

# MURORAN TIMES



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Hokkaido 051-8511 JAPAN <0143-22-1111>

## News and Topics



### Making Arrangement with Two Hospitals

Nikko Memorial Hospital (Akihito Yanagiya, director) in Muroran and Muroran City General Hospital (Tetsuo Kondo, director) concluded the arrangement “to collaborate in case of disaster” on January 12.

The two hospitals were designated as base hospitals for disasters, and it is the first time for such designated hospitals in Hokkaido to make this kind of an arrangement. This arrangement includes making preparations to receive invalids, dispatching Disaster Medical Assistance Teams (DMAT), holding joint training programs, and providing commodities such as medical instruments. In the future, it is hoped that this cooperation will bring about improved reception of injured persons and increase the number of lives saved in the case of a massive earthquake, or an eruption of Mt.Usu.



むろらんし につこうきねんびょういん しりつむろらんそうごうびょういん  
室蘭市にある日鋼記念病院と市立室蘭総合病院

は、さいがいじ たが しえん きょうてい むす  
は、災害時にお互いに支援するための協定を結び  
ました。

### The Employment Seminar at Muroran

## Institute of Technology

The career support center of Muroran Institute of Technology has started helping students with their job hunting in earnest. The job hunting is being held from January 21-February 23. On eight days during this time, joint enterprise seminars will be held for juniors in the undergraduate school, and graduate students in the master's course. Two hundred and thirty-eight enterprises are participating in the seminars, 20 more enterprises than last year. There is a tendency for smaller businesses to participate enthusiastically. In addition, the number of students who participated in the seminar last year was 8,015, an increase of 2,000 students from the previous year. This means that students are job hunting with a sense of crisis. It is likely that many students will participate in this year's seminar.

むろらんこうぎょうだいがく いちがつにしゅういちにち こうどうきぎょう  
室蘭工業大学では、1月21日から合同企業セミ  
ナーを開催するなど就職支援活動をスタートさせま  
した。

## Mobile Phone Watch the Elders

Muroran Social Welfare Council began to rent sensor-equipped mobile phones to the elders living alone in the city from February.

This mobile phone is equipped with the function that informs a family member or a social worker how many steps the elderly person has taken in a day. This rental service can confirm elders' safety and remove elders' anxiety about being alone.

The Social Welfare Council will prepare 50 mobile phones over two years, and the monthly fee is 1,500 yen.

むろらんししゃかい ふくしきょうぎかい ぐら  
室蘭市社会福祉協議会では、ひとり暮らしの  
こうれいしゃ みまも けいたいでんわ  
高齢者を見守るためのセンサーつき携帯電話の

か だ はじ  
貸し出しを始めました。

## Information and Invitations

### Free Consultations

[Date] February 12(Sun) 1:00p.m. ~ 3:00p.m.  
[Place] Muroran Citizen's Hall

[Counselor] Lawyer, licensed tax accountant,  
judicial scrivener, doctor, and dentist  
[Application] on that day  
[More Information] Muroran East Rotary  
Club: Mr. Nara (Tel: 0143-46-6226)

## Danpara Winter Muroran Festival

[Date] February 19(Sun)  
[Place] Danpara Ski Ground  
[Contents]

- Opening Ceremony 10:00a.m.~
- Scattering Mochi(rice cake) 10:10a.m.~
- Large Janken Rally 0:30p.m.~

\*Winner will get a present.

• Treasure Search on the Snow Mountain  
1:30p.m.~  
[Conditions] under junior high school student  
\*There is also free offer of sweet red bean soup  
with mochi or cocoa.  
[Information] Lodge Danpara (0143-43-5600)

## Bobsledding w/ Rubber Tube at Danpara

[Date] February 5(Sun) ~ 19(Sun)  
[Admission Fee] 100 yen per 1 day:  
Under elementary school children is free  
[Information] Executive committee  
(Tel:090-8273-7417)

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Citizens Snow Figure Competition at Danpara

[Date] February 12(Sun) ~ 19(Sun)

- Opening Ceremony February 12 1:00p.m.~
- Victory ceremony February 19 2:00p.m.~

\*Twenty teams will compete.

\*Snow statues will be lit up from 16:00 to 20:30  
during this period.  
[Information] Executive committee  
(Tel: 090-8273-7417)



## Handmade Japanese-Sweets Lecture

[Date] February 26(Sun) 10:00a.m. ~  
12:00noon.  
[Conditions] Parents and Child

\*The participation of one person is also possible.

[Limit] First 10 pairs  
[Fee] 1,500 yen  
[Application] By telephone from February 1  
[More Information] Youth Training Center  
(Tel: 0143-47-5824)

## Japanese Lesson

### “Nihongo de hanasou”

< Topic of the month >



**Flu** : インフルエンザ [influenza]

### Vocabulary

cold : 風邪 [kaze]

catch a cold : 風邪をひく [kaze wo hiku]

cough : 咳 [seki]

sneeze : くしゃみ [kushami]

temperature : 体温 [taion]

take one's temperature : 体温を計る [taion wo hakaru]

fever : 熱 [netsu]

disease : 病気 [byouki]

preventive shot : 予防注射 [yobou chusha]

wash hands : 手洗い [tearai]

gargle : うがい [ugai]

mask : マスク [masuku]

### Phrases

(1) 「インフルエンザが流行っています。」

[influenza ga hayatte imasu]

There is a flu going around.

