



KCC Newsletter

June, 2025

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Greetings

Rumiko Sato, Head of the Kashiwa Cross-cultural Center

I am new Head of the Kashiwa Cross-cultural Center (KCC) starting in June. I have been a Japanese language volunteer for more than 25 years since I started working for the Shonan International Friendship Association (SIFA). After the SIFA merged with Kashiwa International Relations Association (KIRA), I served as Vice President, Chair of the Planning Office, and Treasurer.

The social landscape around us has been changing significantly, and social unrest is increasing. In times like this, international exchange between individuals is becoming more and more important. KCC plays an important role in building relationships that allow Japanese and foreigners to live pleasantly in Kashiwa city. Many volunteer staff members are dedicated, and it is truly wonderful that they are working hard every day for international exchanges. Together with these volunteers, I would like to carry out projects that will further expand international exchanges to the citizens.



Ms. Rumiko Sato

I may be at a loss in my first role as Head of KCC. I would appreciate your cooperation and support.

The 52nd Student Delegation to Torrance City: Kashiwa Youth Ambassadors Were Selected

Kashiwa and Torrance, U.S.A., celebrated the 50th anniversary of their sister city relationship the year before last and have continued to make further efforts to promote exchange. The student ambassadors of the 52nd delegation to Torrance were selected after two rounds of interviews. Starting this year, the application age is from the first year of high school, adding younger students to the program compared to previous years. The ambassadors are Ms. Kayoko Yamazawa (Adult Leader), and eight students: Sarara Gonohe, Kanna Ota, Lea Shimura, Masaki Yamamoto, Tomoro Ihara, Kotaro Kimachi, Eita Masuda, and Taiki Yoshioka. They will obtain the knowledge and attitude necessary for the mission, such as English conversation, Kashiwa odori, etc. in six orientation sessions. They will be united by their awareness of their role as goodwill ambassadors of Kashiwa and a mutual trust in each other as a team. Departing on August 4, they will experience American family life through homestays, interact with Torrance residents through various programs, and return on August 22. We wish them further growth and look forward to future international goodwill activities by the next generation.



Student Ambassadors and Adult Leader

Appreciation for Myanmar Donations

We sent the relief donation of 23,756 yen to the Japanese Red Cross Society on May 16 to support the victims of the Myanmar Earthquake. Thank you for your warm support.

<Request> Make sure to include the event name, your name and phone number when you apply by email.

Personal information obtained by the Association will be handled strictly in accordance with the "Act on the Protection of Personal Information." (KCC)

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

Announcement

Seeking Youths for the 16th Delegation to Chengde, China

Period: 6 days from August 21 (Thu) to 26 (Tue),

Eligibility: 8 people living in or attending school in Kashiwa city and who were born between April 2, 2003 and April 1, 2010)

F Approximately 150,000 yen

A The application form will be distributed at the information session or can be downloaded from the KIRA website. Mail the completed application form to the KCC office between June 2 (Mon) and June 28 (Sat). You can also bring it to the office in person. *Please see the website for details.

Seeking Host Families for High School Students from Chengde, China

We are looking for host families for 8 high school students from Chengde in China, a friendship city of Kashiwa city. Join us and enjoy international exchange with your whole family!

Period: 5 days from August 5 (Tue) to August 9 (Sat) **N** 8 families

Application Requirements (Families must meet the following conditions):

- Be able to pick up and drop off students at assigned locations in the city.
- Be able to bear the costs (food, etc.) for hosting the students.

A Complete the application form and email it to <boshu-1@kira-kira.jp> by June 28 (Sat) with the subject line, "Chengde HF application."

*The application form is downloadable from the website.



Cross-cultural Teatime

Growing Up in Croatia: Nature, Culture and Life in Croatia

D June 7 (Sat), 2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

P Palette Kashiwa MTR B and C

L Ms. Anamaria Hell (Kavli Institute for the Physics and Mathematics of the Universe, University of Tokyo) *Lecture will be given in English with interpretation.

