

SHINJUKU NEWS



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

No. 20
Publishing Date: March 25, 2010
Published by: Culture, Tourism and International Affairs Division, Regional and Cultural Affairs Department, Shinjuku City
Tel: 03-5273-3504
Fax: 03-3209-1500
1-4-1 Kabuki-cho, Shinjuku City, Tokyo 160-8484




Do You Know about Japanese-Language Support Services for Children of Foreign Residents?



If you are a parent and worried about your child's Japanese-language skills and how he/she is getting along at school in Japan, here is some news for you!

In Shinjuku City, where there are many foreign residents, there are various support services to help children learn Japanese. We are here to help ease your worries about the Japanese language and help your child enjoy school in Japan.

<p>A Japanese-Language Support Classes</p> <p>Location: Education Center</p> <p>Eligibility: Elementary and junior high school students who have transferred to a Shinjuku municipal school and whose first language is mainly Chinese or Korean</p> <p>Procedures: Students commute to/from classes held at the Education Center.</p> <p>Hours: As a rule, three hours per day for 10 days, totaling approximately 30 hours</p> <p>Note: Upon completion, it is possible to receive further support (see B) at school.</p> <p>Inquiries: International Understanding Department, Education Center, Tel: 03-3232-3070</p>	<p>B Japanese-Language Learning Support</p> <p>Location: Shinjuku municipal elementary and junior high schools</p> <p>Eligibility: Elementary and junior high school students who have transferred to a Shinjuku municipal school</p> <p>Procedures: An instructor will go to the child's school and teach Japanese in the child's first language.</p> <p>Hours: As a rule, two hours per day, twice a week; elementary school children can receive 50 hours of instruction in total, and junior high school children can receive 60 hours in total.</p> <p>Note: Upon completion, it is possible to receive further support (see C), such as for school subjects in Japanese, if the student wishes.</p>	<p>C Shinjuku City Japanese-Language Support Program (SJS)</p> <p>Location: Shinjuku municipal elementary and junior high schools</p> <p>Eligibility: Elementary (third grade and above) and junior high school students who have completed B and wish to receive further instructions in the Japanese language and school subjects</p> <p>Procedures: A volunteer will go to the child's school after school hours and help with the Japanese language and school subjects.</p> <p>Hours: One or two hours per session, approximately twice a week</p> <p>Inquiries: Educational Activities Support Section, Educational Guidance Division, Tel: 03-5273-4237</p>
--	---	--

<p>Kodomo Club Shinjuku (Children's Japanese-Language Class in the Evening)</p> <p>Eligibility: Children in the fifth grade of elementary school through the third year of junior high school</p> <p>Program: Support in the Japanese language and school subjects</p> <p>Please call for more information.</p> <p>Inquiries: (Until March 31) Shinjuku Multicultural Plaza, Tel: 03-5291-5171 (From April 1) Cultural Exchange Division, the Shinjuku Foundation for Creation of Future, Tel: 03-3350-1141</p>	<p>Children's Japanese-Language Class during Summer and Spring Vacations</p> <p>Eligibility: Children in the third grade of elementary school through the third year of junior high school who have recently arrived in Japan and other children/students who need instruction in the Japanese language</p> 
---	---

Peace of Mind with Babysitting Services—Family Japanese-Language Class

Why not have fun learning Japanese with the entire family? There are babysitting services so that families with infants and toddlers who could not attend other Japanese-language classes can study here with peace of mind! Participation is free of charge. (However, there is a ¥500 fee for insurance.) You can join even in the middle of the term.

Dates: Saturdays, from May 15 through July 17, 10 a.m. to 12 noon (total of 10 classes)

Location: Shinjuku Municipal Okubo Elementary School (1-1-21 Okubo)

To Apply: (Until March 31) Shinjuku Multicultural Plaza, Tel: 03-5291-5171
(From April 1) Cultural Exchange Division, the Shinjuku Foundation for Creation of Future
Tel: 03-3350-1141



The next issue of *Shinjuku News* will be published in June 2010. *Shinjuku News* is available at various public facilities such as Shinjuku City Office, Shinjuku Multicultural Plaza, Branch Offices and public libraries.

If You Have Any Problems, Ask for Advice!

