

MITAKA CITY NEWS



January 1, 2014 No. 170

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MITAKA CITY NEWS providing business and event information of Mitaka city is published on 1st of every month.

Enjoy a Showa-Style New Year at the Mitaka Picture Book House in the Astronomical Observatory Forest



The house will re-create scenes of a typical New Year that were common in Japan decades ago. For example, we will be dividing the *kagami-mochi* round rice cake offered to the gods during the New Year days and eating it together (*kagami-biraki* practice), and a *shishi-mai* lion dance will be performed accompanied by traditional flute and drums (see photo). You can enjoy various fun events during New Year's in Japan as well, such as spinning tops, a Seven Spring Herbs Stamp Rally, and making *hagoita* (battledores). Come and join the fun!

1. **Kagami-biraki and Shishi-mai Lion Dance: January 5 (Sun.), from 1:30 p.m.**
2. **Grandma's Storytelling: January 5 (Sun.), 2:00 to 2:30 p.m.**
In the Japanese-style tatami room, let's sing children's songs and listen to stories of long ago.
3. **Top-Spinning Expert Show: January 5 (Sun.), 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.**
A top-spinning expert will demonstrate amazing techniques and teach us how to play.
4. **Seven Spring Herbs Stamp Rally: January 5 (Sun.) through 9 (Thu.), 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (except for January 7 (Tue.))**
Let's look for the seven spring herbs growing in the garden of the *Mitaka Picture Book House in the Astronomical Observatory Forest*. On January 6 (Mon.), 1:30 to 2:30 p.m., there will be a guided tour and a tasting party of rice porridge with the herbs.
5. **Making Hagoita: January 13 (a national holiday), from 10:00 a.m.**
You can make your own *hagoita* (a wooden battledore used in a New Year's game similar to badminton) and play the game together. Capacity: twenty; fee: ¥300

Location: Mitaka Picture Book House in the Astronomical Observatory Forest (inside the National Astronomical Observatory of Japan, 2-21-3 Osawa)
Application: Come to the venue directly (participation for the event number 5 above is on a first-come, first-served basis)

Inquiries: Mitaka Picture Book House in the Astronomical Observatory Forest, **Tel:** 0422-39-3401, closed from December 28 (Sat.), 2013, to January 4 (Sat.), 2014.

Note to Foreign Residents Planning to Enroll Their Child in a Municipal Elementary School in the Next School Year If You Have Not Completed the Enrollment Procedures, Please Do So Right Away!

Eligibility: Children born between April 2, 2007 and April 1, 2008 who do not have Japanese citizenship but live in Mitaka City and who want to attend a Mitaka municipal elementary school from April 1, 2014.
Application: Please bring your child's resident card, passport, or other identification that can confirm your child's name, date of birth, sex and address to the School Affairs Section (Education Center 1F). Fill out the school admission application form for foreign residents, which is available at the section desk.

Inquiries: School Affairs Section, Ext. 3234

Population and Number of Households As of December 1, 2013
Numbers in brackets are changes from previous month.

No. of Registered Residents 180,385 persons (-54)
No. of Households 89,534 households (-89)

New Year's Traditional Ceremony *Dezome-shiki* by Mitaka City Fire Brigade

The Mitaka City Fire Brigade etc. will carry out the New Year's first fire drill, known as *dezome-shiki*.

This event will feature amazing synchronized performances, such as processions in file of pump trucks, a demonstration of firefighting techniques, and a simultaneous discharge of water in cooperation with the Mitaka Fire Department and other groups. The Dai-ichi Junior High School brass band will also give a concert, and there will be a corner where you can take a photo with the firefighting pump truck. Please come with family and friends!



Date and Time: January 12 (Sun.), from 10:00 a.m.

Location: Dai-ichi Junior High School schoolyard (if the weather is bad or the schoolyard is unusable, the event will be limited to a ceremony in the school gymnasium)

Application: Come to the venue directly.

Note: The parade of pump trucks taking separate routes through the east and west sides of the city will be conducted from 8:30 a.m.

Inquiries: Disaster Preparedness Section, Ext. 2283

Congratulations, New Adults! "Celebrating the Coming of Age"

There will be a gathering to celebrate the coming of age for those who have reached the age of twenty. The Coming of Age Executive Committee—consisting mainly of new adults—has planned a fun program.

Eligibility: Those born between April 2, 1993 and April 1, 1994

Date and Time: January 13 (a national holiday), from 1:00 to 3:30 p.m. (reception opens at 12:30 p.m.)

