

MURORAN TIMES



July 1, 2011 No.260

Muroran City Office 1-2 Saiwai-cho, Muroran,
Hokkaido 051-8511 JAPAN <0143-22-1111>

News and Topics



Dispersing Sandbags

Muroran city office dispersed sandbags to neighborhood associations to prepare for heavy rain disaster. This step was taken due to the heavy rain disaster on August 11 of last year. The purpose of distributing sandbags at this time was to equip local neighborhoods beforehand to allow for greater cooperation when a disaster strikes. The disaster last year flooded a total of 195 houses, mainly in the Wanishi and Kohoku areas. Accordingly Muroran city office dispersed 2000 sandbags to 30 potential areas for flooding. Mr. Toshiaki Watanabe, the president of Wanishi Chuo-cho neighborhood association, said "It is indispensable for the administration and the citizens to cooperate with each other to prevent s disaster. The citizens should not only depend on the administration but should also be able to fend for themselves. Mr. Watanabe welcomed the action of the city.

むろらんしやくしょ おおあめさいがい そな ちょうないかい
室蘭市役所では大雨災害に備え、町内会などに
ど はいび
土のうを配備しました。

"Sun Kids" -- Supporting Child Care

"Sun Kids," located on the 5th floor of the Muroran municipal health center in Higashi-machi, has been well-received. Since its opening in November last year, 5000 people have used the facility, twice as many as was expected. The concept of this space is that of an indoor park, and was created in response to the comments of young parents that there was no place to take children during the winter or on rainy days. Sun Kids has two rooms for a

playing area, which has a ball pool and wooden toys, and another room where parents with child-rearing concerns can hear lectures. It is open three days a week, on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 10:00am- 4:00pm. A new project is a class on infant tooth brushing, which has been held from April.

うてんじ きがる あそ こそだ そうだん
雨天時でも気軽に遊べるスペースや子育て相談
などができる室内広場が好評です。



Sailing School is Popular

As summer is coming, B&G Kaiyo Center (a marine center) in Etomo-cho, Muroran is crowded with sailing students and sailing lovers. They enjoy sailing around Muroran Port on weekends.

Recently, sailing is getting popular among the citizens because it is good for one's health. The Center started sailing lessons from this May, and eight school children and 11 adults have joined so far.

Besides the sailing course, the Center has set up a club for other kinds of marine recreation and health lessons using an exercise bike. Each course still has some room for participants. For more information, call 0143-26-2082.

かいよう かいさい きょうしつ
B&G海洋センターで開催されているヨット教室の
にんき たか
人気が高まっています。

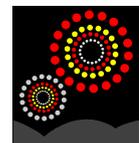


Information and Invitations

Muroran Port Festival <July 29-31>

<July 29>

Fireworks at the Central Wharf:
8:00 p.m. ~ 8:30p.m.



* Postponed to July 31 in case of rainy weather.

* Congestion is expected, and please use public transportation facilities.

<July 30>

(1) Dance (Muroran Bayashi and Hokkai Bon song) by the citizens of Muroran at Chuo-cho:
4:00 p.m. ~ 5:10 p.m.

*It may be cancelled in case of rain.

(2) Muroran NERIKOMI [Mikoshi Festival (portable shrines)] at Chuo-cho: 5:30 p.m.~

*It will be held even if there's light rainfall.

<July 31>

(1) Dance (Yosakoi Soran) in Muroran Nakajima-cho: 2:00 p.m. ~

Port Plaza in Central Wharf: 3:30p.m. ~

*It will be held even if there's light rainfall.

<July 29-31>

Stage and Big Markets will be open at Port Plaza in Central Wharf

Muroran Itanki Beach Open



[Date] July 23(Sat) –August 11(Thur)

[Information] Muroran Tourist Information (0143-23-0102)

General Opening of Cape-Chikyu Lighthouse



It is possible to go inside the lighthouse.

[Date] July 18(Mon) 10:00a.m. ~ 3:00p.m.

