



KCC Newsletter

MAY, 2022

Kashiwa Cross-cultural Center, Palette Kashiwa
2-7-1-301 Kashiwa,
Kashiwa, Chiba, Japan 277-0005
TEL: 04-7157-0281 FAX: 04-7165-7321
E-MAIL: kcc@kira-kira.jp
URL: <https://www.kcc.kira-kira.jp>



Vol.
73

Humanitarian Crisis Relief for Ukraine

Thanks to your warm support, we were able to send 177,000 yen (as of 3/31) to the Japanese Red Cross Society. Hereafter, together with the City of Kashiwa, we will support Ukrainians who have taken refuge in Kashiwa. We will continue to have a donation box at the KCC office and would appreciate your support.

We are also looking for volunteers to help Ukrainians. If you are interested in helping us with interpretation, translation, daily life assistance, or hosting a homestay, please register on our website.

https://www.kira-kira.jp/ukraine_support.html



Announcement

Kashiwa Citizen's Activity Festa 2022 will be Held!

Date: Sunday, May 22, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Places: Kashiwa Station East Exit Deck, Family Kashiwa Front Plaza, Kashiwa Station Shopping Street "Howdy Mall," and Palette Kashiwa

KCC will hold a food drive and an international exchange panel exhibition at Palette Kashiwa. There will also be events by other organizations, such as an origami class and Kashiwa Seikatsu Club presentation.

Online Interactions with People Around the World by KEYS (Kashiwa Exchange Youth Society)

Date and Time: Sundays, May 8 and June 12,
12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Place: Palette Kashiwa or online (Zoom, etc.)

Participants: Elementary, middle and high school, and university students living in Kashiwa or attending schools in the city. The first 20 applicants for each day.

Content: Real-time communication with people across the world using online tools such as Zoom.

Application: Sign up directly at the KCC office, or send an email to boshu-1@kira-kira.jp from 9:00 a.m. on Monday, May 2.

Kashiwanoha Interactive Mini Walking Tour

In May, when the leaves are freshly green, why don't you take a walk in Kombukuro Nature and Natural History Park and feel nature? The park is one of the precious forests left in the Kashiwanoha area. There remain the ruins of a horse pasture from the Edo Period and war relics as well.

Date: Sunday, May 29, 12:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Meet: Deck in front of UDCK (adjacent to the west exit of TX Kashiwanoha Campus Station)

Dismissal: Kashiwanoha Park

Course: Kashiwanoha Campus Station - Kombukuro Nature and Natural History Park - The University of Tokyo Kashiwa Campus - Kashiwanoha Park

Number of participants: Approx. 15 Participation fee: 100 yen

Registration: Sign up directly at the KCC office by Friday, May 20, or send an email to boshu-2@kira-kira.jp.

Please wear comfortable walking clothes and shoes, and bring a drink and a towel.



Maletsunyane Falls (192m)

The 2nd Cross-cultural Teatime "Kingdom of the Sky, Kingdom of Lesotho"

The Kingdom of Lesotho is an independent country surrounded by the Republic of South Africa in southern Africa. Its unique history, nature, culture, and tourism will be introduced.

Date: Saturday, June 18, 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Place: Palette Kashiwa, Rooms A, B, and C

Lecturers: Mr. Tsepo Samson Joshua MAKAKANE (First Secretary, Embassy of the Kingdom of Lesotho)



Mr. Takehiro FUJIE (Trade and Investment Promotion Officer, Embassy of the Kingdom of Lesotho)



Flag of the Kingdom of Lesotho

Number of participants: 50

Participation fee: 300 yen

Application: Sign up directly at the KCC office, or send an email to boshu-1@kira-kira.jp from Monday, May 16.

Free Legal Advice and Administrative Procedure Support for Foreign Residents

To foreign residents. Are you in need of help? Lawyers and administrative procedure specialists are available for consultation. You can ask for specialist's advice on issues such as family or partner violence, divorce, visa procedures, and problems at work.

Reservation necessary.

