

Nakazato Elementary School

Nakazato Elementary School (founded in July, 1900) is a small school of 59 pupils and 12 teachers. It is located in the northwest part of Hitachi, and is surrounded by mountains. A kindergarten is built right next to the elementary school. Almost all of the elementary school pupils are graduates of this kindergarten. Various joint events such as school lunches are held between these two schools. In this elementary school, second and third graders study as one class due to an especially small number of students.



What do the teachers think about the influence of a small-scale school on their pupils? "Our children are really blessed to be taught sufficiently, but at the same

time there is a lack of hard work. They rarely go through tough life experiences in this mild environment so we try to provide them with challenging lessons in class. The teachers know all the students so we must be very careful not to label them. Teachers discuss and try to understand them from different point of views." says the vice-principal.

What are the school days like? Let us introduce some of the interesting events of this school. On the occasion of the school trip to Tokyo for sixth graders, they do not charter a bus but use the JR train to get there. And in Tokyo they move by public traffic facilities. Children must study the route and the price. They buy their tickets by themselves. These experiences foster feelings of independence.

In January, "Mayudama Shukai" is held. Mayudama is a cocoon-shaped rice cake. In many regions in Japan, they have a custom to decorate some kind of tree with mayudama on the fifteenth of January in the lunar calendar, and pray for a

good harvest of cocoons and crops. In spring, Nakazato children plant rice, and in autumn they harvest it. Using rice they harvested, they made rice cake and decorate trees with white and red mayudama. Parents, grand parents, and regional people gather together to "Mayudama Shukai" and have feast with children.

Stocking the Sato River in the neighborhood with salmon is also a splendid event for the children. Children get spawns and watch them grow into young fish, then release them at the appropriate time after measuring water temperature and making several observations. Through this experience, the children are able to see the wonder of life and find joy in observing living creatures.

There are three club activities in this school: sports, cooking/handicraft, and illustration. Some boys and girls belong to sports clubs outside the school or go to juku-school to further practice and study.

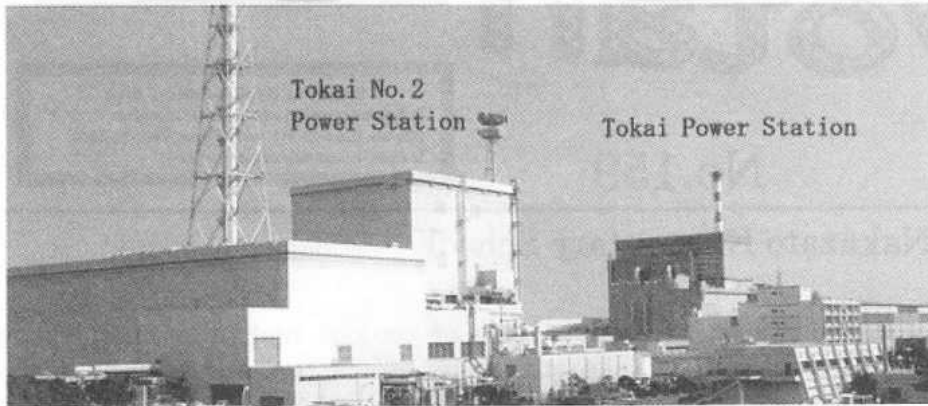
As for the school equipments, besides having a computer room, there are also computers in every classroom. All the teachers are good at operating the PC so it is an ideal situation for children to receive education on information technology.



Newsletters are issued once or twice a month to parents. They are also

circulated amongst the locals. Due to the decrease in the number of children, it is said that Nakazato Elementary School may be closed in the near future. The locals however strongly hope that the school will stay open even if the numbers go down, as the school is the center of the area.

Tokai TERRA park PR Pavilion of Tokai Power Station of The Japan Atomic Power Company



Our daily life depends greatly on the electricity. There is a nuclear power plant as one of the types of electric generation system. Nuclear power plants supply more than one third of total amount of electricity consumed in Japan. Since our daily life is made up by the various home appliances, it can be said that nuclear power is very familiar to us. There are 16 nuclear plants and 53 nuclear reactors in Japan.

The Tokai Power Station is located on the other side of Kuji river in a neighboring village, Tokai-mura. There are two reactors in Tokai Plant. The older one started operation in 1966 as the first commercial power reactor in Japan. It was already stopped and is in preparation for dismantlement. The second power station is the first large-scale nuclear power plant with BWR type reactor and its electric output is 1,100,000 kW.

There might be few people who know how the plant is managed and operated, and a mechanism of power station. So we will introduce a good place for you to learn these things. It is TERRA park, PR pavilion of Tokai Power Station.

The power plant is heavily guarded. The policemen of Ibaraki prefecture have been guarding in the premises since the simultaneous multiple terrorists act in 2001 in USA.