When you are worried, do not understand something, or have problems concerning everyday life in Japan, do you talk it over with someone? For those of you who do not have anyone to ask, do not know who to ask, or are not able to ask because you do not speak Japanese, we will describe various consultation services for foreign residents. The services are free of charge and available in various languages. Please feel free to take advantage of these services.



★ Shinjuku Foreign Resident Advisory Corner ★

Areas of Consultation: General everyday living, procedures and application forms to be completed at Shinjuku City Office, etc.

Location: Shinjuku City Office Main Bldg. 1F

Hours: 9:30 a.m. to 12 noon and 1 to 4:30 p.m.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
English Chinese	English Korean	English Chinese	English Korean	English Chinese

Telephone Consultation: English and Japanese, Tel: 03-5272-5060
Chinese, Tel: 03-5272-5070
Korean, Tel: 03-5272-5080

Message from a Consultant

Have you ever felt happy about having learned something or sad and confused about not knowing something? Shinjuku City offers various programs for foreign residents living in Japan. The Shinjuku Foreign Resident Advisory Corner offers all kinds of information and advice to help you through everyday life in Japan. Please drop by for a visit! (Korean-language consultant: Mr. Kim)



★ Foreign Resident Consultation Corner ★

Areas of Consultation: Any problems or questions you may have concerning everyday living (There are individual booths where you can discuss matters with a consultant.)

Location: Shinjuku Multicultural Plaza

Hours: 10 a.m. to 12 noon and 1 to 5 p.m.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday (Except the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays)	Thursday	Friday
Korean (afternoons)	Chinese Thai	English	English Chinese Burmese	English (3rd Friday only) Korean

Telephone Consultation:
03-5291-5171

Note: On the 2nd Friday of the month, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., there is also consultation on visas and everyday living (in Japanese).



★ Consultation Support Center ★ for Foreign Residents

Areas of Consultation: Mainly concerning immigration and visas (Questions about everyday living are answered as well. The center can direct you to the proper service counter.)

Location: Inside Shinjuku Multicultural Plaza

Hours: 9 a.m. to 12 noon and 1 to 4 p.m.

Languages: English, Chinese, and Portuguese (These three languages are always available.)

Vietnamese (1st and 3rd Tuesdays)

Indonesian (2nd and 4th Tuesdays)

Spanish (1st and 3rd Fridays)

Bengalese (2nd and 4th Fridays)

Telephone Consultation: 03-3202-5535



Shinjuku Multicultural Plaza

Address: Hygeia 11F, 2-44-1 Kabuki-cho, Shinjuku City 160-0021

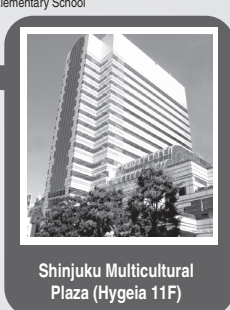
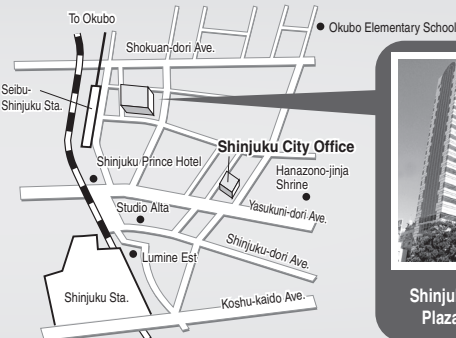
Inquiries: Tel: 03-5291-5171, Fax: 03-5291-5172

How to Get There: A 10-minute walk from JR Shinjuku Station's east exit or a five-minute walk from Seibu-Shinjuku Station

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

Closed: 2nd and 4th Wednesdays and during the year-end/New Year holidays (December 29 through January 3)

Web site: www.shinjukubunka.or.jp/tabunka/english/index.html



Let's Prevent Problems in Everyday Life



Follow the Rules of Common Courtesy Where You Live

• Waste Disposal

There is a designated time and place to dispose of waste, and collection days vary according to the type of waste. Waste disposal details are written on a chart posted at the collection station, so please make a point of reading them. Waste is not collected unless it is disposed of according to the rules, and uncollected waste would be an annoyance and a problem to your neighbors. Dumping waste illegally is punishable by law. Moreover, you cannot dispose of oversized garbage without permission; collection is on a reservation basis and must be paid for.