Date and Time: Wednesday, May 25, 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Place: Palette Kashiwa, Room A

Reservation: the KCC office

The 1st Cross-cultural Teatime "Sports and the Great Outdoors in Canada" (4/9)

The lecturer was Dr. Connor Bottrell, who came from Canada to the Kavli Institute for the Physics and Mathematics of the Universe at the University of Tokyo Kashiwanoha Campus. He has been in Japan for about a year and a half, but since he speaks English in his daily life at his research institute, the event was held in English with interpreters.

The first half of the session featured outdoor sports such as sailing, coastal hiking, crabbing, surfing, touring, and cross-country skiing in the great outdoors in Canada from west (Vancouver) to east (Montreal), as well as nature and wildlife in the national parks in the Rocky Mountains and the Province of Alberta. They were presented with vivid slides.

The second half of the session included quizzes on topics such as Canadian

Get to know Canada! ---Quiz Corner

(Choose the answer from the three choices. The correct answers are on page 3.)

Q1: How do you get the attention of a waiter in a Canadian restaurant?

- A. Raise your voice. B. Make silent eye contact.
C. Raise your hand.

Q2: In what obscure race do Vancouver Island residents compete against each other?

- A. Bathtub Race B. Cheese Wheel Race
C. Wife-carrying Race

Q3: What does someone from Montreal mean when they say they want a "pull-on-the-snow?"

- A. pulling a sled on the snow
B. maple syrup poured over snow or ice flakes
C. pulling a dog sled

Q4: What is the most popular snack in Canada?

- A. hot dog B. hamburger
C. pasta snack topped with cheese

nature and food culture. The participants were surprised to hear the answer to the question of "What would you do if you encountered a fierce grizzly bear while hiking?" The answer was "Speak softly to gently alert the bear!"

During the Q&A time at the end of the event, the participants asked questions in English to Dr. Bottrell, and when he and his wife took turns singing the Canadian national anthem in English and French, there was a round of applause. It was a friendly event that further deepened international understanding and exchange.



Juan de Fuca Straight



Dog-sledding



Emerald Lake

KEYS Cherry-Blossom Viewing (3/27)

This was the first outdoor event organized by KEYS in two years. Tempted out by the warm spring weather, we all went together to see cherry blossoms in Kashiwa Furusato Park. The participants were two students starting college this April, a high school student who was an exchange student to Camden, two students from New York and California, three students from Asia, and the KEYS supporters. On such topics as our schools, hobbies, and the places we live, the KEYS students talked in English in a way that was easy to understand.

Reciprocally, we learned from the American guests that personality traits and customs are different between the East Coast and the West Coast. Also, we played an interesting recreational game using an app called "Heads Up," and enjoyed the differences and similarities between us. We all spent an enjoyable time together with smiles.



At Kashiwa Furusato Park

Multilingual Disaster Support Project for Foreign Residents

Japan is a disaster-prone country with earthquakes, floods, and other disasters. When a disaster occurs, people from abroad seem to feel very uneasy because they have trouble understanding the official information. There are about 10,000 foreign residents in Kashiwa. For these people, we are preparing to provide information in multiple languages in times of disaster. Also, we are working with the Kashiwa City Disaster Prevention and Safety Division to create a disaster prevention video for foreign residents. If you are interested, please join us. For inquiries, contact the KCC office.



Evacuation shelter signboard



Exchange Program Inspired Me to Study in the U.S.

Arata Kawabe

As an exchange student in 2019, I stayed in the sister city of Torrance, California, for about three weeks. It was the first time I participated in KIRA's activities. Currently, due to the influence of the COVID-19 pandemic, I have participated in KEYS (Kashiwa Exchange Youth Society) meetings online.

My reason for participating in the sister city exchange program by KIRA was that I wanted to learn more about overseas countries. One of the reasons I wanted to know this was a newspaper article I happened to see, "Japanese Universities Slump in World University Rankings." Although this kind of assessment is only one-sided, it was somewhat discouraging for me as I was preparing for the university entrance exams in Japan. At that time, I began to see the option of going on to an overseas university, and I also thought I wanted to take the initiative in participating in international exchange activities.

