

# 旭川 ASAHIKAWA Info

March 2011 VOL. 172

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## Hokkaido News Top 5



March 2011

Compiled by TAKADA Nobuhiro

### January 27

C B Tours, a travel agency in Sapporo and a subsidiary of Hokkaido Chuo Bus Service, has decided to provide a bus tour to the musical "Lion King" at "Shiki Theater" in Sapporo starting from April. The single-day bus tour from Asahikawa costs ¥6,800, including the expressway bus fare and the admission to the musical. The package tour is discounted almost 20% compared with the regular bus fare and admission cost.

### February 1

An eight-year-old girl had fell into a snow-melting tank outside her house in Tobetsu, near Sapporo. The unconscious third grade elementary school student was taken to a Sapporo hospital immediately, but she was pronounced dead before dawn. Sapporo Kita Police Station has launched an investigation into the cause of her fall.

### February 5

A 45-year-old forestry worker was shot and killed in the mountains outside Atsuma, near Tomakomai. The man is thought to have been shot with a hunting rifle. Since 1991 in Hokkaido, three people have been accidentally killed by firearms.

### February 7

A multiple pileup involving 25 cars and trucks occurred on "Doho Expressway" in Kembuchi, near Shibetsu. Twelve people were injured in the accident. There was a snow blizzard in the area at the time of the accident with low visibility and a covering of compacted snow which made the road very slippery.

### February 18

1,417 elementary school and junior high school students and teachers in Iwamizawa had suffered food poisoning. There were cases of diarrhea and abdominal pain with some of them having to be hospitalized for a couple of days. All the patients had the same school-provided lunch prepared at the same feeding center.



#### 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

**47TH ANNUAL SOUKYOKU PERFORMANCE “KISARAGI NO SHIRABE”  
第47回箏曲「きさらぎのしらべ」**

*Soukyoku* refers to music composed for the *Sou*, or more commonly referred to as *Koto* (Japanese harp). Experience traditional Japanese culture through the enchanting sound of classic *Koto* compositions performed by the *Ikuta Soukyoku Seiha Seichoukai* group.

**Date:** March 20th (Sunday)

**Time:** Doors 12:30pm, Show 1:00pm

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

**Admission:** General ¥800

**Ticket Office:** Kiriya Musical Instruments Store, Ohnuma Musical Instruments Store, Yamada Koto & Shimasen Store


**TAKAO KISUGI CONCERT IN ASAHIKAWA  
来生たかお旭川コンサート**

Singer/songwriter KISUGI Takao debuted on the music scene in 1976 with the single “*Asai Yume*.” He has written numerous hits for other artists such as “My Luxury Night” performed by SHIBATA Hatsumi and “Sailor Fuku and Kikanju” performed by YAKUSHIMARU Hiroko. His own hits include “*Yume No Tochu*,” and “Second Love.” His songwriting was deeply influenced by The Beatles and Gilbert O’Sullivan with whom he co-wrote and recorded “What A Way To Show I Love You,” and “Can’t Think Straight.”

**Date:** March 15th (Tuesday)

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

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

**Admission:** KISUGI Takao’s concert is being sponsored by the Asahikawa Music Appreciation Society. Groups of 3 or more can join the society for ¥2,000 (students ¥1,000), with a monthly fee of ¥2,000 (students ¥1,000). Members have access to all performances sponsored by the society, including KISUGI Takao’s.

**Ticket Office:** Asahikawa Music Appreciation Society

**For further information contact:** 22-5367 (Asahikawa Music Appreciation Society)


**“THEN AND NOW” SCHOOL TEXTBOOK AND NOTEBOOK EXHIBITION  
教科書、ノート展 昔と今**

A wonderful collection of school textbooks and students’ notebooks from the Edo Period thru to today. The exhibited educational material is taken from the extensive personal collection of MOMOI Masao, and includes very rare elementary school educational literature.