N 50 people **F** 400 yen

A Sign up at the KCC office directly, or email to <boshu-1@kira-kira.jp>.



Online International Exchange Salon

Can You Speak Easy Japanese?

-Learn the Simple Basics of How to Speak with Foreigners in Japanese.

D June 19 (Thu), 8:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

L Ms. Tomoe Uchida, Japanese language instructor

Participation method: Online (Zoom)

F Free

N First 30

A Email to <boshu-1@kira-kira.jp> with the required information below, or sign up directly at the KCC office by June 18 (Wed). Participants will receive a URL to join on the day of the event.



International Exchange Bus Tour "Disaster Prevention Center Experience"

D June 21 (Sat), 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. (Meet in front of Shimizu Eyeglass Store on the east exit side of Kashiwa Station. Be on time!)

Places to visit: Shonan Michinoeki (lunch at your own expense) and Western Chiba Prefectural Disaster Prevention Center

F 100 yen (insurance fee)

N 25

A Sign up at the KCC office, or email to <boshu-1@kira-kira.jp> from June 2 (Mon).



Kashiwa International Exchange Week

June 23 (Mon) - June 28 (Sat), 2025

Let's talk about various topics with foreigners studying at KIRA's Japanese language classes, international students studying at Japanese universities, and foreign nationals living in Japan. Also, let's look into the situation of foreigners in Japan through the refugee seminar and the multicultural seminar in the International Exchange Week.

• Date, Place and Content

6/23	Mon	7:00pm~8:30pm	Online	Refugee Seminar	Capacity
6/24	Tue	1:00pm~2:30pm	Palette Multipurpose A	Talk with Foreigners	30
6/25	Wed	1:00pm~2:30pm	Palette Multipurpose A	Talk with Foreigners	30
6/26	Thu	1:00pm~2:30pm	Palette Multipurpose A	Talk with Foreigners	30
6/27	Fri	1:00pm~2:30pm	Palette Multipurpose A	Multicultural Seminar	30
6/28	Sat	1:00pm~2:30pm	Palette Open Space	Information Exchanges	50

• Inquiries and applications: KCC office or email to <boshu-1@kira-kira.jp>.

• Visit our website for more information.





The World They Saw and the Future They Envisioned in Camden, Our Friendship City

This spring, six young people from Kashiwa city were dispatched to Camden, Australia, our friendship city. While staying with host families, they visited Camden's city hall, schools, and nursing homes. While learning about present-day Camden, they also introduced Kashiwa city and Japanese culture.

What did they feel and learn through this experience? Here are some of their reflections:

Suzu Otaki: I realized how much Australians value communication. I used to avoid interacting with others as much as possible. But through my first experience abroad, I learned the joy and importance of engaging with others. It was very stimulating to interact with those who came from a different background from mine. There were many moments when I couldn't understand what they said, even when I used all my English skills. Experiencing the challenges of communicating in English made me want to study it even more.

Asuka Yamaguchi: The Japanese landscape is characterized by the fusion of inner and outer space and design that values the sense of the season against the background of delicate harmony between tradition and nature. In contrast, Australia produces open and innovative architectural designs in an environment of vast nature and multicultural intersections. The differences between the two countries are not just a difference in aesthetic sense, but also a strong reflection of the history, culture, and social backgrounds each country has cultivated.

Airi Kurusu: I was very nervous when I first met my host family, but as they talked to me kindly, my tension was eased. I was surprised by the size of the house, which even had a pool. I enjoyed talking with them during dinner about Japan and our families. Staying in Camden made me realize that everyday things like transportation and townscapes reflect cultural and social differences. I was particularly impressed by the efficient and safety-conscious transportation system and the townscape where nature coexists with the urban environment. This experience helped me rediscover the importance of cross-cultural understanding and inspired me to apply what I've learned to my future life and studies.

Kaito Hirai: "After presenting a Kamishibai (paper theater), we interacted with local students. At first, I was nervous speaking in English, but I gradually felt more at ease as we communicated using gestures. We had a great time talking about sports and food culture. Ultimately, we played volleyball with high school students in the schoolyard and took commemorative photos. Although the time was short, it was a valuable experience that made me even more eager to improve my English skills."

