

What's New in Yokosuka

<http://www.city.yokosuka.kanagawa.jp/0140/english/welcome/documents/cultureinfo.pdf>

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* All information may be subject to change

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EVENT CALENDAR

JANUARY

- 1 - Strawberry Picking at Tsukuihama Tourist Farm (~5/5)
- 11 - Coming of Age Day
- 16 - Anshinkan Fair
- 24 - Japan Festival in Yokosuka
- 28 - Mt. Takeyama Hatsufudo

FEBRUARY

- 11 - National Foundation Day
- 13 - Disaster Drill and Emergency Food Tasting
- 13-14 - Not Alone Fair
- 27 - Hashirimizu Nori Festa

MARCH

- 3 - Nagashi-bina
- 5 - Experience Japanese Culture
- 12 - Needle Mass

For English info about events in Yokosuka call the Yokosuka Call Center 046-822-2500. Operators may need time to search for info. 8am-8pm daily.

STRAWBERRY PICKING



Strawberry season has begun at the Tsukuihama Tourist Farm! Gorge yourself on all-you-can-eat, fresh-picked strawberries.

Where: Tsukui 5-15-20

Shuttle available from Tsukuihama St.

Entry fee: ¥1,700 (Jan. 6 - Feb. 29)

¥1,500 (Mar. 1 - Mar. 31)

¥1,200 (Apr. 1 - May 5)

Not Alone Fair

When: Feb. 13 (Sat.) - Feb. 14 (Sun.) 10:00-16:00

Where: Yokosuka Citizens Support Center

What: The Yokosuka Citizens Support Center works to support local NPO organizations. You can find volunteer opportunities that suit your interests. There will also be food booths and a flea market.



UPCOMING EVENTS

ALL EVENTS FREE UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

Hana no Kuni Flower World Winter Illumination

It may already be January, but you still have a chance to go see some beautiful winter illumination. Hana no Kuni Flower World in Kurihama will keep lighting up every day from 17:00-20:00 until February 14. Sounds like a perfect Valentine's date!



Japan Festival in Yokosuka

When: Jan 24 (Sun.) 10:00-16:00

Where: Sogo Fukushi Kaikan 5F & 6F

Experience Japanese Culture

When: Mar. 5 (Sat.) 13:00-17:00

Where: Sogo Fukushi Kaikan 5F & 6F



What: Both events are great chances to experience Japanese culture. Tea ceremony, kimono, martial arts, and more. Different activities will be available at different times.

*Most activities are free, but some require a small fee.



Mt. Takeyama Hatsufudo

When: Jan. 28 (Wed.) food booths open at 6 a.m.

Where: Mt. Takeyama and Takeyama Fudoin
(Take 1-3040)

What: A gathering of people praying for good health in the New Year and children enjoying famous *fugashi* (sugar-covered gluten) sweets. The road up to the temple will be lined with booths selling delicious sweets and other foods.

Disaster Drill and Emergency Food Tasting Event

When: Feb. 13 (Sat.) 10:00-11:30

Where: Werk Yokosuka 4F room 1

What: Learn about disaster preparation: the City's response in emergencies, what you can do to prepare, how to use emergency toilets, and about evacuation centers. Participants will also have the chance to taste-test emergency rations. To participate, please email the Yokosuka International Association with your name and contact info at npo-yia@kb3.so-net.ne.jp



Hashirimizu Nori Festa

When: Feb. 27 (Sat.) 10:00-14:00

Where: Hashirimizu Reservoir
(Hashirimizu 1-2-1)

What: A celebration to promote locally produced seafood, especially Hashirimizu's famous nori (seaweed). Learn about and taste great local products.

Needle Mass

When: Mar. 12 (Sat.) 11:00-12:00

Where: Hashirimizu Shrine (Hashirimizu 2-12-5) no parking.

What: Another traditional event where people bring their old sewing needles to the shrine, insert them into tofu, and pray for improved sewing skills.

Nagashi-bina

When: Mar. 3 (Tues.) 13:00

Where: Awashima Shrine (Ashina 1-18-29)

What: A traditional event in which paper dolls are put on a beautiful model boat and drifted down the river to wash away misfortunes.



YOKOSUKA MUSEUM OF ART

(Kamoi 4-1. Pay parking available. Open 10:00-18:00)

Exhibit:

Taniuchi Rokuro: "Living Things"
Dec. 19 - Apr. 3

Taniuchi's covers from *Shukan Shincho* magazine featuring living things.

General admission: ¥310

High school, College, 65 and over: ¥210

Jr. high and under: FREE



Exhibit:

"Shimada Shizu and Isomi Teruo: Color and Monochrome"
Feb. 6 - Apr. 10

Roughly 90 pieces on display from a master of color and a master of monochrome.

General admission: ¥900

High school, College, 65 and over: ¥700

Jr. high and under: FREE

*Free entry for both exhibits on Feb. 14



YOKOSUKA LIVING

Cult of Personality Tests

Have you been seeing more monkeys around than usual? And no, I am not talking about Sarushima Island. Nor am I talking about real monkeys roaming the streets of Yokosuka. That would be more of an issue for animal control than for this column. Rather, I am referring to the explosion of products - planners, shirts, figures, etc. - that feature monkeys. Of course this invasion of adorable characters is fed by the Japanese love of all things cute, but the reason for the focus on monkeys is that 2016 is the year of the monkey.

The Japanese zodiac, like its Chinese predecessor, is on a 12-year cycle, and each year is represented by a different animal, such as snake, boar, rat, etc. The year of the monkey is the 9th year in the cycle; it follows the year of the sheep and precedes the rooster. Much like Western astrology, each animal represents certain personality traits. People born in the year of the monkey are said to be mischievous, curious, and forever playful. They love practical jokes but are very smart when making financial deals.

For most non-Japanese it is not too much of a shock to hear about the zodiac animals. Most people



have already heard of similar traditions. However, there is another, more surprising tradition in Japan that equates blood type with personality traits. If you find yourself in a social situation with Japanese friends, you are likely to be asked your blood type. Even if you don't know it, like me, fear not, because it seems to be just as much fun to guess.

These types of personality tests, even if you don't believe in them, can make for fun conversation. The new year of the monkey will also give you a great excuse to buy some adorable monkey items and a couple pairs of snazzy red underwear.

Marshall Smith, a native of Illinois, U.S.A., is Yokosuka's coordinator for international relations. "Yokosuka Living" is in every issue of What's New in Yokosuka and includes useful information for everyday life in Japan.

MEET YOUR NEIGHBORS

Name: Julie Alt

Brief Intro: I am an English teacher, and I came here from Okinawa in March 2015 to teach the first ever UMUC Bridge Program in Yokosuka.

What is that? UMUC is a university on the U.S. Navy Base, and the Bridge Program is a one-year ESL program that prepares students for college in English.

How has the first course been going?

It's been going really well. My students are improving very quickly. They also seem to be enjoying the chance to study in an American classroom setting. As long as you fulfill some minimal requirements, the program is open to all Yokosuka residents, so it's a great opportunity for people who really want to improve their English. Actually, the application period just opened for the next session, which starts in August. Check out the City website for more information.

How do you like Yokosuka?

I like it a lot! It's a bit colder than I am used to, but the people have been so nice and my students are the best! It's easy to get around without a car, and I have become slightly obsessed with Navy curry! It's so good!



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