**Date:** Now to end of April

**Time:** 9am ~ 5pm (Closed Mondays, Sundays and Public Holidays.)

**Venue:** Tokiwa Literature Resources Hall (inside Asahikawa Tokiwa Hall - Tokiwa Park)

**Admission:** Free

**For further information contact:** 22-3310 (Asahikawa Tokiwa Hall)


**10TH ANNIVERSARY “KAMUI MINTARA” CONCERT  
神々の遊ぶ庭の音楽会**

This innovative and unique performance celebrates its 10th anniversary. Music, narration, and awe-inspiring images are weaved together in honour of the majestic Daisetsuzan Mountain Range (“Kamui Mintara” means “the playground of the Gods” in Ainu language, and refers to the Daisetsuzan). A pianist, violinist, and a soprano will be joined by the Asahikawa Broadcasting Choir and a 4-member flute ensemble especially formed for the 10th anniversary concert.

**Date:** March 10th (Thursday)

**Time:** Doors 6:30pm, Show 7:00pm

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

**Admission:** General ¥3,500 (¥4,000 at the door)

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

**For further information contact:** 27-0616 (Yamaha Music Asahikawa Store)



## 3.8 INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY ASAHIKAWA CONVENTION

### 3.8国際女性デー 旭川集会2011

International Women's Day originated in 1908 in the US with the parole cry "Bread and Suffrage." March 8th was officially established as the International Women's Day in 1910. To celebrate this important annual event in Asahikawa a social gathering is being organized which will include a choir performance and a lecture by the Tokyo based women's and workers' rights attorney MATSUE Kishi.

**Date:** March 6th (Sunday)

**Time:** 2:00pm

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

**Admission:** General ¥500 (a childcare room will be available).

**For further information contact:** 26-2949 (2011 3.8 International Women's Day Committee)



## ASAHIKAWA YOUTH WIND ORCHESTRA'S 44TH REGULAR CONCERT

### 第44回定期演奏会 旭川市青少年吹奏楽団

Come and enjoy this very talented young orchestra as they perform various pieces from a wide range of genres. This year's concert will include such diverse themes as "Dragon Quest," "Sing, Sing, Sing," "West Side Story," "Caravan," a selection of Glenn Miller classics and lots more.

**Date:** March 6th (Sunday)

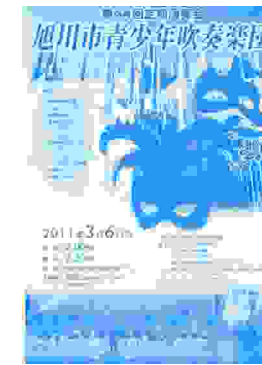
**Time:** Doors 2:00pm, Show 2:30pm

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

**Admission:** General ¥800, High School Students & Under ¥500

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

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



## THE WONDERFUL WORKS OF THE PAINTER SEPTET

### 絵画の魅力「画家たちの七重奏」

An exhibition of paintings and drawings by the seven artists known as the "Painter Septet." A diverse range of works; abstract, realist, colourful, and monochromatic, depicting the unique landscape of northern Hokkaido. The seven painters are NAMBATA Tatsuoki, ONO Shuichi, ASAKURA Rikio, SATO Susumu, INDOU Hisashi, KANDA Kazuaki, and YAMAGUCHI Masao. The common theme of the septet's work is Asahikawa and its surroundings.

**Date:** Now to March 21st (Monday–Public Holiday)

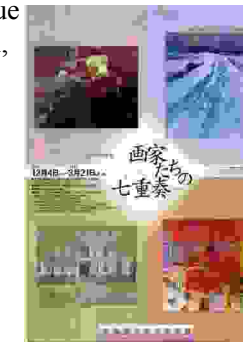
**Time:** 9:30am–5:00pm (last entry 4:30pm) Museum is closed on Mondays

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

**Admission:** General ¥500(\* for groups of over 10 people ¥400) High School Students ¥300 (\* ¥250,) Junior High & Elementary School Students Free

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

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



## SAXOPHONE QUARTET "MAGICO" 3rd RECITAL

### サクソフォン・クワルテット「マジコ」リサイタル

This quartet was formed in 2006 from members of the Self-Defense Forces 2nd Music Corps Saxophone Section. They have performed extensively throughout Hokkaido including Sapporo's annual "Sax For All" concert. Their repertoire includes classical and popular genres.

