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Spring is here! What a great season!



Spring in Japan is warm and enjoyable. There are a variety of events too, so I love spring!

When you think of spring, you think of school entrance ceremonies, don't you? In China school entrance ceremonies are in September. Why are Japan's in April?



Long ago when school education began, many school entrance ceremonies were held in September in Japan as well. The Japanese government's budget begins in April and ends in March, as a one year period, so the schools also began to start in April.

I wonder if other country's school entrance ceremonies are also in April or September?



School entrance ceremonies differ by country. Even within the same country, they may even differ depending on the state or school! Also, even with the same school, in countries where you begin school on your birthday, each person's first day of school differs. Many schools in Japan have cherry trees planted there, so the cherry blossoms at the time of the April school entrance ceremonies are beautiful!



①

Recently I went to see cherry blossoms. In spring parts, botanical gardens, and tourist spots where a variety of flowers bloom are bustling with many people.



②

From the end of April to the start of May is Golden Week, so there are many people out and about.

What's Golden Week?



③

Golden Week is the time at which there are the most national holidays in a row in a year: April 29 is Showa Day, May 3 is Constitution Day, May 4 is Greenery Day, and on May 5 is Children's Day is celebrated.



④



On Golden Week's national holiday, "Children's Day," you can also enjoy the Japanese tradition of flying fish kites high in the sky.



⑤

Women age 40 and above can now have an ultrasound exam done as part of Utsunomiya City's breast cancer exam



Breast cancer is the most common form of cancer women get, and it is said that 1 in 11 women get it. However, if it is found early on and medical treatment is done, then over 90% of the people have the possibility of recovering. For that reason a medical exam (to check if one has cancer or not) is necessary. Please be sure to have an exam periodically.

Women age 40 and above

	Through 2017 fiscal year	Starting 2018 fiscal year
Exam content	Interview (*1) Breast exam (*2) Mammography (*3)	Breast exam Ultrasound exam (*4) Mammography
Frequency	Once every 2 years	
Method	Mass screening Individual screening	Mass screening

Women age 30 - 39

	Through 2017 fiscal year	Starting 2018 fiscal year
Exam content	Interview Breast exam	
Frequency	Once every year	
Method	Mass screening Individual screening	Individual screening

Inquiries: Kenko Zoushinka (Health Promotion Division)
028-626-1129

(*1) Interview: Doctor asks questions about your body. (*2) Breast exam: Doctor looks at and examines by hand.

(*3) Mammography: Examine by taking x-rays. (*4) Ultrasound exam: Examine using high pitch sounds humans cannot hear.

Take a bus and go somewhere



Useful websites

When you want to know about bus stops, time tables, or bus fares, or when the next bus will come, you can look up information using a Smart Phone or computer.

◇ Search for time tables



Utsunomiya.Guide
<https://utsunomiya.guide/>



Kanto Bus
"Fares, Routes, Time Table Search System"
http://www.kantobus.co.jp/route/bus_search.html

◇ Bus operation status & waiting time



Kanto Bus
"Bus Location System"
<https://kanto-bus.bus-navigation.jp/>



Toya Bus
"Where is bus No. 108?"
<http://www.busnav.net/toya108-busnavi>

Useful Bus Guide

◇ Normal bus card

Can be used anytime

Card cost	Card value
1,000 yen	1,100 yen
3,000 yen	3,370 yen
5,000 yen	5,700 yen



◇ Morning/early afternoon card

Can be used from 9:30AM - 3:30PM

Card cost	Card value
3,000 yen	3,800 yen



◇ Bus day card

Can be used on the 1st and 15th day of the month

Card cost	Card value
1,000 yen	1,400 yen



※ Where to buy: At the bus companies. Only normal bus cards can be bought on the bus.

※ Inquiries: Kanto Bus ☎ 028-634-8133
Toya Bus ☎ 028-662-1080
JR Bus Kanto ☎ 028-687-0671

Fun events 🎵 🎶

Experience Japanese Culture at the Fine Field Festival!



