

# 旭川 ASAHIKAWA Info

April 2011 VOL. 173

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## Hokkaido News Top 5



April 2011

Compiled by TAKADA Nobuhiro

*We would like to express our heartfelt condolences to the victims of the Tohoku Kanto Earthquake and Tsunami of March 11, 2011 and send our deepest sympathy to the people affected by this tragedy.*

### February 23

Hokkaido Prefectural Police Headquarters and Tokyo Metropolitan Police Department have announced that they have arrested 3 Chinese nationals on suspicion of stealing jewelry and luxury watches from Marui-Imai Department Store in Sapporo in July 2010. The suspects are a part of a crime ring called "Bakusetsudan." Two admit the charges, but one denies the allegations.

### February 25

Kamikawa Branch Office of Hokkaido Prefectural Government has announced that the "Hyoten Bridge," which connects the downtown and Kagura areas, will be operational from April 1<sup>st</sup>. The Chubetsu River and the JR line have separated Kagura from the city center. The new bridge is named after the title of a novel written by Asahikawa's MIURA Ayako.

### March 2

Sapporo District Meteorological Observatory announced that cities in Hokkaido had lighter snowfall, from December to February, than in an average year. However, Hokkaido government said the death toll from accidents while shoveling snow off the roof tops is 28, the highest ever recorded. 20 out of the 28 fatalities occurred between January and February in central Hokkaido where there was heavy local snowfall.

### March 13

An underground walkway which connects JR Sapporo Station and Odori Park has opened to the public. The passageway is 680 meters long and 20 meters wide. The underground passage was full of people even though the opening ceremony was canceled due to the Tohoku Kanto Earthquake and Tsunami.

### March 16

Fundraising for the victims of the Tohoku Kanto Earthquake and Tsunami has commenced at various locations around Asahikawa. Asahikawa City has placed donation boxes in three city hall buildings and seven branch offices. Seibu Department Store, at 1-jo 8-chome, placed a collection box at its entrance, and Sanbankan Department Store, at 3-jo 15-chome, has placed the boxes on every floor.



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

Asahikawa International Committee  
(SASAKI Mai, Sergej NESIC, or SAITO Emmy)

**Location:**

International Affairs Division, Civic and Community Services Dept.

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Third Office 1F, Asahikawa City Hall, 6-jo-dori 10-chome, Asahikawa 070-8525

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Special Thanks to KAWAI Tatsuo  
Proofreader & Advisor

#### 4TH ANNUAL "ASAHIKAWA CUP" ALL-HOKKAIDO WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT 第4回「旭川カップ」車椅子バスケットボール全道大会

Don't miss your chance to view, in person, this exhilarating tournament which brings together the best wheelchair athletes from around Hokkaido. The sport has greatly grown in popularity in recent years and so has the quality of the players.

**Date:** April 16th (Saturday) & 17th (Sunday)

**Time:** April 16th From 11:30am, April 17th From 9:30am

**Venue:** Asahikawa Municipal Gymnasium (Hanasaki-cho 5-chome)

**Admission:** Free

**For further information contact:** 54-5411 (Asahikawa Municipal Gymnasium)



#### "FUSE TATSUJI-A LAWYER" DOCUMENTARY SCREENING

ドキュメンタリー映画「弁護士布施辰治」

FUSE Tatsuji was a lawyer and social activist working for the protection of human rights since the end of the Meiji Era. Strongly influenced by Leo Tolstoy he was involved in such activities as the Rice Riots of 1918 and the March 15th Incident of 1928 (Suppression of the Communist Party) as well as lending his legal skills to such issues as the tenant farming disputes, labor disputes, the rights of Korean forced laborers, and the emancipation of the Buraku (descendants of feudal outcasts). He was also a central figure in the Japan Lawyers Association for Freedom (founded in 1921). To mark the 130th anniversary of FUSE Tatsuji's birth a documentary by IKEDA Hirou, documenting the life and work of FUSE, will be screened free to the public.

