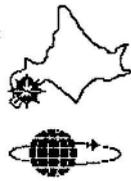


# MURORAN TIMES



December 1, 2010 No.253  
Muroran City Office 1-2 Saiwai-cho, Muroran,  
Hokkaido 051-8511 JAPAN <0143-22-1111>

## News and Topics

### Hydrogen Hybrid Truck

The test drive of a new hydrogen hybrid truck took place from November 15<sup>th</sup> through 24<sup>th</sup> within Muroran city. This was the first trial of its kind nationwide. Three facilities, Muroran Institute of Technology, Muroran City Office and Tokyo City University (which developed the hybrid engine) held this test drive to enlighten the public and promote the use of hydrogen as an energy source. The hydrogen hybrid truck is equipped with four tanks containing hydrogen compressed by 350 times. In conjunction with an electric motor, the truck can run for 120km before the energy needs to be replaced. The test vehicle was a truck for home-delivery service of a store (CO-OP Sapporo) running within Muroran. This test drive enabled the facilities involved to make an appeal for hydrogen energy and to collect running performance data. The president of Tokyo City University, Mr. Watanabe, commented that the hybrid engine has 90% of an ordinary diesel hybrid engine in horsepower and is completely safe. It is hoped that the practical use of the vehicle a pioneer in contributing to a low-carbon society.



国内で初めてとなる水素ハイブリッド・トラックの  
走行試験が先月、10日間にわたって室蘭市内で  
行われました。

### “Don Quixote” Comes to Muroran

The general super-market, Nagasaki-ya, which is under the umbrella of “Don Quixote Co., Ltd.”, reopened in Nakajima, Muroran, on November 5<sup>th</sup>, after a full renewal. The discount store, “Don Quixote”, opened a shop at the third floor of the store. This is the very first case nation-wide of combining Nagasaki-ya and “Don Quixote”.

The food corner on the first floor of the department store has been enlarged by 1.5 times. Various vegetables and fruits are there. Next to the food-corner, high-quality goods such as bedclothes and towels are selling well. At the same time, “Don Quixote” is cheaply selling 30,000 items such as home electric appliances, clocks, jewelries, toys, commodity goods, sports goods etc. Nagasaki-ya said they wanted to attract both the young and the old. The store is open from 9:00a.m. to 11:00p.m.

長崎屋室蘭中島店が全館リニューアルオープン  
し、ディスカウントストアのドン・キホーテが3  
階部分に出店しました。

### Danpara Skiing Ground Homepage

Danpara skiing ground in Muroran has opened a homepage for the first time.

Ski slope information such as weather, snow condition, lift charge, rental price of ski gear and access to the skiing ground are listed on the homepage.

If you print out the “WEB discount ticket” from the homepage and take it to the skiing ground, you can get a discount on the lift charges. The opening of a homepage is in response to the request of patrons of Danpara. In the future, information about skiing lessons will also be listed. The homepage URL is:

<http://danparaski.web.fc2.com/>

むろらんしな  
室蘭市内の「だんパラ・スキー場」では、新たにホームページを開設し、ゲレンデ情報や料金などがわかるようにしました。

## Information and Invitations

### The 75th anniversary in open station

#### Magic Show

[Date] December 11(Sat) 1:30p.m. ~  
[Place] Bokoi Station  
[More Information] Mr.Nigishi (Tel:  
0143-23-3801)

#### Experience MOCHITSUKI

(pounding steamed rice)  
[Date] December 19(Sun) 10:00a.m. ~  
12:30p.m.  
[Admission Fee] 300 yen  
[Limit] first 20 people  
[Application] by telephone from December 1  
[More Information] Muroran Historical  
Museum (Tel: 0143-59-4922)



### Final Count Down to 2011 at

#### Hakucho Bay Bridge

[Date] December 31(Fri) 10:30p.m. ~  
[Place] near Hakucho Bridge Memorial Hall  
(Shukuzu-cho)  
[Contents] Count down, Fireworks, Lottery  
\*You can get the fireworks information from  
FM ひびく(84.2MHz)  
[Tickets] Lottery ticket is 500 yen. You can get  
a ticket at Hakucho Bridge Memorial Hall,  
Muroran Sightseeing Association,  
Puratto Tetsuichi in Wanishi and also you  
can get a ticket on that day.  
[More Information] Hakucho Bay Bridge  
Countdown Executive Committee Secretariat  
(Tel: 0143-42-4910)

### Sun Life Muroran's Course

#### • Calendar made with personal computer

##### Course

[Date] December 11(Sat) 1:30p.m. ~3:30p.m.

[Limit] 5 people \* by lottery

if number of applicants exceeds 5

[Admission Fee] 800 yen

#### • Hand-made Noodle Course

[Date] December 12(Sun) 9:30a.m. ~12:00noon

[Limit] 10 people \* by lottery

if number of applicants exceeds 10

[Admission Fee] 1000 yen

#### • Hand-made Bread Course

[Date] December 12(Sun) 9:30a.m,12:30p.m.  
3:30p.m. (Both courses last for about two hours)

[Limit] 6 people for each time slot \* by lottery

if number of applicants exceeds 6

[Admission Fee] 1700 yen

[Application] by telephone until December 6

[More Information] Sun Life Muroran

(Kouhoku-cho)

(Tel: 0143-55-3040)



### Computer Graphic Postcard Work Exhibition

[Contents] Postcard that elementary and  
the junior high school students in *Iburi* produced  
with

the personal computer are exhibited.

[Date] December 18 (Sat) – January 8(Sat)

10:00a.m.~ 4:00p.m.

