



# MITAKA CITY NEWS

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*Mitaka City News*, providing information on public services, lives and events of Mitaka City, is published on the 1st of every month.

## Mitaka Picture Book House in the Astronomical Observatory Forest Please Come to the New Year Events

**Inquiries:** Mitaka Picture Book House in the Astronomical Observatory Forest, Tel: 0422-39-3401  
**URL:** <http://www.city.mitaka.tokyo.jp/ehon/>, closed from December 28 (Thu.) to January 4 (Thu.).

Ready to experience a traditional Japanese New Year? Then come break open and eat the *kagami-mochi* rice cakes that served as decoration during the New Year holidays, and watch the *shishi-mai* lion dance performed by the Mitaka Hayashi Preservation Association.

We look forward to welcoming you with Japanese New Year games such as Japanese tops and *karuta* cards, as well as a tour to find the seven herbs of spring, which is an old tradition.



Shishi-mai lion dance and iwai-bayashi music from last year's event

### ◆ New Year's Kagami-Biraki

We will celebrate the New Year by breaking the big round rice cake (*kagami-biraki*), watching the *shishi-mai* lion dance and listening to traditional *iwai-bayashi* music.

**Date and time:** January 5 (Fri.), 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.

### ◆ Tips from a Top Master!

No experience is necessary! A top master will demonstrate how to spin a top and teach us some tricks.

**Date and time:** January 6 (Sat.), 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

### ◆ "Seven Herbs of Spring" Guided Tour and Stamp Rally

Come join the search for the seven herbs known as *haru-no-nanakusa* (seven herbs of spring) in the garden of the facility. You can also taste a sample of *nanakusa-gayu* porridge, which is made with those seven herbs, and wish for a New Year without illness or disaster.

**Date and time:** The herb tour takes place on Sunday, January 7, from 11:00 a.m. to noon; the stamp rally runs from January 5 through 8, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

### ◆ Astro Karuta Card Game

Learn about the cosmos through Astro Karuta cards that have fun illustrations of outer space and astronomy!

**Date and time:** January 8 (a national holiday), 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.



Astro Karuta card tournament

**Location:** Mitaka Picture Book House in the Astronomical Observatory Forest (inside the National Astronomical Observatory of Japan, 2-21-3 Osawa) for all events

**Application:** Come to the venue directly on the day of the event for all events

## New Year's Traditional Ceremony *Dezome-shiki* by Mitaka City Volunteer Fire Corps

**Inquiries:** Disaster Preparedness Section, Ext. 4512

This event will feature a procession of firefighting pump trucks and amazing synchronized performances by the Mitaka City Volunteer Fire Corps that show the results of their daily training, such as a demonstration of firefighting techniques and a coordinated discharge of water in cooperation with the Mitaka Fire Department and other groups. The Daiichi Junior High School brass band will also give a concert, and there will be a section where you can take a photo with a pump truck. Enjoy the Fire Corps' bold performance to kick off the New Year.

**Date and time:** January 14 (Sun.), from 10:00 a.m.

**Location:** Daiichi 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 on the day of the event



Dezome-shiki

### ◆ City Parade

The fire pump truck parade of the Mitaka City Volunteer Fire Corps and Mitaka Fire Department will depart from the Mitaka Central Park for Disaster Prevention and Genki Creation Plaza at 8:30 a.m., and will separate in east and west directions parading through the city to Daiichi Junior High School.

## Third *Kaibori* (Draining the Lake) at Inokashira Park

**Inquiries:** Parks and Green Zone Section, Ext. 2833

To improve water quality and restore the ecosystem at Inokashira Park—which celebrated its hundredth anniversary in May 2017—the lake there will be drained to dry the bottom, a practice known as *kaibori*. This has been done every other year since 2013.

Thanks to the *kaibori* done so far with the cooperation of many city resident volunteers, the lake's waters have become clearer and its natural ecosystem is recovering. The endangered green algae species *Nitella inokashiraensis*, for example, was discovered for the first time in fifty-nine years. The upcoming *kaibori* will be the third one that was scheduled for the hundredth anniversary celebration. Inokashira Lake will be empty until early March to dry the bottom of the lake. Don't miss this opportunity to see a different side of Inokashira Park.

### What Is *Kaibori*?

*Kaibori* is an ancient practice across Japan in which the waters of reservoirs for agriculture were drained to maintain equipment and remove accumulated sludge. Now it also refers to the same practice at lakes in parks and other areas to improve water quality and remove invasive species.



A city resident volunteers to help remove fish

## Influenza Immunizations Expense Subsidy for the Elderly Is Available until January 31 (Wed.)

**Inquiries:** Public Health Promotion Section, Ext. 4202

**Available period:** Until January 31 (Wed.)

**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.

**Immunization locations:** Cooperating medical institutions in the city (please view the city website for more information)

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

**Immunization fee:** Personally-borne expense of ¥2,500 (The subsidy can be used only once. Please pay the fee at the medical institution you visit.)

