

旭川 ASAHIKAWA Info

March 2018 VOL. 256

Published by AIC

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Hokkaido News Top 5



March 2018
Compiled by AIC

January 18

Thanks to recent innovations in vinyl greenhouses, it is now possible to grow vegetables in northern Hokkaido during the winter, where it sometimes reaches well below -20°C , without any heating devices. Hokkaido Research Organization, Agricultural Research Department Kamikawa Agricultural Experiment Section developed and was able to perform this by using quadruple layered vinyl.

January 29

Electricity retail to small-scale users such as households and small shops opened up to new entrants in 2016. In 2017, these entrants gained 18% of the market share from the Hokkaido Electric Power Co., Inc. (Hokkaido area), the highest share taken from a major power company in Japan.

February 1

The Hokkaido government released damage projections for earthquakes for winter months in Sorachi and Kamikawa Subprefectures. If an earthquake with a seismic intensity of 7 were to occur on a winter morning, Sorachi and Kamikawa could have 1,134 and 564 casualties respectively. Sorachi has the second highest number of projected casualties among the 14 Subprefectures of Hokkaido.

February 13

Goshima Thermal Engineering Co., Ltd., a company specializing in industrial freezing and refrigerating facilities, has created a zero-electricity container warehouse. It uses a combination of solar energy, snow and ice to store farm produce at low temperatures. The temperature can be kept between 1°C and 10°C even during the summer.

February 16

Hokkaido is experiencing a record amount of snowfall this winter. In Horokanai Town, accumulated snow reached more than 300cm high, a feat that hasn't happened for 36 years in Hokkaido. It has been a heavy burden even for experienced snow shovelers. A ski resort known for its deep snow in Horokanai was forced to shut down temporarily due to the heavy snow.



For further information

or to register for events contact:

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

Location:

International/City Affairs Division,
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EOS DANCE STUDIO 2nd Annual Recital - Step Toward the Road Ahead**EOS DANCE STUDIO 第二回発表会 STEP TOWARD ~その先の道へ~**

The EOS DANCE STUDIO members and special guests bring you a performance highlighting the results of their hard work. This year the EOS welcomes guests from the Takeuchi Ballet Studio, performing during the 2nd half of the program, and from the Rise Space Studio, who will be performing both hip-hop and hula dancing. Over 2 hours you will be able to enjoy a wide variety of dances from this impressive 130-member group!

Date: 3/4 (Sunday)

Time: Opens 17:00, Starts 17:30

Venue: Asahikawa Public Hall (Inside Tokiwa Park)

Admission: General Admission ¥2,000, Elementary School students and under ¥1,000

Ticket Office: EOS DANCE STUDIO

For Further Information Contact: 0166-56-8875

**Lecture on American Culture Happy Easter!!****アメリカ文化講座 Happy Easter!!**

Principal Officer Rachel Brunette-Chen from the U.S. Consulate in Sapporo will be coming to the Asahikawa International Center to teach about Easter! She will be reading an Easter-themed picture book in English and will demonstrate how to make Easter Eggs. Easter is not too popular in Japan, but in the U.S. it is a widespread and important event celebrated by many. We happily accept even the youngest of children who wish to participate so please don't hesitate to apply!

Date: 3/10 (Saturday)

Time: 11:00-12:00

Location: Asahikawa International Center, Lounge (Feccal Asahikawa 7F, 1-jo-dori 8-chome)

Admission: Free

For Further Information Contact: 0166-25-7491

**Spring Planetarium Special Showing: The Starry Sky and Tales of the Southern Hemisphere****春のプラネタリウム特別番組 「南半球の星空と物語」**

The starry sky of the southern equator (particularly around New Zealand) and the tale of the Polynesian hero Māui will be shown alongside music. In our planetarium you will have the opportunity to see a sight that you cannot see in Asahikawa: the starry sky of the southern equator! In addition to an introduction of the stars, we will also give an introduction of New Zealand. Please look forward to seeing a starry sky different to what you are used to seeing at the planetarium!

