

## Happy New Year 2012 (あけましておめでとう)

The new year has arrived and we hope that everyone had a great time last year and we hope to see you at our events again this year!

あけましておめでとうございます。今年もよろしくお願いいたします。

## Obihiro Ice Festival (帯広氷まつり)

It's January which means it's time for the Obihiro Ice Festival. Come on over to Midoriagoka Park from 1/27-1/29 and check out all the amazing ice sculptures that artists have put together. There will also be stage events, a giant ice slide, as well as food and drink stands to help keep you warm.

Here are a few pictures of last years sculptures. Photos do not do justice to the amazing quality of these sculptures.



1月27日～29日帯広氷まつりが開催されます。昨年の様子を写真で紹介します。

## Wine Party Thank You (ワインパーティーのお礼)

We would just like to thank everyone who made it to the wine party this year. We hope you had a great time and will join us again in the future.

昨年12月10日(土)に開催された「国際親善市民のタベ～ワインパーティー～」は、多くの皆様のご来場をいただき、終了することができました。ありがとうございました。

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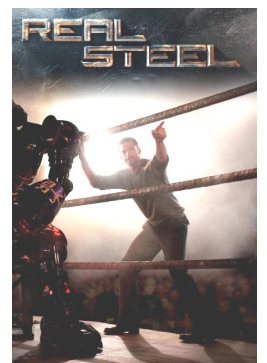
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Chef Hector  
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## Events in Tokachi and Obihiro



1/7	What	Where/Contact
1/7 (Sat) 10:00-11:30	<b>Cross-country Skiing Lesson (クロスカントリースキー講習):</b> Learn how to cross-country ski at TIRC. No prior experience is required. Open to international residents only. To register, please contact TIRC Coordinator Hisashi Ono.	森の交流館・十勝 Tokachi International Relations Center 0155-34-0122 tirc@city.obihiro.hokkaido.jp
1/11 (Wed) 19:00-21:00	<b>Mini-Volley (ミニバレー):</b> Held every 2nd Wednesday of the month. A simple sport to play and enjoy!	森の交流館・十勝 Tokachi International Relations Center 0155-34-0122 tirc@city.obihiro.hokkaido.jp
1/21 (Sat) 10:00-11:30	<b>Kids Playground (キッズプレイグラウンド):</b> Spend a nice Saturday morning with your kids and meet families from around the world.	森の交流館・十勝 Tokachi International Relations Center 0155-34-0122 tirc@city.obihiro.hokkaido.jp
1/21-2/26 (Sat-Sun)	<b>21st Tokachigawa Swan Festival "Sairinka" (第21回おとふけ十勝川白鳥まつり彩凧華):</b> A fantasy in winter that nobody has seen or experienced the likes of before, "Sairinka." The frozen yet firm snow-covered ground, the night sky filled with twinkling stars and countless objects with colors and warmth blend together. This mysterious festival that few have experienced before attracts many people. (taken from the events website)	音更町十勝が丘公園ハナック広場 Otofuke Tokachigaoka Park 0155-32-6633
1/22 (Sun) 13:30-15:30	<b>Experience the World of Capoeira! (森の交流館でカポエイラ):</b> Come and try out this Brazilian art with moves that resemble dance, martial arts, and gymnastics.	森の交流館・十勝 Tokachi International Relations Center 0155-34-0122 tirc@city.obihiro.hokkaido.jp
1/25 (Wed) 19:00-21:00	<b>Tokachi Amigos Mini-Volleyball (とかちアミーゴスミニバレー):</b> Let's meet friends from all over the world while enjoying a fun and easy sport! Fee: 100 yen	森の交流館・十勝 Tokachi International Relations Center Contact: Hector TEL 080-3295-4875
1/27-1/29 (Fri-Sun)	<b>49th Obihiro Ice Festival (第49回帯広氷まつり):</b> It's cold in January, but that shouldn't stop you from coming outside to check out the amazing ice sculptures and enjoy the fun and games at this years Ice Festival!	帯広市緑ヶ丘公園 Obihiro Midorigaoka (Green Park) 0155-22-8600
1/28 (Sat) 17:00-19:00	<b>29th International Talk (第29回インターナショナル・トーク):</b> This month's talk will be about the Republic of Sudan. Please register by phone or email.	森の交流館・十勝 Tokachi International Relations Center 0155-34-0122 tirc@city.obihiro.hokkaido.jp
1/28-3/31 (Sat-Sat)	<b>2012 Shikaribetsu Lake "Kotan" (2012しかりべつ湖コタン):</b> The Shikaribetsu "Kotan" was started 31 years ago to allow everyone to enjoy Hokkaido's winter wonderland. Pulling a fast one on the bitter coldness of winter, we have created a bright fun village on top of the ice on the lake. Please come and enjoy it to your hearts content. (translated from event website)	鹿追町然別湖畔及び湖上 Shikaoi-cho Lake Shikaribetsu 0156-69-8181 <a href="http://www.nature-center.jp/2012-kotan/kotan-top.htm">http://www.nature-center.jp/2012-kotan/kotan-top.htm</a> (Japanese)