**Date:** March 5th (Saturday)

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

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

**Admission:** General ¥500 (preschool children free)

**Ticket Office:** Yamaha Music Asahikawa Store

**For further information contact:** 090-2237-3390 (Honma)



EVENTS IN ASAHIKAWA FOR MARCH



## Hello Asahikawa!

**Name: Toby Weymiller**

**Hometown: Seattle, Washington State, USA**

**Interviewed: 17th February, 2011**

**By Sergej Nesic (AIC)**

**AIC:** *Tell us a little about your home-town.*

**Toby:** The climate in Seattle is quite warmer than here but we get a lot of rain. It's very beautiful because of the large amount of rain it gets and is often referred to as the "Emerald City" due to the large amounts of greenery. When the sun does come it radiates the mountains creating an incredible view. A very beautiful place. Thanks to the mountains outside of Seattle I started skiing when I was 5 years old. Seattle is located on the west coast of the US. It's also where Ichiro lives and plays baseball for the Seattle Mariners. These days when I mention that I'm from Seattle people usually do the "Ichiro pose" by stretching their arm out (laugh). Seattle is quite multicultural with a large Japanese community. There's a large Japanese store called "Uwajimaya," the bookstore "Kinokuniya," many Japanese restaurants, and other Japanese related businesses. There's also a Japanese newspaper called the "Soy Source," as well as "The North American Post" which is also based in Seattle. Yeah, Seattle's a very happening town with lots of things going on. I recommend the website "Jungle City" for more information.

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

**Toby:** I currently teach at Tohma Elementary School which is about 25 minutes through the mountains from Higashikawa. In the non-winter months, I ride my bicycle to work and it takes about 40 minutes. I've been employed there since July 2008, so I'm coming up on 3 years. I've been living in Higashikawa for just over a year now. I recently completed building my house there.

**AIC:** *I actually read about your house in the Japan Times, can you tell us a little bit about it?*

**Toby:** I can tell you a lot about it but I doubt we'd have the time here today (laugh). Basically our house is unique because it's an environmentally friendly house made from straw bales and Japanese cedar beams. The straw bales provide great insulation for this climate and the walls are protected on the inside with earth plaster and lime plaster on the outside. 100 year old recycled beams were used for inside the house. It also uses passive solar design which is strategically positioned windows that take advantage of warm sunlight in the winter months and avoid the additional sunlight in the summer months, so the house stays cool. It's all quite technical but if you see the house you'll understand. I was involved in every stage of the construction. The planning stage actually took up most of the time, all up 5 years of thorough research through workshops here and the states and other aspects before it even got off the ground. I was involved every day in the construction process in one facet or another.

**AIC:** *Did you name the house?*

**Toby:** Yes, it's called "Square One." There are many reasons as to why we named it so. I was thinking about a name for the house when a song by Tom Petty, "Square One," was playing and the lyrics kind of touched base. I started thinking about it, so I Google searched the term. I always thought of "square one" meaning going back to something or somewhere you started from, but I actually found different meanings to it as well. I was reminded that it also means "to refresh" and

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“to rejuvenate.” As for our home , we will always return to “Square One” to relax, “refresh” and “rejuvenate.” Furthermore, building materials as well as the building strategy for our house comprise methods that were used long time ago, before the industrialization of the construction industry and the use of vinyl siding and other kinds of environmentally unfriendly materials (dumped into landfills). We’ve taken a lot of short cuts in the last 50 years in construction of houses but “Square One” was built the way houses were built before, that is sturdier than firmer. Another great aspect of our house is its insulation. It’s perfect for the Hokkaido environment; warm in winter and very cool in summer. More and more people are looking for and choosing this kind of design.

**AIC:** ***I really look forward to seeing it soon. What did you do before you started working at Tohma Elementary School.***

**Toby:** I was living back home in Seattle for 7 years after leaving Japan the last time round. Before that I was working as an ALT (Assistant Language Teacher) on the JET Program for 3 years in Fukagawa, close to Asahikawa.

