

PUBLIC RELATIONS MAGAZINE

DATE

伊達

ENGLISH
DIGEST

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The following are translations of news articles found in the Japanese edition.



Now Accepting Student Loan Applications for Students Entering High School or University

Student loans will be offered to students of the city. Those interested in a student loan, please receive an application from the General Education Department (located in the City Hall Main Office's East Wing on the 2nd floor) and apply. For more details, please use the QR code to the right to access the website.

[Eligibility] Those who fulfill all of the following requirements (for ② you only need to fulfil either a. or b.)

- ① Must exhibit upstanding behavior and outstanding academic performance
- ② a. Those planning to go to high school, or currently in high school
→Must have been a resident of the city for a year or more.
- b. Those planning to go to university, or currently in university
→Must have graduated or passed the Certificate for Students Achieving the Proficiency Level of Upper Secondary School, in addition to having been a resident of the city for a year or more.
- ③ Current school GPA (Grade Point Average) is 3.5 or more (except those who have passed the Certificate for Students Achieving the Proficiency Level of Upper Secondary School)
- ④ Have difficulty receiving education due to finances
- ⑤ Have not accepted any other loan-type scholarships

[Applicant Limit] Few persons

[Application Documents] The General Education Department is distributing application forms from Tuesday, January 11th ~ Monday, January 31st (excluding weekends).

[Application Method] Please bring the completed application to the General Education Department between Tuesday, February 1st ~ Thursday, February 10th (excluding weekends).

[Selection Method] After screening the documents, a decision will be made. All applicants will receive notification of the results.

[Loan Interest] Interest-free

[Repayment Period] The stipend amount must be repaid within 10 years, beginning half a year following your graduation date. The admission funds must be repaid from October of the year of school entrance, to the formal end of school attendance.

[Additional Information] Application to other financial-aid is allowed but if chosen for this student loan, accepting other financial aid is not permitted.

Student Loan Allotment Table

Classification		Stipend (Monthly)	Admission Funds (One-time Sum)
High School	Public	10,000 Yen	100,000 Yen
	Private	20,000 Yen	150,000 Yen
Technical School		20,000 Yen	100,000 Yen
University	Public	40,000 Yen	250,000 Yen
	Private	60,000 Yen	
Junior College	Public	40,000 Yen	200,000 Yen
	Private	60,000 Yen	
Vocational School	Advanced Course	20,000 Yen	200,000 Yen
	Specialized Course	40,000 Yen	

[Contact] General Education Department's General Planning Section
☎ 573-5852

Check it Out! 
More details here



New Year's Bookmark Gift

The municipal library's staff will be gifting handmade bookmarks to whomever is interested.

[Date] Wednesday, January 5th ~ Sunday, January 30th

[Location] The municipal library's counter

[Contact] Date City Municipal Library ☎ 551-2132

Influenza Vaccine Aid Extended

Due to a delay in the market supply of flu vaccines, the period for receiving subsidies to get inoculated has been extended.

[New Extended Period] Until Thursday, January 22th, 2022.

[Eligibility] Senior citizens as well as young children and expecting mothers are eligible.

[Additional Information] For more information regarding the medical institutions offering vaccinations, please contact the Health Promotion Department or contact medical institutions directly.

[Contact] Health Promotion Department's Health Management Section ☎ 575-1116

Check it Out! 

More details here



Young Children & Expectant Mothers



Senior Citizens

Hurry and Get Cervical Cancer and Breast Cancer Screenings!

The screening period is coming to an end. Please make an appointment and get an examination as quickly as possible!

[Period] Until Monday, February 28th, 2022.

[Eligibility] Women whose age is an even number (Cervical Cancer Screening: 20 years or older. Breast Cancer Screening: 40 years or older.)

※ Women whose age is an odd number and were not examined at the end of the last fiscal year or those who did not receive an examination sticker, please contact us.

[Contact] Health Promotion Department's Health Management Section ☎ 575-1116

Check it Out! 

More details here



City Homepage

Protecting Senior Citizens' Piece of Mind by Granting QR Codes

QR codes are being issued that allow people, such as senior citizens, who may have gotten lost and unable to return home, or have been found and are being protected by police or other organizations, to be promptly identified and returned to their families.

[QR Code] Both stickers and patches that can be ironed onto cloth are available. Please apply to items that are worn on the person, such as belts or shoes.

▶ Sticker Example



▶ Usage Example



The Process Until Returning Home

- ① The discoverer of the lost person reads the QR Code and contacts the 3rd party.
 - ② The 3rd party contacts the registered emergency contact (e.g. family).
- ※ Personal information such as identities or addresses will not be exposed.

[Application] Those interested in the service, please turn in an application form to any of the branch offices. (Those in Hobara, please go directly to the Elderly Welfare Dept.)

[Contact] Elderly Welfare Department's Community-based Comprehensive Care Promotion Section ☎ 575-1125

Check it Out! 

More details here



City Homepage



May 2022 be a good year!

Maria-mochi

It seems to me that New Year's Day is the most celebrated day of the year in Japan. Certainly it is the most beautifully celebrated event, with decorations such as the pine-and-bamboo *kadomatsu* and rice-straw *shimenawa* placed near building entrances, and flocks of *kimono*-clad people lining up to make their *hatsumōde* (first shrine visit of the New Year). In Western cultures, Christmas usually far outweighs the New Year in terms of importance, and often any decorations found around the New Year are actually those for Christmas, left out until the very end of the Christmas season. Growing up in America, I learned that if New Year's Day had any deeper significance than being the day to recover from New Year's Eve, it is as the Octave of Christmas, and for Roman Catholics, as the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. As Catholics are obliged to attend Mass on this day, the trip to attend Mass on January 1st has become a sort of *hatsumōde* for me as a resident of Japan.

After attending this Mass one year, I found myself aimlessly wondering through a department store near Fukushima Station, waiting for the next train home. Being New Year's Day, the store's stock of *kagami-mochi* rice cakes had been marked down to half price. Their elaborate appearance caught my attention, and their steeply-discounted price gave me enough incentive to buy one, even if I was just going to eat the rice cake inside and throw out the layers of decorations it was packaged with. Yet as I held it on the train ride home, I couldn't help but try to think

of something better to do with the gaudy bits of paper and plastic paraphernalia, than merely use them to adorn the inside of my garbage bin. So once home, I took a miniature red paper fan out from the box, and attached it behind the head of a statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary. It resembled a halo, and the large decorative sheet of paper that I took out next had the image of a "treasure ship", which eerily resembled the square-rigged sailboats that missionaries such as St. Francis Xavier used to make the perilous voyage here, hundreds of years ago. That sheet of paper was to be placed under the round, plastic *mochi* container; and atop that case I placed the newly-decorated Marian statue. I was worried that the tall, heavy statue wouldn't be able to stay balanced atop the round *mochi* mound for long, but to my happy surprise it remained there for several days, until I finally took down my new New Year decorations.

As the New Year in Japan is a time for families to gather, enjoy traditional activities, and pray for good fortune, this holiday had always left me feeling alienated as a non-Japanese foreigner, living alone and without faith in mere luck. Yet by combining traditional Japanese New Year decorations with those that mark my own culture and faith, I have been able to find more meaning and happiness in New Year's Day. From now on, I intend on decorating a *Maria-mochi* every year on January 1st; as not only is it a way to celebrate this Catholic feast day, but it also takes advantage of clearance-priced *mochi*!