Then, as I wished, I entered a university in Wyoming, where I am in the first year of a bachelor's degree program in the College of Liberal Arts. Simultaneously majoring in three departments (Mathematics, Physics, and Biology) is something I did by my own initiative. My experience as an exchange student pushed me to do so. When I had friendly discussions with American high school students, I was shocked by the way they could articulate in their own words the reasons for their choice of university and the major. It led me to realize the importance of reconsidering what common sense is according to my own scale and preferences. Simultaneously majoring in three different departments is the result of this realization. In addition to this, I have also benefited from my experience as an exchange student. For example, in extracurricular activities at the university, I introduced to the student community the characteristics of Japan and Asia from the perspective of an international student. This was based on my experience of explaining the charm of Kashiwa City when I was an exchange student.

The Wyoming State population is the smallest among the 50 states in the U.S., with about 580,000 people as of 2022. This is about 1.4 times the population of Kashiwa city. On the other hand, Wyoming has an area of approximately 250,000 square kilometers, which is equivalent to about 66% of the land area of Japan. If you walk for a few minutes from the campus, you will see magnificent nature. Yellowstone National Park, a World Heritage Site, is located in the northwestern part of the state. The low population density also has its benefits. For example, while many universities in U.S. cities are now offering online classes across the board, face-to-face classes are being offered relatively safely at my university. Residents say that life is much the same as before the COVID-19 pandemic.

I am going to participate in KIRA's activities online from Wyoming. I hope to improve my knowledge of the world to help high school students interested in learning practical English and studying abroad in the United States. My experience as an exchange student was a turning point for me to broaden my horizons and review my way of thinking, including my career decisions. I sincerely hope that the exchange student program will resume as soon as possible. (At the Wyoming campus in April 2022)



Horseback Riding Experience



Christmas Parade

May Events

Japanese Shonan Classes		
Online Classes		
Sun	10:00 a.m.- 11:30 a.m.	<i>Minna no Nihongo</i> , Primary I (2 classes), Intermediate II
In-person Classes (Shonan Community Center)		
Thu	0:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.	<i>Minna no Nihongo</i> , Primary I , Intermediate I
Sun	10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.	<i>Minna no Nihongo</i> , Primary I
Japanese Kashiwa Classes		
Online Classes		
Tue	7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.	<i>Minna no Nihongo</i> , Primary I (Unit 23 -)
Wed	10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	Conversation elementary level 2 B
Wed	7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.	<i>Minna no Nihongo</i> , Primary I (Unit 19 -)
Thu	10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	Conversation elementary level 1 (For Beginners, Primary 1)
Thu	1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.	Conversation elementary level 2 A
Fri	7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.	<i>Minna no Nihongo</i> , Primary II (Unit 44 -)
Sat	9:30 a.m. - 11:20 a.m.	Conversation intermediate level
In-person Classes (Palette Kashiwa 4/9 -)		
Sat	10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	<i>Minna no Nihongo</i> , Primary I (Unit 4 -)

Information from Other Organizations

Online study meeting for KIRA members

"Skills Development: Hosting a Zoom Meeting (second half)"

Date and Time: Thursday, May 26 ,
8:00 p.m. - 9:10 p.m.

Lecturer: Kumiko Yamaguchi (Interactive Training
in Communication - Japan)

Participation fee: Free

Number of participants: 25

Application: Sign up at the KCC office, or send an
email to boshu-1@kira-kira.jp with your name
and phone number. We will send you the invitation
link on the day.

Next meeting: Thursday, June 16,
8:00 p.m. - 9:10 p.m. "Easy Japanese(first half)"

Information about COVID-19 for Foreign Residents

Available in multiple languages



Consultation for Foreign Residents

Monday: Spanish

Tuesday: Korean (only the 2nd and 4th Tuesday)

Wednesday: Chinese

Thursday: English

Friday: Chinese

※ 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. everyday

Consultation Counter for Foreign Residents (Main
City Hall 3F)

TEL: 04 - 7168 - 1033 No reservation required.

Kashiwa information Delivery Service

Sign up to receive email announcements from
the city, such as information about earthquakes,
fires, crime, and infectious disease
outbreaks in the language of your
choice. Send a blank email to this
address to register.

Also, please read Kashiwa City
Magazine. It contains information
about COVID-19 vaccination.



Questions?

Please contact the office of
Kashiwa Cross-cultural Center (KCC)

Tel: 04-7157-0281 Fax: 04-7165-7321

Hours: 8:30 a.m. - 5:15 p.m.

Closed on Sundays and national holidays