈りもの

KANAYAMA was born in Asahikawa, and ventured out of the city to study flute at the University of Nihon. He has since performed at orchestras, recitals, and as a solo flutist. Now, he has returned to Asahikawa to hold concerts throughout the region.

**Date:** 2/2 (Sunday)

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

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

**Admission:** General ¥1,800, Heartful/Student (Elementary-University) ¥1,000. Same-day tickets cost an additional ¥500. Heartful tickets are for those holding a disability identification notebook. Hallmates receive a 10% discount

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

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





# Life in Asahikawa

## THE NEW SPRING OF REIWA

By KITAMURA Tadao



I wish you a Happy New Year, and I hope the New Year, 2020, brings us a peaceful world with a clear atmosphere without contamination. This New Year is the first one named under Reiwa (令和), since Emperor Naruhito had acceded to the throne on May of this last year.

The era-name tradition must be strange for other nations, but people here put an exceptional amount of hope into the naming process. I happened to hear a foreigner give a remark in an interview while observing the parade of the new Emperor and Empress, describing the new era as 'BEAUTIFUL HARMONY'. I was very much impressed with his appropriate English translation for the word 'REIWA'.

A wise man explained that the word 'Reiwa' was composed of two Chinese characters adopted from the *Manyoushu*, the oldest collection of poems (8<sup>th</sup> C. A. D.). One poem in the anthology depicts the scene of a party held to celebrate the coming of the New Spring. OOTOMO-NO-TABITO, who seems to be one of compilers of the anthology, expresses his gratification for the New Spring:

*Beautiful month of the first spring,  
Atmosphere soothing and breeze softened.  
Plum blossoms scatter their petals,  
Like a beauty before a mirror strew her powder.  
And an orchid Cymbidium emits balmy fragrance,  
As a noble man's clothes leaves behind*

The entire anthology was written in Chinese characters, because in those days Japan had not yet developed its modern characters. In this prose, the Chinese characters, *Rei* (令) and *Wa* (和) mean 'beautiful or goodness' and 'softening or harmony' respectively. This prose was written as an introduction for thirty-two *waka*-poems, of which the theme was the plum blossom.

This party must have been held to praise excellent works of poetry as well as admire plum blossoms emitting their soothing fragrance into the chilly air of Early Spring. This poetry party is still held twelve-hundred years later and persists as a yearly tradition. Every year, as one of formal events of the New-Year, the Imperial Household holds the New Year Poetry Party; the scene of which is broadcast on television for the whole country.



# Winter Activities In Asahikawa

Now that winter is here, you can experience a whole new wave of activities that you can't do during the rest of the year. Skiing and snowboarding are the most widely known, but there is still so much more. Take a look!

## Asahiyama Zoo in the Winter + Penguin Walk

Winter period: Now ~ 4/7 (Tuesday), Closed 1/1 (Wednesday)  
Hours: 10:30-15:30 (Last entry is at 3:00pm)

The famous penguin walk takes place every day of the winter season as long as there is a sufficient amount of snow on the ground. You can see the penguins take a stroll around the zoo every day at 11:00 and 14:30 (Penguin walks in March will take place only at 11:00). Emperor Penguins are prone to lack of exercise during the winter, so the idea of a "walk" was created with the goal of keeping them healthy. This activity mimics one of the Emperor Penguin's natural everyday activities where they make a walk to the ocean to catch fish. Penguins walk along a designated trail with zoo visitors lining the outsides to make a clear path. Of course, only the penguins that want to go on the walk will join it.



## Asahikawa Machiakari Illumination

Date: Now ~ 3/8 (Sunday)

Location: Many areas throughout downtown, including the Kaimono Koen Shopping Street and Ryokudo 7-jo-dori

Illuminations have been installed on several streets in the downtown area to give light to this dark winter season. Each street has different illuminations with a different theme, so come take a stroll downtown and enjoy the lights! The two major illuminations are the Friendly Illumination on the Kaimono Koen Shopping Street, and the Ryokudo Illumination on Ryokudo 7-jo-dori near City Hall. The Friendly Illumination includes the picturesque light monument near the station, waves of lights mimicking the Milky Way, snowflakes hanging on trees, and more! The Ryokudo Illumination is best known for its three tunnels adorned with strings of lights that create a truly magical experience.