• Noise

Because Japanese residential areas are densely populated, people go through everyday life being careful about not making too much noise. Do not talk too loudly or make loud noises. Sound travels through buildings made of concrete, so you need to think about how to prevent noise-related problems, such as by putting carpet in your home. It is wise to refrain from noisy activities late at night, such as taking a bath, doing

laundry, using the vacuum cleaner, or having a party with friends.

• Smells

When cooking food with spices that have a strong smell, let's be considerate of the neighbors. In some cases, unfamiliar smells are unsettling to Japanese people.

• Sharing Rooms

Anyone who is not listed in your rental contract is not allowed to live in your apartment. You may be forced to move out if you allow a friend to live with you without permission from the landlord. If you would like to share your room with someone, you must ask your landlord for permission in advance.

• How to Use Facilities

Do not flush anything other than toilet paper down toilets because this would clog the pipes.

Hallways and stairways are considered common areas, so do not leave personal belongings in those areas. Such objects could be hazardous in an emergency, such as a natural disaster, because they might obstruct traffic.



Be Careful about Differences in Language and Culture

• Greet Your Neighbors

In Japan, greeting each other is a very important part of everyday life. The impression you make on others is better when you say, "Ohayo gozaimasu" (good morning), or, "Arigato gozaimasu" (thank you), with a smile. If you become familiar with your neighbors, they can help you when you have a problem.

• Be Careful about Vague Expressions

Besides clear expressions indicating intention, such as *yes* or *no*, Japanese people tend to use vague expressions. To prevent problems caused by miscommunication, please be sure to ask what they mean if you are not sure.

• Be Careful about the Expressions You Use

Japanese people place great value on being polite. For example, people use specific Japanese expressions that show respect with people in a senior position, such as teachers and superiors. If you use polite Japanese in conversation on a regular basis, this makes a good impression on the listener, so it is wise to always be careful about the expressions you use.



At Public Facilities

• Shopping Areas and Streets Are Public Areas

Do not block traffic with your baggage or bicycle. Cars parked in no-parking zones will be treated as illegally parked vehicles. When parking your car, please be sure to use specialized parking lots, such as metered parking.

• Do Not Litter Public Areas with Trash or Cigarette Butts

As a rule, smoking on the street is prohibited in Shinjuku City.



Important Point

If your neighbors file a complaint against you, it is better to refrain from getting emotional or trying to justify yourself. If you do not understand what they are saying or if you do not agree with what they say, please think of what action to take after listening to the opinion of a third party, such as a coworker who is accustomed to life in Japan or a schoolteacher.

Video and DVD in Foreign Languages

Nice to Meet You, Shinjuku

This narrated video/DVD provides useful information to make your life in Japan even better. The program includes information on Japanese-language classes, consultation centers, and a wide range of information, such as how to prepare for natural disasters, daily customs you should be especially aware of in Japan, and participating in community activities.



Rental Locations: Shinjuku Multicultural Plaza, City Administration Information Center, Chuo Library, and Yotsuya Library (video only)

Languages: Japanese, English, Chinese, and Korean

Web site: www.city.shinjuku.lg.jp/foreign/english/video/video.html

Start Exercising! Sports Facilities in Shinjuku City

Do you lack exercise because you have no place to work up a healthy sweat? Shinjuku City has sports facilities that everyone from children to adults is free to enjoy. Why not take the initiative and use these facilities to fight against a sedentary lifestyle?

1 Shinjuku Sports Center

There is a heated swimming pool, training room, large gymnasium, small gymnasium, martial arts room, Western-archery range, multipurpose court, toddlers' gymnasium, and jogging course. There are various sports to enjoy. Simply pick any that suits your interests. Registration is required to use the facilities as a group. (The group's representative must be 20 years of age or older at the time of registration.) Once a group is registered, it can reserve facilities in the center exclusively. Also, a variety of classes are offered for a fee, and everyone from children to the elderly can take lessons from a professional. These classes include exercise classes, such as swimming, baby/toddler exercise, aerobics, and yoga, as well as ball games, such as volleyball and futsal.



