



KCC Newsletter

February, 2023

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Vol.
82

Announcement

The 12th English Speech Contest

You are welcome to see and support the speech contest. Please come directly to the venue. There will also be an award for speech contestants that will be decided by audience vote.

Date & Time: Saturday, February 11, 2:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. (doors open at 1:30 p.m.)

Place: Amuser Kashiwa Crystal Hall

Let's enjoy the Hina Doll Exhibition with a tour guide!

~Stroll through the Former Yoshida Family Residence Historical Park and appreciate the Hina Doll Exhibition~
(Hina dolls are Japanese dolls wearing traditional Japanese costumes for the Doll's Festival.)

Date & Time: Tuesday, February 28, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Cost: ¥ 100 (insurance fee), Admission fee: Free (usually ¥ 210 for adults)
(please pay your own transportation fee)

Meeting place: Please meet at either of the following times and locations.

- (1) 9:50 a.m. (to board the 10:00 a.m. bus) at Tobu Bus Stop No. 5, in front of Takashimaya Department Store at the West Exit of JR Kashiwa Station
- (2) 10:30 a.m. in front of the reception desk at the Former Yoshida Family Residence Historical Park. Please wear a mask when participating.

Number of participants: First 15 applicants

Application: Wednesday, February 22

Sign up directly at the KCC office or email your name, phone number, and the desired meeting place to boshu-2@kira-kira.jp.



From the website of the former Yoshida Family Residence Historical Park



Thank you for donating to Ukraine

Thanks to your warm support, we have raised 526,901 yen as of December 20. This donation is used for medical expenses, clothing, books for learning Japanese, and other expenses for Ukrainian people living in Kashiwa City. We appreciate your continued support.

New Year's Preparation (2022/12/20)

People from Taiwan and the Philippines worked with the Japanese to make flower decorations using young pine trees, *senryo* with red fruits, and *mizuhiki*, which are decorative strings made of red and white paper. These combinations made the flower decorations even more beautiful. After that, they made good chopstick bags with two sheets of origami paper. At the exchange meeting, participants said, "I'm glad I was able to make handmade New Year's decorations," "I was able to make them in a short time because the materials were carefully prepared," and "I learned how to make a simple and beautiful chopstick bag, so I want to make it at home." In addition, participants introduced how they spend New Year in their countries. For example, changes in the way the Japanese think about New Year dishes called *Osechi*, people in the Philippines celebrate the New Year by gathering 12 round fruits (equivalent to 12 months), and people in Taiwan prepare more for the Lunar New Year than for the calendar New Year. In these countries, people spend the New Year gathering with their families and relatives and have a great time. Although the event was held in late December, it was a fun time to forget the busyness of the end of the year



Eagerly making flower decorations

Note: When applying by email, please be sure to include the name of the event, your name, and phone number. Please note that events may be cancelled or changed depending on the status of coronavirus infection.

Disaster Prevention Class at Kaichi International University "Foreigners and Disaster Prevention" (2022/12/14)

The Disaster Multilingual Support Project for Foreigners proposed holding a disaster prevention class for foreigners at Kaichi International University, which has many international students. As a result, Kaichi International University asked us to have a disaster prevention class for Japanese and international students.

We consulted with the Kashiwa City Disaster Prevention and Safety Division and prepared materials such as the Kashiwa City Disaster Prevention Map. Then, the Disaster Multilingual Support Project members held a disaster prevention class titled Foreigners and Disaster Prevention.

First, explanations were given about various kinds of disasters in Japan such as earthquakes, typhoons, and floods. The foreign members of the project then talked about their own experiences with disasters. Next, they said foreigners need assistance in easy Japanese in the event of a disaster. The members identified three challenges in times of disaster: having less knowledge, less information, and fewer friends. The students discussed these issues in groups. They also participated enthusiastically in translating the information presented to them into easy Japanese.

Foreign students asked, "What should we do when we don't understand detailed rules and regulations in Japanese life? They also said it would be nice to have easy Japanese information not only in times of disaster, but also in everyday life and at hospitals. They also said that they would like to study easy Japanese immediately.