## Yukki Rink Asahikawa

Period of Operation: 1/11 (Saturday) ~ 2/11 (Tuesday)

Hours: 10:00-19:00. Open until 20:00 on weekends, holidays, and during the Asahikawa Winter Festival

Location: JR Asahikawa Station North Plaza

Cost: Free (Entry and ice skate rentals are free)

This pop-up ice rink is located directly in front of the station and is a favorite of families and couples. Both entry and ice skate rentals are free of charge, so bring your friends or family and skate to your heart's content!

## Snowmobile Sleigh Ride

Period of Operation: 1/11 (Saturday) ~ 2/11 (Tuesday)

Hours: 10:00-16:00

Cost: ¥200 for a round-trip

Who needs reindeer when a snowmobile can pull your sleigh! This sleigh ride runs back and forth between the JR Asahikawa Station South Exit and the Garden Center at the Kitasaito Garden. Don't forget to enjoy the beautiful scenery along the way!

## Winter Garden

Dates: 1/11 (Saturday) ~ 2/1 (Saturday)

Cost: ¥200 per ride

Hours: 10:00-16:00

Location: Asahikawa Kitasaito Garden, Kagami-ike

Come try out the thrilling snow-rafting and banana boat rides. Be sure to dress warm!

冬のカーテン  
KITASAITO GARDEN WINTER GARDEN  
2020.1.11 ~ 2.11

2020.1.10(土)PM 5:00 オナングイベント開催!! at ASAHIKAWA

冬の遊びが楽しめる

スノーバナナ・ラフティング

雪のカーテン MAP

料金	1回 ¥200
営業時間	AM10:00 ~ PM4:00
営業期間	2020.1.11(土) ~ 2020.2.1(土)まで

お問い合わせ: 0157-22-7708





# Hello Asahikawa!

**Name: Anthony Diaz**  
**Home Country: U.S.A.**  
**Interviewed: 12/05/2019**

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:** **Where are you from?**

**Anthony:** I'm from America. Specifically, Bloomington-Normal in Illinois. It's kind of a small city. No mountains anywhere. I love the mountains here, because the "mountains" we have in Illinois are really just hills. My city is close to Chicago—maybe an hour away. It's a lot smaller than Asahikawa, and it's nowhere near as big as Chicago.

**AIC:** **What brings you to Japan?**

**Anthony:** It's kind of a strange story, but my mom came to Japan 20 years ago. When I was a kid, she introduced Japanese food and culture to me, so I learned how to use chopsticks as a child. She showed me Japan through her eyes and through her experiences so I thought, "Wow! That sounds so fun." Then I signed up and thought, "Hmm, do I really want to do this?" Eventually I came, and I'm loving it so far.

**AIC:** **I'm glad you're liking it here! How does living in Japan compare to the U.S.?**

**Anthony:** It's very different. I'm even wearing a uniform right now. In America I can drive, and here I've gotten used to the crowded buses. I've also never really biked at home and it's fun doing that here. The life here in general is very different. I go out with friends here a lot more than I did in America, and I really like that. The only thing that I think is a downside is that it can feel lonely sometimes with the language barrier. That's definitely something to get used to, and it's hard to, but I think I've done a good job so far.

**AIC:** **Best of luck! What are the big differences between Asahikawa and where you live?**

**Anthony:** Probably the coldness. Other than that, the city feels huge to me. It's about three times bigger than my city. Going from one side of the city to the other to get from my house to my school in the morning is so crazy and it's difficult to get used to.

**AIC:** **How long does it take you to get to school?**

**Anthony:** I wake up at 6:30, I get on the bus at 7:00, and I get to school at about 8:00. It's about an hour long ride.

**AIC:** **That's a long time!**

**Anthony:** Especially when I was walking to school when I was in America, so it feels really far. Other than that, the coldness and the length of winter are some of the biggest differences.



**AIC:** How do you like staying with your host family?

**Anthony:**

I'm really enjoying it. I'm living with the grandparents, and they have grandchildren that come over every day. I've gotten really close with my host brother, and somewhat close with my host sister. I really want to go to karaoke with them sometime. My host parents are both 81 years old, so we don't do that many activities together, but we watch T.V. and we talk about our experiences. For some reason, they're really interested in Spanish, so I teach them some Spanish sometimes, and that's fun.



