



KCC Newsletter

October, 2024

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Announcement

Kashiwa de International Exchange Festa 2024 : "See the World, Eat, Dance and Have Fun"

D October 14 (Mon, National Holiday) 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. (Light) Rain or Shine

P Howdy Mall, Kashiwa Station East Exit

Last year, the event was cancelled due to inclement weather, and an alternative event was held indoors at a later date. We hope to make it a grand success under blue skies this year.

Booths: Introduction of activities such as sister and friendship cities' exchanges, language courses, Japanese culture, support for foreigners, etc. Quizzes and games about various countries of the world. Sales of products from Bulgaria, Korea, Mexico and other countries.

Performances: Music and dance from Japan and around the world.

Food and drink booths and kitchen cars: Turkey, Korea, China, Philippines, Mexico, Thailand, and Nepal.

QR code for the Festa video (2022 video available)



Festa 2022



Contestants wanted for "The 9th Japanese Speech Contest in Kashiwa by Foreigners"



We are looking for participants for the 9th Japanese Speech Contest in Kashiwa. Join us!
You are the main star of the contest!

Theme: Any thoughts that you want to share about your life in Japan

D February 16 (Sun), 2025, 12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

P Palette Kashiwa Open Space

Eligible participants : 15 non-native speakers of Japanese (both parents

must be foreign nationals) who live, work or study in the Tokatsu area.

A Fill in the application form (available at the KCC office) and send it by December 25 (Wed) by post (postmark valid), or bring it to the office, or apply by email to <boshu-1@kira-kira.jp>. The application form is downloadable from the KCC website or can be picked up at the KCC office. Selection will be made if there are too many applicants. The applicants will be notified by email by January 12 (Sun), 2025. For more information, visit the KCC website.



Exchange Programs with Sister & Friendship Cities of Kashiwa

2024 Torrance-Chengde Joint Youth Report Meeting

Students (high school and university students) who visited Kashiwa's sister city, Torrance, U.S.A., and friendship city, Chengde, China, this year will report their precious experiences with photo presentations.

D October 6 (Sun) 1:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. (Doors open at 1:00 p.m.)

P Palette Kashiwa Open Space

A Come directly to the venue on the day of the event.

Halloween Party

D October 27 (Sun) 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. **P** Palette Kashiwa Open Space **F** 500 yen for children only

Activities: Trick-or-treating, stories about Halloween, games, etc.

A Sign up directly at the KCC office from 9:00 a.m. on October 1 (Tue) or by email to <boshu-1@kira-kira.jp>.



Online International Exchange Salon

Things I Find Troubling When Living in Japan - How Japanese People and Foreigners in Japan Become Friends

D October 17 (Thu), 8:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

L Ms. Adash Bala Sharma

F Free

N First 30 applicants

A Sign up directly at the KCC office by October 16 (Wed) or by email to <boshu-1@kira-kira.jp>.

Applicants will receive a URL to participate on the day of the event.



<Request> When applying via email, please be sure to include the event name, your name, and phone number.

DDate & Time **P**Place **F**Fee **N**Number of applicants **L**Lecturer **C**Contents **A**Application **R**Reservation.

I spent the most fulfilling time of my life this summer with all the Torrance and Kashiwa exchange students. The 19 days in Torrance definitely changed our values and future. There are many things I noticed in Torrance by spending time with the local people.

The biggest difference from Japan was the climate. We went to Torrance in August. The climate there was really cool and comfortable, with no humidity at all, while it was extremely hot in Japan. My most impressive memory was the warm and friendly welcome from all the people we met in Torrance. I felt the bond between Kashiwa and Torrance that has been nurtured through the 50 previous exchanges.

Honestly speaking, I was worried before participating in this program that I would not be able to communicate well with people of different culture and language. However, I truly realized every day that we can get along well with each other even if there are language and cultural barriers. Through this program, we have been blessed with great friends and wonderful families in Torrance. I would like to make the most out of this experience and take on many challenges, hoping to be able to repay the people who have contributed to this program and the members of KIRA, who have supported us so much.



