

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 the 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 Sunday, May 3 through Tuesday, 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 *Wadaiko* drumming performances from May 3 through 5, an attraction with kids' favorite hero 'shin-ken-jar' on May 4 from 11:00 and 14:00, and lots more. Sales of local agricultural products will be held daily. Children can enjoy playing inside a huge bear-shaped trampoline, taking rides on the mini-SL and visiting the animal petting zoo. For others who prefer to try their skills at making handicrafts, there are classes such as pottery classes and hanging basket-making classes.



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

THE 400TH ANNIVERSARY OF EXCHANGE BETWEEN THE NETHERLANDS AND JAPAN

In commemoration of the 400th anniversary of exchange between the two countries, the city of Sakura will hold various events with the cooperation of the Royal Netherlands Embassy and citizen groups.

- Panel tour exhibition on the relationship between the Netherlands and Sakura; on the 1st floor at the main building of the City Hall, etc.; May 9 – December 23.
- Sakura Citizens' Fireworks Display; at the Tulip Field; August 1.
- Dutch Design Exhibition; at Sakura City Museum of Art; August 1 – September 23.
- Citizens' tour to the Netherlands; in August.
- Showing of Dutch films and the Netherlands-related films; at Sakura City Museum of Art on August 8; at Nishi-Shizu Fureai Center on October 11.
- Exchange of schoolchildren between the Netherlands and Sakura: In November this year, pupils of Sakura will visit Anne Frank School in the Netherlands.
- *Sint Nicolaas* (the Dutch word for Santa Claus) Festival in Sakura: Enjoy the national event of the Netherlands in Sakura to be held in December.

Call *Shoh'koh-kankoh-ka* (the Commerce, Industry & Tourism Section), ☎484-6146 for further information.



'GARBAGE DISPOSAL GUIDE 2009' IN ENGLISH: Garbage Disposal Guide bulletins written in English are available at Haikibutsu-Taisaku-ka (the Garbage Control Section). If you need it, call the section, ☎484-6149. Inquiries about the contents should be made in Japanese.

TEIGAKU-KYUFU-KIN (SUPPLEMENTARY INCOME PAYMENTS)

The Japanese government has arranged a budget for supplementary income payments to residents in Japan as of February 1, 2009. You will receive payment from the municipality in which you are registered.



APPLICATION METHOD

- 1) In principle, applications are to be made by post. The City Hall will send the "Application for Supplementary Income Payment" to the head of each household by early May. After you have completed the form with necessary information, please return it to the City Hall by post, together with the copies of your personal identification documents and bank account confirmation documents, using the enclosed return-mail envelope. The deadline for the submission of applications is Monday, November 2. The envelope must be postmarked no later than November 2.
- 2) On receipt of the application form, the City Hall will check the details and make a decision on payment.
- 3) The City Hall will send a notification of decision on payment to the head of the household.
- 4) The City Hall will complete the bank transfer to the designated bank account. As a large volume of payment procedures will be concentrated into a short space of time, we anticipate it will require one month from when the application form is submitted until the payment is made. In case you do not receive the notification of decision on payment within 2 months after you submitted the application form, please contact *Shoh'koh-kankoh-ka* (the Commerce, Industry & Tourism Section), ☎483-3901.

KOSODATE-OH'EN TOKUBETSU-TE'ATE (SPECIAL ALLOWANCE FOR CHILD-REARING)

Considering burdens of early childhood education in multi-child households, the Japanese government provides ¥36,000 for each child of early childhood education age.

Application method is the same as for supplementary income payments.

Visit the English web-site of the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare :

http://www.mhlw.go.jp/kinkyu/juyou/kosodate/pdf/info_090316a.pdf, or call *Shoh'koh-kankoh-ka* (the Commerce, Industry & Tourism Section), ☎483-3901 for further information,

ATTENTION: Staff of the Sakura City will never ask you for your personal information regarding supplementary income payments or special allowance for child-rearing, or to make transactions through an ATM (automated teller machines of a bank or a convenience store).

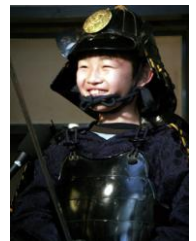
If you should receive any strange telephone call or letters, immediately contact a police station or the City Hall.

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, *Bukeyashiki* (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. *Bukeyashiki* 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 CLOSING OF THREE FACILITIES: The above-mentioned three facilities are generally closed on Mondays, but are open on Monday, May 4. And they are exceptionally closed on Tuesday, May 12.

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 *Bukeyashiki* is necessary: ¥210/adult; free for children up to junior high school age. Call *Bunka-ka* (the Culture Section), ☎484-6191 for further information.



TEMPORARY CLOSING DAYS OF LIBRARIES: In addition to the usual closing days, city libraries will be closed on the following days: Shizu Bunkan Library on May 3 (Sun) & 6 (Wed); library rooms in Kita-Shizu Children's Center and Usui Koh'minkan will be closed on May 6 (Wed).