**AIC:** What do you like about Asahikawa? What are some of your favorite spots here?

**Anthony:**

Before I got here I had never done Karaoke and now it's my favorite thing to do. I'm actually planning on going to karaoke tonight with friends. In general, I like going to the AEON Mall. It's a big hub for all my friends, and it is fun just being there. Those are some of the things I like about Asahikawa and the big city. I've never lived in a big city like this before. It feels really nice, but also very hectic. I love seeing the tall buildings. I have a few in my city, but seeing them while walking down Kaimono Koen is nice.

**AIC:** Do you like Japanese food? If you do, what are some of your favorites?

**Anthony:**

I love Japanese food. I love ramen and oden. In America, my mom made Japanese food every once in a while, and oden was my favorite. There's an Asian mall in Chicago and you can buy packs of oden. I can tell one thing for sure. Since I've gotten here, I've definitely gained weight. It's not going to stop anytime soon (laughs).

**AIC:** What are your hobbies?

**Anthony:**

Every once in a while after school I like to go to art class, and sometimes I go to tennis because I have some good friends in tennis club, although I'm not very good at it. My favorite is volleyball. I'm not very good at it because I never did it in America, but I really enjoy it here. I'm learning a lot through the class, and I'm making good friends with lower grade students, so I'm happy about that. Outside of school, I would say that hanging out with friends is the thing I do the most. On days I can't, I'm usually home with my host parents and siblings, and sometimes I spend time studying Japanese.

**AIC:** What languages do you speak? How is your Japanese studying coming along?

**Anthony:**

I can speak three languages... somewhat. I can speak Spanish and English fluently, and my Japanese is getting there. I wouldn't say fluently, but I'm working on it. Ever since I've gotten here, I've noticed that my Japanese has been really getting better. I don't want to judge myself on saying that I sound native, but there are some things that you hear native speakers say, and you start to sound more native after listening and practicing. I feel like that has really happened with me for Japanese.



**AIC:** Good listening skills are definitely important. Best of luck! How long do you plan to be in Asahikawa?

**Anthony:**

My entire foreign student exchange stay is ten months. I'll be leaving in June. I've been here for about four months, and so far it has been great, and I don't think that will stop at all. I think the rest of my stay here will be just as great.

*Continued on Page 8*

**AIC:** Do you miss anything about the U.S.?  
**Anthony:** I have two things I really miss. First of all, my cat.

**AIC:** Your cat? What's your cat's name?  
**Anthony:** Killer.

**AIC:** Killer!?! (laughs)  
**Anthony:** I named him when I was in second grade, so the name Killer has lost its meaning to my family. The other thing I miss is the food. I really like Japanese food, but when you eat so much of it you don't feel like you're eating Japanese food. I really miss food like American pizza, or hamburgers. Of course I miss my family, but I can talk to them over the phone.



**AIC:** I know you've probably answered this question multiple times throughout the interview, but we've got to ask it. Do you like Karaoke?

**Anthony:** I really enjoy karaoke. The first time I went to do karaoke I hated it. I had no idea what I was doing. I could not sing. After my friends told me to just sing and have fun, and that that's what it's all about, it really gave me confidence. It's not just about being good at singing. I can sing one Japanese song, Marigold, and it took me a while to learn it. The students like it, and I like it too, so I thought it would be good to learn.

**AIC:** That's all I have. Thank you for participating!  
**Anthony:** You're welcome.

## ★ *Movies ~ January* ★

\*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

- Shinkansen Henkei Robo Shinkalion: The Marvelous Fast ALFA-X That Comes From the Future (Japanese/Anime)
- Tora-san, Welcome Back (Japanese)
- Kamen Rider-Reiwa the First Generation (Japanese)
- Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker (English)
- My Hero Academia: Heroes: Rising (Japanese/Anime)
- How to Train Your Dragon: The Hidden World (English/Anime)
- Yokai Gakuen Y Neko wa Hero ni Nareruka (Japanese/Anime)
- Murder at Shijinso (Japanese)
- Jumanji: The Next Level (English)
- Lupin III: The First (Japanese/Anime)
- Kiss Me at the Stroke of Midnight (Japanese)
- Doctor Sleep (English/PG12)
- The 47 Ronin in Debt (Japanese)
- Frozen 2 (English)
- Sumikko Gurashi (Japanese/Anime)