**AIC:** ***When did you first come to Japan?***

**Toby:** I first came to Japan when I was at university in 1993 as an exchange student . I studied International Business Management with an emphasis on Japan and I graduated in that field from Linfield College in Oregon in 1993. My first 2 months in Japan were in Hakone but I was technically attending Kanto Gakuin University in Yokohama. We rarely went to the school and spent most of the time going around different companies talking with people working there and learning about Japanese management techniques. After that I did a homestay in Akihabara, Tokyo and I stayed a month in Osaka. Basically my first stay in Japan was around 3 months in total. After graduating in the US I moved to Aomori in 1994.

**AIC:** ***Why Aomori?***

**Toby:** Well, during my last year at university in Oregon I worked part-time for a Sake company whose owner also ran a few Eikaiwa schools in Aomori. He asked me if I was interested in working in Aomori and I said yes. I worked in Hachinohe for 15 months after which I went back to Seattle for a year and worked as a bicycle tour guide. However, I missed Japan so much I returned to Aomori in 1996 and I worked in Hirosaki for a year. It was during this time that I first visited Hokkaido on a skiing trip and immediately fell in love with it. I started researching into how I could live and work in Hokkaido and came across a flyer on the All-Japan Extreme Ski Championships held at Asahidake every year. I found out that the closest town to Asahidake is Higashikawa and immediately started researching on possibilities of moving there. Consequently, I joined the JET Program in 1997 as an ALT in Fukagawa. At that time that was the closest I could get to Asahidake. I remember at the interview in LA when I said that my preference placement was Asahikawa and the interviewers were in shock. They couldn’t believe that I’d wanted to be placed there. I told them that I like the cold and winter is my favourite season. I also knew that there were many JETs in and around Asahikawa, so my chances of getting placed near Asahikawa were good. I was on the JET Program for 3 years until 2000 and it was a fantastic experience. I actually didn’t want to leave after my 3rd year but that was the limit at the time. I was teaching junior high school students at the time. I prefer teaching elementary school students, which is why I took on my present job. During my time in Fukagawa I became good friends with the man, Mr. Sakai, who was to become the main builder of “Square One.”

**AIC:** ***Do you have any advice for present JETs?***

**Toby:** Well, every situation is different but I strongly advise all JETs to have an open mind. You shouldn’t have the mindset that you have to change things but rather be

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prepared to accept doing things in a different way even if you don't necessarily believe that it's the right way. I often remember something I read on Nepal in the "Lonely Planet Guide" saying something to the effect of "don't come to change a place but let the place change you." Also, some Hokkaido JETs tend to get cabin fever in winter, so you should find something to keep you busy. I strongly suggest snow sports. If you've never tried it before or aren't very good at them, this is a perfect opportunity to become good at them. There's also the HAJET (Hokkaido Jets) musical for which JETs from all around Hokkaido get together and rehearse for a musical show in spring. There's lots of indoor sports and activities to do as well. Every town in Hokkaido has a community gym where you can go and play badminton, basketball, curling, you name it. More than anything I recommend JETs get involved in their respective communities. To really get the full benefit of living in Japan one has to involve themselves with the local communities. It's great to hang around with other JETs or foreigners but creating relationships with the locals can be much more rewarding.

**AIC:** *What's your favourite Japanese dish?*

**Toby:** I love anything that's "Nabe." *Sukiyaki, Shabu-Shabu*, etc. I especially like when it's prepared and eaten on the dining table with friends and family sitting around the table talking, eating, drinking, and having a great time together. It's such a wonderful family and community bonding experience. I also love Ramen and my favourite ramen shop in Higashikawa is "*Ezo Ramen*." There's also a great *Izakaya* called "*Rishiri*" and I also enjoy eating in "Himal Kitchen" Nepalese restaurant in Asahikawa. I've been to Nepal twice and I love Nepalese food and the Nepalese ambience. "Himal Kitchen" has an authentic Nepalese feel to it and is reasonably priced.

