

Hyotan

No.160

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Preschool Education Now Juo Kindergarten

Yamano-o gakuen Juo kindergarten is located near JR Juo station in a quiet neighborhood, surrounded by the fields and private residences. It began in April 1970. Juo cho was the southern tip of Joban coal complex around that time. There were no kindergartens around Juo area. The founders Mr. and Mrs. Kashimura thought children of the people who worked for the complex needed educational opportunity, so they built a kindergarten house in their paulownia tree field in front of their house. It was a tiny kindergarten with a total of 30 children, and at that time most of the children attended only one year before



entering an elementary school.

The name "Yamano-o gakuen" was named by the present principle Mrs. Masako Kashimura, whose husband is a son of the founders. This name originated from the castle "Yamano-o Jo" which used to exist around the premises of the present Juo junior high school from 1371 to the early Edo period. Mrs. Kashimura wishes that people would not forget the history. She also hopes that the children would acquire the attitude to be good leaders like the lord of a castle.

Presently, there are 270 children and a staff of 29 in this kindergarten, and it is possible for children to go to kindergarten for three years before entering an elementary school. The kindergarten has clean and lovely classrooms, and spacious garden with trees and flowers of the season so that children can enjoy playing there.

The educational goals of the kindergarten are to educate students to be as follows:

1) Children who can think and act by themselves,

- 2) Spiritually rich, cheerful children who can be moved and have a sense of love and gratitude
- 3) Healthy children in both body and soul.

The usual curriculum of education are playing freely in the yard, applying activities that uses the educational materials called "SI" (structure of intellect) based on Dr. Guilford's theory. Students take part in physical education, receive lessons on drumming and keyboard playing. They have a chance to learn from native speakers of English while enjoying English games. Tea ceremony activities are taught under the tuition of qualified teachers from Urasenke school in a serene teahouse.

In addition to the above activities, there are various seasonal events. The main events are the athletic festival and the performance for Christmas, in which all the children cooperate and feel a sense of accomplishment. Parents help make costumes before these events. Other events are excursions, bamboo shoots gathering, potato digging, and mandarin picking.

It sounds like hard work to carry out all those curriculum and events, but the teachers work with zest whenever they are in the kindergarten.

Juo kindergarten has recently introduced "kyushoku", lunch service by the meal center, as a part of food education.

As part of the child support program in Hitachi City, Juo kindergarten takes care of children after classes until 6:00pm for parents who are busy with work. They hold pre-kindergarten playrooms three times a month, and also provide telephone consultation service on raising children for parents in the neighborhood.

It is very convenient that various



extracurricular activities such as music class, soccer club, gymna

stics club and more (which needs tuition fee) are available to join inside or near the kindergarten.

Juo kindergarten always tries to take in the latest idea for the benefit of the children, and on the other hand it also maintains an atmosphere of rich nature that has been unchanged since olden times.

“Sakura” Volunteer Network for International Exchange

In 1988, the International Exchange Section was set up in the Hitachi City Office and an appeal was sent out to the people of Hitachi for cooperation in a variety of exchange programs. In response to this, “Sakura” was formed in November, 1990. The group’s name “Sakura” comes from the cherry blossoms, which are the symbolic flower of Hitachi. There are 65 members of Sakura at the moment and anyone who is interested in working on a voluntary basis can join the group with membership fee of ¥1200 a year.

The aim of the group is to “Enliven international cultural exchange activity in Hitachi based on the efforts of its members however small”. Following this principle, they have developed various activities in the following five areas.

- 1) Promotion of international exchange and understanding through language
 - Japanese language classes
 - A speech contest entitled “Foreigners Express Their Opinions in Japanese”
 - A conversation circle named “Talkative Ladies Club”
- 2) Support for foreign students, residents and international cooperation
 - The Sakura charity bazaar
 - Donations to UNICEF, refugee support groups, etc.
- 3) Education and training for international understanding
 - Visits to other international exchange groups
 - Lecture meetings and mini-salon discussions
- 4) Promotion of cultural exchange
 - The introduction and practice of traditional Japanese cultural activities such as cooking, music and arts
- 5) Home stays and Home visits
 - Acting as hosts for foreign students, residents and visitors from sister cities

Among these activities, Japanese language classes and the annual speech contest started in

1991 are widely known by most people in Hitachi. The Sakura award, the 1st place and other awards are chosen by the votes of a large audience. The comments by a guest speaker and the audiences’ impression or remarks are put together by Sakura members and are given to the participants later. As for Home visits, some foreigners, who live in Japan for several years and yet had no chance to visit Japanese homes, expressed how happy they



were to be invited to a Japanese home for the first time.

