

旭川 ASAHIKAWA Info

August 2011 VOL. 177

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Hokkaido News Top 5



August 2011

Compiled by TAKADA Nobuhiro

June 23

Vacation apartments in Niseko, close to Otaru, are booked up by visitors outside Hokkaido who are planning to stay for over a month this summer. The tourists have made reservations in order to escape the heat in Tokyo, where people are forced to save electricity. In Niseko they can enjoy outdoor activities such as white water rafting and there are plenty of restaurants to choose from.

June 24

"Feeeal Asahikawa," a commercial and public complex, has opened in Asahikawa at 1-jo-dori 8-chome. The complex has 58 tenants, such as the nationwide bookstore chain "Junkudo," Yokohama based drugstore "Seijo," and a temporary outlet of "Tokyu Hands." The complex building used to be owned by "Marui Imai Department Store" which closed its doors two years ago.

July 1

Hokkaido Prefectural Police Headquarters has taken disciplinary action against five police officers, including two captains, and admonished one officer for accepting services offered by an owner of an adult-entertainment business in Sapporo. The same owner has been on trial for offering bribes to a different lieutenant.

July 2

The death toll through traffic accidents in Hokkaido rose to 60 in just the first six months of this year. The number of fatalities is 21 people less from the same period last year and the record low since 1950. It is because people are not willing to go out after March 11th earthquake and tsunami.

July 15

A new commercial facility at New Chitose Airport has opened. It has "Jagapokkuru Theater" (a movie theater), "Manyo-no-yu" (a hot bath), "Doraemon-wakuwaku-sky-park" (an indoor theme park), "Royce' Chocolate World" (a chocolate factory and shop), and so on. They are located in an access way between an international terminal and a domestic terminal to attract more tourists from home and abroad.



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.

Address:

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

Tel: (0166) 25-7491

Fax: (0166) 23-4924

E-mail:

cir_kokusai@city.asahikawa.hokkaido.jp

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Special Thanks to KAWAI Tatsuo
Proofreader & Advisor

2011 ASAHIKAWA SUMMER FESTIVAL
平成23年旭川夏まつり

This year marks the milestone 50th staging of the Asahikawa Summer Festival. Asahikawa's representative summer event will be jam-packed with events and activities for all the family. Thursday's opening ceremony at Asahikawa Riverine Park will be followed by the spectacular *Doshin* Riverside Fireworks display. On Friday the 4,000 strong Citizens Dancing Parade will make its way down Kaimono Koen Shopping Street. Also on Friday, a special stage at 3-jo 6-chome (Sanroku) will be the venue for the hugely popular *Yosakoi* and Disco dancing performances. On Saturday the "*Taisetsu Rengo*" portable shrine procession will make its way around Sanroku and is guaranteed to draw a large crowd. Also on Saturday, the "5.7 Koji Furari-to" Festival will be held at the 5-jo 7-chome Furari-to Alley, as well as finale event the Summer *Tanabata* Festival which will make its way from *Showa dori* street 7-jo to 2-jo. As part of the summer festival, the 32nd Sanroku Festival will be held simultaneously at 3-jo 6-chome and will include the Ramen Festival and the Gourmet Expo.

Date: August 4th (Thursday) ~ 6th (Saturday)

Time: Thursday 4:00pm ~ 10:00pm, Friday 2:00pm ~ 10:00pm, Saturday 2:00pm ~ 10:00pm

Venue: Asahikawa 3-jo 6-chome, Asahikawa Riverine Park, Asahibashi Bridge riverside, Kaimono Koen Shopping Street, Showa Dori street from 7-jo to 2-jo


KAMUI PERCUSSION SYMPHONY CONCERT
カムイ・パーカッション シンフォニーコンサート

Asahikawa's Kamui Percussion Symphony will be joined by SASAKI Yoshio on bass, WATANABE Noriko and Ryou on percussion, and special guests from Iwaki, Fukushima, the Ovo novo Percussion Group.

Date: August 12th (Friday)

Time: Doors 6:00pm, Show 6:30pm

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

Admission: General ¥1,500, Students ¥1,000

Ticket Office: Asahikawa Taisetsu Crystal Hall, Gyokkodo, Yamaha Music Asahikawa store, Kodomo Fukido, Fukido (Suehiro, Toyooka, and Minami 6-jo stores).