At Rocketship Park

The visit to Chengde had a very big impact on me. I would like to focus on three points in this report: the personality of the Chinese people, the work environment, and their food culture.

Before the visit, I had the impression that Chinese people were strong-willed and a little scary, but my impression vanished upon arrival. I learned that they are highly hospitable and friendly people, and that there is a big difference between when they are serious and when they are having fun. My host family treated me like their real daughter and welcomed me with many questions and treats, giving me the "best hospitality". Knowing that high school students study from early in the morning until late at night, and that they have only two vacations a month, I felt that their environment is very strict in terms of study. However, surprisingly, in situations like the farewell party, they were talking in a lively manner and enjoying the meal very much.

Next is China's economic power from the standpoint view of the working environment. A teacher at the Chengde First Middle School told me that they have only a few holidays a year. I thought that it is no wonder China has achieved such rapid economic growth, because each person works so much in a country with a population of 1.4 billion people.

China has a different food culture from that of Japan, and one of the differences is that it is considered good to leave some food on the table. If you completely eat all your meal, it is interpreted as there was "not enough," and they will serve you more. Another big difference is that they eat out for breakfast. My host family went out to eat every morning. I was a little surprised because we rarely do this in Japan. But I think it would save time in preparing breakfast and make our daily life more efficient.

China is such a close country to Japan, yet there is so much that we don't know about it. I am very attracted to the depth of China, which has both similarities and differences with Japan. In the future, I would like to take actions such as exploring the questions I have raised during the visit and learning Chinese.

(* Due to space limitation, the original text has been shortened.)



Welcome party in Chengde

With Kumiko Yamaguchi as an instructor, 16 participants learned how to communicate with others in internet meetings and in their daily lives. The tips are to match facial expressions with tone of voice, and to speak plainly, clearly, and slowly. We also practiced specific "little extra words" to be considerate to others as well as techniques to stimulate conversations (showing response verbal acceptance, and empathy).

It is said that "the voice reflects one's personality." Many of the participants said that they learned about their own tone of voice and how to change it, and that they want to apply what they learned to their daily lives. They also found it very helpful to understand how to use specific phrases from a foreigner's point of view.



May the 19-day Trip Continue to Nurture the Students' Minds!

Yumiko Harasawa, Leader of the 2024 Youth Delegation from Kashiwa City to Torrance

Profile: I taught English at Kashiwa Municipal High School and prefectural high schools for about 40 years. After retirement, I have been working as a part-time English teacher at prefectural high schools, and I also teach Japanese to foreign high school students. This visit to Torrance is my first since I took students from Kashiwa Municipal High School there about 30 years ago.

Impressions of America after 30 Years: I was surprised by the high prices. At tourist spots, a cola cost \$8, a water bottle was \$5, and a hamburger set was \$10. Even the tour to San Diego, where we stayed at campsites, was more expensive than a tour to Hiroshima or Kyoto in Japan. Although the U.S. presidential election was just around the corner, there were no signs or banners with the candidates' names, and it was very calm. In public restrooms, alcohol disinfectants were available, likely due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Torrance is a quiet residential area known for its high educational standards and safety.



Ms. Harasawa

Status of Delegation Students: The Kashiwa students, five boys and three girls, got along very well with the delegation students who had previously visited Kashiwa from Torrance and they were always together. The members of TSCA (Torrance Sister City Association) planned a fulfilling program. In the first half, we visited places like the Japanese American National Museum and Oriental Motor. In the second half, we enjoyed activities like Disneyland, a Dodgers baseball game, and a visit to UCLA. At the Japanese American National Museum, the students were deeply shocked by the history of internment camps during World War 2.

Aging Volunteers: While many veteran members are passionate about hosting the program, there are fewer younger generations, and the number of host families is decreasing, a common concern with Kashiwa.

