

# HELLO SAKURA

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This is a free monthly English newsletter for foreign residents carrying excerpts from the Japanese newsletter published twice a month by the City of Sakura. Unless otherwise indicated, inquiries over the telephone or at the facilities are handled only in Japanese. If you do not speak Japanese, please have someone who speaks Japanese with you when you make inquiries. Inquiries in English may be made generally on Wednesdays through Koh'hoh-ka (the Public Relations Section) at Sakura City Hall.

## **SATSUKI-SAI (MAY FESTIVAL) AT KUSABUE-NO-OKA** **'Satsuki' is a poetic name of May in the old Japanese lunar calendar.**



*Kodomo-no-hi* (Children's Day, May 5) is dedicated to all children, hoping for their good health and happiness. Families with sons hang up carp streamers outside their homes as a symbol, and wish for their boys to grow up as strong and brave as carps that swim upstream against the current. Warrior figures are also displayed in their homes on this day.

This year's *Satsuki-sai* at Kusabue-no-oka Park will be held from Monday, May 3 through Wednesday, May 5. The park, decorated with large carp streamers and brightly colored azalea blossoms, is expected to draw many visitors to the festival.

The festival offers exciting events such as: kids' favorite heroes 'Go-sei-ja' shows on May 3, from 11:00 and from 14:00 (After the show, children will have a chance to shake hands with heroes); a performance by the 'Kaze-no-ko' Theater Group on May 4, from 13:30; street performances on May 4 and 5; and lots more. *Wadaiko* drumming performance, handicrafts classes, sales of local agricultural products, animal petting zoo, mini-steam locomotive ride will be held daily from May 3 through 5.



Children can enjoy playing inside Zaurusu-kun – a huge bear-shaped trampoline.



Additionally, do not fail to visit the Rose Garden where many of old roses & wild roses would be at their best from late May to early June.

The park is open from 9:00 to 17:00 daily (no admission after 16:00). Admission to Kusabue-no-oka, including the Rose Garden, is ¥300 for junior high school & elementary school students, ¥150 for preschool children, and ¥400 for others. No admission will be charged for children up to junior high school age on May 5, which is designated as Children's Day. Call Kusabue-no-oka, ☎485-7821 for further information.

### **ADMISSION FREE FOR CHILDREN AT THREE CULTURAL FACILITIES ON MAY 5**

Children up to junior high school age can visit three cultural monuments in Sakura, *Buke-yashiki* (the old samurai houses), Sakura Juntendoh *Kinenkan* (memorial building), and *Kyu-Hotta-tei* (former residence of feudal lord Hotta), free of charge on Children's Day, May 5. *Buke-yashiki* and *Juntendoh Kinen-kan* will be open for visits from 9:00 to 17:00 (admission until 16:30); and *Kyuh-Hotta-tei*, from 10:00 to 16:30 (admission until 16:00).

**TEMPORARY OPENING & CLOSING OF THREE FACILITIES:** The above-mentioned three facilities are generally closed on Mondays, but are open on Monday, May 3, and they are exceptionally closed on Tuesday, May 11.

**PUTTING ON SAMURAI ARMOR COSTUME:** To celebrate Children's Day, visitors to *Buke-yashiki* on May 5 will be offered an opportunity to put on a samurai armor costume for free. Costumes are available for both male and female, adults and children, who are 140cms tall or above. The costumes will be offered from 10:00 to 12:00 and from 13:30 to 16:00 at *Kyuh-Tajima-ke-juhtaku* (the former residence of the Tajima samurai family).



Registration is required on-site 30 minutes before each dressing session on a first-come, first-served basis. Admission to *Buke-yashiki* is necessary: ¥210/adult; free for children up to junior high school age. Call *Bunka-ka* (the Culture Section), ☎484-6191 for further information.