For further information contact: 22-3567 (MURATA)


FUNAKOSHI YASUTAKE & FUNAKOSHI KATSURA'S EXHIBITION "QUIET POETRY"
舟越保武・舟越桂「静かな詩」展示会

A collection of bronze, marble, and sandstone sculptures by these two artists taken from the NAKAHARA Teijiro Museum prize-winners collection, Sapporo's Mori Arts Museum, and Hokkaido Asahikawa Arts Museum.

Date: Now ~ October 16th (Sunday)

Times: 9:00am ~ 5:00pm (Last entry 4:30pm)

Closed Mondays (or the Tuesday after a Monday holiday)

Venue: NAKAHARA Teijiro Memorial Sculpture Museum (Shunko 5-jo 7-chome)

Admission: General ¥300, High School Students ¥200, Junior High School Students and Under Free

For further information contact: 52-0033 (NAKAHARA Teijiro Memorial Sculpture Museum)


KAPPA-ZA CHILDREN THEATER GROUP PRESENTS "THE WIZARD OF OZ"
劇場カッパ座による「オズのまほうつかい」

This unique puppet theater group has been delighting audiences in Japan and abroad since 1968. The unique feature of Kappa-za's puppets (Kappets) is that their eyes and mouth move enabling them to express a range of emotions.

Date: August 28th (Sunday)

Time: Doors 1:00pm, Show 1:30pm

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

Admission: General ¥1,500 (¥2,000 at the door)

Ticket Office: Asahikawa Kappa Friendship Society (Nagayama 2-jo 4-chome 3-18)

For further information and ticket purchase contact: 47-0195 (Asahikawa Kappa Friendship Society Office)



“REMEMBERING THE SUMMER CLOUD” HIROSHIMA & NAGASAKI RECITAL 女優たちによる朗読「夏の雲は忘れない」ヒロシマ・ナガサキ一九四五年

A recital performed by six actors on the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945. This annual event is aimed at keeping the memory of those fateful events alive and spreading the message of peace and harmony.

Date: August 1st (Monday) thru 5th (Friday)

Time: August 1st 7:00pm, August 2nd 1:30pm & 7:00pm, August 3rd 7:00pm, August 4th 1:30pm & 7:00pm, August 5th 1:30pm

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

Admission: This performance is sponsored by the Asahikawa Citizens' Theater. Membership fee is ¥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: 23-1655 (Asahikawa Citizens' Theater)



11TH ANNUAL CHILDREN ART THEATER SUMMER FESTIVAL “DREAM VOYAGE” こども芸術劇場「夢探検」夏まつり

3 days of puppet theater performances that promise to excite the kids and adult alike. In addition to the festival's 10 different group performances, 3 separate shows will also be staged following the completion of the festival performances.

Date: August 10th (Wednesday) thru 12th (Friday)

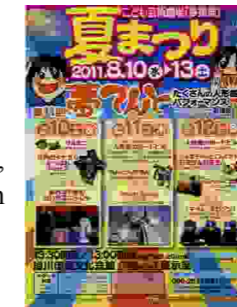
Time: Each Day Doors 1:00:00pm, Show 1:30pm

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

Admission: General 1 day pass ¥700 (¥800 at the door), Children ¥500 (¥600 at the door), Passport Tickets (for the 3 days, limited to 30 tickets per purchase) General ¥1,700, Children ¥1,200

Ticket Office: Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall, Kodomo Fukido,

For further information and ticket reservations contact: 090-2871-6619 (YAMAMOTO)



HAYASHIYA KIKUO & ICHIRYUSAI TEISUI RAKUGO PERFORMANCE 林家木久扇 一龍斎貞水 二人会公演

Rakugo is the most popular form of Japanese verbal entertainment that dates back to the Edo Period. HAYASHIYA and ICHIRYUSAI (recognized as a national living treasure) are two of the most well known *Rakugoka* (*Rakugo* performer) in Japan.

Date: August 19th (Friday)

Time: Doors 6:00pm, Show 6:30pm

Venue: Asahikawa Public Hall (Tokiwa Park)

Admission: S-Seats ¥3,000(*¥2,500 for students, people over 65, and disability card holders), A-Seats ¥2,500(*¥2,000)

Ticket Office: Gyokkodo, Asahikawa Yamaha Music Store, Asahikawa Citizens' Theater Office, Asahikawa Taisetsu Crystal Hall, Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall

For further information contact: 25-7331 (Asahikawa Civic Culture Center)



THE GREAT EASTERN JAPAN EARTHQUAKE CHARITY CONCERT “A PRAYER FOR PEACE” 東日本大震災復興支援 チャリティコンサート・平和への祈り

Four renowned vocalists (tenor, baritone, soprano, & alto) will be accompanied by two pianists for a selection of Japanese and foreign classics. The finale to the concert will see all four vocalist come together for an unforgettable rendition of Beethoven's Symphony No. 9 “Ode to Joy.”

