

# SHINJUKU NEWS



Foreign Language Website <http://www.city.shinjuku.tokyo.jp/foreign/english/>  
Please make your inquiries in Japanese when calling the coordinating division.

**No. 6**

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Traditional Takadanobaba "Yabusame" Horseback Archery Demonstration

Japan has four distinct seasons, with each one bringing a change in scenery.

In autumn, the yellow ginkgo leaves and red maple leaves paint the city streets with beautiful autumn colors, making a leisurely stroll through the town all the more enjoyable. Many Japanese people say "Autumn is the best time of year for sports," "Autumn is the best time of year for art" and "Autumn is the best time of year for eating." Autumn is, without a doubt, a comfortable season, making it the best time of year to do just about anything.

In this issue, we will include useful information on city events, popular areas where you can enjoy autumn colors and Japanese-language classes.

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## Shinjuku Autumn Calendar



**September 30 (Sat.) and October 1 (Sun.)**

Wakamatsu Fureai Festival (Wakamatsu Chiiki Center Festival)

**October 8 (Sun.)**

Art Heaven  
Takadanobaba Grand Festival

**October 9 (Mon.)**

Sports Recreation 2006  
Takadanobaba "Yabusame" Horseback Archery Demonstration  
Okubo Festival  
Hyakunincho Festival

**October 13 (Fri.)**

International Exchange Salon

**October 15 (Sun.)**

Fureai Festa 2006

**October 16 (Mon.)**

Beginning of the 2nd Semester Shinjuku Japanese-Language Classes

**October 28 (Sat.)**

Korean Correspondent Fashion Show

**November 1 (Wed.) to 15 (Wed.)**

Shinjuku Gyoen National Garden Chrysanthemum Exhibit

**November 3 (Fri.) to 6 (Mon.)**

Friendship Cities Exchange Art Exhibit

**November 4 (Sat.), 16 (Thur.) and 28 (Tue.)**

Tori-no-Ichi Market (Hanazono Shrine and other locations)

**November 10 (Fri.)**

International Exchange Salon

**November 19 (Sun.)**

Shinjuku Kashiwa Festival (Kashiwagi Chiiki Center)

**November 25 (Sat.)**

Multicultural Disaster Prevention Drills

**December 8 (Fri.)**

International Exchange Salon



Jingu Gaien Ginkgo Tree-Lined Street – Beautiful yellow autumn colors.

The next issue of Shinjuku News will be published in December 2006. Shinjuku News is available at various public facilities such as Shinjuku City Office, Shinjuku Multicultural Plaza, Branch Offices and public libraries.

# Special Feature Article on Autumn Festivals

Admission Free of Charge, No Reservation Required!

## 10/8 Shinjuku Art Heaven Parade

This is a parade of a grand total of 800 people, with brass bands as well as traditional folk arts. This year, the Takatomachi Children's Cavalcade and the 100-People Gun Brigade will also be part of the parade! Street performers will also provide fun entertainment.



**Date and Time:** October 8 (Sun.), from 11:10 a.m.  
**Parade Route:** Shinjuku-dori Street – Alta Bldg. – O-Guard – Shinjuku Station West Exit – Kogakuin University  
**Inquiries:** Shinjuku-ku Grand Festival Executive Committee Office (inside Cultural and International Division), Tel: 03-5273-4069

## 10/9 Takadanobaba “Yabusame” Horseback Archery Demonstration

“Yabusame” was traditionally done as training for samurai, but today it is performed as a festival event at many shrines.



This year, the “yabusame” procession will depart from Anahachimangu Shrine at around 1:30 p.m. and make its way to Toyama Park, where archers will shoot at three targets while galloping horses. \*Standing room only.

**Date and Time:** October 9 (Mon., national holiday), from 2 p.m.  
**Location:** Toyama Park, Hakoneyama area  
**Inquiries:** Shinjuku Historical Museum, Tel: 03-3359-2131

## 10/9 Sports Recreation 2006

Enjoy sports on Sports Day! The program includes a wide variety of sports which you can feel free to try, such as futsal, soft volleyball, “naginata” swordsmanship, boxing, pool and archery. Admission is free of charge! Simply come directly to the site on the day of the event.



**Date and Time:** October 9 (Mon., national holiday), 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
**Location:** Cosmic Center (3-1-2 Okubo), Sports Center (3-5-1 Okubo), Toyama Park, Nishi-Waseda Junior High School and other locations  
**Inquiries:** Shinjuku City Lifelong Learning Foundation, Tel: 03-3232-7701

## 10/15 Fureai Festa 2006



Goldfish scooping

Toyama Park, in all its spaciousness, is one big festival!