Date: 3/10 (Saturday)

Time: 18:00-19:00

Venue: Asahikawa Science Center "Sci-Pal", Planetarium

Admission: Adults ¥300, High School Students ¥200, Junior High School students and under are free

For Further Information Contact: 0166-31-3186

Notes: Ticket sales start 3/3 (Saturday) and you can reserve a ticket by calling the number above or by visiting the reception desk at the Science Center. The hours for the reception desk are 9:00-17:30. If seating is available, tickets will be sold on the day of the showing until 12:00.

**Hokkaido Asahikawa Higashi High School Brass Band Club 20th Anniversary Regular Concert****北海道旭川東高等学校吹奏楽局 第20回記念定期演奏会**

Welcome the Higashi High School Brass Band Club as they perform for the 20th Anniversary of their Regular Concert! They will be performing "Armenian Dances Part 1" by Alfred Reed, "The Sun Will Rise Again" by Philip Sparke, and "Omens of Love" by IZUMI Hirotaka.

Date: 3/11 (Sunday)

Time: Opens 17:30, Starts 18:00

Venue: Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall, Large Hall (7-jo-dori 8-chome)

Admission: General Admission ¥500, Elementary School students and under are free

Ticket Office: Yamaha Music Retailing Store, Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall Shop, Gyokkodo, Coach and Four

For Further Information Contact: 090-2695-3646



Chœur Jeunesse 3rd Concert Chœur Jeunesse 第3回演奏会

When's the last time you went to a choir concert? Come listen to the Chœur Jeunesse as they perform a wide arrangement of songs! The theme of this concert is "A message for the future". They will be performing modern religious choir songs such as Peter Anglea's composition of "Jubilate Deo", popular children's songs, songs that represent the theme of "A message for the future", and more!

Date: 3/17 (Saturday)
Time: Opens 17:30, Starts 18:00
Venue: Asahikawa Taisetsu Crystal Hall, Concert Hall (Kagura 3-jo 7-chome)
Admission: General Admission ¥1,000, High School students and under ¥500
Ticket Office: Yamaha Music Retailing Store, Taisetsu Crystal Hall Museum Shop
For Further Information Contact: 0166-51-5491



Hokkaido Asahikawa Eiryō High School Brass Band Club 2nd Regular Concert 北海道旭川永嶺高等学校吹奏楽部 第2回定期演奏会

The Asahikawa Eiryō High School participates in regional and national band competitions and is bringing you a performance to remember! Not only will they be playing their instruments, they will be doing it while marching and dancing! This concert will also feature the musically talented actress INADA Mizuki. The well-known composer duo "Mish-Mosh" even composed a song especially for this event! You won't want to miss this stellar performance!

Date: 3/17 (Saturday), 3/18 (Sunday)
Time: 3/17 – Opens 17:00, Starts 17:30. 3/18 – Opens 12:30, Starts 13:00
Venue: Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall, Large Hall (7-jo-dori 8-chome)
Admission: General Admission ¥1,000 (¥1,500 if purchased day of the concert), High School and under ¥500 (¥1,000 if purchased day of the concert)
Ticket Office: Lawson Ticket (L Code: 11692), Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall Shop, Taisetsu Crystal Hall Museum Shop, Yamaha Music Retailing Store, Coach and Four, Gyokkodo.
For Further Information Contact: 080-5837-4708



Asahikawa Nanakamado Boys and Girls Choir 33rd Regular Concert 旭川市ななかまど少年少女合唱団 第33回定期演奏会

If you like music, come on down and see this wonderful choir concert! This boys and girls choir will be performing an assortment of songs in 3 parts. They practice every week on these pieces so come show some support!

