

FUKUSHIMA LIFE

Kenka Matsuri (Fighting Festival)



This year, we were invited to the “kenka” festival again by the Iizaka Rotary Club. The event started around noon and to everyone’s surprise, as many as 80 participants showed up and took part in it. As there were so many participants, we were divided into green and blue teams and took turns in carrying the portable shrine. Each participant had to put on a “hanten” (a short coat) and a patch on the head as this is the Japanese traditional costume for

most festivals. The event lasted from 1pm to 4pm, with a few brief stops which food and beverage were served. When the event was finished, we were invited to enjoy some “onsen” as a way to appreciate everyone’s effort. After “onsen”, a small “otsukaresama” banquet was held where people were able to meet and interact with each other. Personally, I have always enjoyed this event because I enjoy Japanese traditional cultures and would love to take part in it again next year!

Welcome to Fukushima Life!

This newsletter is created, written, and provided for by the Fukushima International Association (FIA).

The FIA provides free multilingual counseling and information in English, Chinese, Tagalog, Portuguese, and Korean to all foreigners living in Fukushima. We also update the radiation level on a daily basis so you can check it out at <http://www.worldvillage.org>

This newsletter can also be read at http://www.worldvillage.org/e_index.html

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Message from overseas for

JAPAN

It has been more than eight months since the quake yet it seems as if the disaster just happened yesterday. After watching the news on TV, reading all the comments on Facebook, donating funds toward this disaster, for those who do not live in Japan, life was back to normal very soon. As I thought people were slowly forgetting about the quake, one day I saw a show on TV and it reminded me of how devastated this disaster was. It was a two hour special program that sent Japanese people to Taiwan for a “Thank You Trip”, to show appreciation for the help from Taiwan. In addition, every time I go through my Facebook page, my Canadian friend who currently resides in Fukushima Prefecture is still volunteering and taking pictures to remind people to keep supporting Japan. Although the road to recovery may be tough, I want everyone in Japan to know that you are not alone; people from all over the world will always be there to lend a hand and support you!

Written by Paulina Chiang, Taiwan

Open
Tuesdays
to
Saturdays
8:30 –
17:15

QUIZ

What is a “mikoshi”?

- A. a short coat C. a type of mochi
B. hot spring D. a portable shrine

VOICES

Messages from foreigners currently in Fukushima

Sung Jia Yin – China
Fukushima city

On March 11, a huge earthquake struck and torn many families apart. Yet, everyone stayed strong and helped each other during this disaster which I thought was very heart – warming. Even for the people who have lost their families during the tsunami, they said they do not have any hatred toward the sea. Instead, they never showed any signs to give up and continued to move on with their lives. I was very touched by this and I believe Fukushima will regain its composure and come back even stronger than before.



Hello my name is Bradley. I have been living in Ishikawa town for over 6 years now. I love being a part of Fukushima Prefecture. I have become quite comfortable with my life here. There is a basketball club in Fukushima which I am a part of and I also get to help out with my school's basketball team. Even after the quake, I had no hesitation about living in Fukushima. This is my home and I know that things can only improve from here on.



BRADLEY TRENER – Australia
Ishikawa town

Word of 2011

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Kizuna (Bonds)

On March 11, 2011, the eastern region in Japan faced an unprecedented earthquake that caused a tsunami which took away thousands of lives and severe damages to various areas. On top of this, Fukushima Prefecture is still suffering from the nuclear incident that was caused by the explosion of the Fukushima Dai-ichi power plants. However, this word reminds us that no matter how tough the situation might be, as long as we can stand strong and help each other, we can overcome the difficulties.

For foreign residents who currently own an alien registration card and would want to register for residence certificate, please call 0570 – 066 – 630 (voice system) or 048 – 610 – 8779 for more information.

A Visit to Children's Home

John Dart - FuJET
President

In September the FuJET group had an amazing opportunity to volunteer at a children's orphanage just outside of Fukushima City. We were able to get together over 30 native English speaking teachers from throughout the prefecture that were eager to play with kids and create new and wonderful memories with them. The kids were just as excited to see and meet all of us too! Throughout the day we played dodge ball and baseball and we had many different arts and crafts tables set up. It was a very rewarding day for the kids and they were sad to see us go, but we will be having more volunteer days like this in the months to come. I am very proud to be living in Fukushima and I know that all of the other teachers feel the same.

A message from the Editor

Hello all!

It's almost winter season again! (yay and boo) What are your plans for the winter? In Fukushima, there are various **ski resorts** for those who love skiing and snowboarding! There are also more than **150 hot spring resorts** within the prefecture for those who just want to relax for the time being.

Are you ready for it?

ANSWER

D. a portable shrine