## Chef Hector's Cuisine Corner (ヘクター調理人の料理コーナー)



We'd like to greet our readers a happy new Gregorian calendar year. We hope you all had a good new year's feast, whether it was traditional Japanese osechi, grapes at Nochevieja, or black eyed peas. While many people will be coming back from vacations around the world, here at the Cuisine Corner, we'd like to take you on a trip to the warm climate and mouth-watering cuisine of Brazil.

Brazil is the 5th largest country in the world by land area, and its cuisine varies greatly across its regions. Its food is closely tied to its history and eclectic population. The Brazilian natives had been making use of local ingredients like cassava and guarana, when the Portuguese introduced European food in the 16th century. The large influx of African slaves greatly influenced the food of the coastal regions. European, Middle Eastern, and East Asian immigrants in the 19th century further contributed to the culinary landscape, creating a diverse yet distinct food culture.

If there is a single dish that can be considered the national dish of Brazil, it is



without doubt the feijoada. Feijoada is a stew made with black beans and meat, commonly pork or beef. Its name comes from the Portuguese word "feijão" meaning "beans". It is usually simmered in a clay pot for a few hours, and served with white rice, toasted manioc flour, hot sauce, and orange slices. Brazilians often accompany feijoada with caipirinha, a traditional beverage made from sugar cane rum.

If you want something lighter than feijoada, then you can try the popular Brazilian snacks called coxinhas, esfirras, and risoles. Coxinhas are made from chicken meat enclosed in wheat flour and shaped like a drumstick. Esfirras or esfihas are triangle-shaped meat pies with Middle Eastern origins. Risoles are small fried turnovers usually filled with cheese, chicken, or shrimp. These are typically sold by street vendors everywhere in Brazil.



For the more health-conscious, we offer you a Brazilian way to warm your body up while burning off those holiday calories. On Sunday, January 22nd, from 1:30 PM, we are holding a Capoeira trial class at TIRC. Capoeira is a traditional Brazilian dance-like martial art that is now practiced as a group exercise all over the world. You can learn the basic moves of this art even if you have no prior experience. To sign up, please contact TIRC at 0155-34-0122 or [tirc@city.obihiro.hokkaido.jp](mailto:tirc@city.obihiro.hokkaido.jp). Please bring sport clothes, indoor shoes, and a face towel.



Come join us  
for Capoeira,  
the  
traditional  
Brazilian  
dance-martial  
arts that will  
get you  
warmed up.

ブラジル料理は、ポルトガルをはじめとするヨーロッパ諸国や、アフリカ、アラブ、アジア、先住民などの食文化から影響を受けた、多彩なものです。ブラジルの国民食と呼ばれる「フェジョアーダ」は黒いんげん豆と豚肉を煮込んだ料理で、よく白いご飯や炒ったキャッサバの粉、オレンジと一緒に食べます。ブラジルの代表的なおやつといえばコシーニャ、エスフィーハ、リゾーレという揚げ物があります。

また、1月22日(日)13:30から森の交流館・十勝でブラジルの伝統的格闘技・ダンスである「カポエイラ」の体験会を開催します。参加費は無料で、運動着、上靴、フェイスタオルをお持ちください。申し込みは、森の交流館・十勝にご連絡ください。