My Hopes for the Delegates: I hope the students will not forget their gratitude to the many people who supported their stay in Torrance, that they will cherish the 19 days spent with their friends, and that they will lead happy lives.
(Interview by Noriko Fujita and Miki Kanda)



Moved by Chengde's Warm Commitment to Friendship

Masahiko Arai and Shigehiro Koseki, Leaders of the 15th Youth Delegation from Kashiwa City to Chengde

Mr. Arai, how did you feel about resuming exchanges after four years of the COVID-19 pandemic? Although we have been interacting online, face-to-face exchanges are meaningful. Before COVID-19, we alternated delegation visits every other year, but for the first time this year, we had a mutual exchange delegation within the same year. The Kashiwa delegation students stayed at the homes of the Chengde students who visited Kashiwa this summer, so both groups became very close. It was my third visit to Chengde, but it was special as I led students interested in the Chinese language and culture. I was able to reaffirm China's history and ethnic diversity. For example, Chengde has a population of about 3.6 million, of which about 1.3 million are 25 ethnic minorities.



Mr. Arai (left) Mr. Koseki (right)

Mr. Koseki, this was your first time leading a delegation. What are your impressions? While I had visited China many times for work when I was employed, it was my first visit to Chengde. I was deeply impressed by the passion of the executives and citizens of Chengde for the friendship with Kashiwa City and its development. I want everyone in Kashiwa to know about this commitment. They organized an incredibly packed sightseeing schedule for us. Chengde's tourist sites were crowded with visitors, so Mr. Arai and I were careful not to lose sight of the students. During the exchange with students from Chengde No. 1 and No. 2 Middle Schools, they quickly became friends and exchanged contact information. I believe the connections between Kashiwa and Chengde students and host families will continue for a long time.

What do you hope for the students through this delegation?

Arai: I hope the students use this opportunity to reflect on themselves and their experiences.

Koseki: I hope they deepen their relationships with Chinese students through this experience. I want them to become more aware of China, not just the West. I believe that in the future, the exchange between Japan and China will become increasingly important for the younger generation.
(Interview by Noriko Fujita)

Upcoming Events (From November)

Bus tour to "Tojyo Residence" (11/29)

October Events

Japanese Shonan Classes		
Online Classes		
Sun	7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.	<i>Minna no Nihongo</i> , Primary II (Unit 47~)
Sun	10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	<i>Minna no Nihongo</i> , Primary I (Unit 26~) and Intermediate (Unit 4~)
In-person Classes (Shonan Community Center)		
Thu	10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	<i>Minna no Nihongo</i> , Primary I (Unit 16~) and Primary I (Unit 20~)
Sun	10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	<i>Minna no Nihongo</i> , Primary I (Unit 2~)(Unit 13)(Unit 20~)
Japanese Kashiwa/Kashiwanoha Classes		
Online Classes		
Tue	7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.	<i>Minna no Nihongo</i> , Primary I (Unit 25 -)
Wed	10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	Conversation Elementary (Level 2)
Wed	7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.	<i>Minna no Nihongo</i> , Primary II (Unit 45 -)
Thu	1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.	Conversation Elementary (Level 2)
Fri	7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.	<i>Minna no Nihongo</i> , Primary II (Unit 48 -)
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.	<i>Minna no Nihongo</i> , Primary I (Unit 2 - 5)
Tue	10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	Beginners, <i>Minna no Nihongo</i> , Primary 1 (Unit 12~)
Tue	10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	<i>Minna no Nihongo</i> , Primary I (Unit 17 -)
Sat	10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	<i>Minna no Nihongo</i> , Primary I (Unit 9 -)
Sat	10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	<i>Minna no Nihongo</i> , Primary II (Unit 46 -)
In-person Classes (Kashiwanoha Service Corner)		
Thu	10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	Conversation Elementary Former • Latter
Thu	1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.	Hiragana, Katakana
Sat	10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	Intermediate

Free Legal Advice and Administrative Procedure Support for Foreign Residents

To Foreign Residents,

Are you facing any difficulties? Lawyers and administrative scriveners are here to assist you. You can consult about issues such as domestic violence, divorce, visas, or workplace troubles. Please make a reservation.

D Wednesday, October 23rd, 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

P Palette Kashiwa A

R 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