**Date:** April 16th (Saturday)

**Time:** Morning Screening Doors 10:15am Show 10:30am,

Afternoon Screening Doors 1:00pm Show 1:30pm

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

**Admission:** Free (limited seats)

**For further information contact:** 51-9527 (Asahikawa Bar Association)



#### YOSHI IKUZO'S 2011 CONCERT IN ASAHIKAWA

吉幾三 コンサート2011

YOSHI Ikuzo is the stage name for KAMATA Yoshihito. He has released several hit albums over a career spanning for more than 30 years. Amongst his most famous hits are "Sake-yo," "Suika," and "Yuki Guni." He became the first popular Hip-Hop artist in Japan with his 1984 song "Ora Tokyo sa Iguda" (I'm Going to Tokyo). Recently he hosted a highly popular NHK travel show featuring Hokkaido titled "Kita No Deai Tabi" (A Journey To A Northern Encounter). His stage name is a pun for "Yoshi, Ikuzo" (Alright, let's go!)

**Date:** April 20th (Wednesday)

**Time:** Afternoon Show 2:30pm, Evening Show 6:30pm

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

**Admission:** S Seats ¥6,500, A Seats ¥6,000

**Ticket Office:** Gyokkodo, Ticket Pia, Lawson Ticket

**For further information contact:** \*9:30am~6:00pm 011-261-9991 (TRUST Keikaku Create)



#### ASAHIKAWA BROADCAST CHOIR 66TH ANNIVERSARY & 63RD REGULAR PERFORMANCE

旭川放送合唱団 創立66周年第63回定期演奏会

This year's concert by this Asahikawa musical institution will include three parts. The first part will feature music from classic TV commercials from the Showa Era. The second part will feature a series of Ainu themed recitals accompanied by a mixed choir and piano. The third part will be a mixed chorus rendition, titled "A Journey Beyond." Come and enjoy the mesmerizing voices of this world class choir ensemble in the superb acoustics of the Asahikawa Taisetsu Crystal Hall.

**Date:** April 17th (Sunday)

**Time:** Doors 2:30pm, Show 3:00pm

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

**Admission:** General ¥1,000

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

**For further information contact:** 55-3540 (YAMAGUCHI) or 51-5418 (HIRAGA)



## SUMI BALLET STUDIO'S SPRING BALLET CONCERT

スマ・バレエスタジオ 春のバレエコンサート

Students of SUMI Ballet Studio are staging a three part ballet performance. The first part will feature young female dancers performing an original children's story "The Diamond In The Heart." The second part will feature various performances by the studio's youngest dancers. The third part, and the highlight of the concert, is a performance of the classic "Don Quixote."

**Date:** April 24th (Sunday)

**Time:** Doors 3:30pm, Show 4:00pm

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

**Admission:** General ¥1,000

**For further information contact:** 22-1371 (SUMI Ballet Studio)



## ASAHIKAWA PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA'S VOL.3 SCREEN MUSIC CONCERT

旭川フィル 名曲コンサート Vol.3 スクリーンミュージック

Affectionately known as "Asahikawa Phil" this superb ensemble is once again dedicating their performance to the very popular theme of music from famous films. This, their third performance in this series, will feature music from such films as "The Pirates Of The Caribbean," "Cinderella' Story," "West Side Story," "Tonari No Totoro," and more.

**Date:** May 8th (Sunday)

**Time:** Doors 2:30pm, Show 3:00pm

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

**Admission:** General ¥1,000, High School Students & Under ¥500

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

**For further information contact:** 090-9757-1457 (ABE)



## EXHIBITION OF ORIGINAL WORKS FROM THE KEMBUCHI PICTURE BOOK HALL

剣淵町 絵本の館コレクション

In 1988 the youth of Kembuchi (located around 50km north of Asahikawa) decided to embark on a project named "Let's Build The Kembuchi Picture Book Village," resulting in the opening of The Kembuchi Picture Book Hall in 2004. Over the years the gallery has collected over 1,000 of original drawings for picture books from Japan and all over the world.

