

## Japanese Customs



Setsubun

### 節分 (Feb.3)

Feb.4 is the day of <sup>Risshun</sup> 立春 for 2015, from which spring is believed to begin. The previous day(Feb.3) is called <sup>Setsubun</sup> 節分. In Japan, it is believed that something bad may happen at the change of seasons. At the day of *Setsubun*, there is a tradition to throw soy beans, saying “Oni wa soto! Fuku wa uchi! (Out with Demons! In with good luck!)”, to drive the evil away from the house. It means to despell evil things out of the house, and invite good fortune into. Usually, roasted soy beans are used to throw. You can buy “beans for *Setsubun*” or <sup>fukumame</sup> “福豆” at stores. It is believed that you won't catch cold if you eat number of your age +1 beans (if you are 20 years old, eat 21 beans)\*. At the *Setsubun* day, there will be “*mamemaki*” events at Shinto shrines. So, please participate and enjoy! (\*Please don't eat beans fell on the floor or on the ground.)

Hina-matsuri

### ひなまつり (Mar.3)



Hina-matsuri

”雛祭り(Girl's Festival)” is a traditional event to wish girl's growth and good health (Boy's festival is held in May). It's also called <sup>Momo no Sekku</sup> “桃の節句(Seasonal Festival of Peach)” because it is held at the time when peach flowers bloom. Families who have girls display dolls called <sup>Hina Ningyo</sup> “雛人形” in the house. There are various kinds of dolls represent Japanese traditional nobles and attendants. A couple of dolls placed on the top are called <sup>O-dairi-sama</sup> “お内裏様” and <sup>O-hina-sama</sup> “お雛様”, and represent emperor and empress. Sweets called <sup>hishi-mochi</sup> “菱餅(diamond-shaped rice cake)” and <sup>hina-arare</sup> “雛あられ(rice cake cubes)” are offered to the dolls and also ate by participants.

## Mito City International Association (MCIA)

Tuesday-Sunday, 9am-9pm

(Closed : Mondays, Feb 11)

Add 〒310-0024 <sup>Mito-shi Bizen-machi</sup> 水戸市 備前町6-59

Mito International Center

Tel 029-221-1800 Fax 029-221-5793

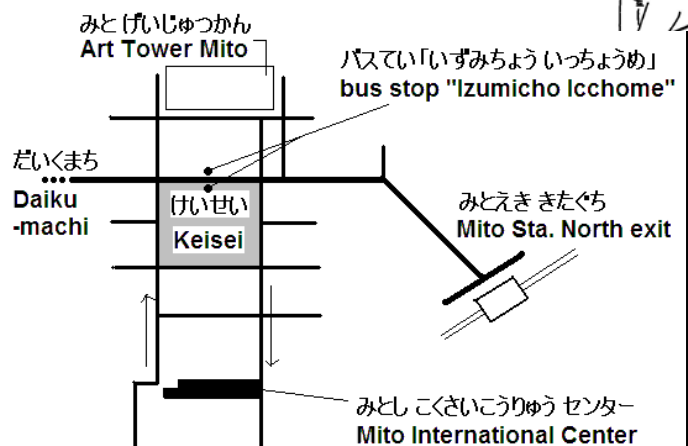
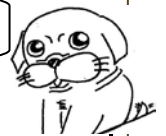
Mail [mcia@mito.ne.jp](mailto:mcia@mito.ne.jp)

HP <http://www.mitoic.or.jp>

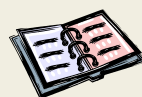
Please forward us any opinions or suggestions you may have!



feel free to drop by!



Take a bus from Mito station North exit, bus terminal #4~7 ⇒ 5mins ⇒ ♀ “泉町一丁目”



# Culture Pot MITO

In the title “Culture Pot MITO,” Mito city is likened to a pot stuffed with various cultures which resembles a multicultural city loved by every citizen. We are hoping that this newsletter will be useful in your daily life and that you will feel more attached to Mito City in the near future.

▼ Photo: Lunch at “Sol la la” (Ibaraki Tour, Nov.21)



## FORMAL

In a business situation or with someone you do not know well

ちょっと Japanese



## CASUAL

With your friends

## Expression of Farewell

### <Polite Expression>

- Shitsurei itashimasu  
失礼いたします

### <General Expression>

- Sayounara  
さようなら



### <Polite Expression>

- Sayounara  
さようなら

### <General Expression>

- Bye bye Matane  
バイバイ / またね

### <Very Casual Expression>

- Jaane  
じゃあね

