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WORD OF THE
MONTH 8Seika Town Mascot
Kyōmachi Seika

"To all new adults: Never forget the curiosity you had as a child!"

Throwing Open the Gates to Adulthood

Like previous years, this year's Coming of Age Ceremony was planned by a committee of ceremony participants. To start the ceremony off on a good note, the Seika Town Youth Choir sang songs and got everyone in attendance into the spirit.

In Seika Town Mayor Masami Sugiura's ceremony address, he had a few words of wisdom for the crowd of young adults: "Your youth will allow you to take on any and all of life's challenges. Don't rush, keep your spirits high, and never give up. Live by that motto and try your best to leave no regrets in your life."

Following the Mayor's address, Ceremony Committee member Airi Tanaka touched upon her own resolve.

At the "Gathering of Adults," the ceremony after-party, the young adults participated in a lottery, and reveled in the company of their former teachers and classmates. Good luck, everyone!



◆ Resolutions from Coming of Age Ceremony Committee Members

Suzu Nakamura

"I want to become an adult who never lets go of their dreams."

Takayuki Morita

"I hope to continue on in life's journey with a sense of responsibility and a challenger's spirit."

Momoka Okamoto

"I will try my best to never forget my feelings of gratitude and grow into an honest adult."

Hayaki Okuda

"I want to become an adult able to shoulder the future of Japan."

Erika Fujita

"I hope to become a superb, confident woman who is unswayed by others."

Hiroto Mizuta

"I want to become someone that others can rely on."

Airi Tanaka

"No matter how old I get, I want to continue chasing my dreams!"

Miho Fujimura

"I want to be an upstanding adult who can make others smile."

Kentaro Kawauchi

"I promise to cherish the people I meet in life."

Nanako Inoue

"I hope to become a dignified adult."

Yuki Yamakawa

"I would like to appreciate myself and improve my self expression. Happiness is achievable to those who reach for it."



Did You Know...?

Did you know that new personal information display options on official documents have recently been made available, such as the omission of gender and the addition of one's maiden name? These changes have been implemented to accommodate sexual minorities who experience disadvantages by the revealing of their gender on official documents, and women that would like to continue working under their maiden name after marrying.

◆ Omission of Gender from Resident Record Certificate

Since November 2018, the gender section of the Personal Stamp Registration Certificate has been abolished in consideration of LGBT persons. Additionally, the gender section of the Resident Record Certificate can also be omitted upon request.

Within the LGBT spectrum, there are people whose preferred gender identity or gender expression differs from their sex assigned to them at birth. These people are known as “transgender.” If a person meets the requirements determined by the law, they are allowed to change their gender on their *koseki* (family registry). However, due to strict guidelines, personal reasons, or their way of thinking, not every transgender person decides to change the gender on their *koseki*.

If, for example, a person who was born a certain gender, but has lived their life as a different gender, they might face discrimination if their birth gender is revealed on official documents. To prevent this, the option to exclude one's gender on their Resident Record Certificate was made available.



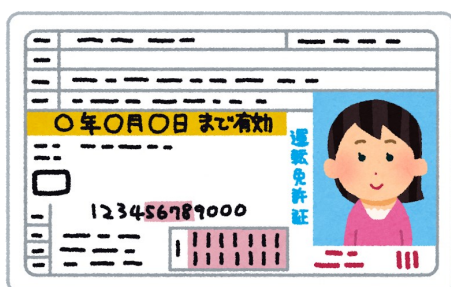
◆ Inclusion of Maiden Name on Official Documents Now Available

The option to add one's maiden name next to their married name on their Resident Record Certificate and My Number Card was made available on November 5, 2019. Adding one's maiden name to their Resident Record Certificate automatically makes the addition eligible on their My Number Card as well. The option to do the same to one's driver's license was made available soon after on December 1, 2019.

When couples get married, Japanese law states that one of them must take on the last name of the other. It is a fact that, in an overwhelming number of cases, the woman takes the last name of her husband.

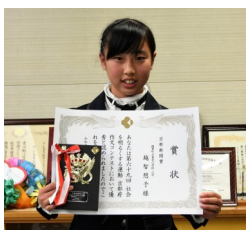
By changing their last name, their private information, such as marital status, becomes public, and any contracts they signed with their maiden name must be redone to reflect their name change. There are also people who feel that by changing their name, their career is divided into pre- and post-marriage categories, or they lose continuity with their pre-marriage self.

It is anticipated that the option to list one's maiden name with their married name will make people's lives more convenient, and provide women with the support they need to continue living and working using their maiden name.