Location: Mitaka City Public Hall "Hikari," "Sansan-kan," and the Mitaka Municipal Office inner garden

Application: Please bring your invitation (card) to the reception desk on the day of the event.

Note: Invitations were sent to those eligible until mid-December. If you did not receive an invitation or currently live outside Mitaka but would like to participate, please contact the Child and Youth Section.

Inquiries: Child and Youth Section, Ext. 2712

Mitaka Murasaki Money Coupons Expire on January 31 (Fri.)!

The expiration date for Mitaka Murasaki Money Coupons—the city shopping coupons you can use at designated retail shops, supermarkets and convenience stores—is January 31 (Fri.).

Since the coupons will become invalid after the expiration date, please use them as soon as possible. You can use them at any of the approximately 650 outlets in the city with the sticker showing "coupon-handling shop".

Inquiries: Mitaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry, **Tel:** 0422-49-3111

Information and Consultation Service in English for Foreign Residents
Date and Time: Every 2nd Friday each month from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. (the service at the counter is to be accepted by 3:00 p.m.)
Closed on national holidays.
Location: Consultation/Information Center, Mitaka Municipal Office 2F
Tel: 0422-44-6600

Influenza Immunizations Expense Subsidy for the Elderly Is Available Until January 31 (Fri.)

Eligibility: Citizens 65 or older as of the day they receive their immunizations

Note: This also applies to citizens who are between 60 and 64 years of age who suffer from impairment in the function of their heart, kidneys or respiratory organs to the point that it extremely restricts activities in everyday life, and impairments of the immune system due to human immunodeficiency virus to the point that everyday life is almost impossible.

Available Period: Until January 31 (Fri.)

Immunization Fee: Personally-borne expense: ¥2,200 (The subsidy can be used only once. Please pay the fee at the medical institution you visit.)

Immunization Locations: Cooperating medical institutions in the city

Note: It is also possible at cooperating medical institutions in Musashino City, Chofu City, Sugunami Ward, and Setagaya Ward. (To receive it at Sugunami Ward or Setagaya Ward, you must bring a pre-checkup slip issued by the Mitaka City Comprehensive Health Center.)

Immunization Procedures: At the medical institution, please show some form of ID indicating your age and address, such as your health insurance card, and receive your immunization after completing the pre-checkup slip issued.

Note: In some cases you may not be able to get immunization depending on the results of a physical examination and body temperature on the day.

Inquiries: Comprehensive Health Center, Tel: 0422-46-3254

Mitaka Municipal Resort Facility "Hakone Mitaka Resort House" to Be Terminated at the End of FY2013

Although the facility has been used for a good 31 years, March 24 (Mon.) will be the final business day. The facility will provide quality services until the day, so please continue to take advantage of the hospitality there.

Application: After checking on room availability via the website (URL: <http://www.mitakasou.jp/>) etc., and call the Hakone Mitaka Resort House directly (Tel: 0460-82-1116).

Inquiries concerning termination of the facility: Civil Affairs Section, Ext. 2323

MISHOP International Exchange Ski Tour 2014

Both beginners and veterans of the slopes who love to ski are welcome! There will be a sports exchange program after dinner, and free ski lessons if you would like. Snowboarding is restricted to those with experience only.

Eligibility: Twenty non-Japanese residents and their family members (elementary school age and older) and twenty MISHOP members for help. A parent or guardian must accompany children in elementary school age; the minimum number of people is twenty. (Minimum number of non-Japanese residents participants is ten.)

Date and Time: Meet at 7:15 a.m. on March 1 (Sat.), and disperse around 7:00 p.m. on March 2 (Sun.), both at the south side of Mitaka Industrial Plaza; using a large sightseeing bus; two days and one night

Location: Chateraise Ski Resort Yatsugatake

Lodging: Kawakamigo Nature Village (Mitaka municipal resort facility; Kawakami-mura, Minami Saku-gun, Nagano)

Fee: Adults: ¥10,000; children (elementary school age): ¥7,500; this includes transportation, accommodation, party fee, insurance and so on

Note: There are extra fees for the lift and ski equipment/wear rental, as follows.