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

**Toby:** Thank you.

## Restaurant Review

### BEER CAFÉ GRILL BELLIES

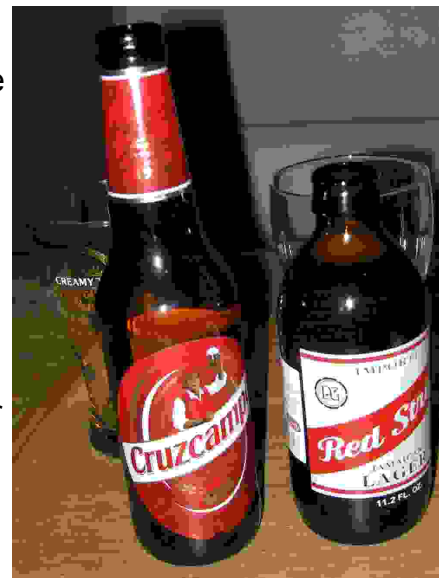
By SAITO Emi

You probably heard that beer is losing its popularity in Japan, especially among young people.

As a nation, Japanese beer consumption ranked 7<sup>th</sup> in the world (1<sup>st</sup> goes to China), per person consumption Japan ranked 33<sup>rd</sup> (1<sup>st</sup> goes to the Czech Republic) and shows 2.1% decline from the previous year according to the research done by Kirin in 2010. So when I saw the restaurant with "Beer Café" attached to its name, I thought its future was doomed, but being a beer lover, I had to give it a try, so I did, with my beer-loving boyfriend.

My boyfriend and I had arrived at the restaurant around 6:30pm and we were the only customers

there. That didn't bother me. I was immediately impressed with the display case filled with around 50 kinds of beer!!



I liked the label design of this Spanish beer, "Cruzcampo," so I ordered it along with a Caesar salad with grilled chicken, chicken liver paste, jambalaya and beef gristle casserole in red wine and miso. All dishes were slightly salty, which complimented the beer (but I prefer it a little less salty). I ordered two more beers; "Trappistes Rochefort 10" and "Maredsous," which are both Belgian. "Trappistes Rochefort 10" has 11.3% alcohol, and didn't taste like a typical beer at all.

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By 7:30pm almost all the seats were taken, mostly by young couples who were ordering beer. I guess there are enough beer-loving-people in Asahikawa to keep this place busy.

Next time, I will try a few more hard to find beers and a dessert. Then I will know for sure if this place is my kind of place or not.



### Prices

**Appetizers and Tapas:** ¥300~¥980

**Main Dishes:** ¥980~¥1,600

**Beer:** ¥400~

**Address:** 4-jo-dori 6-chome Taneda Building 2F

**Telephone:** 0166-24-3155

**Operating Hours:** Mondays ~ Thursdays: 18:00~24:00 (last order)

Fridays, Saturdays, Day Before Public Holidays: 18:00~25:00 (last order)

# Life In Asahikawa

## THE SOBER FLOWERS OF MARCH

By KITAMURA Tadao

March is month that the people of this cold and snowy city have been eagerly longing for. The wind changes its direction from a westerly to an easterly. The sun will regain its brightness again. You'll hear a faint tune of a spring prelude, faint like the first movement of Beethoven's Symphony No.9.

Put on a pair of skis or snow-shoes and go outside to catch a small sign of spring. A gentle spring breeze will pleasantly caress your cheek. On the riverside, in a shrub, you'll see willows with their flowers prudently sprouting on their twigs. The flowers look like tiny velvet balls, with the feel of a cat's paw, are not showy yet pretty enough. Hence, the people here call this flower *Neko-Yanagi* ('cat-willow') and appreciate its prettiness as an essential part of the traditional spring flower arrangement.