The patrol boat of the Japan Coast Guard has been observing for 24 hours on the sea. It is not permitted that the public visits the power plant itself.

However, everyone can easily visit TERRA park which is located on the left from the gate.

The name "Terra" comes from terra in Latin (earth) and emphasizes an ecological image of nuclear power. There are a lot of devices and mini theater to learn how nuclear power generation is managed there very safely. There are some games to get familiar with the science. And you can also see models of nuclear reactors. Moreover, there are

various devices so that children can enjoy just playing there.

There is a wading pool outside the building and many parents and children come there and have lunch in summer.

It was a fresh surprise to know you can spend your free time and relax so close to the power plant.

By the way, the total amount of radiation dose from the nuclear power plant is below 0.05Sv a year, which is the target value of the upper bound. It is said total radiation dose in daily life is 2.4 Sv for each person a year (Sv: Sievert, unit of radiation exposure). So you can understand that it is safe in the site.

You can also try measuring radiation of seaweeds and granite stone with a Geiger counter to realize that radiation exists everywhere in our life.

There may be a lot of people who feel insecure about nuclear power. But it is just no use worrying. Why don't you go to TERRA park and learn more?

Guide of Tokai TERRA park (Tokai PR Pavilion)

Address: 1-1 Shirakata, Tokai-mura, Naka-gun, Ibaraki 319-1198

Tel:029-287-1252 Fax:029-287-1299

Access: 10-min.Tokai Station, JR Joban Line

10-min. Drive from Hitachi Minami Ota IC, Joban Highway



Reservation is required only for a group.

From 9:00 am to 4:30 pm.

No holiday through the year except year-end and New Years day.

Hitachi - Bangladesh Culture Forum

In 1991, Mr. Christo Javacheff, a Bulgarian-born American artist, held a special event called "The Umbrellas" over the fields spanning from Hitachi-Ota to Hitachi and Satomi. A barbecue stand served by Mr. Shiina who is the current



president of Hitachi-Bangladesh Culture Forum marked a good start for cultural exchange between Japan and

Bangladesh thanks to a Bangladeshi with good Japanese ability. Currently its exchange programs are well under way. Mr. Mir Shamsud Doha, current General Secretary of Hitachi-Bangladesh Cultural Forum had proposed Mr. Ahmed Hussein, Commercial Councilor of Bangladeshi Embassy in Japan to establish the forum. Mr. Doha is a classmate of Mr. Hussein. The forum was commenced in 1997. Current members of the forum are Mr. Shiina, six Bangladeshi and five Japanese people.

Any Hitachi citizens who support the forum are welcome to sign up for a membership.

There will be no membership fee, however, registration fee for events will be charged as well as other required fees. With no special restrictions for the members, the forum should be relatively easy to join. The forum has family-based exchanges with Bangladeshi Embassy.

The main activities of the forum include visiting museums, organizing seminars at the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, hosting home stays as well as cooperating in festivals. Recently the forum participated in Asian forum, 100-year festival, Ikenokawa athletic day and so on. The Bangladeshi Ambassador and his wife visited Hitachi Sakura Festival held this spring.

Future goals are to create exchange opportunities for promoting sports, school activities and paintings. More active promotion is planned in advertising food and handicraft and organizing exhibition of local products.

The Japan-Bangladesh Friendship Society was founded in 2004

Address: 10-16 1 chome Kamine-cho Hitachi 317-0064

Tel&Fax 0294-22-1572

Contact person: Mr. Tohru Shiina

Japanese Culture and Social Customs Part 5

Good luck symbols The Raccoon dog (Tanuki たぬき)

What do you think of when you think of a raccoon dog? Is it a humorous, roly-poly animal with a potbelly, or a crafty creature that tricks people? When people from other countries come to Japan, they often see statues that look like little dogs or badgers standing outside of restaurants and shops and they wonder what they are. These statues are raccoon dogs. They are popular amongst the Japanese because their plump and happy looking appearances are believed to be symbols of good luck. "Ta-nuki" in Japanese means, "overtaking other people". When you look at the statues carefully, you will notice that they put on a hat that protect them against the misfortunes, and stand with an amiable look, having a bankbook in their right hand and a sake bottle in their left. These figures represent symbol of good business.

In Japanese folk stories, both foxes and raccoon dogs are known to trick people. They often change their appearances to play tricks on travelers. Therefore, these animals do not represent a good image. However, a raccoon dog, unlike a fox, which is something to be fearful of, is humorous in his



tricks. The "Bunbuku Chagama" is a well-known, funny tale about a raccoon dog. One day a poor old man found a raccoon dog that had been caught in a trap. He set it free. The grateful animal wanted to do something in return for his kindness, so it turned itself into a teakettle and made the kind man wealthy. "Bunbuku" means to spread happiness and "Chagama" means a teakettle. Since olden times the tanuki has enjoyed sake. They often change into human form, and pay for their drinks with money that turns out to be tree leaves. Even now, some brands of Japanese whiskey are called TANUKI. There are various words related to tanuki, for example, tanuki-neiri (pretending to be asleep), and tanuki-oyaji (a sly old man). Raccoon dog figures are occasionally used for souvenirs, housewarming gifts and for celebrating opening of new stores.