### Coming Soon

- Ozaki Yutaka wo Sagashite (Japanese/PG12) 1/3~16
- Parasite (Korean/PG12) 1/10
- Kaiji: Final Game (Japanese) 1/10
- Ford v. Ferrari (English) 1/10
- Last Letter (Japanese) 1/17
- The Memory Eraser (Japanese) 1/17
- Richard Jewell (English) 1/17
- Okasan to Issho: Surikae Kamen wo Tsukamaero! (Japanese) 1/24
- Cats (English) 1/24
- AI Amok (Japanese) 1/31
- Maeda Kensetsu Fantasy Eigyo (Japanese) 1/31
- Wotakoi (Japanese) 2/7

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



## ★ *Movies ~ January* ★

\*<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

- Tora-san, Welcome Back (Japanese)
- HiGH & LOW the Worst (Japanese)
- Kamen Rider-Reiwa the First Generation (Japanese)
- My Hero Academia: Heroes: Rising (Japanese/Anime)
- Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker (English 4DX)
- Jumanji: The Next Level (English)
- Yokai Gakuen Y Neko wa Hero ni Nareruka (Japanese/Anime)
- Murder at Shijinso (Japanese)
- Talking the Pictures! (Japanese)
- Lupin III: The First (Japanese/Anime)
- Doctor Sleep (English/PG12)
- Frozen 2 (English 4DX)
- The 47 Ronin in Debt (Japanese)

### Coming Soon

- Ford v. Ferrari (English) 1/10
- Kaiji: Final Game (Japanese) 1/10
- Taiyo no Ie (Japanese) 1/17
- Jojo Rabbit (English) 1/17
- The Memory Eraser (Japanese) 1/17
- Summer Wars (Japanese 4DX/Anime) 1/17
- Our 30 Minute Sessions (Japanese) 1/24
- Cats (English) 1/24
- AI Amok (Japanese) 1/31
- Bad Boys for Life (English) 1/31
- The Knight of Shadows: Between Yin and Yang (Chinese) 2/7

★ **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

- Tora-san, Welcome Back (Japanese)
- Kamen Rider-Reiwa the First Generation (Japanese)
- How to Train Your Dragon: The Hidden World (English/Anime)
- Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker (English)
- Talking the Pictures! (Japanese)
- Yokai Gakuen Y Neko wa Hero ni Nareruka (Japanese/Anime)
- Jumanji: The Next Level (English)
- Bokura no Nanokakan Senso (Japanese/Anime)
- Lupin III: The First (Japanese/Anime)
- The 47 Ronin in Debt (Japanese)
- Frozen 2 (English)
- Weathering with You (Japanese/Anime)

### Coming Soon

- Re: Zero kara Hajimeru Isekai Seikatsu - Hyoketsu no Kizuna (Japanese/Anime) 1/3~16
- Ford v. Ferrari (English) 1/10
- Downton Abbey (English) 1/10
- The Naked Director (Japanese) 1/10~23
- High School Fleet (Japanese/Anime) 1/18
- Signal 100 (Japanese) 1/24
- Ghost Master (Japanese) 1/24~30
- Cats (English) 1/24
- AI Amok (Japanese) 1/31
- Bad Boys for Life (English) 1/31
- Howling Village (Japanese) 2/7

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

# Vasaloppet Japan 40th Anniversary

This year marks the 40th anniversary of Vasaloppet Japan, an annual long distance cross-country ski race originating in Sweden. Competitive races for professional skiers will take place on 3/7 (Saturday) with longer distances up to 51m at the new Kitasaito Course. The races on 3/8 (Sun) will also take place on Kitasaito Course, and are meant for a more casual audience. A Mini-Loppet with young skiers under 9 will also be held on this day. On top of watching the race, you can also enjoy various activities like watching stage events and eating and warm local winter food at the Vasa Mini Marche.

For further information and to sign up, contact the Vasaloppet Japan Organization Committee Office at 0166-55-7783 or visit the official Vasaloppet website at <http://www.vasaloppet.jp>.

**You have from 1/7 (Tuesday) until 2/7 (Friday) to sign up for Vasaloppet Japan, so sign up before it's too late!**



## 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:** January 10th & 24th, February 14th & 28th, March 13th & 27th  
**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.\*\***