There will be all kinds of programs at the eight plazas of the park, such as an Old-Fashioned Japanese Game Classroom, corners for enjoying “go,” “shogi” chess and tea ceremony, an international exchange corner and a products exhibit. There will also be shows such as jazz performances on two stages in the park. Make this a holiday of “looking, playing and having fun!”

**Date and Time:** October 15 (Sun.), 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
**Location:** Toyama Park (3-5 Okubo)  
**Inquiries:** Shinjuku-ku Grand Festival Executive Committee Office (inside Cultural and International Division), Tel: 03-5273-4069

## 10/28 Korean Correspondent Fashion Show

Korean Correspondent refers to the delegates dispatched to Japan from the 17th century for 200 years during the Joseon Dynasty. The correspondents played a major role in carrying out cultural exchanges between Korea and Japan, and were cordially welcomed by the Edo Shogunate.



This event will feature palace costumes as seen by the correspondents at that time and in the drama “Vow of the Woman Court Official Changum,” as well as a “samul nori (traditional Korean percussion instrument)” performance. Simply come to the site on the day of the event. Capacity is for 400 people on a first-come, first-served basis.

**Date and Time:** October 28 (Sat.), 4 to 5:30 p.m.  
**Location:** Yotsuya Kumin Hall (87 Naito-cho)  
**Inquiries:** Culture and International Division (Main Building 1F), Tel: 03-5273-4069

## Living Together

Forefront of Multicultural Living

Shinjuku Multicultural Plaza, the local venue for friendly exchanges between Japanese and non-Japanese residents, celebrated its first anniversary on September 1. Many groups have been formed which use the plaza as their activity center. One of them is Shinjuku Nihongo (Japanese-Language) Network (SNN), a group of Japanese-language volunteers who have gathered to conduct activities in Shinjuku City.

In this issue, we will spotlight Ms. Seiko Yoshida, an SNN member who is active at Shinjuku Multicultural Plaza as a “Japanese-Language All-Around Helper.”

# Shinjuku Nihongo (Japanese-Language) Network (SNN), A Place to Deepen Multicultural Ties Using Japanese



Ms. Seiko Yoshida has been a Japanese-language volunteer for the past 30 years.

### – Please tell us about the objective and activities of SNN.

SNN is a network of mainly Shinjuku Japanese-language Classes (SJC) and 11 Japanese-language volunteer groups. (See next page.)

Members get together and exchange information, and conduct activities related to facilitating Japanese-language studies with the Plaza as the gathering center.

### – How do you help people who want to study the Japanese language?

SNN asks the individual why he/she would like to learn and what study method seems to suit him/her best. Then we offer advice on which Japanese-language class seems most suitable.

### – There are all kinds of Japanese-language learning centers, aren't there?

Each Japanese-language class and the Plaza offer instruction in writing hiragana, katakana and kanji characters as well as in basic Japanese-language conversation. Anyone can participate free of charge regardless of language skills or nationality, and regardless of whether you are a parent with a small child, or an elementary or junior high school student. The students range from those who can only say “hello” to those who are able to graduate from Japanese-language school.

### – Are the participants enthusiastic?

Some participants attend several different classes, and we have some regulars, too. The motives of the participants vary. Unless a person can speak Japanese, about the only type of work a person can do is wash dishes. We have some participants who come to learn Japanese to get out of this rut, as their very livelihood depends on it. One student comes to learn be-

cause she is too shy to ask questions at the Japanese-language school. Here, we have an environment where people can ask volunteers anything without hesitating.

### – Can foreign residents also become SNN members?

They are certainly most welcome. Having non-Japanese speakers teach other non-Japanese speakers is also very effective. The reason is because they know from their own experience which points are most frustrating (smiling). Anyone who is willing to accept others can be a member.

### – What is it like to be a volunteer?

It's pretty hectic every day, but there are a lot of rewards, for example when a participant I am teaching says, “I see!” with eyes gleaming happily, when participants make new friends...

Once I was teaching a junior high school student who came to Japan as a refugee. When he eventually returned to his home country he said, “When I come back to Japan someday, I hope to be a representative of my country and make a speech in Japanese.” I am really happy to see foreigners growing to like Japan more before they return to their home country and young people growing in capability.



At the Japanese Language Studies Corner, SNN Members operate the program by carefully selecting each and every teaching material.

### Take Advantage of Shinjuku Multicultural Plaza Services

The Japanese Language Studies Corner, consultation and information corners are all very substantial.