Disaster Prevention Class

New Year's Party (1/12)

Since the spread of COVID-19 is not over yet, KIRAKIC members cooked New Year's and celebratory dishes from each country in a cooking room at the Amuse Kashiwa this year without inviting participants.

China: Dumplings (wraps are handmade), Hong Shao Rou (braised cubed pork with skin), Sponge cake

Taiwan: Gomoku okowa (sticky rice with vegetables, fish, and chicken), Stir-fried dried bean curd, Mizuyokan (sweet azuki bean paste)

Indonesia: Nasi Kuning (yellow rice), Ayam Rica Rica (spicy chicken stew)

Philippines: Biko (sticky rice cake), Kare Kare (beef stewed in peanut cream), Pudding

Brazil: Pao de queijo (cheese bread), Beijinho (coconut and clove sweets)

Japan: Datemaki (sweet, rolled omelet), Kinton (mashed sweet potato), Sendai zoni (soup made with vegetables and sticky rice cake eaten in Sendai), Kohaku namasu (pickled white radish and carrot), Yuba no nimono (stewed bean curd skin), Sushi rolls

Myanmar: Caramel cheesecake

There was an explanation about Japanese Osechi dishes. Kohaku Namasu is made with white radishes and red carrots, and a combination of red and white color has an auspicious meaning in Japan. Kinton is gold for people who wish to become rich. Zoni has various seasonings and ingredients depending on the region.

The foreigners must have remembered their families in their hometown with whom they shared dishes at the celebrations.



Enjoying New Year's dishes



Kare Kare



Nasi Kuning



Pao de queijo and Beijinho

Japanese Language Classes for the 3rd Semester

We have slightly increased the number of face-to-face classes as we believe the risk of COVID-19 is decreasing due to the availability of vaccines and other factors.

1. Number of Japanese language classes as of February:

• Kashiwa, Kashiwanoha class: Online - 8 classes on Tuesdays through Saturdays, Face-to-face - 5 classes on Tuesdays and Saturdays (Palette Kashiwa)

• Shonan class: Online - 3 classes on Saturdays and Sundays, Face-to-face - 3 classes on Thursdays and Sundays (Shonan Community Center)

2. Things to keep in mind when resuming the face-to-face classes:

- Conditions for attending classes: 2 doses of vaccine
- Conditions at the time of attendance: Body temperature must be below 37 degrees Celsius. Wearing a mask
- Classroom operation: Limit the number of students to avoid crowds

3. Coexistence of online and face-to-face classrooms

Taking advantage of the strengths of both options, we plan to continue to hold both online and face-to-face classes even after the COVID-19 pandemic is over.

Advantages of online classes (disadvantages of face-to-face classrooms)

- No risk of corona infection
- You can teach and learn from home. • Mothers with small children can take the class easily.

Disadvantages of online classes (advantages of face-to-face classes)

- Those who do not have a computer or a smartphone cannot take the classes.
- The instructors can only see a little of the students, so they cannot give the students detailed instruction.



In New Orleans, Town of Creole Culture and Jazz

Rinka Izawa, 2018 Student Delegate

What made you to apply for the sister city exchange program? Did your overseas experience have an impact on your life afterwards?

-- I applied for the sister city program because I had been yearning for a life overseas. I was a second-year high school student at the time, and was vaguely hoping to see countries other than Japan. As I could not speak English, I was worried, but I gathered my courage to apply for the program.

The overseas experience had a great impact on my later life. Through the interactions with my host families and the students I met in the program, I hoped I could communicate more freely. After returning to Japan, I kept in touch with them by Zoom and e-mails, which motivated me to improve my language skills. Also, during my stay in the program, I learned about the high school life of the Torrance student delegates of my age, as well as American university campus life when visiting UCLA. This inspired me to live in the U.S. as a student. So, I studied English hard and was able to enter a university which was very active in international exchanges.



At a New Orleans Saints game

What are you currently pursuing in the U.S.?