THE POPULATION OF SAKURA CITY: As of the end of March 2009, the Japanese population of Sakura was 175,601 (86,648 male and 88,953 female) in 69,282 households. Registered foreign residents accounted for 1,914. The combined population of Sakura City was 177,515.

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.

FREE LEGAL CONSULTATION: Consultation regarding visas and other legal problems will be provided by lawyers and legal specialists at Chiba International Center once a month on Mondays. Dates through September are as follows: May.11, June 15, July 6, August 24, September 7, 13:00-16:00. The Center locates 14F Malibu East WBG, 2-6 Nakase, Mihama-ku, Chiba, 5-minute-walk from Kaihin-Makuhari Station of JR Keiyoh Line. Interpreters are available upon prior request. Appointment is required by calling ☎297-0245, 10 days prior to each consultation day. You can get various information at the English website of Chiba International Center: http://www.mcic.or.jp/e_index.htm

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 not only in English but also in Chinese and Spanish on the 1st day of every month, carrying excerpts from the Japanese newsletter 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, etc. If you prefer to receive it by mail, please call *Koh'hoh-ka*, ☎484-6103.

JAPANESE LANGUAGE COURSES

The city of Sakura always welcome you to join the Japanese Language Class for foreign residents. If you would like to join the class, please visit one of the places listed below:

JAPANESE LANGUAGE CLASSES ORGANIZED BY SAKURA INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE FOUNDATION (SIEF)

- ◎ Thursday Classes: at Shizu Community Center
 - Level I (Beginners) 13:00 -14:30 (Babysitters available)
 - Level II (Introductory~Beginners) 15:00 -16:30 (Babysitters available)
 - Level III(Intermediate~Advanced) 10:30 -12:00
- ◎ Friday Classes: at Millennium Center Sakura
 - Level I (Introductory) 19:00 -20:30

※ 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.

Call S.I.E.F., ☎484-6326 for inquiries and registration.

OTHER JAPANESE LANGUAGE CLASSES ORGANIZED BY CITIZENS' VOLUNTEER GROUPS

- ◎ All Levels at Shinmachi Ohayashikan, on Sundays, 9:00~12:00
Call Ms.Mochizuki, ☎484-0754 for further information.
- ◎ Level II (Beginners) at Nego Kohminkan, on Fridays, 13:00~14:30
Call Ms.Kohno, ☎486-7928 for further information.

FREE CONSULTATION ON ORTHOPEDIC PROBLEMS

If you are concerned about your child's orthopedic disorders such as hip dislocation, bow-legs, awkward walk, etc., please consult specialists at Imba *Hokenjo* (Health Care Center) on the 3rd Wednesday each month. The reception is between 14:30-15:00. Reservation is required by calling Imba *Hokenjo*, ☎483-1134. Be sure to bring your *boshi-techoh* (the Maternal and Child Health Handbook).

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 '09 | TIMES | PLACES |
|---|---------|-------------|---------------------|
| Health consultation for children of 4 months born in December, 2008 | 29 | 9:30—10:30 | Kenkoh Kanri Center |
| | | 13:30—14:30 | |
| | 8 | 9:30—10:30 | Seibu Hoken Center |
| | | 13:30—14:30 | |
| | 20 | 13:30—14:30 | Nambu Hoken Center |
| <i>Mogu-mogu</i> (munching) Class for 8-month-old children born in August, 2008 | 11 | 9:30—9:45 | Kenkoh Kanri Center |
| | 12 | | Seibu Hoken Center |
| For 18-month-old children born in October, 2007 | 13 | 13:30—14:30 | Kenkoh Kanri Center |
| | 21 | | Seibu Hoken Center |
| | 19 | | Nambu Hoken Center |
| For 3-year-old children born in November, 2005 | 15 | 13:30—14:30 | Kenkoh Kanri Center |
| | 22 | | Seibu Hoken Center |
| | 28 | | Nambu Hoken Center |
| Dental check for children born in May or November, 2006 or in May, 2007 | 18 | 13:30—14:30 | Kenkoh Kanri Center |
| | 26 | | |
| | 20 | | Seibu Hoken Center |
| | 29 | | |
| | 14 | | |

HEALTH CONSULTATION

| PLACE | MAY '09 | TIME | APPOINTMENT |
|--------------------|---------|------------|--------------------|
| Seibu Hoken Center | 14 | 9:30—11:30 | Seibu Hoken Center |

Consultation with public health nurse, nutritionist, or dental hygienist is available on this day. Face-to-face consultation requires appointment by calling the respective centers.

Telephone counseling is available at any of the centers, 8:30-17:00, Monday- Friday.

FREE ANTENATAL CLASSES

| LESSON | DATES | TIMES |
|-----------------|---------|------------|
| 1 st | June 12 | 9:00-15:00 |
| 2 nd | June 28 | 9:00-14:30 |

Free antenatal classes will be held at Seibu Hoken Center in June for expectant mothers to have the first babies between September and November 2009. 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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