A rather curious looking plant appears from a small opening of thick snow. Encircled gatherings many of these edelweiss-like small flowers on top of wilted leaves are called *Fuki-No-To* (Butterbur Sprout). Have you heard of the Butter Bur (*Patasites japonica*)? The 'japonica' in its Latin name probably indicates that it's plant unique to the Japan archipelago. It is a composite plant of the chrysanthemum family. Small flowers sprout and grow bigger in just several days to resemble small chrysanthemums. People here appreciate the taste of this flower. Although it tastes a little bitter and has a strong fragrance, older people praise its flavor calling it the 'taste and flavor of early spring.' The most popular way of preparing *Fuki-No-To* is by deep-frying it Tempura style. Simmering it with *Shoyu*, *Sake* and *Umeboshi* also yields a good result. Also, finely cut raw flowers are an ideal spice for *Udon*, *Soba*, *Tofu*, or anything else.

In a still snowy but sunny ravine, *Fukujuso* (Amur Adonis) show up their brilliant yellow colour in the

midst of a scenically monotonous forest. It's truly breathtaking.

It may not attract your attention but catkins of birch and alder are loosening, and increasing in length day by day. They are rather sober but undeniably inflorescent.

From the middle of March on, the scent cherry blossoms invite insects which are still shivering in the remaining winter cold. The concave shape of its corolla gives them sufficient energy to serve as pollinators and the corolla, with its shiny petals inside, efficiently collect solar heat. People will become restless in anticipating the weather for the coming flower-viewing season.

Incidentally, the Cherry-blossom viewing season in Asahikawa should be in the first week of May.



**FUKUJUSO** (*Amur Adonis*)



## **Movies ~ March**

\*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

- SKE 48 Cinema Live Vol.1(Japanese)
- The King's Speech (English)
- Umareru (Japanese)
- Inu To Anata No Monogatari - Inu No Eiga (Japanese)
- Bushroad Card Game Live 2011 (Japanese)
- Byakuyako (Japanese)
- Aibou – The Movie 2 (Japanese)
- Wall Street (English)
- Gantz Pt.1 (Japanese)
- Red (English)
- Social Network (English)
- The Chronicles of Narnia (English 3D)
- The Chronicles of Narnia (Japanese 3D)
- Tommorrow's Joe (Japanese)
- How Do You Know (English)
- The Town (English)
- Hereafter (English)
- Morning Glory (English)

### Coming Soon

- Choshinsei Show 2010-Live (Japanese 3D)
- Wasao (Japanese)
- Manzai Gang (Japanese)
- Precure Allstars DX3 (Japanese/Animaton)
- SP-Revolution (Japanese)
- Tourist (English)
- Doraemon - Nobi Inu To Tetsujin Heidan (Japanese/Animation)
- Tangled (English/Animation)

★ **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

- Social Network (English)
- The Green Hornet (English)
- Aibou – The Movie 2 (Japanese)
- Saigo No Chushingura (Japanese)
- Red (English)
- Gantz Pt.1 (Japanese)
- The Town (English)
- Wall Street (English)
- Patterserie Coin de Rue (Japanese)
- Taiheiyo No Kiseki (Japanese)
- Mainichi Kaasan (Japanese)
- Hereafter (English)
- Paranormal Activity 2 (English)
- A Better Tomorrow (Chinese)
- The Chronicles of Narnia (English)

### Coming Soon

- The Rite (English)
- One Piece 3D - Mugiwara Chase (Japanese/Animation)
- High School Debut (Japanese)
- Wasao (Japanese)
- Tangled (English/Animation)
- Runway Beat (Japanese)
- Tourist (English)
- SP-Revolution (Japanese)
- Nintama Rantaro (Japanese/Animation)

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

# 2011 Vasaloppet Japan

Come join visitors from all over the country and the world to watch a two-day extravaganza of cross-country skiing. People of all ages and abilities will be participating in cross-country, walking ski, Miniloppet, and sprint relay races, each with a variety of different lengths and difficulties.

**Dates:**

*Cross-country and Sprint skiing* March 12th (Saturday)

*Walking ski and Miniloppet* March 8th (Sunday)

**Times:** Various races and events throughout the day

**Location:** .

**For more information, please refer to the Vasaloppet Japan English website:**

<http://www.ahmic21.ne.jp/asahikawa-sports/31st/schedule.html>



*(Answers to the last month's crossword)*

## 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.

**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](mailto: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.\*\***