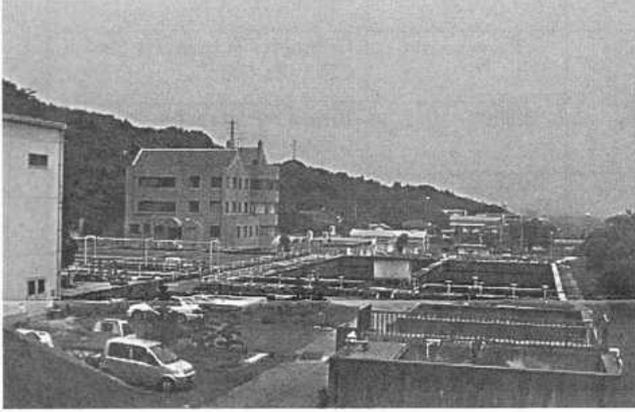
The wording “International Exchange” might lead you to overestimate the scope of Sakura’s activities, in actual fact, Sakura has been maintained by the persistent efforts of its members. Each member takes charge of the work according to their own capabilities. They act on the principle that even the smallest effort will be helpful to someone somewhere. This would be a great opportunity for you to enlighten yourself by taking part in a variety of activities and by being responsible for overseeing different aspects of the group’s work. Therefore Sakura would be most happy to welcome you as a new member of its organization.

Visiting Moriyama Filtration Plant

The water for the 200,000 or so people living in Hitachi is supplied through two filtration plants, Moriyama and Juo. The Moriyama plant takes water from the Kuji River and Juo from the Juo River. Moriyama Filtration Plant can process 108,000 tons of pure water a month at most, whilst it usually processes 60,000 tons a month. Juo can process 16,000 tons on a regular basis.

Nowadays we can get water from the faucet whenever we want, so we don’t really care or appreciate that fact. Seawater evaporates and changes into rain, then the rain falls on the earth

becoming a little stream, and then a river. Then the rivers flow into the sea. Thanks to this cycle of nature, we can get water for farming, manufacturing, drinking, and for many other purposes. It means that we really do owe our lives without a doubt to water. Water is really a necessary and indispensable natural resource. We should have a little more respect for water, as it is such an important lifeline for us.



At the filtration plant, waters taken from the river is lead to reservoirs and there, mud and dirt are removed by allowing them to settle first and then by filtering them. After the water becomes pure it is disinfected. It takes about 12 to 15 hours for crude water to become drinkable and thus ready for supply. The sediment which is a bi-product of the water purifying process is used as a source material for cement or as horticultural soil.

There are 24 members of staff at Moriyama Filtration Plant. They are making efforts night and day to supply us with clean water. This is very hard work but it gives them a lot of pride and pleasure to supply clean and delicious water to the people of Hitachi.

Thanks to our visit to the plant this time, we came to understand well that the water we use every day doesn't just appear miraculously but is provided through the pain and hard work of these staff. We should therefore be all the more thankful and use water considerably.

Have you ever thought about the quality level of Hitachi's water? Do you think it is high level? It is as clear and pure as the water of the Shimanto River which is famous for its clear water and according to the plant staff, it is among the highest quality water in Japan. So we should feel a lot more proud of our water!

The day before we visited the plant, it had rained heavily and water from the river was very muddy. The staff showed us an experiment to purify muddy water using PAC (poly aluminum chloride), that is a coagulant used in reality. A few minutes later, the dirty brown water in the beaker became clear with the dregs settled at the

bottom before our eyes. We could really understand the filtration process thanks to this experiment.

About 1200 to 1300 Elementary school children visit Moriyama Filtration Plant every year as part of their studies. We recommend you adults to visit there once and observe the equipment and the staff's work. (if you wish to do this you will have to make a reservation in advance). It's definitely worth a visit and you'll learn a lot about our precious water.

Address: 4-4-1, Moriyama-cho, Hitachi (Turn west at the Calculation Center on Route 6, you'll be there in a few minutes by car).

Tel: 0294-52-3628

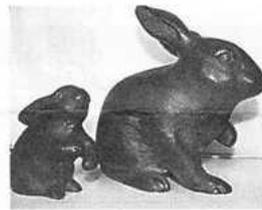
Japanese Culture and Social Customs

Part 5 Good luck symbols

The Rabbit (Usagi うさぎ)

What do you think when you think of a rabbit? Do you think of a gentle, tame and cute animal? Since olden times, rabbits have been considered very lucky animals, as they are associated with spring because they hop freely through the field. They are also symbols of good news collectors and good listeners because of their long ears. By the way, there is a belief that a rabbit's foot is a symbol of luck among the native Americans. When a rabbit runs, its hind feet go ahead of its front ones. Therefore, the hind feet are considered lucky. The rabbit's foot amulet is popular amongst the Americans at present. It is usually carried on a key chain or worn on a necklace to ward off accidents and evil, and increase good luck.