Date: August 6th (Saturday)

Time: Doors 10:00am, Show 10:30am

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

Admission: General ¥1,500 (¥2,000 at the door)

Ticket Office: Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall, Yamaha Music Store, Asahikawa Taisetsu Crystal Hall, Asahikawa Daikyu Association

For further information contact: 090-1523-9034 (ISHIGURO), 090-7516-245 (TAKARADA)



EVENTS IN ASAHIKAWA FOR AUGUST



Hello Asahikawa!

Name: Martin Mungai
Hometown: Thika, Kenya
Interviewed: 26th July, 2011
By AIC

AIC: *What do you do here in Asahikawa?*

Martin: I am currently studying at Hokkaido University of Education Asahikawa campus. I'm on a one-year teacher training program specializing in education technology, in particular "children and the information media." The reason why I'm taking this course is that back home I'm a secondary school teacher. Kenya's education system is slightly different from that in Japan, in that, there are 8 years of primary school, 4 years of secondary school, and 4 to 6 years of university; in short 8 - 4 - 4. I've been teaching for nine years in Nairobi School which is among the top schools in the country. Over the years we have witnessed a rapid advancement of information technologies in Kenya, which prompted me to want to come to Japan for research study. In Kenya I've read works by Professor MURATA Ikuya, who is a professor at the Hokkaido University of Education, on the topic of children and information technology. Therefore, it was a perfect choice for me to come to Hokkaido and undertake research under him, as he is a prominent expert in this field. I feel that the knowledge and skills that I'll be able to gain from him will be very useful in my future work. Other than my interest in studying under Professor MURATA, my choice to come to Japan was also influenced by advice from the Japanese Embassy in Kenya.

AIC: *What other factors prompted you choose to undertake your research in Japan?*

Martin: For starters, Japan and Kenya have long standing and strong working relationship in the field of education, amongst others. Most notably, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has had an enormous impact on the development of Kenya's education system. Also, Japanese technology is one of the most advanced in the world and I believe that I have so much to experience and gain by coming to Japan which I could implement in my profession. One other very important factor is the friendly nature of the Japanese people.

AIC: *Tell us a little about your job back home in Kenya.*

Martin: As I said before, I'm a secondary school teacher of computer studies, or ICT (Information Communication Technology,) and I've been teaching now for around nine years. Our school has had some very impressive results in the last couple of years or so. In Kenya we have a system of student evaluation through a nationally held exam which students sit for after four years of high school. They are then ranked nationally based on their results and Nairobi School has come out as one among the best; with slightly over 90% of our students securing places in local, as well as overseas universities. I've been very instrumental in the computerization programs at the school. When I started teaching at the school we had only one computer lab and we didn't have information systems in place in terms of management and fiscal systems, as well as with the creation of education material. Over the years with close collaboration with my colleagues at the school, we've been able put all these systems in place. At the moment we have three state-of-the-art computer labs, with around 22 computers per lab, and a number of information systems in place facilitating more efficient management of school

Continued from Page 4

affairs. We have also tried to network various departments within the school and hence improving information management and resource sharing. Our school is a national school which means the students come from all over the country. We select some of the best students based on their results in the nationally held primary school exams (Kenyan Certificate of Primary Education KCPE) which the students sit for after eight years of primary school. So in fact we have two national exams, one at a primary school level and one at a high school level. Also, there has been an upsurge in the number of universities in Kenya but there are some challenges that we are facing, most notably, the very high tuition costs of tertiary education. As Kenya is a developing country, unfortunately most citizens still cannot afford a university education. At the moment we have over 22 universities in Kenya, both private and public. On the other hand, primary and secondary education is free, obviously that not being the case with private schools which are subject to fees.