**Location:** Hygeia 11F, 2-44-1 Kabukicho (A 10-minute walk from JR Shinjuku Station East Exit)

**Hours:** 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

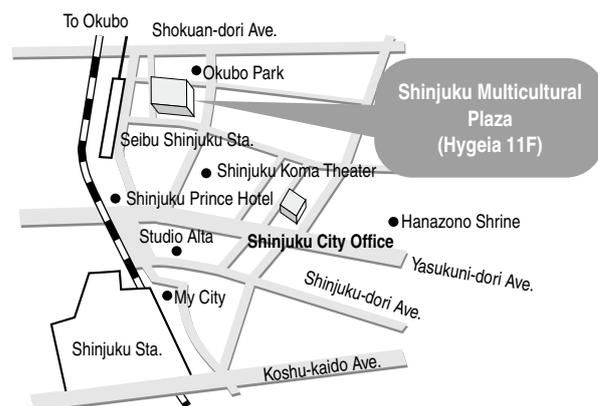
**Closed:** 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month, during the yearend/New Year holidays (December 29 through January 3)

**Inquiries:** Shinjuku Multicultural Plaza

Tel: 03-5291-5171

Fax: 03-5291-5172

E-mail: kokusai@shinjukubunka.or.jp



# Shinjuku Nihongo (Japanese-Language) Network Japanese-Language Class Locations

The locations, hours and language levels vary. Look for the class that best suits you and observe the class first. (This information is current as of August 1, 2006. Since this information is subject to change, please call to confirm the details before observing the class.)

## Shinjuku Japanese-language Classes (SJC)

**Level:** Beginning (You can join at any time.)  
**Day and Time:** Monday through Friday, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.  
 1st Semester – April through September, 2nd Semester – October through March  
**Fees:** ¥3,000 per semester for classes that meet once a week; ¥6,000 per semester for classes that meet twice a week.  
**Inquiries:** Shinjuku Multicultural Plaza  
 Tel: 03-5291-5171  
 E-mail: kokusai@shinjukubunka.or.jp

### ① Shinjuku Multicultural Plaza Class A (Mon./Thur.)

### ② Shinjuku Multicultural Plaza Class B (Tue./Fri.)

**Location:** Hygeia 11F, 2-44-1 Kabukicho  
**Nearest Station:** A 5-minute walk from Shinjuku Station on the Seibu Shinjuku Line.

### ③ Kita-Shinjuku Social Education Hall Class (Mon./Thur.)

**Location:** 3-20-2 Kita-Shinjuku  
**Nearest Station:** A seven-minute walk from JR Higashi-Nakano Station.

### ④ Totsuka Branch Office Class (Tue./Thur.)

**Location:** 1-7-20 Takadanobaba  
**Nearest Station:** A two-minute walk from Takadanobaba Station on the Tokyo Metro Tozai Line.

### ⑤ NS Bldg. Class (Tue./Thur.)

**Location:** Shinjuku NS Bldg. 1F, 2-4-1 Nishi-Shinjuku  
**Nearest Station:** A five-minute walk from Tochomae Station on the Toei Oedo Subway Line.

### ⑥ Shinanomachi Children's Hall/Kotobuki Hall Class (Wed./Fri.)

**Location:** 20 Shinanomachi  
**Nearest Station:** A six-minute walk from JR Shinanomachi Station.

### ⑦ Ushigome-Tansu Chiiki Center Class (Tue.)

**Location:** 15 Tansumachi, Shinjuku-ku  
**Nearest Station:** A 0-minute walk from Ushigome-Kagurazaka Station on the Toei Oedo Subway Line.

### ⑧ Wakamatsu Chiiki Center Class (Thur.)

**Location:** 12-6 Wakamatsucho, Shinjuku-ku  
**Nearest Station:** A two-minute walk from Wakamatsu-Kawada Station on the Toei Oedo Subway Line.

### ⑨ Okubo Chiiki Center Class (Fri.)

**Location:** 2-12-7 Okubo, Shinjuku-ku  
**Nearest Station:** A five-minute walk from JR Shin-Okubo Station.

## Private Volunteer Group Japanese-Language Classes

### ① Akebonokai Japanese-Language Class (Akebonobashi)

**Location:** Gender Equality Promotion Center ("With Shinjuku") 3F (16 Arakicho)

**Nearest Station:** A five-minute walk from Akebonobashi Station on the Toei Shinjuku Subway Line.

**Day and Time:** Tuesdays (10 a.m. to 12 noon)

**Level:** Introductory, Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced and Preparation Course for the Japanese Language Proficiency Examination.