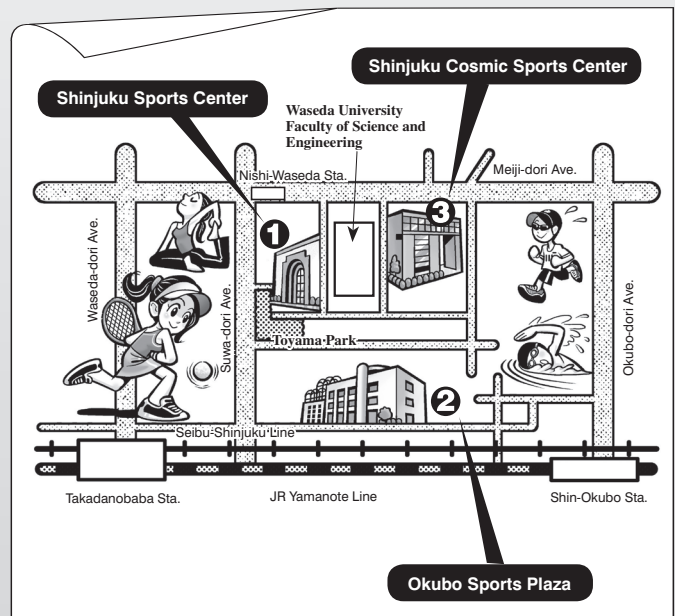
Address	3-5-1 Okubo
Tel.	03-3232-0171
Hours	9 a.m. to 10 p.m.
Closed	4th Monday of the month (Tuesday if Monday is a national holiday), during the year-end/New Year holidays (December 29 through January 3), and special holidays
How to Get There	A 10-minute walk from Takadanobaba Station on the JR Line, Tozai Subway Line, and Seibu-Shinjuku Line or a five-minute walk from the No. 3 exit of Nishi-Waseda Station on the Fukutoshin Subway Line

2 Okubo Sports Plaza

There is a rooftop tennis court; multipurpose hall, which is used mainly for dancing; and meeting rooms, which can be used for theater arts or Ping-Pong. There is also a large Japanese room that consists of 50 tatami mats, which can be used to enjoy such activities as go, shogi, and karaoke or practice and present plays, dancing, and other performances. In addition, because there is a children's recreation room, children who are of elementary school age and younger can feel free to use the facilities.



Address	3-7-42 Okubo
Tel.	03-5285-1477
Hours	9 a.m. to 10 p.m.
Closed	3rd Monday of the month (Tuesday if Monday is a national holiday), during the year-end/New Year holidays (December 29 through January 3), and special holidays
How to Get There	A 10-minute walk from Takadanobaba Station on the JR Line, Tozai Subway Line, and Seibu-Shinjuku Line



3 Shinjuku Cosmic Sports Center

This sports center is fully equipped, so visitors can enjoy a wide range of sports. In the large gymnasium, you can enjoy ball games, such as volleyball, basketball, and Ping-Pong, and you can use the small gymnasium for dance-type recreation.