AIC: *Tell us a little bit about your hometown.*

Martin: My hometown is Thika which is one of the most industrious towns in Kenya and a major industrial hub of central Kenya region. Years ago it was referred to as the Edinburgh of Kenya due to the number of industries there. There is a very large Del Monte food processing plant, a number of cashew nut processing factories, as well as a Land Rover vehicle assembly plant and various other industrial facilities. Thika has very strong economic potential because the region around Mt. Kenya where the town is located is very fertile. Mt. Kenya is the highest mountain in Kenya and second highest in all of Africa, following Mt. Kilimanjaro. It's also a coffee and tea growing region; in fact my parents are tea farmers. They're also involved in dairy farming. My mother is a retired school teacher.

AIC: *What would you like to achieve in your time in Japan?*

Martin: I'd like to make friends with as many people as I can. I've already formed friendships with some Japanese people and have been invited to their homes where I have had the opportunity to taste some Japanese homemade delicacies. I would also like to go sightseeing around Hokkaido and around Japan. It's a very beautiful country with amazing scenery. The one thing I do dread is the Asahikawa winter. I arrived in Japan in October of last year, and so my the experience of my first winter here was quite tough and it's one of the things I'm not really looking forward to. I've already had the opportunity to visit Osaka, Kobe, and Tokyo, so one of the places I'd love to visit during my time here is Kyoto and Wakkanai. The reason I'd like to visit Wakkanai is that there is a famous Kenyan media personality of the same name and I also heard that you can see Russia from the shoreline.

AIC: *What are your plans for the future?*

Martin: Well I plan to further my studies in my area of specialty, which is children education and information technology. There's been a rapid rise in internet connectivity and usage in Kenya which means that more and more children are using the Internet. I would like to carry out research on the impact of increased Internet connectivity on secondary school students in Kenya. I would like to inform the people on how they can utilize the Internet to further their education. My dream is to represent my country as an Ambassador. My international exposure and experience, as I have been to other countries, are good credentials in the pursuit of this goal. I would love to one day come back to Japan and work in the Kenyan Embassy.

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

Martin : You're welcome.

Japanese Traditional Arts

FASCINATING SHODOU

By **SAKURABA Satoshi**

This is the first contribution by me; so please forgive me for my clumsy English. I'd like to describe Calligraphy, in Japanese, *Shodou* (書道). As you may know, *Shodou* has been regarded as one of the most representative art forms in Japanese culture. These are the tools necessary for *Shodou*. First, *Fude* (筆), which is a "brush" and is used for writing. Most *Fude* are made from horse hair or sheep wool, but some are made from monkey, weasel, or fowl coating. Needless to say, these latter ones are very difficult to use. *Sumi* (墨) "Japanese ink," is also needed. *Sumi* is made from charcoal and if you spill this black liquid on to your clothes, you may give up wearing them for good. So, when you're practicing *Shodou* I highly recommend not to wear your best clothes.



(many Kanji also contain delicate curves). At first you will feel a bit of confusion with controlling your *Fude*. But you will soon get the hang of it. At first you shouldn't attempt complex or symmetrical Kanji. In fact, visually well-organized works are not necessarily "good work," but somewhat "illegible" works are sometimes judged higher. There's more in *Shodou* than meets the eye.

I have practiced *Shodou* for 18 years. Through these 18 years I could never replicate the same work or even one character. This is one of the most fascinating aspects of *Shodou*. Most Kanji contain various strokes and even if you have written examples next to your *Hanshi*, you cannot completely replicate the same Kanji stroke-by-stroke. If you can replicate exactly the same the examples you might be an expert or a "*Shodou*-machine." Good luck and enjoy the fascinating art that is *Shodou*.

Bunchin (文鎮) is known and described as "paper weight" in English. Without this tool you'll be fighting with moving papers. *Suzuri* (硯) is an ink-stone. *Sumi* is liquid, and so *Suzuri* can "impound" *Sumi*. *Suzuri* is made of stone, and commonly spatula shaped. The last necessary tool is *Hanshi* (半紙), which is Japanese writing paper. In rare cases, you can find small holes in *Hanshi*, but this is not a defect! Certain types of *Hanshi* are hand-made, and so small holes form in the paper. These holes help create unique and interesting features.

In Japanese language there are Kanji, Hiragana and Katakana. As you practice *Shodou* it may be beneficial to be able to write Kanji first. Because Kanji contains basic strokes, but Hiragana consists of more delicate curved lines.



Book Review

“THE BRIDGE OVER THE RIVER KWAI”

By Pierre BOULLE

Reviewed By KITAMURA Tadao

This is the original story of that famous film of the same name, starring Alec Guinness, William Holden, and Sesshu Hayakawa.