[Place] Muroran Science Museum

[Entrance Fee] 300 yen for adults, 100 yen for  
high school students

(under junior high school age and over 70 years  
old: free)

[More Information] Muroran Science Museum

(Tel: 0143-22-1058)

# Japanese Lesson

## “Nihongo de hanasou”

<Topic of the month>

**Christmas in Japan** : 日本のクリスマス

### Vocabulary

annual event : 年中行事 [nentyu gyouji]

religion : 宗教 [shukyou] \*

celebrate : 祝う [iwau] \*

church : 教会 [kyoukai]

hymn : 賛美歌 [sanbika]

Christmas tree : クリスマスツリー

decoration : 飾り [kazari]

angel : 天使 [tenshi]

candle : ろうそく [rousoku]

fireplace : 暖炉 [danro]

exchanging gifts : プレゼント交換 [present koukan]

family gathering : 家族団らん [kazoku danran]

feast : ごちそう [gochisou]

### Phrases

(1) 「日本ではクリスマスを祝いますか。」

[nihon dewa kurisumasu wo iwai masuka]

How do you celebrate Christmas in Japan?

(2) 「宗教に関係なく、沢山の人がクリスマスを楽しみます。」

[shukyou ni kankei naku takusan no hito ga kurisumasu wo tanoshimi masu]

Many people enjoy Christmas regardless of religion.

### Explanation

Christmas has become one of the popular

annual events in Japan. Families and friends usually get together on Christmas Eve. Especially families with children enjoy exchanging gifts and eating Christmas cake. Christmas in Japan is also a time for love and romance. Many young couples enjoy a special Christmas date during this time.

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## Interview

**Konnichiwa “Muroranese”** [Vol.15]

*Mark Hochstetler*



*interviewed by Mike Nima*

Mark Hochstetler is from Mackinaw, Illinois, in the U.S. He's been living in Muroran since March 2009. He teaches English as an ALT for the Muroran Board of Education. He also gives private eikaiwa lessons. We talked about his experiences in the serene lobby of the Shiminkaikan in Wanishi. (Last of three parts)

*What kind of advice or suggestions would you give to someone who hasn't met or talked with a lot of foreigners?*

Don't be shy. If you want to ask something, ask. Try to be polite and don't make assumptions. Do your best to communicate. You don't need to be able to speak English to communicate. Humans can communicate without language and words. When I first came to Japan, I hardly spoke any Japanese. But when I'd go out, I would end up spending three hours talking to someone. Communication goes both ways. Be natural, don't be shy, and try!

*Now you've lived in Japan for over five years, and you're twenty-nine. So that's a pretty big chunk of your twenties. How has living in Japan affected you?*

Living in Japan has definitely broadened my view of the world and my thinking on life. Living in America—if you haven't left America—you can have a very narrow view. Before, I didn't know anything about Japan or the rest of the world besides what I saw on the news. So now I am definitely more eco-friendly, and my view is more open to the world. If you stay in your country your whole life, it's the same as keeping your eyes closed. When you actually go somewhere else, the different culture, the different people, everything actually opens your eyes to a completely new world and makes life more exciting.

*How is Japan doing in terms of having ecological and environmental awareness?*

I've been particularly impressed by Muroran. This year they are now recycling old boats—cutting them apart into scrap metal and then using it at the steel factories here in town. I believe it's a trial for one year. Also, Shinnitetsu has apartment buildings for its employees that are heated by pipes that run from the factory. Windmills have been popping up more in Muroran. I think Japan's thinking is ahead of the game, and people realize that being eco is a good thing. Plastic bags cost money now. Two years ago, you could still get them for free at the grocery store. I think biodiesel is advancing quickly. There are some backward steps—over packaging, obviously, and separating your garbage when most of it goes to the incinerator anyways. But people are aware, and that's the biggest thing.

*How has your perspective of the US changed since living abroad?*

I still love America as a country, and I think the freedom there is fantastic. There are things about both the US and Japan that I really like

and things that I really dislike. If the two countries could put all their good things together, it would be a great country.

*What do you find different about communicating in Japanese versus English?*

I'm used to communicating in Japanese all the time now, so sometimes English words don't come out as easily—the Japanese word will come out. It could be my Japanese isn't good enough yet, but it seems more simple, rigid and structured. There are different levels of politeness. I like English better because I feel that it has more descriptive words for your feelings. In English, if you're angry, there are many different words you can use to describe that feeling in detail, to express that feeling, and to get it off your chest. There's the same thing with happiness. "I had such a fantastic time. I had a great time. I had a hell of a great time." You tell the way you feel in detail, whether your listener wants to hear it or not.

*What's your favorite Japanese food?*

Katsudon and katsu curry. I love sushi, and my favorite sushi is chuutoro. I like everything. I love vegetables and meat. I eat goya. I enjoy different foods.

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## Cinema Guide

### *Muroran Gekijo (Higashi-machi)*

1. HARRY POTTER AND THE HALF-BLOOD PRINCE  
(dubbed in Japanese)
2. RESIDENT EVIL: Afterlife  
(3D) (dubbed in Japanese)
3. DESPICABLE ME (3D) (dubbed in Japanese)
4. SPACE BATTLESHIP (Japanese)



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### About the Muroran Times

The Muroran Times is designed to bring information about local events to the international community of Muroran. Staff: Mitani Yoichi, Ishizawa Yuko, Yamashita Mayumi, Tagashira Kazui, Nomura Ikuko, Nakamura Mari, Naito Naoko, Mike Nima, English advisor: Jane Takizawa.