**Fee:** ¥2,000/month

**Contact:** (Ohara) Tel: 090-7278-8673  
 go.go.b-j.chance.1995@docomo.ne.jp

### ② Akebonokai Japanese-Language Class (Nishi-Shinjuku)

**Location:** Tsunohazu Kumin Center (4-33-7 Nishi-Shinjuku)

**Nearest Station:** An eight-minute walk from Hatsudai Station on the Keio New Line.

**Day and Time:** Fridays (10 a.m. to 12 noon)

**Level:** Introductory, Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced and Preparation Course for the Japanese Language Proficiency Examination.

**Fee:** ¥2,000/month

**Contact:** (Mizobuchi) Tel: 03-3727-3143, 090-4840-5979  
 akebonokai@msn.com

### ③ Atomu Japanese-Language Class

**Location:** Information Corner for Foreigners in Japan (Yanagiya Bldg. 5F, 2-18-6 Takadanobaba)

**Nearest Station:** A three-minute walk from JR Takadanobaba Station.

**Day and Time:** Japanese-language class – Tue. (from 1 p.m., twice)

Writing class – Tue./Thur. (from 2:40 p.m.)

Conversation class – Thur. (from 1 p.m.)

**Level:** Introductory, Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced and other.

**Fee:** Japanese/Conversation class – ¥9,000/three-month term

Writing class – ¥3,000/three-month term

**Contact:** Tel: 03-5273-2627

atom001@hotmail.co.jp

### ④ MJC Japanese-Language Class

**Location:** St. Ignatius Church (6-5 Kojimachi, Chiyoda-ku)

**Nearest Station:** A two-minute walk from JR Yotsuya Station.

**Day and Time:** Wednesdays (from 9:30 a.m.) and Fridays (from 10:30 a.m.)

**Level:** Beginners' through Advanced

**Fee:** ¥2,000/month of eight classes (Textbook fee is separate.)

**Contact:** (Wednesdays: Umezawa) Tel: 03-3352-1039

(Fridays: Sawa) Tel: 03-3717-5195

### ⑤ CCS Shinjuku Class

**Location:** Conference Room, Okubo Chiiki Center 3F (2-12-7 Okubo)

**Nearest Station:** A seven-minute walk from JR Shin-Okubo Station.

**Day and Time:** Wednesdays (6 to 8:30 p.m.)

**Fee:** ¥500/month

**Contact:** (Funatsu) Tel: 090-9372-5195

(Samura) Tel: 090-6100-2109

### ⑥ Shinjuku Niji-no Kai – Family Japanese-Language Class

**Location:** Inside Okubo Elementary School (1-1-21 Okubo)

**Nearest Station:** A five-minute walk from Higashi-Shinjuku Station on the Toei Oedo Line.

**Day and Time:** Saturdays (10 a.m. to 12 noon, about twice a month)

**Level:** Introductory

**Fee:** Free of charge (Insurance fee – ¥500/year)

**Contact:** Shinjuku Foundation for Culture & International Exchange  
 Tel: 03-5291-5171

E-mail: kokusai@shinjukubunka.or.jp

**7 Japanese-language Volunteers “Kaze”**

**Location:** Shinjuku Multicultural Plaza (Hygeia 11F, 2-44-1 Kabukicho)  
**Nearest Station:** A 10-minute walk from JR Shinjuku Station.  
**Day and Time:** Thursdays (2 to 4 p.m., three times a month)  
**Level:** First-Timer to Beginner  
**Fee:** ¥1,000/month  
**Contact:** (Hisada) Tel/Fax: 03-3357-4821  
 (Omasa) Tel/Fax: 03-3356-3338  
 E-mail: VEU00121@nifty.com

**8 Japanese-language Group “Wai-Wai”**

**Location:** Tokyo Voluntary Action Center (Central Plaza 10F, 1-1 Kaguragashi)  
**Nearest Station:** A one-minute walk from JR Iidabashi Station.  
**Day and Time:** Saturday (10 a.m. to 12 noon)  
**Level:** Beginner to Advanced  
**Fee:** ¥1,000/month  
**Contact:** (Mizumoto) Tel: 090-9203-4863  
 E-mail: waiwaigaku@yahoo.com

**9 Yamate International Volunteers**

**Location:** Yamate YMCA Japanese Language Class (2-18-12 Nishi-Waseda)  
**Nearest Station:** A seven-minute walk from JR Takadanobaba Station.  
**Day and Time:** Wednesdays (7 to 8:30 p.m.)  
**Fee:** ¥500 to ¥600/month  
**Contact:** Tel: 03-3202-0321