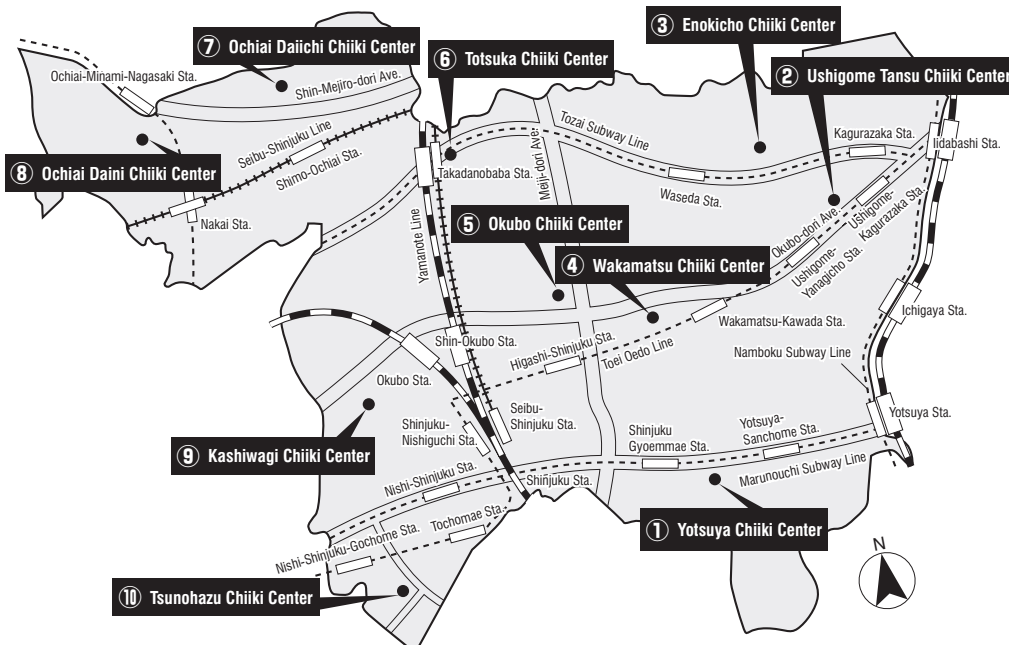


The indoor heated pools include a general pool and a toddlers' pool, so even small children can practice swimming. Also, there is a multipurpose area for those who would like to practice musical instruments or glee club singing. Furthermore, the multipurpose room can be used for yoga, exercise, or tai chi as well as cultural activities, such as flower arrangement.

Address	3-1-2 Okubo
Tel.	03-3232-7701
Hours	9 a.m. to 10 p.m.
Closed	2nd Monday of the month (Tuesday if Monday is a national holiday), during the year-end/New Year holidays (December 29 through January 3), and special holidays
How to Get There	A 17-minute walk from Takadanobaba Station on the JR Line, Tozai Subway Line, and Seibu-Shinjuku Line or a two-minute walk from the No. 3 exit of Nishi-Waseda Station on the Fukutoshin Subway Line

What Is a Chiiki Center?

Have you ever been to a Chiiki Center (community center)? In Shinjuku City, there are Chiiki Centers in 10 locations. Chiiki Centers are provided in cooperation with branch offices of Shinjuku City Office. There are probably many people who are not familiar with this kind of facility and what goes on inside. Chiiki Centers can be used by everyone as venues for community activities and exchanging information. If you would like to enjoy life in Shinjuku City together with the Japanese, please take advantage of these facilities.



Multipurpose Hall



With a capacity of approximately 100 people, this hall can be used for dance classes, Ping-Pong games, ballet lessons and performances, lectures, and recitals.

Japanese Room



The Japanese tatami room is used for classes in traditional Japanese culture, such as tea ceremony, go, shogi, and classical Japanese dancing.

Music Room



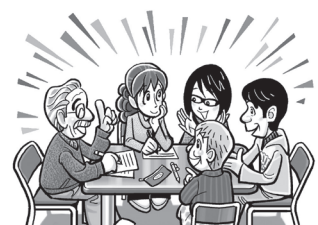
This room is used for practicing glee club singing, musical instruments, theater arts, and other performances. Some music rooms are equipped with a piano, drum sets, microphones, and music stands.

Cooking Room



This room is used for classes in cooking and other hobbies. It can also be used for meetings with a small number of people.

Meeting Room



Equipped with desks, chairs, a whiteboard, and projector screen, this room can be used for meetings.

How to Use the Facilities

Group registration or other procedures is required to rent a room at a Chiiki Center.

Because various classes are held depending on the community and day of the week, we recommend that you visit your local Chiiki Center and start by participating in the programs that are being conducted or signing up for programs that are recruiting members.

Besides room rental services, each Chiiki Center holds community events and publishes community papers. For more information, please visit your local community center.

Chiiki Centers in Shinjuku City (Inquiries are accepted in Japanese only.)

① Yotsuya Chiiki Center	(87 Naito-machi)	☎ 03-3351-3314
② Ushigome Tansu Chiiki Center	(15 Tansu-machi)	☎ 03-3260-3677
③ Enokicho Chiiki Center	(85 Waseda-machi)	☎ 03-3202-8585
④ Wakamatsu Chiiki Center	(12-6 Wakamatsu-cho)	☎ 03-3209-6030
⑤ Okubo Chiiki Center	(2-12-7 Okubo)	☎ 03-3209-3961
⑥ Totsuka Chiiki Center	(2-18-1 Takadanobaba)	☎ 03-3209-8001
⑦ Ochiai Daiichi Chiiki Center	(4-6-7 Shimo-Ochiai)	☎ 03-3954-1611
⑧ Ochiai Daini Chiiki Center	(4-17-13 Naka-Ochiai)	☎ 03-3951-9941
⑨ Kashiwagi Chiiki Center	(2-3-7 Kita-Shinjuku)	☎ 03-3363-7036
⑩ Tsunohazu Chiiki Center	(4-33-7 Nishi-Shinjuku)	☎ 03-3377-1373