Recognizing the Wonderful Children of Seika Town



Brighter Society Movement Essay Contest Award Winners

The Brighter Society Movement, a movement centered on crime and misconduct prevention, and deepening the understanding of rehabilitating criminals, held a prefecture-wide essay contest in Kyoto.

Out of 13,527 entries, Soyo Ochi, a 6th grader from Higashi Hikari Elementary School, won the Kyoto Shimbun Newspaper Award, and Yuzuki Fujita, a 6th grader from Seikadai Elementary School, won the KBS Kyoto Award for their outstanding essays.

Congratulations!

6th Children's Essay Contest Award Winner

The 6th Children's Essay Contest, organized by Yomiuri Shimbun Newspaper and sponsored by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science, and Technology, held its award ceremony on November 9 (Sat.) in Tokyo.

The nationwide contest garnered 11,861 entries, out of which 25 were chosen to receive awards. One of the essays chosen for recognition was written by Ami Fujita, a 4th grader from Seikadai Elementary School.

Good job, Ami!



Seika Elementary School Wins Gold (and more!) in Nation-wide Contest

The Higashi Hikari Elementary School wind ensemble cleaned up at the Japan Wind Orchestra and Ensemble Competition held at the Bunkyo Civic Hall in Tokyo on November 3 (Sun.). The talented ensemble was awarded their 4th consecutive Grand Prize award in the Elementary School Division and their first Special Judge's Award in recognition for their outstanding performance. They also captured their 2nd consecutive 1st place prize at the National Elementary School Band Festival held at Osaka-jo Hall on the 23rd of the same month.



The ensemble performed the piece *With Heart and Voice*, composed by David Gillingham, at both contests. Though a notably difficult piece to play for young musicians, they honed their performance technique and musical expression of this piece through group practices and one-on-one instruction. Their hard work translated into both an wonderful, impactful performance, and lead them to a gold medal finish.

Way to go, everyone!



Town News

Fun With Flowers

The Keihanna Commemorative Park Visitor's Center held the fun-filled floral event "Hana Asobi" on January 11 and 12.

People in attendance viewed the New Year's mochibana flower exhibitions and perused the Seika Town specialty goods and Minamiyamashiro Village rest stop goods on sale at the event. A booth opened with the cooperation of Kindai University and local Japanese confectionary shop Futaba also sold original Japanese sweets created by Kindai students.

In the afternoon, participants enjoyed a flower arrangement workshop where they learned how to make their own mochibana flowers.



Learning About Smartphone and Cellphone Safety



As having a cellphone or smartphone is becoming more prevalent in modern society, the associated societal problems related to having one, such as bullying, also continue to rise. In response to this, NTT Docomo, the Legal Affairs Bureau, and the Human Rights Protection Committee joined together to teach children at Yamadasho Elementary School about mobile phone safety through their Smartphone and Cellphone Human Rights Lecture.

5th and 6th graders along with their parents and guardians participated in the lecture where they learned about the proper usage and potential dangers of mobile phones and the internet.

Looking to meet more families? Join us at Ichigo Ichie!

Do you have a child and are looking to befriend other families raising their own children in Seika? Look no further than Ichigo Ichie!

Ichigo Ichie was created to give families a safe place to enjoy the company of other families in the area. At this gathering, families can enjoy Japanese and foreign language picture book reading sessions, sing songs, talk about raising their children, and exchange important information on a variety of topics. Gatherings are held in easy Japanese with English used when necessary.

Connect with other families and make friends at Ichigo Ichie!

Date: 1st Sunday of the month (6 times a year)

Fee: Adults 100 yen Children Free

Apply: Visit the Ichigo Ichie website (sgnhiroba.blogspot.jp) to apply

※Gathering date, time, and location are subject to change. For more information please visit the Ichigo Ichie website.





Town Events

Seika Town Exchange Hall Concert

Get carried away by the winds of spring to the Seika Town Exchange Hall Concert, where a pipe organist will be playing jazz and gospel pieces.

Date: 3/21 (Sat.) 2:00 ~ 3:00 p.m. (doors open at 1:30 p.m.)

Place: Seika Town Hall Exchange Hall (2nd fl. Koryu Hall)

Max Participants: 150 people (lottery to be held in event applications surpass max)

Setlist: Amazing Grace, Cry Me a River, Over the Rainbow and other pieces...

How to Apply: Scan the QR code below and fill in the application form by 3/9 (Mon.)

※Lottery results to be announced by 3/16 (Mon.)