**Date:** April 12th (Tuesday) to May 22nd (Sunday)

**Time:** 9:30am~5:00pm (last entry 4:30pm) Museum is closed on Mondays.

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

**Admission:** General ¥800(\* for groups of over 10 people ¥600) High School Students ¥500 (\* ¥400,) Junior High & Elementary School Students ¥300 (\*¥200).

**Ticket Office:** Hokkaido Asahikawa Museum of Art

**For further information contact:** 25-2577 (Hokkaido Asahikawa Museum of Art)



## KATO KENICHI JIMUSHO PERFORMANCE OF "THE RETREAT FROM MOSCOW"

加藤健一事務所「出発の詩集 ~モスクワからの退却~」

An intriguing family stage drama exploring issues of married life and the aftermath of its breakdown. Edward, a school teacher in his fifties, and his artistic wife Alice are very much in love and about to celebrate their 33rd wedding anniversary. Things are thrown into disarray a week before their anniversary when Edward tells their son Jimmy that he wants to leave Alice.

**Date:** April 18th (Monday) & 19th (Tuesday)

**Time:** April 18th Show 6:30pm, April 19th 1:30pm & 6:30pm

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

**Admission:** This performance is sponsored by the Asahikawa Citizens' Theater. Groups of 3 or more can join the society for ¥2,000, with a monthly membership fee of ¥2,200 (¥1,000 for university students & ¥500 for high school students). Members have access to all the performances sponsored by the Asahikawa Citizens' Theater.

**Ticket Office:** Asahikawa Citizens' Theater

**For further information contact:** 23-1655 (Asahikawa Citizens' Theater)



EVENTS IN ASAHIKAWA FOR APRIL



# Hello Asahikawa!

**Name: Charles Hamel**

**Hometown: Humble, Texas, USA**

**Interviewed: 15th March, 2011**

**By Sergej Nesic (AIC)**

**AIC:** *Tell us a little about yourself.*

**Charles:** Well, I'm from Humble, Texas, which is a really small town about 25 miles north of downtown Houston. Humble has a population of only around 14,000 people but it's historically quite important due to its oil industry. The city was named after Pleasant Smith Humble, known as "Plez," who first arrived in the area just before the Civil War. He started operating a ferry service, served as justice of peace for the area, and in 1886 opened a post office in his home, so the Humble name was adopted. Shallow oil production began in 1902 with a big oil gusher occurring in 1904. Humble became a tent city, overflowing with people as well as oil. Oil discoveries continued to mount and by 1905 the Humble oil field was the largest producing field in Texas. The Humble Oil and Refining Company was formed by local entrepreneurs and eventually was renamed EXXON, the biggest oil company in the world.

With its old brick buildings Humble has quite a historical feel to it, although it's only 35 minutes by car to the ultra modern metropolis of Houston. Actually, when I was a kid the old brick paved streets were still in place in the downtown area. My youth was spent back and forth between Humble and Mississippi, where my mother lived. My grandmother lived in Humble, so after a few years living there I would move in with my mother in McComb, Mississippi, which is even smaller than Humble. So I guess you can say I'm a country boy. In 1983 I graduated from high school and decided that I had to move out of Mississippi. We didn't have much money, so going to university was out of the question. Instead, I joined the US Navy. I was shipped off to boot-camp in Great Lakes, Illinois, where I experienced snow for the first time in my life, and it was a big shock. It doesn't snow in Humble; in summertime it's like 40°C with 100% humidity and lots of mosquitoes. You can't go to the park or the forest because there are so many of them, you'd actually see a black cloud of mosquitoes following you over your head. Even when I just popped out to the garage I would come back into the house with four or five bites.