In 1942 triumphantly advancing through Asia, the Imperial Japanese Army needed a strategic train route between Thailand and Burma. The Kwai River was the most difficult obstacle to overcome in realizing this.

Colonel Saito of the Imperial Army was given strict orders from the regional commander to complete construction of a bridge over the Kwai River within the deadline.

Labor power depended on prisoners-of war from the Singapore war. The prisoners were chronically exhausted, many wounded and emaciated from very poor rations, and had low morale and discipline. They were mere slaves.

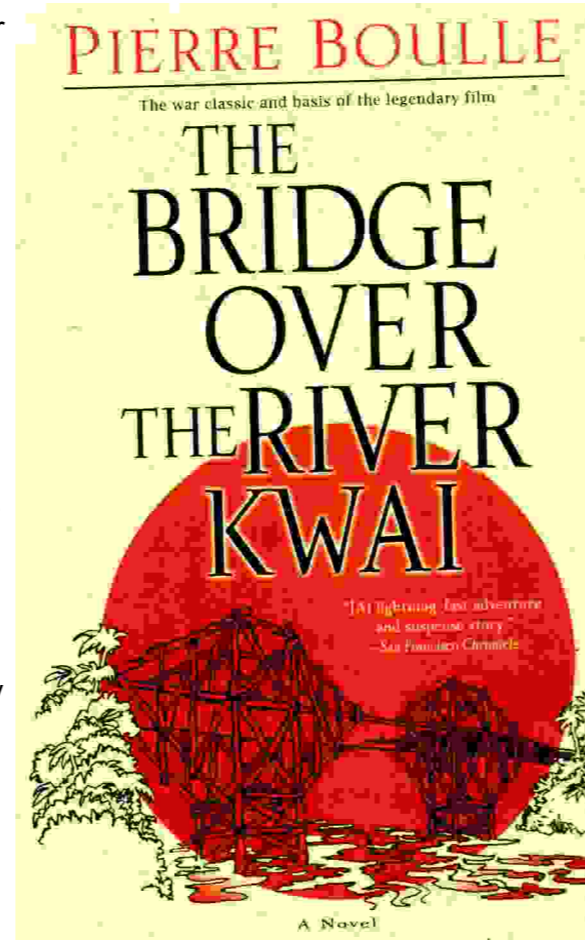
The construction encountered repeated failures. Colonel Saito could not possibly expect the completion of the bridge in time.

Colonel Nicholson was a man of discipline and a proud British soldier. He was resolute in wanting to show the Japanese the superiority of Western civilization, even though they were defeated in the Singapore war. He kept his dignity as a British soldier and endured repeated hellish torture from the Japanese. At last he gained the right to supervise and guide the prisoners in the construction of the bridge.

As of then the construction went very smoothly.

Meanwhile a team of Allied Forces commandoes

made a plan to sabotage operations of this vital strategic route. There were many difficulties with the operation and required lots of dangerous maneuvers. The commandoes could not be noticed to have links to their comrades involved in the construction.



The biggest portion of the story describes each commando member; each one of them had their own history, personality, and conviction. However, they kept united under the conviction of succeeding in this heroic operation.

The sabotage operations resulted in the loss of lives of both Japanese and allied forces due to the turmoil of the fighting that followed.

I, as a Japanese, was very unsettled to hear disgraceful words used by the POWs to describe my compatriots; such as “Japs” and “baboons.” I could not understand Europeans’ superiority complex towards Asian people. However, upon further

reading I came to understand that what this story is condemning is exactly the “prejudice” brought by war. Colonel Nicholson’s incomprehensible behavior still remains debatable.

What was that that drove him to defend the bridge to the extent of putting his life on the line? Was it his need to prove European superiority through the POW’s harrowing work, or was it an engineer’s ethic?

Hello Wild Flowers

WANDERING AMONG THE WILDFLOWERS AROUND ASAHIKAWA

BY Hitoshi KUDOH

One late May in the late morning, Father and his daughter are hiking in a shady deciduous woods in a suburban hill, to get some fresh air. In the meantime, they come across a clearing area. Birds are chirping merrily somewhere. Father finds a rock and a stump to sit on, so says to his daughter softly, "Why don't we have a short break here?" And so they do.