Times and movies are subject to change! (for space reasons not all movies are listed) To confirm, call or check online at:  
[http://www.taiyogroup.jp/cinema/theater/\\_obihiro/movie.shtml](http://www.taiyogroup.jp/cinema/theater/_obihiro/movie.shtml)

Title	Language	Dates
Mission: Impossible—Ghost Protocol	English	All Month
Real Steel	English	Ends 20th
The Adventures of Tintin: The Secret of the Unicorn	Japanese	Ends 20th

## Getting ready for Elementary School in Japan (小学校の準備)

Getting ready to enter elementary school in Japan is an interesting experience. By this time of the year, parents of last-year's preschoolers or nencho-san (年長さん) received an admission notice by mail informing them which school their child will be placed next year. A number of visits to the school follow, where children get to know their peers and teachers and parents are briefed on what to do before the school year starts.

The first visit is held in the school's gymnasium or taiikukan (体育館). Sitting on a large goza – a Japanese bamboo mat – parents listen to orientation information from the school staff. By the time they graduate from preschool, children are supposed to take the second round of the mashin (麻疹, measles) and fushin (風しん, German measles) vaccine. For families who came to Japan with small children, it is important to check their vaccination records and find out if the vaccine is necessary or not.

Children are expected to acquire a number of skills before they become first-graders. Some make perfect sense, such as writing their own name in hiragana and counting to twenty, and some are a bit curious, like knowing names of knots and how to tie them. Known in Japan as cho-musubi (ちょう結び, 'butterfly' knot) and kata-musubi (かた結び, square knot), they are widely known in, perhaps any country, although not by their names.

Acquiring school supplies is also part of the preparation for elementary school. Among the things one can find only in Japan are the taiiku-boshi (体育帽子), a red cap used for PE classes; the coupy pencils (クーピーペンシル), a set of easy-to-sharpen, erasable color crayons; and the randoseru (ランドセル), the Japanese school bag, a very special item that symbolizes the beginning of life as a student. Somewhat peculiar are the kenban hamonika (鍵盤ハーモニカ), or melodica keyboard, played by pressing the keys while blowing air into it, and the sankakukin (三角巾), a triangular piece of cloth tied around the head when cooking. Except for the randoseru, which is usually brand new, other items can be osagari (お下がり), or hand-me-downs from older siblings.

School visits, immunization, knot tying, purchase of school supplies: after completing all these tasks, all that is left is wait for the nyugakushiki (入学式), the Entrance Ceremony held in April. Tanoshimi!



1 My indoor and PE shoes are too small. / 2 Ok. / 3 Mine too!



4 You can just wear hand-me-downs from your sister! / 5 Yeah, but... / 6 I know, I always make you wear hand-me-downs. Sorry!



7 It's ok, but isn't it weird that my name is written on it, while my sister's name is crossed off...and the rubber is kinda loose...

8 Mimi's son / Mimi's daughter  
9 Sorry, sorry! Come on, that's no big deal!  
(Source: <http://mimiyt.blog65.fc2.com/blog-entry-1909.html>)

日本の小学生といえば、ランドセルを背負って通学路をたどる子どものイメージが外国でもよく知られています。小学校に入るための準備が始まる今ごろでは、「クーピーペンシル」や「鍵盤ハーモニカ」など、日本の小学校にしかない日本語を覚える機会になります。

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Obihiro Pioneer can be found at the following locations:

Obihiro City Hall, Tokachi International Relations Center, Obihiro University International Center, Obihiro Tourism and Convention Center inside the Obihiro JR Station, Obihiro Public Library, Cinema Taiyo, Joy English Academy and online at [www.city.obihiro.hokkaido.jp](http://www.city.obihiro.hokkaido.jp) (click on "Information for Foreigners")

"Obihiro Pioneer" is a newsletter published monthly by the Obihiro International and Domestic Relations Section for residents of the Tokachi District and related parties. The contents of this newsletter do not necessarily represent the official views or opinions of the International and Domestic Relations Section or the City of Obihiro. Questions? Tel (0155) 65-4133 or send e-mail to the Editing Team at [international@city.obihiro.hokkaido.jp](mailto:international@city.obihiro.hokkaido.jp).