**10 Yotsuya Japanese-language Volunteers**

**Location:** Yotsuya Kumin Center 11F (87 Naitocho)  
**Nearest Station:** Shinjuku Gyoen Station on the Tokyo Metro Marunouchi Line.  
**Day and Time:** Wednesdays (10 a.m. to 12 noon)  
**Level:** Introductory to Advanced  
**Fee:** Free of charge (Teaching materials are charged at actual cost.)  
**Contact:** (Kataoka) Tel/Fax: 03-3269-5271

**11 Wakabakai**

**Location:** Enokicho Chiiki Center (85 Wasedacho)  
**Nearest Station:** A seven-minute walk from Waseda Station on the Tokyo Metro Tozai Line.  
**Day and Time:** Wednesdays and Fridays (9:30 to 11:30 a.m.)  
**Level:** Introductory and Beginner  
**Fee:** ¥4,000/month  
**Contact:** (Fujioka) Tel: 090-9821-7816  
 E-mail: wisteriahills@hotmail.co.jp

**12 Waseda Hoshien Japanese-language Volunteer Group**

**Location:** Conference Room, Waseda Hoshien (2-3-1 Nishi-Waseda)  
**Nearest Station:** A five-minute walk from Waseda Station on the Tokyo Metro Tozai Line.  
**Day and Time:** Wednesdays (from 10 a.m., three times), Fridays (1:30 to 3 p.m.)  
**Level:** Beginner, Intermediate and Advanced  
**Fee:** ¥100/lesson  
**Contact:** Waseda Hoshien, Tel: 03-3205-5403



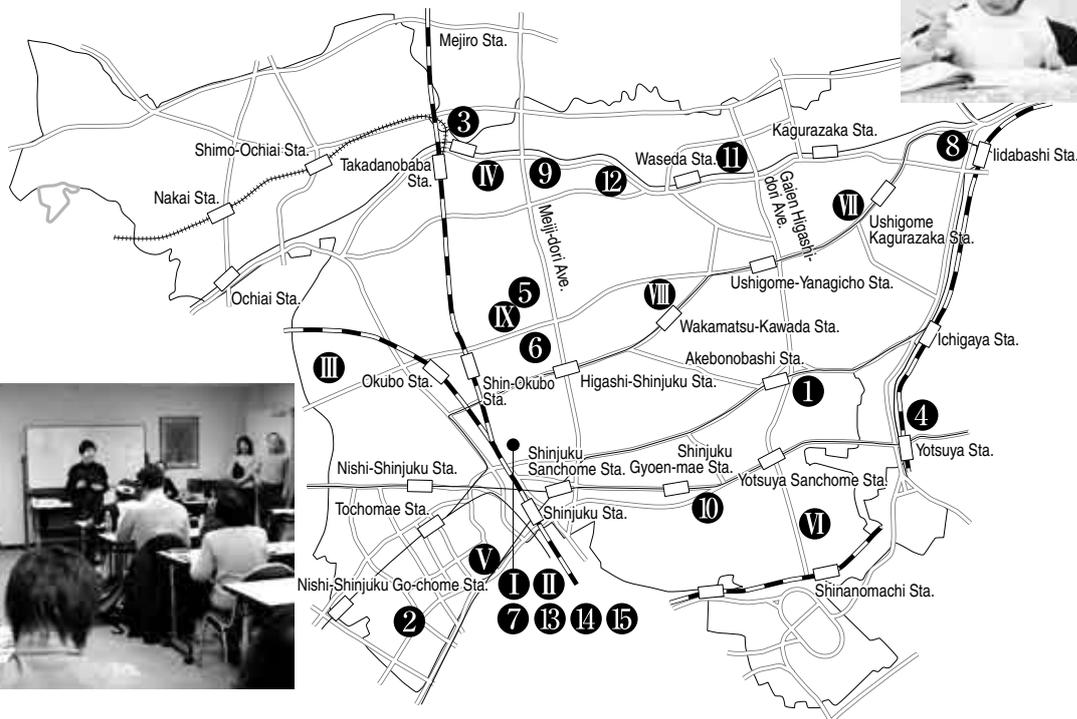
**SNN Activities**

**13 Japanese-language and Kanji**

**14 Japanese-Language Together**

**15 Hiragana and Katakana**

**Day and Time:** Japanese-language and Kanji – Mondays (2 to 4 p.m.)  
 Japanese-Language Together – Tuesdays (2 to 4 p.m.)  
 Hiragana and Katakana – Thursdays (1 to 2 p.m.)  
**Location:** Shinjuku Multicultural Plaza (Hygeia 11F, 2-44-1 Kabukicho)  
**Nearest Station:** A 10-minute walk from JR Shinjuku Station  
**Level:** From Beginner  
**Fee:** Free of charge  
**Contact:** (SNN Office) Tel: 03-5291-5171 (Calls are taken only when classes are in session.)