Inquiries: Seika Town Hall Planning and Coordinating Department

TEL 0774-95-1900



Parent and Child Painting Class at the Seika Town Library

Enjoy arts and crafts with your child at the Seika Town Library. Participants will be painting pictures onto cloth bags.

Date: 3/1 (Sun.) 10:00 ~ 11:00 a.m. (doors open at 9:45 a.m.)

Place: Seika Town Hall Library - 1st floor Meeting Room

Eligible Persons: Persons living, working, or going to school in Seika Town

Max Participants: 20 groups (1 parent and 1 child per group)

How to Apply: Apply at the front desk of the Seika Town Library or Aozora-go Library-on-Wheels, or call the number below. Applications accepted from 2/16 (Sun.) ~ 2/25 (Tues.)

Inquiries: Seika Town Library TEL 0774-95-1911



34th Pocket Marche in Keihanna Commemorative Park

Antiques, souvenirs, plants for sale at this mini flea market held at the Keihanna Commemorative Park

Date: 3/7 (Sat.) ~ 3/8 (Sun.) 9:30 a.m. ~ 4:00 p.m.

Place: Keihanna Commemorative Park - Open Space (Shibafu Hiroba)

Inquiries: The PocketMarche Committee TEL 080-5364-2345



Arare Cracker Throwing and Handmade Origami Girls' Day Doll Class

Celebrate Girls' Day by making origami hina dolls with us. First 100 participants will receive free hina arare crackers.

Date: 3/1 (Sun.) 2:00 ~ 4:00 p.m.

Place: Keihanna Commemorative Park - Visitor's Center (basement floor)





Asunaro Cooking

Looking for new recipes to incorporate into your cooking repertoire? Learn new, healthy recipes from the Seika Town Diet Improvement Association “Asunaro-kai!”

Learn how to make “Tandoori Chicken” with this recipe:

* Ingredients (2 servings)

Chicken·····	100g	A:	
Veg. oil·····	1/2 tsp	Plain yogurt···	30g
Lettuce·····	40g	Grated onion···	7g
Mini tomato·····	40g	Curry powder···	1g
		Soy sauce·····	1.5g
		Salt/Pepper···	pinch



* Instructions

1. Cut chicken into large bite-size pieces.
2. Add (A) ingredients into a bowl and combine them.
3. Add cut chicken to bowl and marinate for 20~30 minutes.
4. Heat vegetable oil in a fry pan at medium heat and cook chicken.
5. Turn chicken when it browns then cover and cook on low heat until chicken is cooked through.
6. Serve on plate with lettuce and mini tomatoes.

* Nutrition information (per serving)

Calories	109kcal	Protein	14.0g
Calcium	25mg	Dietary Fiber	0.8g
Fat	4.2g	Sodium	0.2g



QUICK LIST

Welcome to the Quick List, a short list of vocabulary words in both English and Japanese.

This month's theme: Setsubun

Please send us feedback! Is this list a good level?
If you have topic suggestions please let us know.



1. 豆まき - bean throwing
まめ
2. 立春 - first day of spring
りっしゅん
3. 鬼 - demon
おに
4. 邪鬼 - imp, evil spirit
じゃき
5. 福 - fortune
ふく
6. 外 - outside
そと
7. 内 - inside
うち
8. 声掛け - greeting
こえか
9. 魔除け - talisman, amulet
まよ
10. 柊 鱒 - sardine and holly charm
ひいらぎいわし
11. 神社 - shrine
じんじゃ
12. 寺院 - temple
じいん

単語



Town Events

Keihanna Plaza Puchi Concert

Enjoy a mini classical concert held in the Keihanna Plaza atrium lobby.

Set-list (by session):

Piano Sonata in B flat major Hob. XVI: 41 / F. Haydn

Nocturne No.13 Op. 48-1 in C Minor / F. Chopin

Date:

2/19 (Wed.) 12:15~12:45 p.m.