Events

Date	Event & Main Attractions	Place	Admission	Inquiry
2 nd (Sun) 10:00-	Charity Bazaar by the Liaison of Various Woman Parties	Josei(Women) Center (About 2000 articles)	Free	Josei (Women) Center Tel 42-4587
6 th (Wed)-10 th (Su) 10:00-	Photo Exhibition by Ibaraki Branch of Nika-kai Photo. Sec.	Hitachi Civic Center Gallery	Free	Hitachi Civic Center Tel 24-7711
10 th (Sun) 9:30-14:00	Worldwide Cooking Club "Indonesian Cooking"	Ohse Fure-ai Plaza (Quota: 20)	¥1500	Friendly Anzu (Ms. Kozuka) Tel 22-4843
10 th (Sun) 13:00-	Piano Concert by Ms. Reiko Muto & Ms. Tomiko Suzuki	Hitachi Civic Center Multi-purpose Hall	Free	Hitachi Civic Center Tel 24-7711
16 th (Sat) 8:30-13:00	Ground-Golf Meeting by Teams (A team is of 2-3 persons)	"Shimin Undo Koen" Athletics Stadium	¥200 (per person)	Hitachi Athletes Assoc. Tel 36-6661
18 th (NH) 14:00-	"Keiko Ohoka Ballet Institute" Ballet Recital	Hitachi Public Hall	Free	Hitachi Public Hall Tel 22-6481
21 st (Thu)-24 th (Sun) 10:00-	Oil Paintings Exhibition by Churchill-kai in Hitachi	Hitachi Civic Center Gallery	Free	Hitachi Civic Center Tel 24-7711
23 rd (Sat)-24 th (Sun)10:30-	"Summer Concert" by Yamaha Music Co. in the Kanto region	Hitachi Civic Center Music Hall	Free	Hitachi Civic Center Tel 24-7711
24 th (Sun) 9:00-16:00	Family Mini Soccer Meeting (A team is of 5-12 persons)	"Shimin Undo Koen" Athletics Stadium	¥3000 (per team)	Hitachi Athletes Assoc. Tel 36-6661
28 th (Thu) 9:00-16:00	"Mobile Class for Citizens" (Study on Civic Facilities, etc.)	Bus Tour around 4-5 Sites in Hitachi	Free	Public Relations Sec. in CH Tel: Ex. 566

NH: National Holiday

C.H.: City Hall (Tel: 22-3111) * High school student and younger

Japanese Language Classes

NAME	LOCATION	DATE & TIME	Fee	Contact
Sakura	Shichokaku Center etc.	Saturday 10:00-11:30	¥1,800/semester	Ms. Haruko Yada Tel (0294) 36-3529
		Thursday 10:00-11:30	¥1,800/semester	
Sakura (Kanji)	Kyoiku Plaza	Friday 10:00-11:30	¥1,800/semester	
Anzu	Shichokaku Center	Tuesday 19:00-20:45	¥300/month Ms. Keiko Kanaoka	Mr. Shichizoh Kohsaka Tel/Fax (0294) 35-3989 Kohsaka73@ybb.ne.jp
	Kyoiku Plaza	Friday 14:00-16:00	Tel/Fax (0294)42-8176	

Emergency Doctors on Duty

Hitachi uses a system called "TOBAN-I". The doctors in the city take turns standing by for emergency patients from 9:00 to 16:00 on Sundays and national holidays. .

Surgeons

July	Hospital Name	Address	Tel
3	Hitachi sakura	Tajiri-cho	43-200
10	Hitachi-kita	Kawajiri-cho	43-6555
17	Murai Geka	Omika-cho	52-2191
18	Owada Geka	Okubo-cho	33-2367
24	Kawasaki Ichou	Sakuragawa-cho	36-1800
31	Koizumi Ichou	Wakaba-cho	22-5960

Physicians, Pediatricians and Dentists seven days a week-Hitachi Medical Center (5-1-1 Higashitaga-cho)
Tel 0294-34-2105

Movies in July

Theater	Day	Titles (Original Titles)
Cinefesta 1&2	-	Densha Otoko[J] Million Dollar Baby[E] Ladder 49[E]
Hitachi Central	-8 9-	Sengoku Jieitai[J] Star Wars Episode III[E]
Aigakan 1&2	- -28	War of the Worlds[E] Yokkakan no Kiseki[J]

J: Japanese E: English

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