# Let's Work on Earthquake Countermeasures Together!

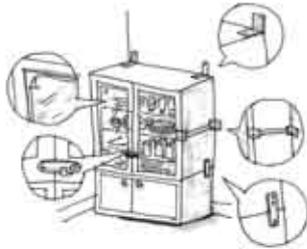
Japan is an earthquake-prone country. But we never know when an earthquake will strike. Be prepared on a regular basis so that in the event of an emergency, proper action can be taken without panicking to save our precious lives and properties.

**Inquiries:** Service Promotion Section, Security Affairs Division (Main Bldg. 4F), Tel: 03-5273-3874

## Preparing for Earthquakes on a Regular Basis

### 1. Secure Furniture with Braces

Earthquake tremors can shake with a force beyond our imagination. It is a good idea to secure furniture with braces to keep them from toppling over.



### 2. Let's Prepare an Emergency Backpack

It is a good idea to prepare an emergency backpack so that you can take it with you at any time. Keep the weight down to roughly three kilograms.

- Valuables  
(Bankbooks, name stamps, cash, health insurance card, foreign resident registration card)
- Emergency Food Supply  
(Water, canned foods, can opener, confections, baby milk formula, etc.)
- Emergency Medical Supply  
(First-aid kit, sanitary napkins, medicine for cuts and scrapes, etc.)
- Clothes  
(Underwear, gloves, towels, rainwear, toiletries, diapers)
- Flashlight, portable radio, eyeglasses, etc.

### 3. Check the Location of the Nearest Designated Evacuation Site

Make sure you know the location and route to the nearest evacuation site. Local elementary and junior high schools are designated as evacuation sites.

\* For more information on evacuation sites, check the article "Preparing for Disasters" in Information on Everyday Living for Foreign Residents of Shinjuku City, the foreign language website or the street signs in the city for evacuation sites (written in Japanese, English, Chinese and Korean).

### When an Earthquake Strikes...! 10 Simple Rules

- 1) If you feel a tremor, take cover to protect yourself.
- 2) Quickly extinguish all sources of heat.
- 3) Open windows and doors to secure an exit.
- 4) Do not rush outside as there may be falling fixtures.
- 5) Try not to panic as it may lead to injuries.
- 6) Check on each other – Make sure family members and neighbors are safe.
- 7) Help each other with rescue activities and first aid.
- 8) Before you evacuate, check for safety, turning off the electricity and gas.
- 9) Do not go near gates or fence walls.
- 10) Correct information leads to proper action.



### 4. Discuss Evacuation Procedures with Your Family and Friends

It is a good idea to discuss in advance where you will meet if an earthquake strikes and methods for checking on each other's safety. NTT has a service called Disaster Message Service Dial 171 which you can use.

#### How to Use "Disaster Message Service Dial 171"

Dial 171 and follow the instructions to record or play a message. NTT determines when this service is available and such conditions as the maximum number of recorded messages, and the service will be announced via TV and radio.

##### <To Record a Message>

Dial **171**

▼ A recording will give instructions.

To record a message, press **1**

▼ A recording will give instructions.

Press

**(03)XXXX-XXXX**

##### <To Play a Message>

Dial **171**

▼ A recording will give instructions.

To play a message, press **2**

▼ A recording will give instructions.

Press

**(03)XXXX-XXXX**

Those calling from within the disaster-struck area as well as those calling from outside, should dial the telephone number of the person in the disaster-struck area, starting with the area code.

### Signs for Regional Evacuation Sites Are in Four Languages



Signs for the 150 regional evacuation sites in the city are written in four languages (Japanese, English, Chinese and Korean).

### Disaster Prevention Video Rental and Internet Viewing Now Available

The video "Can You Survive?! A Major Earthquake Strikes Shinjuku" ("Anata wa Ikinokoreruka?! Shinjuku wo Daijishin ga Osou"), is available in Japanese, English, Chinese and Korean and is about 18 minutes long. Shinjuku City Office and Branch Offices have videos available for rental. The video can also be viewed via the Shinjuku City website.



URL: <http://www.city.shinjuku.tokyo.jp/koho/video/EQ/index.html>

The No. 1 PR Video Accessed the Most

# Participate in Multicultural Disaster Prevention Drills

Free of Charge

Interpreters Available

Disaster prevention drills will be conducted for Japanese and non-Japanese residents together. Last year, more than 100 foreign residents participated in the drills.

This year, fire-fighting and medical drills, such as an earthquake simulation truck experience, fire-extinguishing and emergency first aid, will be conducted. Volunteer interpreters for English, Chinese and Korean will also be available.