Kotarou Mizuma: I noticed that Australian students have many opportunities to try new things and are enthusiastic about them. In Japan, you usually join a club or circle when starting a sport. In Australia, however, you can join an existing group or invite friends to play. I felt that this approach was made possible because of the country's vast spaces and the successful coexistence of people with diverse backgrounds.

Masako Wakana: The last place we visited was Camden Youth Connect, a community space where various events and activities are held for young people. Here, we had the chance to enjoy playing basketball with local children. Even when language wasn't shared, we naturally connected through sports, and through playing, smiles increased. I realized the moment when friendship was born, transcending the barriers of nationality and language."

Despite the short duration of their stay, the six young delegates met many people, had heart-to-heart exchanges with them, and returned home having grown significantly. We hope this experience will broaden their possibilities for the future and be a step forward in further strengthening the bond between Kashiwa city and Camden.



Introducing Kashiwa at Camden Council



Picture-story show of "Old Man Flower Bloom"

Online International Exchange Salon

"How to Improve Your Activities" - Learn Tips on Feedback That Leads to the Next Step

Do you want to improve your own activities in your hobby clubs, volunteer work, or for things you are trying to do? We invited Ms. Yukari Saiki as a lecturer and learned tips on how to make our everyday activities more attractive and better. First, the participants were divided into groups and experienced a workshop in which one person talked about their own activity and received comments and advice from other participants. Then, they switched the roles of talking about activities and giving feedback. Some comments from participants included, "After having others listen to my own activity and receiving feedback, I realized its merits and other options that I had not thought of. I would like to use this technique in my daily life. It was an enjoyable experience with unexpected discoveries."

June Events

Japanese Shonan Classes		
Online Classes		
Sun	10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	<i>Minna no Nihongo, Primary II; Chukyu kara Manabu Nihongo</i>
Sun	7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.	<i>Minna no Nihongo, Primary II</i>
In-person Classes (Shonan Shakai Fukushi Center)		
Thu	10:00 a.m. - noon	<i>Minna no Nihongo, Primary I (2 classes) Primary II</i>
Sun	10:00 a.m. - noon	<i>Minna no Nihongo, Primary I (3 classes)</i>
Japanese Kashiwa/Kashiwanoha Classes		
Online Classes		
Tue	7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.	<i>Minna no Nihongo Primary II (Unit 34-)</i>
Wed	7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.	<i>Minna no Nihongo Primary 1 (Unit 4-)</i>
Thu	1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.	Conversation Elementary
Fri	7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.	<i>Minna no Nihongo Primary II (Unit 31-)</i>
In-person Classes (Palette Kashiwa)		
Tue	10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	Hiragana, Katakana; <i>Minna no Nihongo Primary 1 (Unit 10-/Unit 20-), Minna no Nihongo Primary II (Unit 30-)</i>
Wed	10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	Conversation Elementary & Intermediate
Fri	7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.	<i>Minna no Nihongo Primary 1 (Unit 4-)</i>
Sat	10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	Hiragana, Katakana; <i>Minna no Nihongo Primary 1 (Unit 9-/Unit 21-)</i>
In-person Classes (Thu: Kashiwanoha Service Corner, Sat: Kenmin Plaza)		
Thu	10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	Conversation Elementary (first half/second half)
Thu	1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.	Hiragana, Katakana
Sat	10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	Conversation Intermediate

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

D Wednesday, June 25, 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. **P** Palette Kashiwa MTR A **R** the KCC Office

<Announcements from Other Organizations>

●Members Wanted! Kashiwa International Relations Association (KIRA)

Would you like to join us and take part in international exchange activities? Let's plan and organize various events while interacting with people from different countries! For more details, please visit our website.

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.

NHK World-JAPAN's website has been renewed. Available in multiple languages.

https://www3.nhk.or.jp/nhkworld/en/multilingual_links/



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