- 🕒 April 22 (Sun) 10:00AM – 3:00PM
- 😊 A festival to enjoy making and experiencing things related to Japanese culture. 🎵 Try origami, tea ceremony, and torn paper art at the Utsunomiya City International Association.
- 🆓 Free (Register on day of event)
- @ Utsunomiya-shi Bunka Kaikan Tenjishitsu (Utsunomiya Culture Hall Exhibition Room) (7-66 Akebonocho)
- ☎ Utsunomiya-shi Bunka Kaikan 028-636-2121

Film Festival "Rainbow Firefly – Summer Vacation Forever"



- 🕒 April 15 (Sun) 1:30PM – 3:15PM
- 😊 This fantasy animation movie is about Yuta, a young boy, who slips back in time to 1977 and experiences a mysterious summer vacation
- 🆓 Free (first 400 people)
- @ Shiritsu Minami Toshokan (Municipal South Library) (56-1 Suzumenomiya-machi)
- ☎ Shiritsu Minami Toshokan 028-653-7609



International Exchange Salon 🎵

- 🕒 Every 4th Saturday 4:00PM – 6:00PM
- 4/28 Japanese culture: origami
- 5/26 Looking back on Golden Week
- 😊 An event at which you can talk with people from various countries.
- 🆓 Free
- @ Utsunomiya International Plaza
- ☎ 028-616-1563



Tobu Train Line Harmonica Concert

- 🕒 April 28 (Sat) 12:00PM
- 😊 Harmonica concert by a group that does activities along the Tobu Train Line
- 🆓 Free
- @ Jyoshi Koen Hall (Mibu Chuo Kominkan) (1-8-33 Honmaru, Mibu-machi, Shimotsuga-gun)
- ☎ Tobu Line Harmonica Group Liaison Council 080-1020-1293 Michio Hayami



Cultural Heritage Tour: Oya



- 🕒 May 12 (Sat) 9:00AM – 3:15PM It will take place even if it rains.
- 😊 City Hall → Oya Park → Oya Temple → Oya Scenic Park → Rock formations → Okubo rock material → Rock cliff → Home of Watanabe Family → City Hall. Along the way participants will walk about 2km.
- Max** 40 people selected by a lottery (people living in Utsunomiya City)
- 🆓 Money to enter Oya Temple
- Sign up** On a pre-paid return postage postcard, please write "Bunkazai Meguri Oya" and the address, names, ages, and telephone number of all people wishing to participate. On the return side, please write the representative's postal code, address, and name. Please send it to the Culture Division at the City Hall (postal code 320-8540) by April 23 (must arrive by that date).
- ☎ Culture Division, City Hall 028-632-2766 Up to 4 people can apply on 1 postcard.



“Study Until I Die”

Hello everyone. My name is Chinzusan, and I came from Taiwan.

I was interested in Japanese culture and the Japanese language, so I had always wanted to come to Japan. I was given the opportunity to come as an exchange student, so 11 years ago I came to Japan.

I was very busy every day studying Japanese and working a part time job, but I studied quite hard. At first I said "lavender" instead of "balcony" ("veranda"), and made many small mistakes as well, but recently I think that number has greatly decreased.

I think that all humans have both hard and happy experiences in their lifetime, and I intend to strive for the goals I have set for myself by studying a little at a time and moving forward. In addition, I don't want to give up on the path I have chosen for myself, but instead overcome obstacles by taking one step at a time.

Furthermore, it is because the volunteer teachers that teach me Japanese are so enthusiastic that I am able to study hard. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them from the bottom of my heart.

※This is an extract from his speech. We will also post other presenters' speeches in subsequent issues. Don't miss it!

Utsunomiya International Plaza (UIP) Services

Consultation for Foreign Residents

		Spanish Portuguese	Chinese	Thai	English
		Mon	Tues	Wed	Fri
UIP ☎028-616-1564	3:00PM - 6:00PM	4 th Sunday of month (appointment needed)			
	9:00AM - 12:00PM	Thurs	2 nd Thurs	—	—
(during office hours)	2:00PM - 5:00PM	Thurs	—	2 nd Thurs	2 nd Thurs
	3:00PM - 5:00PM	3 rd Monday (appointment needed)			
Administrative Scrivener ☎028-616-1564	3:00PM - 5:00PM	3 rd Monday (appointment needed)			

Interpreter Volunteer Service

Go with someone needing language assistance to such places as national and prefectural facilities and the city hall, and interpret for them

- ▶ Monday – Sunday 8:30AM – 7:00PM
- ▶ 1 time (2 hours) 2,000 yen
- ▶ Please fill our application form at UIP, pay the fee, and submit the application.

“Oh-!” is published in easy Japanese, English, Chinese, Portuguese, Thai and Vietnamese, is also available on the UCIA website. <http://www.ucia.or.jp> There you can enjoy reading past issues of the “Oh-!” too.