

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 Mondays and Tuesdays 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 Tuesday, May 3 through Thursday, 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: Zaurusu-kun – a huge bear-shaped trampoline and kids' favorite heroes 'Go-kai -jar' shows; a performance by the 'Kaze-no-ko' Theater Group on May 4; street performances on May 4 and 5; and lots more. *Wadaiko* drumming performance, experience corner of Japanese traditional child plays, sales of local agricultural products, animal petting zoo, mini-steam locomotive ride will be held daily from May 3 through 5.



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.



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'Go-kai -jar' shows
May 3 (Tue) from 11:00
and from 14:00, at a
special stage at the
gymnasium.
(After the show, children
will have a chance to
shake hands with heroes.
To be held rain or shine.)

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 OPENING & CLOSING OF THREE FACILITIES

The above-mentioned three facilities are generally closed on Mondays, but are open on Monday, May 2. No substitute close is planned.

PUTTING ON SAMURAI ARMOR COSTUME

To celebrate Children's Day, visitors to *Buke-yashiki* on May 5 (Thu) 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.



SUBSIDY FOR EARTHQUAKE-RESISTANCE TESTING/REINFORCEMENT

Sakura City provides subsidy for testing quake resistance of wooden houses that meet certain requirements including the following, with a ceiling amount of ¥75,000 or two third of the cost calculated by the City.

- Single wooden residence in which the applicant resides
- Houses which were constructed on May 31, 1981 or before

Also, reinforcement of wooden residences that meet certain requirements will be funded with a ceiling of ¥500,000 or half of the cost calculated by the City. Houses which received subsidies in the past are excluded. Call *Kenchiku Shidoh-ka* (Construction Guidance Section) ☎484-6169 for detailed information.

FREE TELEPHONE CONSULTATION FOR VICTIMS OF EARTHQUAKE

Lawyers offer free consultation for foreign residents over telephone

Dates and Times: Trough May 27 (with possible extension)
Monday to Friday, 10:00 am to 12:00 am (noon)

Telephone Number: 03-3591-2291 (Please call again if lines are busy)

Languages Available: Japanese, English, Mandarin, Korean, Portuguese, Tagalog, Spanish, Indonesian, Romanian, etc.

Call ☎03-5979-2880 (Ms. Suzuki Masako, Tokyo Public Law Office) for more information.

CANCELLATION OF THE FIREWORKS SHOW

Due to radiation release from Fukushima and planned blackout, this year's Citizens' Fireworks Show has been cancelled. Call *Sakura-shi Kankoh Kyoh'kai* ☎486-6000 for inquiries.

FREE LEGAL CONSULTATIONS FOR FOREIGN RESIDENTS

Consultations regarding visas and other legal problems will be provided by lawyers and legal specialists for free. Interpreters are available upon 10 days prior request. Please make reservation in advance by calling the Chiba International Center, ☎297-0245, Fax: 297-2753, or by e-mail: kudo@ccb.or.jp.

Date:	Month	Jun. 2011	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
	Date	6(Mon.)	4(Mon.)	1(Mon.)	5(Mon.)	3(Mon.)	7(Mon.)	5(Mon.)
	Month	Jan. 2012	Feb.	Mar.	※In January, a Comprehensive Consulting Session is to be held. Date and place are not set yet.			
	Date	※	6(Mon.)	5(Mon.)				

Time: 13:00 – 16:00

Place: Chiba International Center
14th Fl. Marive East, World Business Garden
2-6, Nakase, Mihama-ku, Chiba
(3 min. walk from Kaihin Makuhari Sta. South Exit.)



S.I.E.F. JAPANESE LANGUAGE COURSES

The city of Sakura always welcomes you to join the Japanese Language Classes for foreign residents. All classes are conducted free of charge, except for the cost of ¥1,000/term for textbooks and materials used in the class. Call Sakura International Exchange Foundation (S.I.E.F.), ☎484-6326, for inquiries and registration.

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

*Please note that the venue of Friday classes changed from Millennium Center to Sakura City Hall.

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	13:30-15:00	Negoh Koh'minkan	Ms. Kohno, ☎486-7928

THE POPULATION OF SAKURA CITY

As of the end of March 2011, the Japanese population of Sakura was 176,169 (87,020 male and 89,149 female) in 71,010 households. Registered foreign residents accounted for 2,030. The combined population of Sakura City was 178,199.

CHILD ALLOWANCE (*KODOMO-TEATE*)

Six months Extension of Child-rearing Allowance (*Kodomo-Teate*) Law was approved on March 31, 2011, at Japanese Diet. Consequently, *Kodomo-Teate* system same as last year is to be maintained through September 30, 2011. Child allowance system after October will be informed on the city's homepage or newsletter as soon as the plans are set.

Under *Kodomo-Teate* system (same as last year, effective until September 30, 2011);

- 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.
- The period of the allowance is between April 1, 2011 and September 30, 2011.
- Payment months are June 2011 (for allowance from February to May 2011) and October 2011 (for allowance from June to September 2011).
- Current-status notification which has been required every June is not required this year.



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

RESUMPTION OF VACCINATIONS FROM APRIL 1

★RESUMPTION OF VACCINATIONS FOR HIB & PNEUMOCOCCAL DISEASE

Free vaccinations for HIB (hemophilus influenza type B) and pediatric pneumococcal disease, both have been postponed due to some deaths reported after vaccination, have been resumed from April 1 after national study team concluded that there are no safety concerns in these vaccinations. Since these are arbitrary vaccinations, parental consideration is required to take them. Especially when you intend to take a multiple vaccination at one time, please consult doctor in charge for careful consideration.