Enjoying a Japanese Spring in Shinjuku City

One of the fun things about Japan, which is blessed with four distinct seasons, is enjoying the various cultural events and scenery that each season brings. In spring, the climate is mild, making it easy and enjoyable to step out and do things. Let's enjoy a Japanese spring in Shinjuku City to our heart's content by admiring all the different kinds of flowers and taking part in seasonal events!



Okubo Azalea Festival



This festival dates back to the Edo period. During the Edo period, Okubo was the area where the 100 Riflemen Team, who protected the Tokugawa shogunate, lived. While practicing their military skills, they started cultivating azaleas as a side business to support the household budget. From this origin, the custom developed into a festival, and today, it is a standard event in the community. At the festival, azalea saplings are on exhibit and placed for sale, and there are events that foreign residents, too, can enjoy.

Location: Kaichu Inari-jinja Shrine (1-11-16 Hyakunin-cho)

Date and Time: Azalea Festival, April 20 (Tue.) through May 5 (Wed.); events (such as rice cake making), April 24 (Sat.), 12 noon to 3 p.m.

How to Get There: A one-minute walk from JR Shin-Okubo Station or a two-minute walk from JR Okubo Station

Inquiries: Kaichu Inari-jinja Shrine (in Japanese), Tel: 03-3361-4398

Peonies of Yakuo-in Temple

Yakuo-in Temple is one of the few sites in Tokyo famous for their peonies. Every year in mid-April, when the peonies are at their peak, many people visit the temple just to see the large, round blossoms. This custom began in 1946, when 100 stalks of peonies were transferred from Hasedera Temple in Nara Prefecture. Today, there are up to 1,000 stalks of about 40 varieties of peonies.



Location: Yakuo-in Temple (4-8-2 Shimo-Ochiai)

Date and Time: Mid-April through the end of April

How to Get There: A five-minute walk from Shimo-Ochiai Station on the Seibu-Shinjuku Line or a 10-minute walk from Takadanobaba Station on the JR Line, Tozai Subway Line, and Seibu-Shinjuku Line

Inquiries: Yakuo-in Temple (in Japanese), Tel: 03-3951-4324

Takadanobaba Koinobori (Carp Streamers)

Koinobori (carp streamers) are displayed on flagpoles at homes where baby boys have been born with prayers for their healthy growth and success. This ancient custom is mainly practiced from mid-April through May 5. Every year at Takadanobaba Park, *koinobori* seem to swim in the sky, protecting the community. In the heart of Tokyo, many people live in condominiums and apartments, making it harder for people to display large *koinobori*. Beautiful *koinobori* are scheduled to be displayed in the park until May 8 (Sat.), for these people.

Location: Takadanobaba Park (4-22 Takadanobaba)

Date and Time: April 18 (Sun.) through May 8 (Sat.)

How to Get There: A three-minute walk from Takadanobaba Station on the JR Line, Tozai Subway Line, and Seibu-Shinjuku Line



Why Not Challenge Yourself by Participating in the Japanese-Language Speech Contest Shabeleon '10?

Date and Time: June 12 (Sat.), 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. (Get-together: 5 to 6:30 p.m.)

Location: Small hall, Shinjuku Bunka Center 3F (6-14-1 Shinjuku)

Eligibility and Capacity: Those who live, work, or go to school in Shinjuku City and whose first language is not Japanese; approximately 15 contestants; restricted to those who have lived in Japan for two years or less; although those who have entered the contest before may participate up to two times, including the upcoming contest, those who have won an award are not eligible to participate in the contest again. If the number of applications exceeds capacity, preliminaries will be held.

Theme: As a rule, contestants are free to choose their own theme (must be original and unpublished).