"But no flowers here, I'm afraid, Dad." says Daughter. At this Father smiles calmly, "Have a closer Look at the clump of those weeds over there. You can see some flowers for sure. Give it a try." "Where? I don't see any flower at all, Dad." "Scrutinize them carefully underneath the stalks." "You mean these dull purple marbles? How boring!"

Father explains gently, "Okuezo-saishin is one of our precious, peculiar species here in Japan; the flower has no bract nor petals and still its calyx forms a fine flower. They are very scarce nowadays, dear."

"Not so interesting for me. I'd rather unstuck another chocolate."

"Not again, you fastidious girl! You may turn into a caterpillar like one on that leaf. It's a *Luehdorfia puziloi*; she always accepts only this plant, dear."

OKUEZO-SAISHIN (奥蝦夷細辛)

Asarum heterotripoides

family: Aristolochiaceae

common name: Ginger

Description: Herbs perennial, rhizomes horizontal, internodes 1-5mm. They form some clump. In early spring, a pair of young leaves appears from its node or a seed. The leaves grow on their opposite petioles to 10-20 cm high.

The leaf is cordate or reniform and entire with conspicuous veins. Abaxial leaf blade pubescent. The larval food plant of *Luehdorfia puziloi* butterfly.

Inflorescence: A solitary purplish brown flower is bisexual, 2 cm diameter, a cylindric perianth of three fused sepals, in which 12 stamens surround 6 pistils. Predominantly self-pollinated, occasionally visited by mycotrophic flies.

The fruit contains dark seeds. When matured, the pod collapses and disperses seeds. Edible (hot in taste, they say). Medicinal (painkiller, antipyretic, antihypertensive). Flower: May—June.

Habitat: Moist shady forest, mountain slope.

Distribution: Hokkaido, Northern Honshu; Far Eastern Russia, China



Watercolour painting of Okuezo-Saishin
By Hitoshi KUDOH

Life In Japan

HAPPY TURN By SEO Ayumi

'Happy Turn' is one of the most famous snacks in Japan and is made by Kameda Seika Co. Ltd. This company has made a lot of popular snacks, especially rice crackers (煎餅せんべい) you have probably heard of, such as "Kakinotane," "Pota-Pota Yaki," and "Kotsubukko."

From 1974 to 1976, Japan went through a major oil crisis which pushed the economy into recession. As many people had lost their jobs and the energy to live, Kameda Seika wanted to improve the situation by producing Happy Turn in 1977. This name was chosen as it implies 'happiness turns (comes) back.' Since then in Japan, Happy Turn has been loved and enjoyed by a range of generations.

There are two secrets of the popularity of Happy Turn. One is the special seasoning called "Happy Powder" named by the company. Its taste is exquisitely balanced between sweet, savory, and sour; anyone can get addicted to it. Today, they produce many kinds of Happy Turn, such as 200% or 250% more "happy powder," and during the entrance exam season a special "good luck" Happy Turn is on sale for students.

The other secret is the construction of the snack's surface called "The Powder Catch Method." Two types of grooves make the cracker surface bumpy, and therefore the "Happy Powder" can stay on firmly and the special thick taste can be enjoyed. About 5 years ago Kameda Seika developed this method and succeeded in making 'Happy Turn' sales double without changing its formula.

The mascot character of Happy Turn is called 'Prince Turn.' He is from the Happy Kingdom and is here to make you happy. He is about 8cm tall, small enough so that he can hide in your shirt or bag pockets. Anytime and anywhere you are down, he will always be with you and once you bite "Happy Turn," he strews Happy Powder making you smile.

Try it, and happiness will turn back to you! You will be a member of the Happy Kingdom.



Origins of English Words

By KAWAI Tatsuo

The following English words are derived from the names of persons, gods, goddesses, etc.

Korsakoff's Syndrome - Korsakow, Russian psychiatric pathologist.

Mackintosh - C. Mackintosh, Scottish diviser of the raincoat.

Magic - The three Magi from the east.

Meniere's Syndrome - P. Meniere, French physician.

Mesmerize - Franz Mesmer, Austrian physician.

Mexico - Mexictli, Aztec military god.

Mercury - Roman god of commerce & eloquence

Narcissus - Narkissos, a handsome youth in Greek mythology.

New Delhi - Dillu, King of India.

Nike Sportswear Company/ Nike Antiaircraft Missile - Nike, goddess in Greek mythology.

Oedipus Complex - Oedipus, mythical Greek king.