After the drills, a friendly gathering will be held for participants while snacking on foreign confections and sample emergency food supplies.

Please come together with family and friends directly to the site on the day of the event.

**Date and Time:** November 25 (Sat.), 1 to 4 p.m. (Reception will start from 12:30 p.m.)

**Location:** Okubo Elementary School (1-1-21 Okubo)

**Inquiries:** Culture and International Division (Main Bldg. 1F), Tel: 03-5273-4069

## Participate in Disaster Prevention Drills in Your Community

Why not participate in disaster prevention drills in your neighborhood? Please come directly to the site on the day of the event. (However, the drills will be conducted in Japanese.)

Date and Time	Site
October 1	Yotsuya Dai-Yon Elementary School (4-20 Yotsuya)
October 22	From 9 a.m. Kashiwagi Elementary School (2-11-1 Kita-Shinjuku)
October 29	



Let's try using a fire extinguisher!



Experience the tremors of the earthquake simulation truck!

## A Leisurely Stroll in Shinjuku City

No. 5

### Toden Arakawa Line and Visiting Kansen'en Park

#### Finding Hints of Autumn

See the autumn colors at Kansen'en Park on the Toden Arakawa Line. If you are lucky, you may even catch a glimpse of maintenance employees making "yuki-zuri" snow slings for the trees.

The Toden Arakawa Line is a single-coach streetcar that runs its 12.2-km route from Waseda Station of Shinjuku City to Minowabashi Station of Arakawa City, winding its way through certain residential areas as well as busy streets alongside cars and other vehicles. With an average of about 57,000 passengers per day, the streetcar is an important part of the community.

You can change trains at Otsuka Station on the JR Yamanote Line or Higashi-Ikebukuro Station on the Tokyo Metro Yurakucho Line to board the Toden Arakawa Line heading toward Waseda. After passing through Zoshigaya, Kishimojin and Gakushuin-shita of Toshima City and crossing Takado-bashi Bridge, you will enter Shinjuku City. Kansen'en Park is a

three-minute walk from Omokagebashi Station.

Kansen'en (which means "Sweet Fountain Garden") was so named because it is said that the spring water from this area was suitable for making tea. In the center of the park is a Japanese-style garden with a circular path that is good for a leisurely stroll. The forest that surrounds the lake is completely different from the rest of the neighborhood. The beautiful autumn color of trees such as the "iroha-momiji" maple, "konara" beech and "tokaede" maple trees can be seen from November through early December.

In addition, with the approach of winter, "yuki-zuri" snow slings are attached to pine tree branches to prevent them from breaking from the weight of the snow. Attaching "yuki-zuri" snow slings is a seasonal event at parks, suggesting the impending arrival of winter. The snow slings of Kenroku-en Park of Kanazawa are famous, but those of Kansen'en Park are also beautiful and popular. Head out to visit Kansen'en Park and enjoy autumn and winter in Japan

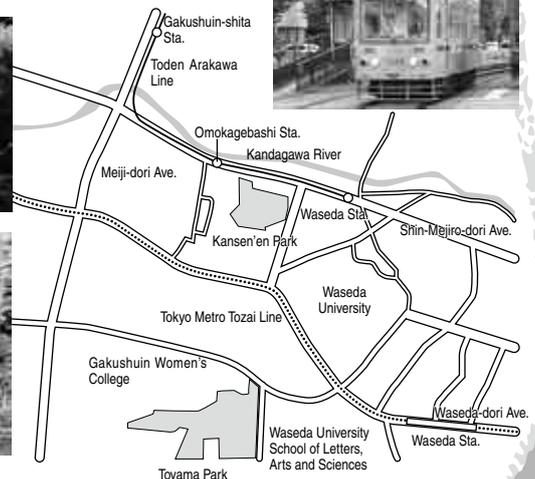
#### Shinjuku City Municipal Kansen'en Park

**Location:** 3-5 Nishi-Waseda, Shinjuku-ku

**How to Get There:** A three-minute walk from Omokagebashi Station on the Toden Arakawa Line, or a seven-minute walk from Waseda Station by subway.

**Admission:** Free of charge

**Hours:** 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. (Until 5 p.m. from November through February)



# The Oya-Oya Club — Supporting Child-Raising!

Free of Charge

Interpreters  
Available

This is a club that helps foreign residents who are raising children resolve problems and make friends with other parents. Why not make your life in Japan even more interesting? Japanese residents also participate in the programs. Make friends with people from different countries who you can discuss problems with! All programs have interpreters and babysitting services available. The latest details have been announced on the foreign-language website as well.