**AIC:** *How was your time in the Navy?*

**Charles:** Well, as I said when I first arrived in Chicago for boot camp I was shocked to see snow and in my mind I was thinking "What have I gotten myself into?" It was the middle of the night and very cold. We were coming from Texas, so I wasn't appropriately dressed for the cold. Smoke was coming out of sewer grates, which I also never saw before, all the while they're yelling at us "Get off the bus!" We were all given a one-size fits-all coat with sleeves half way down to the floor. We were assigned to shovel snow and throw salt on the sidewalks and although it was chaotic in the beginning I adapted pretty soon to the rigors of military life. I was in the navy for 10 years and that's how I actually got to come to Japan for the first time. I initially joined as a reservist, but as I loved it so much in 1988 I decided to join full-time. My first posting was in San Diego, a kind of reorientation or as they termed it "to get your military bearing back." I was a medic which meant I was to be rotated for shore and ship duty every three years. At that time the marines didn't have their own medics but used navy medics which meant I had to also do marine training.

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I did two months of navy boot-camp and one month of marine boot-camp in North Carolina and that was the hardest thing I've ever had to do. Being with the marines was counted as ship duty, and as I didn't like the idea of going on a ship, when it was time for me to do ship duty I would choose to go with the marines. I was posted to Twenty-Nine Palms, California in the middle of the desert. After about 5 months there I was told that I was going to Japan. I didn't like the idea at first because I would be far from my family but as I started to think about it I became more and more excited. It was around Christmas time, so I was allowed to go and visit my family one more time. We departed from San Francisco and our destination was Yokohama. From Yokohama we were sent to Okinawa. After only two weeks in Okinawa I was transferred to Camp Fuji, on Mt. Fuji. There wasn't much there, a small convenience store, a canteen, and a bar. I was there for about eight months and during that time a navy friend of mine, a marine, and myself formed a rock band. I played guitar, my friend played bass and sang, and the marine was the drummer. We played some small gigs in Gotemba (the nearest town to the base) but eventually learned about this exciting place called Harajuku. Every weekend a street in Harajuku was blocked off and dozens of bands lined the street and played live. Every band used its own generator to power the equipment. We started going there every weekend and made friends with one of the bands who let us use their equipment. This was late 1989, so there weren't many foreigners around, so we became an immediate attraction. We were drawing big crowds but when we finished they used to leave, so unfortunately our friends didn't let us use their equipment anymore. However, we made friends with a really good blues band who let us use their equipment and we continued to play with them for a long time. In fact, we were getting on TV every weekend, we were in magazines, people would stop us on the street and ask for photographs, so I felt like a real rock star. It was a very exciting time and it was how I met my wife.

**AIC:** *Please tell us more about how you met your wife.*

**Charles:** One day we just finished playing and I got a tap on my shoulder. I turned around and this young girl said "Hi." I think that was the only English she knew. The drummer's girlfriend spoke some English, so she translated for us. I invited her to watch us play in Gotemba the following week and soon we were dating. I was soon transferred to Okinawa but we continued our relationship. Before I went back to Okinawa I went to her father's sushi restaurant in Meguro with the intent of asking her father if we could get married, and that was scarier than boot camp. I didn't speak Japanese, he didn't speak English, so a regular patron interpreted for us. Basically, her father's response was "I'll think about it." After I moved to Okinawa we wrote to each other and talked on the phone once a week. Over time her parents realized that our love was genuine. One day she rang me with the news that her father had given his consent to us getting married.

**AIC:** *So what happened next?*

**Charles:** She came down to live with me in Okinawa where we got married soon after. I extended my stay for an additional year and ended up staying in Okinawa for three years. It was then time for my shore duty and I chose to go to New Orleans, Louisiana as it was close to my mom's home in Mississippi. I was an administrator at a Military Entrance Processing Station (MEP). I traveled the US a lot conducting medical examinations while my wife was at home alone, so this was pretty hard on her. I did this for three years and then decided it's time for a change. We decided to go back to Texas and lived there for about 15 years. I was taking care of my grandmother who was in poor health and I had a great job in Houston in the IT industry. I became a manager and trained staff, so it was quite rewarding. However, our company was bought out and I was forced to take a pay cut which I refused, so consequently I quit.