• One-day lift ticket: Adults: ¥2,000, children: ¥1,500


• Ski set: Adults: ¥2,500/day, children: ¥1,500/day

• Ski wear: Adults: ¥2,500/day, children: ¥1,500/day

Application: Apply to MISHOP between January 14 (Tue.) and February 4 (Tue.) in person, by telephone or via the MISHOP website (Tel: 0422-43-7812; URL: <http://www.mishop.jp/>), giving your address, name, age, sex, nationality, telephone (cell phone) number and E-mail address. Please also indicate if you would like to rent ski equipment and/or ski wear, and if you would like to take ski lessons. (If applications exceed capacity, first-time participants will be given priority, and a lottery will be held.)

Note: If you have dietary restrictions, please prepare your own meals.

Inquiries: MISHOP, Tel: 0422-43-7812



Information

Information about Mitaka International Society for HOspitality

MISHOP Office

Days: Monday through Saturday (Closed on Sundays and national holidays)

Hours: 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.


Location: Mitaka City Chuo-Dori Town Plaza 4F, 3-30-12, Shimorenjaku 181-0013

Tel: 0422-43-7812 **Fax:** 0422-43-9966

E-mail: mishop@parkcity.ne.jp

URL: <http://www.mishop.jp/>

Established: November 23, 1989




Events of Mitaka City Arts Foundation

Mitaka City Arts Center, Tel: 0422-47-5122

Hours: 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Closed: January 1 through 4, 6, 14, 15, 20, and 27

HP <http://mitaka-art.jp/ticket> (Japanese only)

 = A nursery service is available. (Please apply 2 weeks prior to each performance.)

Mitaka City Arts Center Concert Hall "Kaze"

New Year Family Concert:

Peter and the Wolf

January 19 (Sun.)

All seats are reserved. Tickets are now on sale.

Under the Auspices of: Mitaka City Board of Education



Illustration by Toru Asai

Concert for Families with Babies

11:30 a.m. start. Lasts approx. 1 hour (no break)

Members: ¥900; non-members: ¥1,000; children (infants through junior high school age): ¥500 (infants under 2 are free if seated on a lap)

Program: Prokofiev's *Peter and the Wolf* (arranged by: Yuki Umemoto), includes narration and illustrations.

Concert for Elementary Schoolers

3:00 p.m. start. Lasts approx. 2 hours (with break)

Members: ¥1,350; non-members: ¥1,500; elementary and junior high school students: ¥500

Program:

Part 1

Dinicu: *The Lark*, Massenet: Meditation from *Thais*, Saint-Saens: *The Swan*, Paganini: "Moses Variations," Stephen Foster Medley (arranged by Hidetake Konoe), music from Studio Ghibli's movies

Part 2

Prokofiev's *Peter and the Wolf* (arranged by: Yuki Umemoto), includes narration and illustrations.

There will be two performances of the New Year Family Concert by performers who joined outreach program for elementary schools in Mitaka City. The main program is *Peter and the Wolf*, which Russian composer, pianist and conductor Sergei Prokofiev composed for children.

The concerts are suitable for people wishing to attend as a family or as a first concert for children. Why not enjoy a concert together with the entire family?



Performed by: Midori Tamura (piano), Miho Kamiya (violin), Yasuo Maruyama (cello), Kenichi Nakagawa (piano), Masaki Ogawa "Kaze no Quintet," and Kiyo Hara (host and narration)

Special Programs

On the day of the event, the Mitaka Junior Orchestra will give a pre-concert at the lobby, and there will be a musical instrument experience corner.



Let's Eat Around the World!—U.S.A. Simple Everyday Cooking with Familiar Ingredients—Speed Cooking

"Let's Eat Around the World" is a program at which you can enjoy friendly exchanges while making dishes from various countries. Our next gathering will spotlight dishes from the United States. After the meal, Ms. Linda Deines of Japan Lutheran College and Seminary will give a presentation on the country. Why not experience American culture through cooking and more?

The menu will include meatloaf, green bean casserole, baked beans, deviled eggs and no-bake chocolate cookies (subject to change).

Capacity: 25 persons

Date and Time: January 18 (Sat.), 10:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Location: Renjaku Community Center 2F, cooking classroom

Fee: ¥500

What to bring: An apron, bandana, mask and dishcloth

Application: Apply to MISHOP in person, by telephone or via the MISHOP website (Tel: 0422-43-7812; URL: <http://www.mishop.jp/>), giving your name with *furigana*, address, telephone (cell phone) number, nationality and languages spoken. Participation is on a first-come, first-served basis.

Inquiries: MISHOP, Tel: 0422-43-7812