**Immunization procedures:** At the medical institution, 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.

## Celebrating the Coming of Adulthood

**Inquiries:** Child and Youth Section, Ext. 2713

In Japan, adulthood legally begins at twenty years of age. The coming-of-age ceremony is a New Year's tradition, a gathering of new adults dressed in colorful kimonos or new suits. Mitaka City conducts a festive gathering for those who have turned or will turn twenty during the year. An executive committee composed mainly of new adults is planning fun programs, so please come join the fun to celebrate your new status.

**Date and time:** January 8 (national holiday), from 1:00 to 3:30 p.m. (reception opens at 12:30 p.m.)

**Eligibility:** Those born between April 2, 1997 and April 1, 1998

**Location:** Mitaka City Public Hall "Hikari" and "Sansan-kan"

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

**Notes:**

1. Admission to the main venue ("Hikari") is on a first-come, first-served basis. If the hall reaches capacity, you will be guided to a broadcast venue ("Sansan-kan").
2. Please contact the Child and Youth Section if you did not receive an invitation or currently live outside Mitaka but would like to participate.
3. No parking is available, only space for dropping people off and picking them up.

## FY2018 Elementary School Enrollment for Foreign Resident Children

If you have not completed the designated procedures yet, please do so as soon as possible.

**Inquiries:** School Affairs Section, Ext. 3232

**Eligibility:** Children born between April 2, 2011 and April 1, 2012 who do not have Japanese citizenship but live in Mitaka City and who want to attend a Mitaka municipal elementary school from April 1, 2018.

**Application:** Bring your child's residence card or other identification that can confirm your child's name, date of birth, sex and address to the School Affairs Section (Education Center interim building 1F).

## Mitaka City Osamu Dazai Literature Salon and Shinjuku City Hayashi Fumiko Memorial Hall Cooperative Exhibition Dazai and Fumiko

**Inquiries:** Osamu Dazai Literature Salon, Tel: 0422-26-9150

Author Fumiko Hayashi (1903–1951) wrote many timeless masterpieces, such as the best-seller *Horoki* (Diary of a Vagabond), which was adapted as a play. Osamu Dazai (1909–1948) wrote *Shayo* (The Setting Sun), which became a best-seller after World War II, and he remains popular.

Until now, the relationship between these two writers has rarely been spotlighted. However, Dazai visited Fumiko's home and was close to her family, and his masterpiece *Viyon no Tsuma* (Villon's Wife) was a product of their friendship, with Fumiko working on the binding and illustrations, which is made clear in her recollections.

This year marks the milestone seventieth anniversary of the publication of *Viyon no Tsuma*. We hope this joint exhibition will reveal the close ties between these two famed authors.

**Date and time:** Until February 25 (Sun.), 10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

**Closed:** Mondays (if Monday is a national holiday, then the salon will be open on Monday and closed on Tuesday and Wednesday), year-end/New Year holiday

**Location:** Osamu Dazai Literature Salon (Gran Jardin Mitaka 1F, 3-16-14 Shimorenjaku)

## Events of Mitaka City Sports and Culture Foundation

**Mitaka City Arts Center, ☎ 0422-47-5122**

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

**Closed:** January 1–4, 9, 10, 15, 22 and 29

**HP** <https://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"

## Tokyo Mitaka Philharmonia: The 76th Subscription Concert All Mozart Program

**March 11 (Sun.) from 3:00 p.m.** 

Tickets now on sale. All seats reserved.

**Prices (tax included):**

Members: S-seats: ¥4,500; A-seats: ¥3,600; Nonmembers: S-seats: ¥5,000; A-seats: ¥4,000; U-23 (23 years of age or younger): ¥3,000; Elementary to high school students in the city: ¥1,500 (Only if accompanied by a person who purchased member or nonmember tickets. Please reserve over the phone. Junior high school students and older should bring some form of identification to the event.)

**Performed by:**

Ryusuke Numajiri (music director and conductor)

Tokyo Mitaka Philharmonia (orchestra)

**Program:**

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart:

Divertimento in D, K.136

Sinfonia Concertante for Four Winds,

K.297b (Anh.C14.01): Ami Kaneko

(oboe), Yasue Sawamura (clarinet),

Hiroshi Kigawa (horn) and Tetsuya Cho

(bassoon)

Symphony No. 40 in G minor, K.550

The Tokyo Mitaka Philharmonia will present an all-Mozart program for the first time in about fifteen years. Please enjoy this concert, which will include his most popular masterpiece, Symphony No. 40.



Ryusuke Numajiri



## Information

Information about Mitaka International Society for HOspitality

**MISHOP Office**

**Days:** Monday through Saturday (Closed on Sundays, national holidays and Dec. 29 through Jan. 3)

**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

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

**Established:** November 23, 1989

### Population and Number of Households As of December 1, 2017

Numbers in brackets are changes from previous month.

**Number of Registered Residents 186,388 persons (-56)**

**Number of Households 93,005 households (-61)**