*It may be cancelled in case of heavy rain.

[Admission Fee] free

[Information] Muroran Maritime Safety Office (Tel: 0143-23-3133)

Cabin Cruiser Boat Experience



[Date] July 17(Sun)

① 9:45a.m.~ ② 10:45a.m.

[Conditions] elementary school children and over (schoolchildren must be accompanied by their parents)

[Course] ENRUMU Marina Muroran to Cape

Chikyu offing *The course may be changed

in case of stormy weather

[Limit] each 20 people *by lottery if number of applicants exceeds 20

[Admission Fee] free

[Application] Please fax or send a postcard with Representative's address, telephone number and name, sex, age of all who wish to ride on the boat,

and the desired embarkation time, to ENRUMU Marina Muroran by July 9

(〒051-0035 4-2-14 Etomo-cho, Muroran

室蘭市絵鞆町4-2-14 エンルムマリーナ)

[Information] ENRUMU Marina Muroran (Tel: 0143-27-4188 Fax: 0143-27-4173)

ENRUMU Marina Festival

[Date] July 17(Sun) 10:00a.m. ~ 3:00p.m.

[Place] ENRUMU Marina Muroran

[Contents] Fresh seafood market, Flea market, Yukie Hakamada Song Show, Dance (Yosakoi Soran) and etc. *It will be held indoors in case of rain. *The festival is looking for vendors for the flea market. A 2m area can be rented for 500 yen (2m×2m). Apply by telephone beforehand.

[Information] ENRUMU Marina Muroran (Tel: 0143-27-4188)

August 1st is the Anniversary of the Citizens Charter Enactment.

Facilities in the city are opened free of charge.

<Muroran Aquarium> 9:30a.m. ~5:00p.m. *

The amusement rides are excluded.

<Muroran Science Museum> 10:00a.m. ~5:00p.m.

* The planetarium is excluded.

<SUNLIFE Muroran> 9:00a.m. ~9:00p.m.

*Only the gym and the training room

<Muroran Gymnasium> 9:00a.m. ~9:00p.m.

<Irie Movement Park Athletic Field> 9:00a.m. ~7:00p.m.

<Irie Swimming Pool> 10:00a.m. ~9:00p.m.

<Nakajima Sports Center Pool> 10:00a.m. ~7:00p.m.

[More Information] Muroran citizens charter promotion conference (Tel: 0143-25-2380)

WANI(Wanishi-cho) Festival

<Stage and Outdoor Markets>

[Date] July 8 (Fri) 15:00 p.m.~

July 9 (Sat) 14:00 p.m. ~

[Place] Wanishi area

[Information] Mr. Yoneda (Tel: 0143-22-4095)



Muroran Bokoi jinja Shrine Festival

<Outdoor Markets>

[Date] July 17 (Sun) 12:00 noon ~,

July 18(Mon) 10:00a.m. ~

[Place] Bokoi Suzuran Street

[Information]Mr.Yoneda (Tel: 0143-22-4095)



The Citizens Firefly Observation Association

Are you interested in observing fireflies that shines their watery light?

Please come wearing your boots.

Take measures to protect yourself against insects.

[Date] July 20(Wed) ~ 31(Sun)

8:00p.m.~9:00p.m.



*It will be held even if there's rainfall.

[Place] Gate of Itanki beach parking lot

[Admission Fee] free

[Application] on that day

[More Information] NPO biotope Itanki in Muroran;

Mr. oonishi(Tel: 090-8637-8725)

Interview

Konnichiwa “Muroranese” [Vol.21]

Jonathan Mason



Interviewed by Mike Nima

Jonathan Mason is from Santa Ana, Orange County, California, USA. He works for the JET (Japan Exchange and Teaching) program for the Hokkaido Board of Education, and his base school is Akebi Secondary School.
(Final of three parts)

What is the utility of learning English in a country that can be described as relatively homogenous, culturally and linguistically?

