

Mineyama High Schoolers Tell Story of Earthquake Disaster

A Walk through the History of the Tango Earthquake

The “Walk through the History of the Tango Disaster” is an event that was conducted on March 24th where participants visited sites related to the Kita Tango earthquake (Disaster of Tango) of March 7th 1927. This year marks the 3rd time this event has been held. Mineyama High School Volunteer Students (of the Earth Science Club) introduced the earthquake in various, relevant places.

The students conveyed how grave the damage was by comparing photos of the aftermath to Mineyama’s current townscape and telling the story of paintings from the era. These paintings are displayed at the Kita Tango Earthquake Memorial Hall. They also explained how 2 former teachers of the old Technical High school (predecessor of Mineyama High School) took charge and lessened loss of life and property by partaking in rescue and firefighting efforts. It is thought that this is one of the reasons why damage was kept at bay, especially when compared to the surrounding areas. Participant Michie Tsuji commented, “This was a great experience to learn about an earthquake disaster of which I had no previous knowledge. Earthquakes can occur at any time; I want to make sure to prepare accordingly.”



Maruyama Omiya Sakura in Bloom Again this Spring!

Weeping Cherry Blossoms at Omiya Social Gymnasium

The Weeping Cherry Blossoms on the grounds of the Omiya Social Gymnasium are called "Maruyama Omiya Sakura" (3rd generation).

After the first Maruyama Sakura tree died at the age of 200 in Maruyama Park (Kyoto City), cherry blossom protector Touemon Sano decided to bring the same type of tree to Omiya by planting fallen seeds from the second generation of Maruyama Sakura, a tree planted in Maruyama Park that he raised from a seed himself.

It is a sight to see every year as its slightly white color is very unique.



For a Town Where Everyone Can Live at Ease

Raising Awareness of Autism “Together in Tango”

An autism awareness event “Together in Tango” was held at Tango Kingdom “Shoku no Miyako” on March 31st.

This function is put on by an executives committee made up of families and supporters of disabled persons in order to foster a deeper understanding of autism. It was held for the first time on April 2nd, which is World Autism Awareness Day.

Over 400 participants wore blue, the theme-color of the event, and preformed dances, sign language songs, and calligraphy. They also conducted awareness panels, badge-making experiences, painting therapy and more.

At the light show at the end of the event, participants called for understanding with blue lights in hand. Representative of the Executives Committee, Hiroko Iwabuchi, commented, “I am so grateful for everyone’s help. I want to increase the number of these types of events and continue to spread understanding of autism.”



Commemorating 80 years, Former Inhabitants of Kyotango Display Art

“Kyotango Classmate Volunteer Boutique” at Goushou Inaba Honke

The “Kyotango Classmate Volunteer Boutique 80 Year Celebration” was held at Goushou Inaba Honke’s Kura Gallery.

Former inhabitants of Kyotango, who currently live apart from their hometown, formed an executives committee and celebrated age 80 by their turning their thoughts and past into art. All of the works of art were displayed together. Members collected pieces with a focus on their classmates; over 50 pieces were collected from 21 people from Kyotango and beyond.

Displayed pieces included, paintings, photographs, India-ink paintings, folk craft articles, porcelain and handmade picture-letters. Four pro painters and photographers also submitted pieces to the event.

Office worker Katsunori Fujiwara, who is from Omiya and currently living in Joyo City, commented the following: “Each of these pieces is a message to the next generation. We hope that this is invigorating to the town and people of Kyotango.”

Free Admission. The display will be open from 9 AM~4PM until May 4th (closed on Wednesdays)



A Day to Feel Ancient Wonder

“Ancient Village Festival” at Tango Village Archive

The “Ancient Village Festival” was held on March 24th at the city-run Tango Village Archive. Many families came and filled the venue.

On this day, the archive was opened with free admission. Members of the Research Society of Tangonian History gave explanations on precious displays that tell the stories of the lives and tools of ancient people. Also, at the “Taiken Corner” (experience corner), visitors made “Magatama” (comma-shaped jewelry) by filing down stone, and coasters by weaving hemp twine. Children earnestly listened to the instructors and did their best to build works of art.

Manami Itami (age 6) came with her family and challenged herself against Magatama-making. She commented, “I made mine into a diamond. It was fun filing down rocks by myself.”



Hospitality with Homeland Cooking

Taste Testing Foreign Breakfasts

A “Foreign Breakfast Taste Testing” was held on March 26th at the Amino Wellness Center. With Kyotango being a host town for the Tokyo Olympics, the Kyotango City International Association conducted this event in hopes of offering foreign residents of Kyotango a chance to taste food made with local ingredients, creating a more inclusive environment for foreigners. Kyotango ryokan owners learned how to make Korean food; the participants commented, “I learned for the first time that Koreans eat porridge,” and “I want to try to use Kyotango ingredients in the recipes I learned!”

The recipes shared will be published via the Kyotango City PR Magazine in the “Shun Kan Tangohan Corner” (21st page).