--I am an exchange student at Loyola University New Orleans in Louisiana. During weekdays, I study and do research in English studies and Linguistics, which is my major. In addition, I am taking practical classes, such as art and advertising marketing. After school and on holidays, I participate in school clubs and church events.

Please tell us about some examples of cultural differences that you've experienced.

--I have observed many cultural differences since I came to the U.S. Particularly, I was surprised at the way people communicate and the friendly atmosphere of the town. People in New Orleans are very friendly, and they talk to you everywhere, asking "How are you doing?" At first, I was at a loss and I did not know how to respond to people talking to me in an elevator, or when waiting in line at a cash register, or even just walking down the street. However, I gradually became used to conversing with these people, as I made local friends at a K-pop dance club and interacted with students from other countries. I can now enjoy the friendly conversation.

Also, New Orleans is the town where jazz was born, and so when you walk around downtown, you are almost certain to hear music. Not only adults but also small children under elementary school age join in the performances, and the whole community enjoys playing music together. The atmosphere of jazz music blending into the beautiful townscape of Creole culture is unique to New Orleans.

We had to suspend sending students abroad from Kashiwa because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Do you have any expectations for international exchange in the future or any message for young people in Kashiwa?

--Kashiwa is involved in international exchanges with different regions, including Torrance, with which we will celebrate the 50th anniversary of our sister city affiliation next year. Although the COVID-19 outbreak has prevented the committee from sending delegations for a period of time, I hope these wonderful exchanges with the various international communities will continue for many more years to come!

When the exchange program reopens, I hope many young people in Kashiwa will apply for it and take advantage of the great opportunity to open up their future possibilities.



At the international festival



Cityscape of New Orleans

February Events

Japanese Shonan Classes		
Online Classes		
Sat	7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.	<i>Minna no Nihongo</i> , Primary II
Sun	10:00 a.m.- 11:30 a.m.	<i>Minna no Nihongo</i> , Primary I and Intermediate II
In-person Classes (Shonan Community Center)		
Thu	10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.	<i>Minna no Nihongo</i> , Primary I
Thu	10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.	<i>Minna no Nihongo</i> , Primary 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 16 -)
Wed	10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	Conversation Elementary 2B (Level 2)
Wed	7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.	<i>Minna no Nihongo</i> , Primary II (Unit 31 -)
Thu	10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	Conversation Elementary 1 (Level 1, Introductory)
Thu	10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	Conversation Elementary 1 (Level 1)
Thu	1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.	Conversation Elementary 2A (Level 2)
Fri	7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.	<i>Minna no Nihongo</i> , Primary II (Unit 28 -)
Sat	9:30 a.m. - 11:20 a.m.	Conversation Intermediate
In-person Classes (Palette Kashiwa)		
Tue	10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	hiragana/katakana, Primary I, Primary I
Sat	10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	<i>Minna no Nihongo</i> , Primary I (Unit 1 -)
Sat	10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	<i>Minna no Nihongo</i> , Primary I (Unit 8 -)

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 specialists' advice on issues such as family or partner violence, divorce, visa procedures, and problems at work. Reservation necessary.

Date & Time: Wednesday, February 22, 1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. Place: Palette Kashiwa Room A

Reservation: the KCC office

Information for Foreign Residents from Kashiwa City

Consultation for Foreign Residents

Available in English (Thu), Chinese (Wed and Fri), Spanish (Mon), and Korean (2nd and 4th Tue) from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Consultation Counter for Foreign Residents (City Hall Main Office Building, 3rd floor).

Tel: 04 - 7168 - 1033

No reservation required.

Email distribution service from Kashiwa City

Sign up to receive email announcement from the city, such as information on natural disasters, crimes, and fires of your area in the language of your choice. Scan the QR code and register!



Multilingual "Koho Kashiwa," monthly official city bulletin

Scan the QR code and select your language under "Foreign Language" to read the official city bulletin, "Koho Kashiwa," selected and translated for foreign residents.



Links for Multilingual News & BOSAI INFO (Disaster prevention and Coronavirus)

NHK WORLD-JAPAN



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