Date: 3/25 (Sunday)
Time: Opens 14:00, Starts 14:30
Venue: Asahikawa Public Hall (inside Tokiwa Park)
Admission: General Admission ¥500, preschoolers and under are free
Ticket Office: Yamaha Music Retailing Store
For Further Information Contact: 0166-66-1357



Asahikawa Handmade Craft Exhibition vol.9 あさひかわ手作り作家展 vol.9

Around 50 craftmakers in the Asahikawa area will gather to display and sell a wide variety of lovely handmade crafts over 6 days. Enjoy four different workshops, demonstrations, and delicious food sold at the venue. Come take a peek and fall in love with these wonderful crafts!

Date: 3/27 (Tuesday) - 4/1 (Sunday)
Time: Opens 11:00, Closes 17:00. Closes at 16:00 on 4/1
Venue: Design Gallery, (Miyashita-dori 11-chome)
Admission: Free
For Further Information Contact: 090-9753-3170



EVENTS IN ASAHIKAWA FOR MARCH

Hello Asahikawa!



Name: Mitchell Ratcliff
Home Country: U.S.A
Interviewed: February 16th, 2018

If you live in Asahikawa or are just passing through and would like to be interviewed for "Hello Asahikawa," email us at cir_kokusai@city.asahikawa.hokkaido.jp!

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

Mitchell: The first time I came here was two years ago. I was here for 2 weeks on the junior high version of the same program I am on now. The Asahikawa Bloomington-Normal Sister Cities Committee sponsors it. So, I was interested in Japan at an early age through things like video games, samurai, ninjas, anime and stuff like that. And then when I came here for the 2 weeks I fell in love with Asahikawa and Japanese culture.



AIC: How does living here compare to Bloomington-Normal?

Mitchell: It's really different because Asahikawa is a bigger city and it's more condensed than Bloomington-Normal. So Normal's downtown and Bloomington's downtown are both very different, and they're both not that big.



AIC: Have you started any activities since you've been here?

Mitchell: For my high school club I picked kendo. The kanji for kendo is "the way of the sword", so it is a martial art that uses practice swords representing katanas. At kendo practice we usually do warm ups and drills so we can practice getting faster and more precise with our strikes. We also practice sparring with each other to prepare for tournaments. I have recently gotten 1級 (level 1) and hope to be able to enter tournaments soon.

AIC: Glad you could find something fun! Is there anything you miss about the U.S.?

Mitchell: I miss knowing where everything is. The food. Sometimes I'll want to have some American fast food that isn't McDonald's and they don't have that here. For my school trip I was able to go to a Taco Bell in Osaka. It was pretty nice.

AIC: Oh yeah, they're bound to have more options in the bigger cities! How long do you plan to be in Asahikawa?

Mitchell: So, the length of the high school exchange program is 10 months, so I have 4 months left. But after that, I definitely plan on visiting Asahikawa at some point.

AIC: Awesome! I hope to see you back here. Lastly, how do you feel about karaoke? Have you been to Karaoke yet?

Mitchell: Once. I've been wanting to go with my high school friends, but I haven't hung out with them recently because they've been busy and I've been busy. Mostly because of club activities. I don't have much experience with Karaoke, but I like that I can mess around with the songs and nobody cares.

AIC: Thank you for letting me interview you!

Mitchell: Yeah of course, it was a pleasure.



Explore Asahikawa!



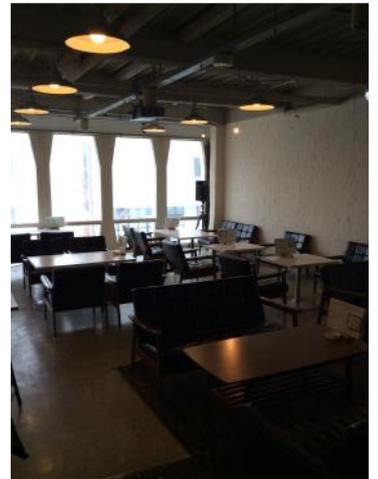
☒ cafe yuryo

In this edition, we interviewed Mr. Kumagai, one of the owners of cafe yuryo. Known for its delicious parfaits, cafe yuryo is a favorite among its dedicated customers and is a treat for first-timers. How was a

café hidden away on the 3rd floor of a narrow building able to win over the hearts (and stomachs) of their customers? Read more about cafe yuryo and Mr. Kumagai's thoughts below!

