

PUBLIC RELATIONS MAGAZINE

DATE

伊達

ENGLISH
DIGEST

March 2022



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

Completion of Date Elementary's Gymnasium and the After School Children's Club Annex

The dilapidated school building and playground of Date Elementary School have been renovated, creating a barrier-free educational environment that can accommodate a variety of content for learning. The gymnasium, as well as the After School Children's Club annex, were completed in January and have begun being utilized.

【Future Plans】 Following the demolition of the old school building, a new school building and auditorium will be constructed, with classes in the new school building projected to commence in March of 2024. Construction vehicles will be exiting and entering the vicinity of the construction site, so please be careful of traffic.



▲ Exterior



▲ Arena Interior



▲ After School Children's Club Room

【Construction Overview】 Total floor area of the building: 3,351m²/ 36,070ft² (Gymnasium: 2,125m²/ 22,873ft², After School Children's Club annex: 1,226m²/ 13,197ft²) Structure: Reinforced concrete construction with partial steel construction, 2 floors above ground

【Contact】 Education General Affairs Department's Facility Management Section ☎ 573-5856

Date City's Coming-of-Age Ceremony Continues to be for 20-Year-Olds

In regards to the status of the Coming-of-Age Ceremony post decreasing the official age of majority to 18 years of age, due to the reasons listed below, Date City will continue to hold the "Date City's Newly 20 Social Gathering (Tentative Title)" for those eligible.

The Reasons for 20 Being the Eligible Age

- ① Until now the ceremony has been implemented for 20-year-olds and has long been a custom for the region and city residents
- ② If changed to 18-year-olds, there is concern for increased burden on participants and their families as the ceremony would overlap with the period of university entrance exams or job hunting for many

Date City's Newly 20 Social Gathering 2023 (Tentative Title)

Monday, January 8th, 2023

※ Changes may be made in accordance to the COVID-19 situation

【Contact】 Lifelong Learning Department's Lifelong Learning Sports Section

☎ 573-5709



The School Fees Support System is Available for Use

The School Fees Support System assists guardians of children by covering part or all of the expenses necessary for schooling such as school supplies and school lunches. This applies only to children who attend Date Municipal Elementary or Middle Schools and are recognized as having difficulty going to school due to financial reasons.

An application and an income investigation are necessary to receive aid. For further details please contact the student's current school (for transfer students, contact the new school) or consult with the School Education Department.

【Contact】 School Education Department's General Affairs Management Section ☎ 573-5824

Procedures for Provisional Special Benefits for Households Exempt from Resident Tax

(Resident tax exempt households that had an additional family member rejoin the household from January 2nd, 2021 ~ December 10th, 2021)

Provisional special benefits (100,000 yen per household) will be given to households in which all members are resident tax exempt on a per capita basis.

[Eligibility] Households that all of the following items are applicable

- ① Households that are recorded in the Basic Resident Register as of December 10th, 2021
- ② All members who belong to the household are not subject to the municipal inhabitant's tax on a per capita basis for the year of 2021.
- ③ Households that include one or more members who rejoined the household from January 2nd ~ December 10th, 2021.

[Application Method] Please mail the following documents to the Social Welfare Department or bring them directly to the window.

- Benefit Application (invoice)
- Resident tax exemption certificate issued by the municipality of your residence. (※ Applicable only to households whose address differed from January 1st, 2021 and December 10th, 2021)
- A copy of the head of the household's bank account for transfers (where the financial institution, branch, deposit type, account number, and name in kana can be seen)
- A copy of the head of the household's proof of identification (e.g. driver's license, My Number Card, health insurance card, etc.)

[Application Deadline] September 30th, 2022

※ The application form can be downloaded via the city's website.

[Additional Information] Regarding households that don't include a newly rejoined member as of January 2nd, 2021 and still meet all of the requirements for benefits, a green confirmation form will have been sent with the date of January 17th.

[Contact] Social Welfare Department's Livelihood Welfare Section
☎ 575-1264

Please Help Give Life via Blood Donation



We kindly ask for assistance in securing blood for transfusions.

[Date] Tuesday March 15th from 9 AM ~ 10 AM

[Place] Ryozen Branch Office

[Additional Information] Those who donate blood will be gifted a token such as a carton of eggs from Ryozen Lion's Club.

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

Children and Family Support Center Aoba Now Open for Consultations about Child-Rearing and Family-Related Concerns

Children and Family Support Center Aoba has officially opened and our professional staff are ready to provide detailed consultation support to help families in the *Kenpoku* area with a variety of concerns regarding children aged 0 ~ 18 years.

In addition to consultations via phone and in-office visits, in-home consultations are also available. Won't you share your concerns about your family or children? Consultations are confidential and free. You are welcome anytime!

[Phone Consultations]

☎ 024-597-8823 Monday ~ Friday 9 AM ~ 5 PM

※ In the case of emergencies, we will respond after-hours. (You will be connected to Aoba Gakuen Children's Home)

[In-Office Consultations]

Monday ~ Friday (Excluding the year-end and New Year holidays)

Address: 24 Shinbayashi, Tsuchifune, Fukushima-shi

※ Please contact us first via phone.

[Contact] *Neuvola* Promotion Department's Families with Children Consultation Section ☎ 573-5682

Great East Japan Earthquake

March is a busy month in Japan, the month of school graduations, work-place transfers, changing residences, and other such life-changing events. Among the residents of Fukushima Prefecture, there are many people whose lives changed drastically in March eleven years prior. I am one of those people.

At 2:46 PM on March 11, 2011, I was in the staff room of Koori Town's Handa-Jōhō Elementary School. When the violent tremors began to hit, I hid under my desk, and was soon convinced that I had arrived at my life's end. Two minutes of terror passed before I began to reevaluate my conclusion; and when the shaking finally stopped, I was happy to find myself alive and unhurt. Immediately, I joined the students and staff in escaping to the schoolyard, as the first of the aftershocks jolted the school building. These punctuated the following days and weeks, and were a constant source of anxiety; but I felt the most fear the day after the main earthquake. Huddled in my unheated apartment, I listened to news on a battery-powered shortwave radio. Broadcasts from Japanese sources were calmly announcing that the condition of a nuclear plant on the prefecture's coast was unstable, and that explosions had been reported. Yet when I tuned into the BBC World Service,

the scientist providing news commentary stated that if the reactors had blown up, they had obviously suffered meltdowns. In the following days, I was bombarded with messages from my family, urging me to return home. I even received a phone call from the US State Department, reminding me that the United States had issued an evacuation advisory for American citizens living within fifty miles of the plant. (I was forty miles away.) Nonetheless, I had firmly decided that I would only evacuate alongside every other resident of my town. The Japanese government never ordered an evacuation order for Koori Town, so I stayed with the townspeople, working to recover from the disaster. I only went back to the States months later, to take a summer holiday from my job.

My life changed in March 2011. That is when I firmly resolved to live beside the people of Fukushima. No matter what calamity befalls us, whether it be a nuclear accident or novel coronavirus pandemic, I intend to stick it out with the people here. Just like entering a school or joining a company, this decision has shaped my life. Thanks to the support of everyone here, I have been able to follow through with this resolution without regret, and live out every day with deep happiness and gratitude.