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**AIC:** *Did you stay in Houston?*

**Charles:** At the same time my grandmother passed away, so I felt as there was little reason to stay in Texas. One day I told my wife “let’s move.” I was considering Colorado, because I love being next to the mountains, but my wife suggested “how about Japan?” To which I replied “great idea!” However, I made it clear that I wasn’t interested in living in Tokyo and suggested the outskirts or the suburbs. My wife started researching boarding schools for our sons and found a whole bunch in Hokkaido, which is how we started to consider moving here. We sold our house in Houston and moved to Hokkaido. Our elder son was 7 and the younger one was 5. They’ve been to Japan before but only on holiday, so this was a big change for them as they had to adapt to the Japanese school system. Luckily, they picked the language up quick and soon became used to their new environment. The area we live in is called Shibinai (part of Higashi Kagura) and it’s the last village before Mt. Asahidake. We chose this place because it was close to Asahikawa. We figured that by living here we could have the best of both worlds, a country house an hour away from a large metropolitan area.

**AIC:** *So you didn’t move to Shibinai because of work?*

**Charles:** Nope, we had our children first and foremost in mind and decided that the environment that they will be growing up in is the most important factor in deciding where to settle down. We sold everything we had in the states, 18 years of marriage. There was so much sentimental value to so many things that we just had to let go of. We arrived in Hokkaido with two suitcases each and that’s all we had with us. We soon realized that we didn’t need anything else as the people of Shibinai gave us all the necessities we needed. Pots, pans, dishes, futons, table, TV, refrigerator, and much more. Their generosity was overwhelming and community spirit we felt here was so refreshing. Everything we needed was provided to us for free and also we were able to use stuff from the Kominakan (Public Hall) until we bought our own. We wanted to return a lot of the things after we settled down but people insisted we keep them.

**AIC:** *Tell us a little about Shibinai?*

**Charles:** Shibinai is a very small village with about 50 families, so the population is around 120 people. It’s primarily a farming community. There’s a small elementary school with 12 students this year which will unfortunately fall to 9 students next year. It seems like that every year we are losing around three students and gaining one. I would like to take this opportunity to inform everyone that we have three houses available in Shibinai, so if you’re looking for a great place to live for a very affordable price I advise you to look into living here. It’s a great school with excellent teachers and a magnificent living environment. It’s ideal for healthy family life. As our school is becoming smaller and smaller there is a strong possibility that we’ll eventually lose the school. That would be very sad as the school has a long history and celebrated its 100th anniversary last year. I couldn’t stress enough the benefits of living in Shibinai, free water, clean air, great food, and wonderful people. I believe this would be an ideal place for people displaced by the recent devastating Tohoku-Kanto Earthquake and Tsunami to rebuild their lives. I created a webpage (<http://shibinai.com>) for more information on the school.

**AIC:** *Well, thank you very much for your time Charles.*

**Charles:** Thank you.

# Life In Japan

## WHY DOES THE JAPANESE SCHOOL-YEAR START IN APRIL?

*By SEO Ayumi*

April is now widely recognized as the start of the school season in Japan. However, there were many twists and turns along its path to recognition.



In the Edo period, students used to enter private elementary school called Terakoya (寺子屋) at anytime of the year. During the beginning of the Meiji Era, mainly due to western influence, as in some other countries, September was delegated as the start to the new school. However, in 1886, the impact of 'Enrich the Country, Strengthen the Military (Fukoku-Kyohei; 富国強兵)' government policy forced the change of the start of the new fiscal year to April, as this was the best time to collect land tax. Accordingly, students were encouraged to enroll in elementary school in April to coincide with the start of the fiscal year. In addition, the notification of the starting date for enlisting into the military was also changed from September to April. Therefore, normal high schools decided to change the student's enrollment period to April for fear that the army would take the most talented students.

As a natural response to this trend, all schools established April as the admission

month. In 1900, elementary schools also officially established April as the entrance month, but imperial universities and some high schools still kept September as the starting month. Finally in 1921 all schools changed their starting date to April. Some private schools still kept the September starting date for a while until they gave into pressure and changed to April.