To Apply: Submit a completed speech contest application form and your planned speech (written in Japanese; from approximately 1,000 characters up to 1,500 characters; on A4-size paper; format is not restricted) in person or by mail by May 7 (Fri.).

Note: The speech contest application form and guidelines are available at the Shinjuku Multicultural Plaza and the Culture, Tourism and International Affairs Division (Shinjuku City Office Main Bldg. 1F). Also, you can download the form from the Multicultural Plaza Web site

Application/Inquiries: (Until March 31) Shinjuku Multicultural Plaza, Tel: 03-5291-5171

(From April 1) Cultural Exchange Division, the Shinjuku Foundation for Creation of Future, Tel: 03-3350-1141 6-14-1 Shinjuku, Shinjuku City 160-0022



Shinjuku City Scholarships for Foreign Students

Shinjuku City offers ¥240,000 scholarships for one year (application in consecutive years is allowed) to 15 (tentative) foreign students with high grades who find it financially difficult to continue their studies.

Eligibility: Those who fulfill all of the following requirements:

- (1) Those with a college student visa status and who are studying at their own expense or have been dispatched by a foreign government (Government-sponsored foreign students are not eligible.)
- (2) Those who have studied for one year or longer in Shinjuku City (under a master's or doctor's course at a graduate school or as an undergraduate or junior college student or at a special training school) and are planning to continue their studies for at least another year
- (3) Those who have completed foreign resident registration procedures in Shinjuku City and are currently living in Shinjuku City
- (4) Those with excellent grades, who are of good character, and find it financially difficult to continue their studies in Japan

To Apply: Applications are accepted every year in May. Please apply at the coordination section of your school office. The Shinjuku City Office will make a final decision after a letter of recommendation is received from your school.

Inquiries: Culture, Tourism and International Affairs Division,
Tel: 03-5273-3504

For information on other scholarships, visit the following Web sites or consult the school you attend.

Japan Student Services Organization

Web site: www.jasso.go.jp/study_j/scholarships_e.html

Japan Study Support—Information for Foreign Students

Web site: www.jpss.jp/eng/index.html



Shinjuku City Fundamental Ordinance for Culture and Arts Promotion Has Been Enacted

Shinjuku City is blessed with many places and opportunities where one can experience and appreciate culture and the arts, such as music halls, live houses, theaters, art museums, museums, and movie theaters.

Aiming to achieve our ideal—i.e., a town of culture, arts, and creativity—the Shinjuku City Fundamental Ordinance for Culture and Arts Promotion, which outlines city policy, is scheduled to take effect on April 1.

This ordinance designates basic subjects for the foundation of promoting culture and the arts with the joint effort of everyone—those who live in Shinjuku City, those who work in Shinjuku City, those who study in Shinjuku City, those who participate in activities in Shinjuku City, and even those who visit Shinjuku City.

Culture and the arts have the power to create friendly ties among people and deepen mutual understanding. Everyone's active participation in culture and art activities, so that Shinjuku City will be even livelier and grow more as a multicultural community, is appreciated!

Inquiries: Culture, Tourism and International Affairs Division,
Tel: 03-5273-3504

Saeki Yuzo Atelier Museum Will Open on April 28!

Saeki Yuzo (1898 to 1928) was a master of Western-style art in modern Japan. Although he set out for Paris and died young, his works are extremely popular even today. To let people know of his achievements as a memory of Ochiai through exhibits related to Saeki's lifetime, his activities in Ochiai, and his works, Shinjuku City will open his atelier to the public on April 28. Please drop by and enjoy the experience.

Open: Tuesday through Sunday (except during the year-end/New Year holidays)

Hours: (1) May through September, 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., (2) October through April, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

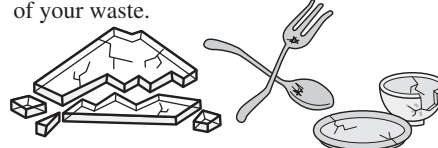
Admission: Free of charge

Location: 2-4-21 Naka-Ochiai, Shinjuku City (inside Saeki Park)

Inquiries: Cultural Resource Section, Culture, Tourism and International Affairs Division,
Tel: 03-5273-3563

Starting on April 1, Collection of Incombustible Waste Will Be Twice a Month

Since the implementation of the new waste categories last year, incombustible waste has been significantly reduced, and we estimate that the amount collected will continue to decrease. Therefore, the frequency of collection as of April 1 will be changed from the current once a week to twice a month, and the category will be changed to "metal, ceramics, and glass." Please make a note of this when you dispose of your waste.