**'GARBAGE DISPOSAL GUIDE 2010' IN ENGLISH:** Garbage Disposal Guide leaflets written in English are available at *Haikibutsu-Taisaku-ka* (the Garbage Control Section), ☎484-6149. Inquiries about the contents should be made in Japanese.

## FREE CONSULTATION SERVICES FOR FOREIGN RESIDENTS

Foreign residents who have problems related to daily living, visas, etc., are welcome to call or visit the following facilities for free counseling. Matters discussed will be kept strictly confidential at all times. A call prior to your visit is always appreciated. National holidays and the 'year-end through New Year holidays' are excluded from consultation days.



### <FREE ADVISORY SERVICES RELATED TO DAILY LIVING>

- <Sakura International Exchange Foundation> (S.I.E.F.), Rainbow Plaza Sakura, ☎484-6326, generally on ●Tuesdays in Spanish, ●Thursdays in English, ●Fridays in Chinese. They are offered during the time of 10:00-12:00 and 13:00-16:00. Reservation is not required.
- <Chiba International Center, telephone counseling> at ☎297-2966, on ●Mondays through Fridays, 9:00 - 12:00 & 13:00 - 16:00 in English, ●Mondays, Tuesdays, & Wednesdays, 9:00 - 12:00 & 13:00 - 16:00 in Spanish, and ● Tuesdays, 9:00 - 12:00 in Chinese.
- <Chiba City International Association>, ☎202-3000, ----→ 8th fl., 2nd Tower of Chiba Chuoh Twin Building, 2-5-1 Chuoh, Chuoh-ku, Chiba City.

Chiba City International Association		
English	Mon- Fri	9:00 -16:30
	Sat	10:00 -16:30
Chinese	Mon- Fri	9:00 -19:30
	Sat	9:00 -16:30
Korean	Mon, Wed, Fri	10:00 -15:30
Spanish	Tue, Thu	10:00 -15:30
	Sat	9:00 -16:30

### <FREE LEGAL CONSULTATIONS>

Consultations regarding visas and other legal problems will be provided by lawyers and legal specialists as follows:

- <Chiba International Center>, once a month on Mondays. Dates through September are June 7, July 5, August 2, and September 6, 13:00-16:00. The Center is located on the 14fl., Malibu East World Business Garden, 2-6 Nakase, Mihama-ku, Chiba, 3-minute-walk from Kaihin-Makuhari Station of JR Keiyoh Line. Interpreters are available upon prior request. Appointment is required by calling ☎297-0245. You can get various useful information at the English website of Chiba International Center: [http://www.mcic.or.jp/e\\_index.htm](http://www.mcic.or.jp/e_index.htm)
- <Chiba City International Association>, ☎202-3000, on May 17, July 26, and September 27, 13:00 - 16:00. Chiba city residents have priority over others in making an appointment for consultation.

<CITY OF SAKURA - ADMINISTRATIVE/SERVICE INFORMATION>: Available at the Public Relations Section (or *Koh'hoh-ka*), Sakura City Hall, ☎484-6103, 9:15-16:00, generally on ●Wednesdays in English, ●Thursdays in Spanish, and ● Fridays in Chinese.

<FREE NEWSLETTERS IN FOREIGN LANGUAGES> are published by the city of Sakura, not only in English but also in Chinese and Spanish on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of every month, carrying excerpts from the Japanese newsletter 'Koh'hoh Sakura' published twice a month by the city. A copy of these foreign editions is available at the City Hall, city branch offices, koh'minkan, community centers, libraries, railroad stations, etc. If you prefer to receive it by mail, please call *Koh'hoh-ka*, ☎484-6103.