As you know, the start of the school year differs from country to country. There seem to be country-specific reasons for this, such as the history, religion, and the adoption of the Gregorian calendar. In Japan, where the influence of western culture has been particularly strong, the school year uniquely starts in April. Although there are several reasons for this, this also might reflect the people's feelings of joy at the arrival of spring. In fact, the joy felt by many at the coming of spring is so strong that they view April as a time of rebirth. Japan enjoys four distinctive seasonal changes, and you know that spring is approaching when you start feeling as though you're walking on air.



## **AN IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE COUNCIL OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES FOR INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS (CLAIR)**

### **Response to the 2011 Tohoku Kanto Earthquake and Tsunami**

1. The damage resulting from the earthquake and tsunami is unprecedented, resulting in extensive damage and loss of life. The Japanese government is calling upon its people and the cooperation of the international community for rescue efforts, support for victims and restoration of lifelines. As of now, the Japanese Self Defense Force, police, firefighters and the Japan Coast Guard are working together to help over 26,000 people (as of 16 March).

2. Relentless efforts to stabilize the situation at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant are underway, and the Japanese government is working hard to release accurate information in the timeliest manner possible to not only the Japanese people but also to the international community. The Japanese government is rigorously cooperating with IAEA, other international organizations and countries to secure the safety of the nuclear reactors, and is receiving the necessary aid.

3. Detailed information in English about the earthquake and the nuclear reactor situation can be found on the following webpages:

- **Prime Minister and His Cabinet:** <http://www.kantei.co.jp/foreign/index-e.html>
- **Ministry of Foreign Affairs:** <http://www.mofa.go.jp/index.html>
- **IAEA:** <http://www.iaea.org/newscenter/news/tsunamiupdate01.html>
- **Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency:** <http://www.nisa.meti.go.jp/english/index.html>
- **MEXT:** [http://www.mext.go.jp/a\\_menu/saigaijohou/index.htm](http://www.mext.go.jp/a_menu/saigaijohou/index.htm)
- **Japan Meteorological Agency:** [http://www.jma.go.jp/jma/en/2011\\_Earthquake.html](http://www.jma.go.jp/jma/en/2011_Earthquake.html)
- **Radiation Levels by Prefecture:** [http://eq.wide.ad.jp/index\\_en.html](http://eq.wide.ad.jp/index_en.html)

4. The Japanese Government is working hard to prevent further explosions and increases in radiation exposure from the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant. At present, aside from the immediate vicinity of the plant, there are no indications of radiation levels that would affect human health. The current evacuation radius (20km radius) and call to stay inside (20km-30km radius) is a precaution in the event that the situation worsens, and has been put in place to protect residents of the area.

5. Governments of each country and their embassies in Japan have information on how to make inquiries and information on the protection of their citizens on their respective homepages.





## Movies ~ April



\*Every Wednesday is "Ladies' Day." Admission is ¥1,000 (tax included) for women at all theaters.

\*The 1<sup>st</sup> day of every month is "Movie Day" in Asahikawa. Admission (tax included) is ¥1,000 for Adults, ¥800 for Senior High School Students and Under at all theaters.

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

URL: <http://www.kadokawa-cineplex.co.jp/asahikawa/> (Japanese)

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

### Now Showing

- Let's Go Kamen Riders (Japanese/Animation)
- The King's Speech (English)
- Choshinsei Show 2010-Live (Japanese 3D)
- Manzai Gang (Japanese)
- Precure Allstars DX3 (Japanese/Animaton)
- SP-Revolution (Japanese)
- Tourist (English)
- Doraemon - Nobita To Tetsujin Heidan (Japanese/Animation)
- Tangled (English/Animation)
- Gantz Pt.1 (Japanese)
- The Chronicles of Narnia (English 3D)
- The Chronicles of Narnia (Japanese 3D)
- Tommorrow's Joe (Japanese)

### Coming Soon

- Gulliver's Travels (English 3D)
- Detective Conan - Quarter Of Silence (Japanese/Animation)
- Into The Fire (Korean)
- Crayon Shinchan - Arashi O Yobu Ougon No Spy Daisakusenn (Japanese/Animaton)

★ **Dinos Cinemas:** Taisetsu-dori 5-chome / ☎ 21 – 1218

URL: [http://www.geodinos.jp/cinema/asa\\_schedule.php?StoreID=5](http://www.geodinos.jp/cinema/asa_schedule.php?StoreID=5) (Japanese)

**Directions:** Take Dohoku Bus No. 61, 62, 67 or 667 at Bus stop No. 18 in front of Marui Imai Department Store (1-jo-dori 8-chome). Get off at "Nippon Seishi mae."