Orion - giant hunter in Greek mythology who was killed by a scorpion.

Pascal's Triangle - Blaise Pascal, French physicist, mathematician, and philosopher.

Pandora's Box - Pandora, the first woman on earth in Greek mythology.

Panic - Pan, god in Greek mythology.

Pantaloon - Pantalone, Venetian comedian & clown.

Parkinson's Disease - Dr. James Parkinson, British physician.

Pillars of Hercules - Hercules, the strongest hero (demigod) in Greek mythology.

Platonic Love - Platon (Plato), ancient Greek philosopher.

Poinsettia - J.R. Poinsett, discoverer of the plant in the US.

Psychiatry - Psyche, maiden with butterfly wings in Greek & Roman mythology.

Quixotic - Don Quixote, novel by Spanish writer Miguel de Cervantes.

Raglan - Lord Raglan, British marshal.

Rentogen-graph (X-ray) - Wilhelm Roentgen, German physicist, Nobel prize laureate.

Sadism - Marquis de Sade, French writer.

Saintpaulia (African violet) - Baron W. von Saint Paulia, German officer and discoverer of the plant.

Salk Vaccination (Polio) - Jonas E. Salk, American physician and bacteriologist who developed the salk vaccine.

Saxophone - Adolf Sax, Belgian musician.

Silhouette - Etienne de Silhouette, French minister of finance.

St. Luke's Summer - Luke, early Christian disciple.

Movies ~ August

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

*The 1st 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	Coming Soon
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ogawa No Hotori (Japanese) ● Rock - Wanko No Shima (Japanese) ● Anpanman To Mori No Takara (Japanese/Animation) ● Transformers - Dark of the Moon (English 3D) ● Naruto - Blood Prison (Japanese/Animation) ● Cars 2 (English/Animation) ● Cars 2 (Japanese/Animation 3D) ● Kokurikozaka (Japanese/Animation) ● Pokemon - Best Wishes & Bikutoni To Kuroki Eiyu (Japanese/Animation) ● Harry Potter & The Deathly Hallows Pt.2 (English) ● Harry Potter & The Deathly Hallows Pt.2 (Japanese) ● Andalucia - Goddess's Revenge (Japanese) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Kung-Fu Panda (Japanese/Animation 3D) ● Kamen Rider - Woderful/ Gokaija (Japanese) ● Shanghai (English)

★ **Dinos Cinemas:** Taisetsu-dori 5-chome / ☎ 21 – 1218
 URL: 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	Coming Soon
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Kochi Kame (Japanese) ● Andalucia - Goddess's Revenge (Japanese) ● Transformers - Dark of the Moon (English 3D) ● Naruto - Blood Prison (Japanese/Animation) ● Cars 2 (English/Animation) ● Rock - Wanko No Shima (Japanese) ● Nintama Rantaro (Japanese) ● Super 8 (English) ● Thor (English) ● Oshika (Japanese) ● Harry Potter & The Deathly Hallows Pt.2 (English) ● Kokurikozaka (Japanese/Animation) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Tantei Bar Ni Iru (Japanese) ● Life (English) ● Battle: Los Angeles (English) ● The Answer (Japanese)

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

Opening of the Asahikawa International Center

Located in the Feeeal Asahikawa complex this new center will serve as the base of international activity in the city and the region. Offering various facilities and services to locals and foreign visitors alike the Asahikawa International Center promises further multicultural awareness and regional internationalization. Over the weekend of the center's opening an international booth plaza will be set up with countries from Australia to Latvia represented. Come and be part of this historic event.

Date: September 17th (Saturday) thru 19th (Monday)
Time: 10:30am ~ 5:00pm
Place: Asahikawa Feeeal 7th Floor (1-jo 8-chome)
Regular Operating Hours as of September 20th:
 10:00am ~ 7:00pm
For further information contact AIC: 25-7491

AIC Book Collection

If you have unwanted new or second-hand books in languages other than Japanese, the AIC would love to place them in our AIC book corner.

To donate contact AIC.
Tel: 25-7491



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: *Summer Session:* July 8th, August 12th, September 9th

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.



Asahikawa International Committee, International Affairs Division
 Third Office 1F, Asahikawa City Hall, 6-jo-dori 10-chome, Asahikawa 070-8525
Tel: (0166) 25-7491 **Fax:** (0166) 23-4924
E-mail: cir_kokusai@city.asahikawa.hokkaido.jp

****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.****