## JAPANESE LANGUAGE COURSES

The city of Sakura always welcomes you to join the Japanese Language Classes for foreign residents. If you are interested in joining the class, please do not hesitate to call Sakura International Exchange Foundation (S.I.E.F.), ☎484-6326, for further information before visiting the classes listed below:

### JAPANESE LANGUAGE CLASSES ORGANIZED BY S.I.E.F.

LEVELS	DAYS	TIMES	PLACES
All levels	Thursdays	15:00-16:30	Shizu Community Center *Baby-sitters are available for students who attend these classes with young children.
All levels	Thursdays	13:00-14:30	
Intermediate-Advanced	Thursdays	10:30-12:00	Shizu Community Center
All levels	Fridays	19:00-20:30	Millennium Center Sakura

※ A year of the class is divided into three terms. All classes are conducted free of charge, except for the cost of ¥1,000/term for textbooks and materials used in the class.

### OTHER JAPANESE LANGUAGE CLASSES ORGANIZED BY CITIZENS' VOLUNTEER GROUPS

LEVELS	DAYS	TIMES	PLACES	INQUIRIES & REGISTRATION
All levels	Sundays	9:00-12:00	Chuoh Koh'minkan	Ms.Ohta, ☎0476-98-1229
Beginners	Fridays	13:00-15:00	Negoh Koh'minkan	Ms. Kohno, ☎486-7928

## CHILD ALLOWANCE (*KODOMO-TEATE*)

A new child allowance system, called *Kodomo Teate*, started this April. The allowance was established with the idea that society as a whole shall support the healthy raising of each and every child - who will be shouldering the burdens of society in the coming generation. The new child allowance (*Kodomo Teate*) replaces the old one (*jidoh teate*) which lasted decades.

Under the new child allowance system;

- The allowance will be given to the parents/guardians of children until the children have completed their junior high school education.
- There is no income cap for receiving the allowance.
- The amount of monthly allowance will be ¥13,000/child (as of FY 2010).



### < Eligibility >

Those who are registered as an alien resident of Sakura City as of March 31, 2010 are eligible to apply. Visa holders less than a year are not covered.

- ◇ Parents of children born on April 2, 1997 or later, who received child allowance as of March 31, 2010, do not need to apply for the allowance.
- ◇ Parents of the following cases need to apply for the allowance:
  - Parents/guardians with children born on April 2, 1995 or later, who did not receive child allowance as of March 31, 2010.
  - Parents/guardians with children born between April 2, 1995 and April 1, 1997, who received child allowance as of March 31, 2010.

Application forms were sent to eligible persons in mid-April.

In case that the primary earner of the household is living outside Sakura, the application forms will not be sent.

Call *Jidoh-seishoh'nen-ka* (the Children & Youth Section) for detailed information about the eligibility.

### <Application period>

If you submit the application form no later than September 30, 2010, you will be able to get the allowance retroactive to April, 2010. Moreover, if you could submit the application form no later than May 10, 2010, the first payment will be made by the end of June.

### <Method of application>

After you have completed the application form with necessary information, please return it to the City Hall by post, using the enclosed return-mail envelope. You can also bring it to the City Hall.

City branch offices, however, do not accept applications.

### <Month of payment>

The payment will be made three times a year, specifically June, October and February.

Call *Jidoh-seishoh'nen-ka*, ☎484-6140 for more information.

## APPLICATION FOR MUNICIPAL HOUSING

The application for municipal housing will be accepted from Thursday, May 6 through Thursday, May 20. Two apartment rooms at Ohja-machi and one room at Fujisawa-machi are available this time. You are eligible to apply for them if: you live in Sakura for 1 year or more; you are not delinquent in payment of your local resident's tax; and you have one or more relatives to live together. There are additional requirements and qualifications to be a tenant. Call *Kenchiku Shidoh-ka* (the Construction Planning Guidance Section), ☎484-6168 for further information. Application leaflets are available at *Kenchiku Shidoh-ka* at the City Hall, city branch offices, and Citizens Service Centers.