AIC: How did you end up working in the food business? Did you set your sights on working as a chef from the time you were young?

Mr. Kumagai: It's because I wanted to open up a shop of my own. My last job was actually at a town office. I was in Kamikawa town and I worked as a civil servant for 6 years. During that time I wanted to be independent and start something on my own. I eventually met my current business partner (a chef) and he coincidentally also had a similar idea of wanting to quit his job and open his own shop. I thought it would be interesting so I quit my office job and that's how it started. Before I started helping out with cooking he was the chef, and I did various things including managing the shop and serving customers. I honestly had no intention to work in the food business or open up a café (laughs).



AIC: How did you decide on the name "cafe yuryo"?

Mr. Kumagai: Well, my name is Yuzuru and my business partner's name is Ryo.

AIC: Oh I see, so you combined the two!

Mr. Kumagai: Yes, yes, yes (laughs). It's not an interesting story, really. We took our names and put them together. However, before we decided on that name we thought of a lot of different trendy or sophisticated sounding names. A lot of shops tend to go for that, right? When we were first thinking of names, we thought "what about yuryo?" as a joke. After that, we were thinking up all of these clichéd names like "Café Relax" and so on. In the end, none of them clicked so we went back to "yuryo" and thought, "looking at it again, isn't this name pretty good?" (laughs).

AIC: What kinds of dishes are your specialties here? What do you recommend?

Mr. Kumagai: We serve a variety of dishes for lunch, but the majority of our customers come for the sweets. At night especially, people mainly come for "All-you-can-drink or" desserts. We offer a variety of desserts and everything is handmade. Parfaits as a food item have been especially popular recently, and our parfaits are definitely our #1 most ordered item.



AIC: How did you decide on your menu?

Mr. Kumagai: As a café, the majority of our menu is western-style food. However, our menu isn't composed of the usual items you'll find at a café. For example, we serve pasta and pizza as a part of our western-style lunch menu but we also serve items like zangi-donburi (Japanese-style fried chicken over rice) and edamame. Zangi was popular at the

izakaya so we replicated it over here and made it into a lunch meal.

AIC: What have been your biggest difficulties so far?

Mr. Kumagai: Difficulties, huh... Before our café became well known people didn't know where to find us. Our café is on the 3rd floor and the stairway is incredibly steep which adds to the problem because people may not want to walk all the way up. We've been here for 10 years now so we're fairly well-known and it's not as much of a problem anymore. I did appreciate it when customers would say that café yuryo is a "wonderful, secret café", but I really wanted to tell them "Don't keep it a secret! Tell everyone!" (laughs).



AIC: Have you ever traveled abroad? Where is the next place you want to go?

Mr. Kumagai: I have once to Guam when I was 12. Other than that, no I haven't. There are a lot of places I want to go to. It seems like I could go anytime, but I really want to go to Taiwan. From the Asahikawa Airport you might be able to get there with just one flight!

AIC: Lastly, please give a message for our readers!

Mr. Kumagai: To be honest, not a lot of foreign customers come into our café. Maybe it's because they don't know where we are, but we'd love to have more come in! I don't speak any English but we have some staff members that do so they will be able to help you. Again, please feel free to stop by!

We would like to thank Mr. Kumagai of cafe yuryo for granting us the opportunity for an interview. Thank you for reading and be sure to visit at: 3-jo-dori 8-chome, 3-jo Bldg, 3F.

★ *Movies ~ March* ★

*The 1st day of every month is "Movie Day" in Asahikawa. Admission (tax included) is ¥1,100 for Adults, ¥800 for High School Students and Under at all theaters.

*<Aeon Cinema Only> Every Monday is "Happy Monday." Admission is ¥1,100 (tax included) for all.