October 28 (Sat.), in the morning (tentative)	* Editing a Child-Raising Information Bulletin ①
November 29 (Wed.), 10 a.m. to 12 noon	Child-Raising Class
December 16 (Sat.), in the morning (tentative)	Editing a Child-Raising Information Bulletin ②
January 6 (Sat.), tentative	Fun Event (Participation fee will be charged.)
February 28 (Wed.), 10 a.m. to 12 noon	Child-Raising Class
March 24 (Sat.), in the morning (tentative)	Editing a Child-Raising Information Bulletin ③



Child-Raising Class (Discussions on child-raising with fellow parents. Public health nurses and nursery school teachers will offer advice.)

Enjoy New Year's Japanese style by watching a lion dance performance and participating in mochi-tsuki rice cake-making!



Editing of the child-raising information bulletin takes place at Cosmic Center (3-1-2 Okubo).  
Child-raising classes take place at Nishi-Shinjuku Public Health Center (7-5-8 Nishi-Shinjuku).

\* Seeking Editors for the Child-Raising Information Bulletin  
“When I first came to Japan, I wanted to know more about such-and-such,” “I know of a really convenient such-and-such!” or “I wish I could tell Japanese people and people from other countries about such-and-such”...  
Why not put your questions and your experience to good use for other foreign residents who are raising children? We would like to create a bulletin including everyone's opinions and ideas. (About six editing sessions have been planned in addition to the dates mentioned above.)

#### Inquiries/Application:

“Oya-Oya Club” Program, General Affairs Division, Shinjuku City Lifelong Learning Foundation  
(Inside Cosmic Center, 3-1-2 Okubo)  
Tel: 03-3232-7701 Fax: 03-3209-1833  
E-mail: jigyuu@regasu-shinjuku.or.jp

## Admission to Municipal Elementary or Junior High School

Although foreign residents are not required to undergo Japanese compulsory education at an elementary and junior high school, if you would like to enroll your child in a municipal school, admission can be authorized upon application. However, please note that graduation from a Japanese elementary school is a requirement for admission to a Japanese junior high school.

**Eligibility:** Elementary School – Those born between April 2, 2000 and April 1, 2001

Junior High School – Those born between April 2, 1994 and April 1, 1995

**Application Period:** Elementary School – September 1 (Fri.) through 29 (Fri.)

Junior High School – October 2 (Mon.) through 31 (Tue.)

**Application:** Please bring the “Oshirase” announcement mailed in advance from the School Operations Division and your child's foreign resident registration card to the School Operations Division.

#### – What is the School Selection System?

In this system, you can select the school of enrollment for your child and the Board of Education will designate the school of admission according to your selection. This system encourages parents to responsibly select the best school for their child when the child is about to become a first-grade student. Elementary schools can be selected from among those within the commuting and neighboring areas, while junior high schools can be selected from among those within the entire city.

In October, junior high schools are open to the public and offer orientation meetings. Please attend these to avail of information.

#### Inquiries/Application:

School Operations Division, Tel: 03-5273-3089 (Shinjuku City Office Annex 1, 4F)

If you cannot speak Japanese, please come with someone who does, or visit the Foreign Resident Consultation Counter on the 1st floor of Shinjuku City Office. For elementary schools, please come to the School Operations Division in person by September 29 (Fri.).

## Seeking Kindergarten Students

Kindergartens are educational facilities for preschoolers who are 3- to 5-years-old. There are municipal and private kindergartens. Municipal kindergartens share a joint facility with the local elementary school (excluding two).

Applications are accepted for 3-, 4- and 5-year-old children starting from mid-October. (Except when the kindergarten is closed.) Please call for more information.

**Inquiries:** Health and School Lunch/Kindergarten Section, School Operations Division (Shinjuku City Office Annex 1, 4F), Tel: 03-5273-3103

## Seeking Municipal and Private Nursery School Children

Nursery schools provide childcare on behalf of parents who are unable to look after their children at home because of work or illness.

Although the eligible age varies with each nursery school, a child can be admitted from 43 days after birth at the earliest, up to entrance to elementary school. Nursery school fees are determined according to the child's age and other conditions, such as the amount of income tax paid by the parents.

To enter nursery school in April of next year, applications will be accepted from mid-December through mid-January.

The deadline for applying to a nursery school is around the 15th of the previous month, however, this does not guarantee admission, as there are generally many applicants.

**Inquiries:** Enrollment Section, Nursery School Division (Shinjuku City Office Main Bldg., 2F), Tel: 03-5273-4527

If you have any comments, suggestions or themes/information you would like covered, please send a fax: 03-3209-1500.