## REQUEST FOR DONATION TO SAKURA CITY

The city of Sakura is asking for monetary donations to promote town-planning in order to create a more livable community. Your donations will go toward eight projects, such as enhancement of health and welfare services; preservation of the natural environment; promotion of school education with distinguishing features; renovation and earthquake strengthening of school buildings and other public facilities; expenses for Tulip Festival, firework display, etc.; and promotion of sports. Or, you can choose one of the projects (or, as many as you like) to put your donation. Donations in any amount are welcome and greatly appreciated. Call *Kikaku-seisaku-ka* (the Policy Planning Section), ☎484-3374 for further information.

**THE POPULATION OF SAKURA CITY:** As of the end of March 2010, the Japanese population of Sakura was 175,914 (86,840 male and 89,074 female) in 70,144 households. Registered foreign residents accounted for 2,014. The combined population of Sakura City was 177,928.

## HEALTH CHECKS FOR CHILDREN

*Kenkoh Kanri Center* (Health Management Center) ☎485-6711; *Seibu Hoken Center* (Seibu Health & Welfare Center) ☎463-4181; *Nambu Hoken Center* (Nambu Health & Welfare Center) ☎483-2812

AGES OF CHILDREN	MAY '10	TIMES	PLACES
Health consultation for children of 4 months born in December, 2009	14	9:30—10:30	Kenkoh Kanri Center
		13:30—14:30	
	11	9:30—10:30	Seibu Hoken Center
		13:30—14:30	
	25	13:30—14:30	Nambu Hoken Center
	<i>Mogu-mogu</i> (munching) Class for 8-month-old children born in August, 2009	13	9:30—9:45
18		Seibu Hoken Center	
For 18-month-old children born in October, 2008	18	13:15—14:15	Kenkoh Kanri Center
	12		Seibu Hoken Center
	20		Nambu Hoken Center
For 3-year-old children born in November, 2006	19	13:15—14:15	Kenkoh Kanri Center
	13		Seibu Hoken Center
	27		Nambu Hoken Center
Dental check for children born in May or November, 2007 or in May, 2008	7	13:30—14:30	Kenkoh Kanri Center
	11		
	24		Seibu Hoken Center
	31		
	21		

### HEALTH CONSULTATION

PLACE	MAY '10	TIME	APPOINTMENT
Seibu Hoken Center	20	9:30—11:30	Seibu Hoken Center

Consultation with public health nurse, nutritionist, or dental hygienist is available on this day. Telephone counseling is available at any of the centers, 8:30-17:00, Monday- Friday.

### FREE ANTENATAL CLASSES

LESSON	DATES	TIMES
1 <sup>st</sup>	June 4	9:00-15:20
2 <sup>nd</sup>	June 27	9:00-13:00

Free antenatal classes will be held at Seibu Hoken Center in June for expectant mothers to have the first babies between September and November 2010. The program will include instructions on how to raise a healthy child, preparation of nutritious baby food, a lecture by a dentist, etc. There is a limit of 35 people in a class.

To attend, application is needed by calling Seibu Hoken Center.

### EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

**Always be sure to bring your health insurance certificate !**

**Daytime treatment on Sundays & public holidays :** Consultation by a **physician, a surgeon or a dentist** will be available between 9:00 and 17:00 (reception is open until 16:30) at the doctor's office who is on duty in a rotation system. Call ☎484-2516 to learn the doctor on duty.

**Nighttime treatment on Sundays & public holidays :** **Internal medicine & dental treatment** are available at Kenkoh Kanri Center, between 19:00 and 22:00 (reception is open until 21:45). **Treatment by a surgeon or an ENT doctor** (otolaryngologist) will be done at the doctor's office who is on duty in a rotation system, between 19:00 and 22:00 (reception is open until 21:45). However, obstetrics & gynecology treatment will not be offered any more as there are few patients. Call ☎485-6711 to learn the doctor on duty.

**Pediatrics :** For children under 16 years of age. Open year-round for treatment at Kenkoh Kanri Center from Monday through Saturday, 19:00-6:00 (next morning). On Sundays & public holidays, 9:00-17:00 & 19:00-6:00 (next morning). Call ☎485-3355 for further information.

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