### Now Showing

- Mother And Child (English)
- Taiheiyo No Kiseki (Japanese)
- The Chronicles of Narnia (English 3D)
- The Chronicles of Narnia (Japanese 3D)
- One Piece 3D - Mugiwara Chase (Japanese/Animation)
- High School Debut (Japanese)
- Tangled (English/Animation)
- Runway Beat (Japanese)
- Tourist (English)
- SP-Revolution (Japanese)
- Nintama Rantaro (Japanese/Animation)
- Let's Go Kamen Riders (Japanese/Animation)

### Coming Soon

- Sucker Punch (English)
- Toufu Kouzo (Japanese/Animation)
- Gantz Pefect Answer (Japanese)
- Youka Me No Semi (Japanese)
- Gulliver's Travels (English 3D)
- Detective Conan - Quarter Of Silence (Japanese/Animation)

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

## Japanese Language Classes

The Asahikawa International Committee will provide Japanese language courses every Tuesday from May 10 to August 16, 2011, for a total of 15 lessons. We will offer the following courses:

### Beginner Course

*For those who can read and write hiragana and katakana and make simple sentences. Basic grammar as well as simple, useful everyday expressions will be taught.*

### Intermediate Course

*For those who have already learned hiragana, katakana, and some kanji, and who understand basic Japanese conversation. This course will allow you to improve your command of Japanese.*

**Dates:** Every Tuesday from May 10th, 2011.

**Time:** 3:30pm ~ 5:00pm

**Charge:** ¥3,000 for 15 classes to be paid in full on the first day

(Fees for textbooks are separate).

\*Tuition fees will be waived for those receiving city welfare aid, students, etc.

\*No portion of the tuition fee will be reimbursed in the event of absence.

**Seat Limit:** 8 people for each course

**Location:** AIC Study Room (6-jo-dori 10-chome)

**Please contact Ms. Sasaki or Ms. Saito of the AIC for more information or to register.**

**Tel: 0166-25-7491 Fax: 0166-23-4924**

## Fun Fridays

Leaders coordinate a variety of interesting activities such as games, discussions, introductions, and quizzes. Meet new people, relax, relate, and communicate through English.

**Dates:** Spring Session: April 8th, May 13th, June 10th

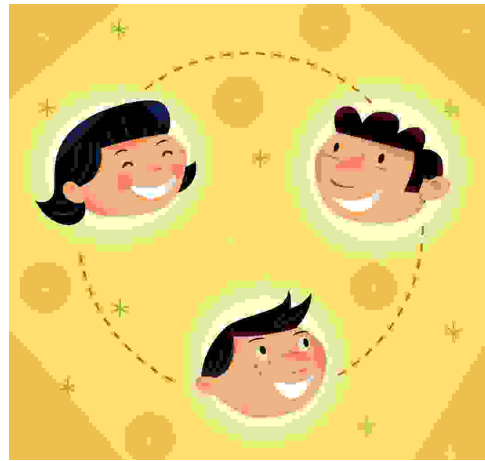
**Time:** 1:00 ~ 3:00pm & 6:30 ~ 8:30pm, 2nd Friday of the month

**Location:** AIC Study Room (6-jo-dori 10-chome)

**Charge:** ¥1,500 for 3 months (Free for volunteer leaders)

**To register contact AIC.**

**Tel: 25-7491**



**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 has many exciting events planned for this year, including Friendship Parties and a Halloween Party. 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.**

## AIC Computer:

The AIC has a computer available for public use free of charge in the International Corner (6-jo-dori 10-chome). There is a time limit for use. Please feel free to come by and use it anytime as well as check out some of the other services and activities available at the AIC.

## 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.



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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.\*\***