Seika Town Facility Schedules

Sōraku Emergency Medical Clinic Schedule

Date	Specialty	Date	Specialty
2/11 (Hol./Tues.)	Internal Medicine	3/8 (Sun.)	Internal Medicine
2/16 (Sun.)	Pediatrics	3/15 (Sun.)	Internal Medicine
2/23 (Hol./Sun.)	Internal Medicine • Pediatrics	3/20 (Hol./Fri.)	Pediatrics
2/24 (Hol./Mon.)	Internal Medicine • Pediatrics	3/22 (Sun.)	Internal Medicine • Pediatrics
3/1 (Sun.)	Pediatrics	3/29 (Sun.)	Internal Medicine • Pediatrics

Health Center

Date	Time	Details
2/12 (Wed.)	1:30~3:30 p.m.	Papa Mama Class ~ Childbirth
2/16 (Sun.)	9:00 a.m. ~ 12:00 p.m.	Papa Mama Class ~ Parenting
2/26 (Wed.)	1:00~4:00 p.m.	9-10 mon. Old Health Check-up
2/27 (Thur.)	1:00~4:00 p.m.	3-4 mon. Old Health Check-up
3/3 (Tues.)	1:00~4:00 p.m.	3.5 yr. Old Health Check-up
3/5 (Thur.)	1:00~4:00 p.m.	2 yr. Old Dental Health Check-up
3/13 (Fri.)	1:00~4:00 p.m.	1.5 yr. Old Health Check-up

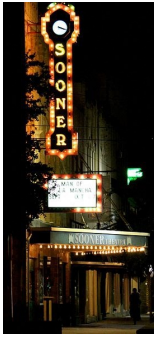
※Please call before visiting for a check-up

Sōraku Emergency Medical Clinic (TEL: 0774-73-9988)

Mukunoki Center

Date	Time	Details
2/12 (Wed.)	3:00~5:00 p.m.	Table Tennis Day
2/19 (Wed.)	3:00~5:00 p.m.	Table Tennis Day
2/23 (Sun.)	9:00 a.m. ~ 12:00 p.m.	Hohoemi Sports Arena
2/26 (Wed.)	—	Closed
3/4 (Thur.)	3:00~5:00 p.m.	Table Tennis Day
3/11 (Wed.)	3:00~5:00 p.m.	Table Tennis Day

Sister City News



A Place for Showcasing and Nurturing Talent

The Sooner Theatre of Norman is a non-profit organization that produces community theatre productions, concerts, and performance arts education opportunities for people of all ages in Norman. Located in the historic Walker Arts District, the Sooner Theatre first opened in 1929 and initially operated as a movie theater. It has since then been repurposed into a stage for showcasing the talent of both musicians and thespians in Norman. The theatre is open to all ages and often holds enjoyable plays where all the roles are played by children.

Catch a performance at The Sooner Theatre next time you're in Norman!

Article courtesy of: www.soonertheatre.org

About our Sister City - Norman, Oklahoma, USA

Seika Town has maintained a sister city relationship with Norman, a city in Oklahoma, USA, since 2005, and a friendly relationship through Kyoto Prefecture's sister state connection since 1985. The two municipalities work together to promote international exchange and cultural understanding to create more globally-minded communities.

Seika Town Office

Planning and Coordination Division

Kyoto-fu, Sōraku-gun, Seika-cho

Minami-Inayazuma, Kitajiri 70

TEL: 0774-95-1900

FAX: 0774-95-3971

EMAIL cir@town.seika.lg.jp

What to do if...

You have a question about something in Ichigo...

Call the Coordinator for International Relations at Seika Town Office if you have a question about any of the content featured in Ichigo. Also, if you know someone in Seika that would like to receive Ichigo in the mail please contact us!

You have a problem with life in Japan...

If you have any questions or problems concerning life in Japan not related to an article in Ichigo, please contact the Coordinator for International Relations at Seika Town Office.

TEL: 0774-95-1900 FAX: 0774-95-3971 EMAIL: cir@town.seika.lg.jp or kikaku@town.seika.lg.jp (Planning and Coordinating Division)

You have an issue with your visa or other questions...

The Kyōto City International Foundation (located at 2-1 Toriichō Awataguchi, Sakyō-ku, Kyōto-shi), offers advice and consultation on visa issues and general problems. **Visa consultations are available on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of every month (appointment required) and are held in English, Chinese, Korean, and Spanish.** General counseling is available Tuesday to Sunday from 9:00 to 21:00.

TEL: 075-752-3511 Homepage: <http://www.kcif.or.jp/en>

Find us online!

Facebook



Town Website



Word of the Month



恵方巻き Ehomaki

Ehomaki is a type of rolled sushi that is eaten during *Setsubun*, a traditional celebration signaling the beginning of spring in Japan. A food said to have originated in the Kansai, eating ehomaki silently while facing in a "lucky direction" will bring you good fortune. Ingredients often included in ehomaki are gourd, cucumber, fried egg, koya tofu, shiitake mushrooms, and many others.

Check out the Kyoto CIR blog: <http://tabunkakyoito.wordpress.com/>