★WITHHOLDING OF INITIAL VACCINATIONS FOR CERVICAL CANCER

Free vaccinations for cervical cancer has resumed from April 1. However, due to shortfall of supply of the vaccine, the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare has sent out a notice to give priority to booster shots and refrain from initial vaccinations for some time. When this withholding step is removed, it will be informed promptly on the city's homepage or newsletter.

~TO THE GIRLS WHO RECEIVED THE VACCINATION INVITATIONS FOR CERVICAL CANCER~

Vaccination invitations (sets of invitation notes and preliminary medical check lists) were sent to eligible girls in junior high schools and in their first grade of high schools. However, there was an error on the fourth line of the enclosed letter, "To those who would like to take vaccination for cervical cancer." Please make a correction as follows. We apologize for any confusion this error might have caused.

×: **second year** students of high schools

○: **first year** students of high schools

★DISTRIBUTION OF VACCINATION INVITATIONS

Vaccination invitations are individually sent to those who are registered as a resident/alien resident of Sakura City as of the date of vaccination after March 25. Also new born and moving-in residents who are covered by this program will receive vaccination invitations as needed.

Call *Kenkoh Kanri Center* ☎485-6711 for more information.

REIMBURSEMENT OF FLU VACCINATION COST

The City will reimburse the flu vaccination cost by application to those who pertain to all of the following;

- 1) Foreign residents who are registered as Sakura citizens
 - 2) Members of households exempt from city taxes or receiving public assistance
 - 3) Those who took flu vaccination between October 1, 2010 and March 31, 2011 and paid the costs.
- Application deadline is May 31, 2011. If applicable, please call *Kenkoh-zoh'shin-ka (Health Promotion Section)* ☎485-6711.

Dear readers of Hello Sakura: I'm happy I can deliver the newest Hello Sakura to you for the first time since I took over its writing from Ms. Mikiko Yagi. I hope this and future issues could be as informative and enjoyable as it always has been in the past. It will be my pleasure if I could serve as a bridge for you readers helping you get city services and information as well as participate in various events actively. Your continued patronage would be deeply appreciated.

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 '11	TIMES	PLACES
Health consultation for children of 4 months born in December, 2010	20	9:30-10:30	Kenkoh Kanri Center
		13:30-14:30	
	27	9:30-10:30	Seibu Hoken Center
		13:30-14:30	
	31	13:30-14:30	Nambu Hoken Center
	<i>Mogu-mogu</i> (munching) Class for 8-month-old children born in August, 2010	6	9:30-9:45
9		Seibu Hoken Center	
For 18-month-old children born in November, 2009	17	13:15-14:15	Kenkoh Kanri Center
	18		Seibu Hoken Center
	30		Nambu Hoken Center
For 3-year-old children born in November, 2007	24	13:15-14:15	Kenkoh Kanri Center
	26		Seibu Hoken Center
	12		Nambu Hoken Center
Dental check for children born in May or November, 2008 or in May, 2009	10	13:30-14:30	Kenkoh Kanri Center
	27		
	13		Seibu Hoken Center
	23		
	19		

HEALTH CONSULTATIONS

Child development consultation for preschoolers (*Suku-suku Hattatsu Sohdan*) is available on Thursday, May 19, 9:00-12:00 at Kenkoh Kanri Center. If you feel distressed about your child's developmental or behavioral disorders, such as attention deficit disorder, do not suffer alone. Application required.

Consultation with public health nurse for all ages is available on May 25, 9:30-11:30, at Seibu Hoken Center. Public health nurse will help you to develop a healthier lifestyle. Application required.

Telephone counseling with public health nurse or nutritionist is available at any of the centers, 8:30-17:00, Monday - Friday. If you need a consultation with dental hygienist or speech therapist, call Kenkoh Kanri Center.

FREE ANTENATAL CLASSES

Free antenatal classes will be held at Seibu Hoken Center in June for expectant mothers to have the first babies between September & November, 2011. 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 Kenkoh Kanri Center.

LESSON	DATES	TIMES
1 st	June 2	9:00-15:00
2 nd	June 19	9:00-12:30

HOLIDAY & NIGHTTIME EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

Always be sure to bring your health insurance certificate !

HOLIDAY & NIGHTTIME CLINIC FOR CHILDREN'S DISEASES IN ACUTE & EARLY STAGE (Pediatrics) For children aged 15 years old or younger. Open year-round for treatment at Kenkoh Kanri Center from Monday through Saturday, 19:00-6:00 (next morning). On Sundays, public holidays, and year-end/New year holidays (12/29-1/3) 9:00-17:00 (reception is available until 16:45) & 19:00-6:00 (next morning). Call ☎485-3355 for further information.

DAYTIME TREATMENT ON SUNDAYS, PUBLIC HOLIDAYS, & YEAR-END/NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS Consultation with doctors (surgeon, physician, and dentist) will be available 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, & YEAR-END/NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS

Internal medicine & dental treatment are available at Kenkoh Kanri Center, between 19:00 and 22:00 (reception is available until 21:45). Consultation with surgeons and ENT doctors will be available at the doctor's office who is on duty in a rotation system. Call ☎485-6711 to learn the doctor on duty.