There are several ancient traditions related to rabbits in Japan. When people see the pattern on the moon surface, they used to believe that there were rabbits in it and that they were pounding steamed rice into cake. It is said that it looks like a big crab in



China and a woman's profile in the West. What is the lunar surface pattern like in your country?

"The Hare and the Tortoise" is a well-known, funny Aesop's Fable. One day the hare teased the tortoise about being so slow, and they ran to the top of the hill. The hare was sure he would win, and lay down by the wayside on the way, and fell asleep. After a while, the hare noticed that he had overslept, and dashed for the goal in a fluster, but it was too late. The hare learned that overconfidence is a source of downfall.

》》》》 INFORMATION September 2005 》》》》

Events

Date	Event & Main Attractions	Place	Admission	Inquiry
3 rd (Sat) 14:00-16:00	Harmonica Charity Concert in 2005 by Pros & Amateurs	Hitachi Civic Center Music Hall	¥1000 ¥300 (student)	Hitachi Civic Center Tel 24-7711
8 th (Thu)-11 th (Su)	"Photographing Mt Nasu & Surroundings"	Hitachi Civic Center Gallery	Free	Hitachi Civic Center Tel 24-7711
10 th (Sat) 12:00-20:00	"YOKAPPE" Festival (to be put off till 11 th if rainy)	Along Yokappe Street & Around	Free	Yokappe Info Center Tel 34-5181
10 th (Sat) 17:00-21:00	Night Bazaar at Hitachi Ginza	My Mall & Hitachi Ginza Mall	Free	Commerce & Industry Sec. in CH Ex.566
10 th (Sat) 9:30-13:00	"Herb School" at Kirara no-sato Park in Deep Hitachi	Kirara Hall of the Park	¥2000	Kirara no-sato Adm. Office Tel 24-2424
15 th (Thu) 10:00-12:00	Let's Enjoy Indian Cooking with Chats in English	Josei (Womens') Ctr. (9/15, 9/26, 10/6, 10/20)	¥4900 for 4 lessons	Josei Center Tel 36-0554
18 th (Sun) 14:30-	Regular Concert by Hitachi Citizens Mixed Chorus	Hitachi Civic Center Music Hall	¥800	Hitachi Civic Center Tel 24-7711
18 th (Sun) 10:00-	Citizens' Bowling Tournament (doubles matches)	Karashima Bowling Alley (Ishinazaka-cho)	¥2000 ¥1050(student)	Hitachi Bowling Assoc. Takahashi Tel 34-0101
20 th (Tue) 13:30-15:30	Ceramics Class by Mr. Haruki Kozono (Civic Professor)	Namekawa Public Hall (9/20,10/11,10/25)	¥2500 for 3 lessons	Namekawa P.H. Tel 22-1654
25 th (Sun) 5:30-9:00(?)	Let's Experience "Ohse" Fixed Netting on Fishing Boat	Meeting at 5:00 am in Ohse Fishing Port	¥2000 per person	Agr, Forestry, Fisheries Sec. in CH Ex.472

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	Mr. Shichizoh Kohsaka Tel/Fax (0294) 35-3989 Kohsaka73@ybb.ne.jp
	Kyoiku Plaza	Friday 14:00-16:00	Ms. Keiko Kanaoka 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

Sep.	Hospital Name	Address	Tel
4	Takayama Seikei	Namekawa-cho	24-5005
11	Kujichinone HP	Kuji-cho	52-2119
18	Hitachi Ko HP	Kuji-cho	52-3576
19	Yamate HP	Chikoku-cho	33-2121
23	Kuriyama Seikei	Hidaka-cho	42-8100
25	Naito Seikei	Higashi-onuma-cho	53-1833

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

Movies in September

Theater	Day	Titles (Original Titles)
Cinefesta 1&2 Tel:21-7472	-	Soreike Anpanman [J]
	-	Pocket Monster [J]
	-	Hoshi ni Natta Shonen [J]
	-	Aimless Aegis [J]
Hitachi Central Tel:21-1386	-	Star Wars III [E]
Aigakan 1&2 Tel:23-2323	-	Konjiki no Gashbell [J]
	-	The War of the Worlds [E]
	-	Naruto [J]
	-	Densha Otoko [J]

J: Japanese E: English

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Thank you for reading the Hyotan. If you'd like to inquire about anything, please send us a letter, fax or e-mail. Any subject is welcome. We look forward to receiving your letter.