★ **Aeon Cinema:** Miyashita-dori 7-chome / 0166 - 74 - 6411
URL: cinema.aeoncinema.com/wm/asahikawa (Japanese)

Now Showing

- Dear Girl ~Stories~ the Movie3 the United Kingdom of KOCHI (Japanese)~3/2
- Ku Kai (Japanese)
- Panda, Go Panda! (Japanese/Anime)~3/9
- Chunibyou demo Koi ga Shitai!: Take on Me (Japanese/Anime) ~3/2
- Gray Baby Panda Bear: A Diary of Small Great (Japanese)
- The Greatest Showman (English)
- Tonight, at the Movies (Japanese)
- Manhunt (Japanese/English/Mandarin)
- In This Corner of the World (Japanese/Anime)
- Funouhan (Japanese/PG12)
- The Crimes That Blind (Japanese)
- Uso wo Aisuru Onna (Japanese)
- Paddington 2 (English)
- Geostorm (English)
- Yo-kai Watch Shadowside: The Return of the Oni King (Japanese/Anime)
- The 8-Year Engagement (Japanese)
- Star Wars: The Last Jedi (English)
- Destiny: Kamakura Monogatari (Japanese)

Coming Soon

- Black Panther (English) 3/1
- Doraemon the Movie: Nobita's Treasure Island (Japanese/Anime) 3/3
- Principal (Japanese) 3/3
- Sakura Guardian in the North (Japanese) 3/10
- Last Winter, We Parted (Japanese) 3/10
- Kids on the Slope (Japanese) 3/10
- Ultraman Geed the Movie: Connect Them! The Wishes!! (Japanese) 3/10
- Coco (English/Anime) 3/16
- Chihayafuru Part3 (Japanese) 3/17
- Tomb Raider (English) 3/21
- Laughing Under the Clouds (Japanese) 3/21
- The Boss Baby (Japanese/Anime) 3/21
- honey (Japanese) 3/31
- Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle (English) 4/6
- Thomas the Tank Engine the Movie: Big World! Big Adventure! (English/Anime) 4/7
- Crayon Shin-chan: Burst Serving! Kung Fu Boys ~Ramen Rebellion~ (Japanese/Anime) 4/13

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

★ Movies ~ March ★

*<Cineplex 7 Asahikawa and Dinos Cinemas Only> Every Wednesday is “Ladies’ Day.” Admission is ¥1,100 (tax included) for women at all theaters.

*<Dinos Cinemas Only> Every Thursday is “Men’s Day.” Admission is ¥1,100 (tax included) for men.

★ **Cineplex 7 Asahikawa:** Nagayama 12-jo 3-chome Western Powers Nagayama / 0166 – 49 – 1000

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

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

Now Showing

- Reon (Japanese)
- Miyuki Nakajima in Theater: Live Selection (Japanese)
- The Emoji Movie (Japanese/Anime)~3/2
- Attack on Titan: The Roar of Awakening (Japanese 4DX/Anime)
- Ikitoshi Ikerumono (Japanese)~3/2
- The Greatest Showman (English)
- River's Edge (Japanese/R15+)
- Tonight, at the Movies (Japanese)
- Detective Conan: The Darkest Nightmare (Japanese 4DX/Anime)~3/2
- Funouhan (Japanese/PG12)
- Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri (English)
- The Crimes That Blind (Japanese)
- Star Wars: The Last Jedi (Japanese2D, 4DX3D, English2D, 4DX3D)
- Destiny: Kamakura Monogatari (Japanese)~3/2

