

Introducing Fall Festival Charm via Home Page

Fall Festival at Kumihama First District: Activity Report Meeting

At the Kumihama city office on March 5th, a reflection meeting, which announced the efforts of the district mayor's association and fall festival youth group, was held in wake of the recent Fall Festival of Kumihama's first district.

In this same region, a lack of Taiko-platform carriers perplexes the fall festival. Though, through efforts like writing letters to locals living in other areas, reaching out to universities, and conducting marriage hunting events on the day of the festival, it was reported that the number of young participants increased.

Also, a city-funded website was published to broadcast the festival's charm. Designer and member of the community-reactivation cooperator squad, Kanae Fujiwara, introduced the site; it contains resident interviews conducted by the Kansai Student Broadcasting Alliance and videos highlighting the atmosphere of the festival itself.

Chairman of the district mayor's association, Kiyoshi Taniguchi, shared his thoughts and expectations, "The fall festival is our region's pride and joy. We want to make sure that we are able to continue it into the future. My hope for this site is that it attracts as many fellow Tangonians to the festival from the other areas of Japan.



Walking the Chirimen Road dressed in Kimono

Observe, Touch and Enjoy Tango Chirimen

In order to spark a deeper interest for Tango Chirimen in the hearts of visitors, a bus tour showing chirimen production areas and surrounding townscapes was conducted on March 2nd. The Kyotango Yosakoi Group planned this event using funds dedicated to promote the “300 years of Tango Chirimen” effort. 36 visitors in their 20s to 70s came from Kyotango city and beyond to participate wearing vivid kimono.

Mr. and Mrs. Shintaku of Osaka commented the following after visiting Tayuh the textile industry, ltd: “The sounds of the machines were amazing. You really feel spiffy when you put on a Kimono.” All participants then enjoyed a walk through Kumihama-cho and Yosano-cho, both of which have ties to Chirimen.



Expressing Aspirations and Gratitude Dressed in Tango Chirimen

Taiza Elementary 4th Graders Participate in “Halfway to Adulthood” Ceremony

The “Halfway to Adulthood Ceremony”, a ceremony that celebrates turning age 10, was held at Taiza Elementary on February 17th. 23 fourth graders dressed up in Tango-chirimen kimono, gave thanks to their parents, and presented their dreams for the future.

The kimono worn were provided by the “Tango Chirimen Culture and History Club” in hopes of having the children experience the wonderfulness of Tango Chirimen first hand. Before the ceremony started, local volunteers helped dress the children in the garments.

At the ceremony, the children made their entrance in colorful Kimono as parents and local residents looked on. They participated in a class called “Tangology” and presented on “Tango Chirimen” in English. Afterwards, each child stood at the podium and read letters out loud: “Thank you for always working hard for our family,” “In the future I want to become someone able to save those in trouble.” After the closure of the ceremony, many families took commemorative photos while still in the venue.



Knowledgeable about Vegetables! All Questions Answered

Sennorikyuu Teach Vegetable Class at Omiya Southern Elementary

Sennorikyuu, a half-famer-half-celebrity couple who lives in Omiya, conducted a class on raising vegetables as a part of Omiya Southern Elementary School's "Comprehensive Learning Time".

Sennorikyuu showed pictures while sharing how Tango's distinctly different 4 seasons are great for farming. They also shared some regional charm they noticed while living here, as well as how much fun they had at the fall festival.

Next, they had the students make and drink vegetable juice. Students were given 4 questions about the ingredients used in each drink. Children who are exposed to vegetables on a regular basis answered every single question correctly.

The children completely opened up to Sennorikyuu and exclaimed things like: "The juice was good! We want to drink them again!" and "That was so fun!" Finally, Sennorikyuu topped things off by performing a gag and closing the class.



Musical Interaction at Japan-US Joint Concert

Music Reaches People of All Backgrounds ! 760 Dazzled by Performance

Japan-US joint concert was held at Tango Cultural Hall on March 9th. This is the third time this concert has been conducted. The goal for this event, which was set by the Kinki-Chubu Defense Bureau, is to deepen the bonds between America and Japan through musical interaction.

The concert was separated into two parts. The first featured the US Air Force Band of the Pacific, who performed authentic jazz music; around 760 spectators were dazzled and captivated by the production. The second featured the first-time-guest Mineyama Middle School Wind Ensemble, which played the song “Gakuen Tengoku”, in addition to dances and musical performances by Petite Etoile and the Tango Wind Orchestra. To top things off, the US Army 14th Missile Defense Battery, which is stationed at Kyogamisaki Communications Site, joined and sang “Hane o Kudasai” in a group totaling 125 people. Afterwards, they received a huge round of applause from the audience.

The Mineyama Middle School Wind Ensemble club president, Ryo Yamamoto (second year), smiled and said, “It was so fun hearing the band’s wonderful music and performing along with them. I was so moved.”



Little Mountain “Workers” Signal Start of Spring

Pheasant’s Eye Bloom in Noma

In places like the Noma Area, “Pheasant’s Eyes” will bloom, signaling the arrival of winter. According to locals, the flowers will “bloom earlier than usual” due to there being little snow this year. Pheasant’s Eye is a type of plant that braves snowy and cold environments; before the merger of Kyotango City, this colorful and flowery plant was the town flower of the former Yasaka Town.