Collection Frequency: Twice a month

Collection Days: Either the 1st and 3rd weeks or 2nd and 4th weeks; collection will not be conducted on the 5th week of the month. (Note: Please be sure to check the chart posted at your collection station for the exact collection days. Collection days vary depending on the neighborhood.)

Inquiries: Shinjuku Waste Collection Office, Tel: 03-3950-2923

Announcement on the Merging of Foundations

Two foundations under the jurisdiction of Shinjuku City—the Shinjuku Foundation for Culture & International Exchange and the Shinjuku City Lifelong Learning Foundation (Regasu)—will be merged, forming the Shinjuku Foundation for Creation of Future, effective on April 1. Please note that the telephone numbers for inquiries and signing up for such programs as Japanese-Language Classes, the International Understanding Class, and International Exchange Salon, for which Shinjuku Multicultural Plaza served as the service counter, may be changed.

Name: Cultural Exchange Division, the Shinjuku Foundation for Creation of Future

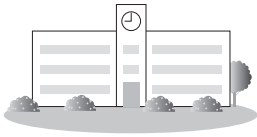
Location: 6-14-1 Shinjuku, Shinjuku City, Tel: 03-3350-1141

Living Together

“Multicultural living” refers to people of different nationalities and ethnic races living together, and accepting and understanding the differences between their cultures.

In this issue, we will report from the front lines of multicultural living.

Can you imagine what life at a Japanese elementary school is like? There are probably children and parents who are considering enrollment in a public elementary school and are wondering what the classes are like, what the school lunches are like, etc. In this issue, we will describe a typical day at a Shinjuku municipal elementary school so that all of you can learn what Japanese elementary schools are like.



Life at a Japanese Elementary School



“Good Morning!” “Hello!” Children greet teachers and classmates with cheerful smiles. We recently visited Toyama Municipal Elementary School, where the cheerful smiles left a particularly deep impression on us.

Menu

Menus are prepared with nutritional balance in mind. Today’s menu includes sesame toast, cream stew with Chinese cabbage, *jako* (dried young sardines) salad, and milk.

Arriving at School

When you think of Japanese elementary school children, the first thing that comes to mind is probably their *randoseru* (special backpack used for school). Children carry their *randoseru* to school throughout the six years of elementary school. Usually, boys’ backpacks are black and girls’ are red. Inside the backpack are the children’s textbooks, notebooks, and



pencil cases.

Upon arrival at school, children change into their indoor shoes at the entrance of the school building. Indoor shoes are worn inside the school building and the school gymnasium.



School Lunch



white coats and distribute lunch to each person.



It is time for lunch—everyone’s favorite time of day! The children eat school lunch in the classroom. No one brings his/her own lunch. Children who are in charge of serving lunch for the day wear

Class

Classes include Japanese, social studies, arithmetic, science, physical education, music, art, home economics, ethics, and English. They vary, however, depending on the grade.

The teacher instructs the class using a large blackboard. The desks are lined up facing the blackboard, and the children listen carefully to the teacher.



Recess after Lunch

Children are running around energetically in the schoolyard!

The children enjoy playing ball games, jumping rope, climbing across the horizontal bars, etc.



Physical Education



For physical education, the children change into their gym uniforms and wear their red and white reversible caps to class.

Classes are held in either the gymnasium or schoolyard. This photo shows the class jumping with a long jump rope. It looks really fun as they cheer each other on!

Cleanup



Every day at a designated time, everyone helps with the cleaning. Using rags and brooms, the children clean the classroom, hallway, sink, and wherever they are assigned to clean. It must feel good to sit through afternoon classes after making the classroom sparkling clean!

Children of foreign residents attend Shinjuku municipal elementary schools too. For these children, there are Japanese-language support services and after-school support services. (See page 1.)

If you are considering enrolling your child in a Japanese elementary school, please contact the School Management Support Section of the School Management Division of the Board of Education for more information on application procedures.

Inquiries: School Management Support Section, School Management Division, Board of Education, Tel: 03-5273-3089