Coming Soon

- Black Panther (Japanese 4DX3D/English 2D) 3/1
- The Shape of Water (English/R15+) 3/1
- Doraemon the Movie: Nobita's Treasure Island (Japanese/Anime) 3/3
- Principal (Japanese) 3/3
- Last Winter, We Parted (Japanese) 3/10
- Kids on the Slope (Japanese) 3/10
- Sakura Guardian in the North (Japanese) 3/10
- Coco double feature w/ Olaf's Frozen Adventure (English/Anime) 3/16
- Pretty Cure Super Stars! (Japanese/Anime) 3/17
- Armored Trooper Votoms the Movie: Pailsen Files (Japanese/Anime) 3/17~3/23
- Laughing Under the Clouds (Japanese) 3/21
- Tomb Raider (English) 3/21
- Mobile Suit Gundam 00 the Movie: A Wakening of the Trailblazer (Japanese/Anime) 3/24~3/30
- Crusher Joe the Movie (Japanese/Anime) 3/31~4/6
- Atarashi Chizu: Kusoyaro to Utsukushiki Sekai (Japanese) 4/6
- Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle (English) 4/6

★ **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

- Ku Kai (Japanese)
- Station to Heaven (Japanese) ~3/2
- Year One in the North (Japanese)~3/2
- The Beguiled (English)
- Macross Delta the Movie: Passionate Walkure (Japanese/Anime)
- Chunibyouto demo Koi ga Shitai!: Take on Me (Japanese/Anime)
- The Greatest Showman (English)
- Pumpkin and Mayonnaise (Japanese)
- Tonight, at the Movies (Japanese)
- The Scythian Lamb (Japanese)
- Funouhan (Japanese/PG12)
- Geostorm (English)
- The 8-Year Engagement (Japanese)
- Star Wars: The Last Jedi (English) ~3/8
- Destiny: Kamakura Monogatari (Japanese)

Coming Soon

- The Shape of Water (English/R15+) 3/1
- The 15:17 to Paris (English) 3/1
- Black Panther (English) 3/1
- Cape Nostalgia (Japanese) 3/3~3/9
- Nagasaki Burabura Bushi (Japanese) 3/3~3/9
- Principal (Japanese) 3/3
- Doraemon the Movie: Nobita's Treasure Island (Japanese/Anime) 3/3
- Shimajiro:Mahou no Shima no Daibouken (Japanese/Anime) 3/9
- Last Winter, We Parted (Japanese) 3/10
- Sakura Guardian in the North (Japanese) 3/10
- Coco (English/Anime) 3/16
- Chihayafuru Part3 (Japanese) 3/17
- Tomb Raider (English) 3/21
- Laughing Under the Clouds (Japanese) 3/21
- The Boss Baby (Japanese/Anime) 3/21
- Red Sparrow (English) 3/30
- The Post (English) 3/30
- Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle (English) 4/6
- Pacific Rim Uprising (English) 4/13

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

38th Vasaloppet Japan



This year marks the 38th anniversary of Vasaloppet Japan, an annual long distance cross-country ski race originating in Sweden.

Competitive races for professional skiers will take place on 3/10 (Sat) with longer distances, up to 45km, at the Tomisawa Course or the Kamuinomori Park (Check website for updates). A "Mini-Loppet" with young skiers under 9 and the casual skiing event will take place at 3/11 (Sun) on the Kitasaito Course pictured below.

On top of watching the race, you can also enjoy various activities and warm, local winter food. To find out more about Vasaloppet Japan, including the daily schedule, race venue, transportation, and more, please visit the official website: <http://vasaloppet.jp/index.html>



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: March 9th & 23rd, April 13th & 27th, May 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.

FREE Wi Fi

The Asahikawa International Center (Feeeal Asahikawa 7F 1-jo-dori 8-chome) has free wifi available for public use free of charge. Registration for a user card is needed, if you are residing in Asahikawa. Please feel free to come by anytime, as well as check out some of the other services and activities available at the Asahikawa International Center .

Spread the Word...

Contribute to the AIC newsletter and share any interesting information you may have with other readers. You may write on any topic including, items to buy or sell, offers for culture/language exchanges, or write an essay about your life in Asahikawa or your hometown. The article should not be profit related! Please send your submissions to us at the AIC.



Asahikawa International Committee

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****The opinions expressed in the essays are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Asahikawa International Committee or the City of Asahikawa.****