

Handmade Hina Dolls Greet Visitors

“Girls’ Festival in Kumihama, Kyoto”

Gosho Inaba Honke and 19 of its surrounding shops and houses decorated their property with Hina Dolls. The colorful and lively “Girls’ Festival in Kumihama, Kyoto” brightens the day of citizens and tourists alike.

NPO “Waku Waku Suru Kumihama wo Tsukuru Kai” plans this festival every year with the goal of bringing some life to the town while entertaining tourists. This has become a staple new-year’s event in Kumihama Ikku.

The “Bamboo-bina,” a display made of Bamboo and colorful Washi Dolls (Japanese Paper Dolls), was made entirely by local women. They started making sets of dolls in November, and were able to complete 200 of them by December’s end.

One can see the “Godenbina,” a display passed down since the mid Edo period, and other valuable Girls’ Festival decorations at Gosho Inaba Honke. There are even various Bamboo-bina on display and on sale.

This event will be held until April 5th.



A Charm for a Plentiful Harvest

Making “Mochihana” at Ukawa Nursery

Ukawa Nursery recently started the new tradition of “Mochihana-making.”

After learning the history of Mochihana (Mochi Flowers), the children pounded glutinous rice with a wooden pestle, tore off red and white mochi to the size of their liking and attached them to a tree branch. Plenty of original pieces were made.

Left over mochi was made into decorative hail, and was eaten on a later day called “Don Don Yaki Day” (Burning of New Year’s gate decorations).

During the event children commented things like: “The mochi sticks to your hand so its hard to make,” and “It was fun making ripping the mochi and turning them into balls.”



Painting the New Year away with Quiet Hearts

“First Calligraphy of the Year” at Yasaka Elementary School

The traditional event “First calligraphy of the Year” was held at Yasaka Elementary School on January 9th. A total of 145 children took part in this event, which is held to welcome in the new year. Students express their feelings in a new way and write their hopes of improved handwriting. First and second graders wrote with pens in a classroom, while third through sixth graders wrote with brushes in the gymnasium.

With serious looks on their faces, students silently wrote words that were assigned to each respective grade level. The assigned words included phrases like “Beautiful Heart” and “Shooting Star.”

Fourth grader Taketoki Yoshioka commented “Writing ‘Shooting’ was hard but I was happy that I was able to write it.”



218 New Books to Ichiro Hiraika Collection

Omiya Daycare Kids Participate in Reading Meet-up

The Hiraika Ichiro Collection at Omiya Library was stocked with 218 new books thanks to donations from the Hiraika Ichiro Foundation (Nakagyou-ku, Kyoto City).

New books were read to the 43 children in attendance as they listened attentively. Afterwards, each child was able to choose a picture book of their liking and experience the wonder of reading.

*Hiraika Ichirō Collection

The late Hiraika Ichirō was originally from Omiya, and was the former president of Nichicon (company). The Hiraika Ichirō Foundation (Chairman: Nobuko Hirai) granted his dying wish of supporting those who raise children. And in 2009, thanks to the foundation's donations, the collection was established at Ōmiya Library. Their yearly contributions have allowed for a library totaling 2,948 books.



Fun and Energetic for the Hundredth Time!

Region's Elderly meet up for "Sukoyaka Salon"

The "Sukoyaka Salon," an event put on by the Kourei Sukoyaka Center, was held for the 100th time on December 1st.

This event, whose goal is to create a place of gathering and rest for local elderly and facility users, has been planned by a specific group of facility users called the "Tomo no Kai" since 2015. Since its first appearance, the event has been held twice a month. Volunteers take lead and make snacks out of participant-provided vegetables, and even conduct courses that teach things like traffic safety. At this point in time, the Sukoyaka Salon has welcomed around 4000 people in total.

On this day, participants enjoyed good sushi and conversation to celebrate the 100th holding of the Sukoyaka Salon.

Chairman Yoshinobu Imoto commented, "We were able to get to 100 thanks to the cooperation of the locals. We want to continue this event as a place to create some sort of liveliness."



Baseball Youth Clean Train Station

“Kyotango Boys” Clean Up

On December 15th, the Junior High Level regulation baseball team “Kyotango Boys” and its staff (30 in total) cleaned the Kyoto Tango Railways Mineyama Station.

This effort is conducted every year with the purpose to give back to the community that supports the team. Members picked up garbage, weeded flower beds, and even cleaned inside the station. Afterwards, they broke a sweat at practice, as usual.