I think part of it is that English is the *lingua franca* of the world. It's not in any guaranteed spot forever. It's not in any way superior to any other language, except that its history has

allowed it to proliferate throughout the world. People use Mandarin Chinese and Spanish in many places—they number even more than native English speakers, but they don't do international business in those languages. So with that history, English is important for international business, and if Japan wants to continue being the great economy that it is, its people know that they need to interact with foreign countries—with Korea or Singapore or Brazil. The way that they will communicate with those countries will be through English—or through many translators. Also, much of the research in the world—in Europe, the United States, Japan, China, and other countries—is done and discussed primarily in English, so it's important for that. For the student who is just going to sixth grade in elementary school and they are learning the alphabet and how to say *inu* in English, there's no real purpose, besides the fact that it will encourage an understanding of the world more. In that case, it could be any language besides English, and I think that would be appropriate. English just has a little more utility in the business spectrum.

What kind of Japanese music have you been listening to, and why?

The main music I know in Japan comes from *Naruto* or other animes where I hear them as intro songs or outro songs, and they aren't written only for the shows—they're regular songs used in the shows. That includes Iki Monogakari and Flo. I heard a band in Asahikawa at a festival, and we bought the CD—their name is Chuuru. I like them, and then my friend has introduced me to Monkey Magic, and I enjoy that music as well.

Karaoke is a Japanese invention. What do you think of it and its spread?

I think it's great. I love singing here with friends, and I hope that the karaoke box idea—which is coming more slowly in America—catches on, because I think it's much more fun to do it with the group you want to be with than in a random bar taking turns!

What are some aspects of Japanese culture that you're currently interested in?

I really enjoy learning the language. I'm studying kanji right now. Even though my grammar is probably what lacks the most, I'm most interested in being able to be a bit literate and understand the meanings behind the kanji and some of the history of why different etiquette is the way it is. I enjoy reading about Japanese culture, in its language and its traditions. And I very much enjoy 'igo'—in English the game is just 'go.' We play with black and white stones. I think it's a very fun game.

What do you miss most from home?

Driving my car and the variety of food. As much as I do love Japanese food, and there's great other foreign food here, like Nepalese curry and so on, I love the variety of food we have in the greater Los Angeles area. For example, different Mexican food, Tex Mex food, Japanese, Korean, Chinese food, in tons of different flavors, and just the huge variety of everything.

Japanese Lesson

“Nihongo de hanasou”

<Topic of the month>

Sightseeing : 観光 [kankou] (Part 2)

Vocabulary

tourist agency : 旅行会社 [ryokou gaisya]

tourist information center : 観光案内所 [kankou an-nai jyo]

“road station” : 道の駅 [michi no eki]

destination : 目的地 [mokuteki chi]

long-distance bus : 長距離バス [choukyori bus]

highway : 高速道路 [kousoku douro]

traffic sign : 道路標識 [douro hyoushiki]

traffic lights : 信号 [shingou]

stay : 宿泊する [syukuhaku suru]

Japanese style inn : 旅館 [ryokan]

hot spring : 温泉 [onsen]

world heritage : 世界遺産 [sekai isan]

national park : 国立公園 [kokuritsu kouen]

nature : 自然 [shizen]

souvenir : お土産 [omiyage]

Phrases

(1)「北海道の観光情報は地域の観光案内所で得るか、札幌駅の案内所が充実しています。」

[Hokkaido no kankou jyouhou wa chiiki no kankou an-naijyo de eru ka, Sapporo eki no an-naijyo ga jyuujitsu shiteimasu]

Hokkaido's tourism information is available at regional tourist information centers, or the one at Sapporo station provides very good information.

Explanation

July brings the pleasant but short summer time to Hokkaido. People go outside and enjoy outside activities such as hiking, mountain climbing, cycling, rafting, horseback-riding and camping. Furano is one of the most popular destinations of the season for its beautiful lavender carpeted hills and great scenery. Which place will be your next destination to spend your summer vacation?

About the Mutoran Times

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