### Explanation

Winter is the most distinct season for Hokkaido, bringing beautiful snow covered landscapes and silence. Besides the white snow, however, the season brings about colds and flu as well, due to low temperatures and dry air. To prevent infection, a flu shot is available at most hospitals and neighboring clinics. Occasional hand-washing and gargling is also effective in order not to be infected. If you are a foreigner who has started wearing those white disposal masks, you should admit that you have adapted well to the Japanese culture!

## Japanese Cooking 234

### Stuffed Chicken ..... とりにく 鶏肉のホイルや焼き

#### - Ingredients (serves four) -

chicken	300g
shimeji mushrooms	150g
onion	1
miso	2 tablespoons
sake	2 tablespoons
mirin	2 tablespoons



- Mix miso, sake and mirin.  
Cut chicken into thin pieces and spread on chicken with miso souce .
- Remove stems from shimeji and divide them into small parts.
- Slice onion.  
Cut aluminum into 30cm square.  
Put onions in the center of each aluminum sheet and next place chicken and shimeji on top.  
Close up the foil to make neat packages.
- Put the chicken packs in the pan and heat them by medium heat for 10 minutes.

## Interview

### Jane Takizawa



*Interviewed by Mike Nima*

Jane Takizawa is from Berrien Springs, Michigan. She runs the Seikosha English Conversation School, teaches at Muroan Institute of Technology, and also works as an ALT (Assistant Language Teacher) for some Muroan elementary schools. I spoke with her on a hot and sunny day at Chiribetsu Elementary School. Her husband passed away in early November, after she gave this interview.

(Final of three parts)

*What do you miss about living in the States, and do you plan on living there again someday?*

One of the things I miss the most is the adult humor. When I go back home, I really enjoy a good laugh with my brothers and sisters, and with my classmates. There's the kind of joking that's not offensive but just lightens your day. I know that the Japanese have a good time, but they tend to take every day a little bit too seriously. I kind of miss the lighter side. One of the things that I used to miss—I don't miss it anymore because I made an effort—is to chat with strangers everywhere. This is one of the things that my son liked a lot when he started living in America. He said, "Mom! Everybody just talks to you everywhere! I don't know them, but they start up a conversation with me." I've started doing that here in Japan, and I've been pleasantly surprised that more people are willing to talk with me than I thought would be. It could be because I am a foreigner. I don't see them doing it too much with each other. Those are the things that I miss.

As far as going back home, a group of foreign wives—our husbands are Japanese, and we all come from different countries—we got together once, and we asked each other this question. "Which country would you be the happiest living in—Japan or your own home country?" We came to the conclusion that we would be the happiest where our husbands would be the happiest. I would have to say that's true.

When my husband was in America, he enjoyed living there, but as he retires, I'm not sure if he would enjoy living there again. We didn't move back earlier because he didn't know what kind of job he could do. So, as far as I'm concerned, my husband is happiest here, and when he's happy, then I'm happy. If we have an opportunity, I wouldn't mind going back. I have my brothers and sisters, and I have two children over there. But I'm flexible. Right now I feel like I'm in the right place, but it's not like I've abandoned my country. Like I said, if I have a chance to go back, I would probably take it.

### *What do you like about Hokkaido compared to other parts of Japan?*

Well, as I said, I was in Osaka first of all, and it was a big city. I lived in the suburbs, and as an adventure, that was fine. But to raise a family, there's no other place better than Hokkaido. I come from a small town in Michigan, and I need a place where I can be close to nature—which is very possible here in Hokkaido—and a slower paced life. I feel that the benefits of the big city, like museums and cultural activities—you can still do those but spend your everyday life in a smaller place here in Hokkaido. So we can have the best of both worlds. Another reason why I enjoy living in Hokkaido is that it's been easy to live here. From a cultural point of view, the people who came to Hokkaido were pioneers themselves. They came from all parts of Japan, and so they couldn't expect the same things from each other. It's wasn't like, "Okay, you're Japanese and I'm Japanese." Instead of that, it was like, "No, you're from Kyushu, and I'm from Tokyo," and those cultural differences forced them to be more flexible. So Hokkaido is a much more flexible area to live in than other more traditional parts of Japan.

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## About Japan

### Origin and History of Japan

<Is it correct to refer to Japan as "Nihon" or "Nippon"?>

In 1934, the Ministry of Education's Provisional Deliberation Council on the Japanese Language designated *Nippon* as the official name. Until this time, usage was random. However, the use of *Nippon* was not decreed by law, and even today, both names are commonly used.

Since postage stamps are marked *Nippon* and Japanese athletes sent overseas often uniforms emblazoned *Nippon*, it can be said that *Nippon* is regarded as the official name for Japan.

### <Where did the Japanese people come from?>

Although there are people who believe in the racial purity of the Japanese, current studies hold that the physical features of the Japanese people reveal their derivation from a mixture of several ethnic groups.

So, what racial groups comprise this mixture? We can say that the Japanese stock was created over a long period of time by the gradual mixture of the *Jomon* strain, an ethnic group from South-east Asia that crossed the sea to Japan, the Yayoi strain, Tungusic people arriving through the Korean peninsula, and the Ainu ethnic group.

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## Cinema Guide

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

1. Mission: Impossible-Ghost Protocol
2. しあわせのパン
3. ALWAYS 三丁目の夕日
4. 麒麟の翼(Kirin No Tsubasa)



### 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, Nomura Ikuko, Nakamura Mari, Naito Naoko, Sato Akiko, Mike Nima, English advisor: Jane Takizawa.

