



## Buddhist Monk Dolls Praying for Good Weather

June marks the beginning of the rainy season in Japan, but in other parts of Asia such as China, Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, Vietnam, and the Philippines, it occurs before the summer.

It's a time when the breath of nature becomes lively, and the greenery shines even brighter in the moist air. Touching the workings of nature can make one's heart feel refreshed.

When this season arrives, I think of the "teru teru bozu" I made as a child. There are various theories about the origin of *teru teru bozu*. In China, when a village had heavy rain due to continuous rain, a girl called "Sǎo Qíng Niáng (掃晴娘=clearing the sky maiden)," prayed to the rain god, *Lóng Shén* (龍神=Dragon God) to stop. A voice from the heavens responded, "If you become my bride, I'll stop the rain." *Sǎo Qíng Niáng* musume accepted this, and the rain stopped, clearing the sky. As *Sǎo Qíng Niáng* ascended to the heavens and disappeared. People began making dolls resembling a beautiful girl sweeping away rain clouds with a broom to hang in hopes of clear weather. So why did it become "bozu" (坊主=monk) in Japan instead of "musume" (娘=girl)?

Legend has it that in ancient times, a lord troubled by continuous rain asked a famous monk known for always bringing clear weather through chanting sutras to stop the rain.

However, when even the sutras couldn't stop the rain, the angry lord allegedly cut off the monk's head and placed it on the eaves, after which the rain stopped. In the third verse of the children's song "Teru Teru Bozu (Buddhist monks praying for good weather)," there are somewhat ominous lyrics: "Teru teru bozu, please make tomorrow's weather nice, if you make it cloudy or rainy, I'll cut off your head."

It's said that *teru teru bozu* were used by farmers to pray for rain, with the face pointed downwards when rain was needed and upwards when clear weather was desired.

Director, Hosokawa



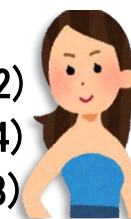
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Population of HIRO (at the end of Mar.)  
(in comparison to Feb.)

Population 42,956 (-312)

● M E N 20,824 (-164)

● WOMEN 22,132 (-148)



We are taught you must blame your father, your sisters, your brothers, the school, the teachers - but never blame yourself. It's never your fault. But it's always your fault, because if you wanted to change you're the one who has got to change. *Katharine Hepburn*

## Information from Hiro C.D.C. Registration starts on June 20<sup>th</sup> (Thu.)

### ① Summer Homework Strategy Course 'Painting' ~How to draw Posters~

**Participant:** Elementary school students  
※ Children 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> graders must be accompanied.

**Date and Time:** ① Sun. Aug. 4<sup>th</sup> 13:00~16:00

**Any 1 Day** ② Mon. Aug. 5<sup>th</sup> 13:00~16:00

**Participation cost:** ¥500

**Seating Capacity:** Each class 15 (first come, first served)

### ② Handmade Bread Course ~Let's Make 3-Color Coronets~

**Participant:** 4<sup>th</sup> graders to 9<sup>th</sup> graders  
(Under 6<sup>th</sup> graders must be accompanied by a guardian)

**Date and Time:** Sun. July 7<sup>th</sup> 10:00~13:00

**Participation cost:** ¥1,600 ※ Guardians not required

**Seating Capacity:** 12 (first come, first served)

### ③ Summer Homework Strategy Course 'Calligraphy' ~Key to writing grade-specific assignments and names neatly~

**Participant:** 1<sup>st</sup> graders to 9<sup>th</sup> graders

(Under 2<sup>nd</sup> graders must be accompanied by a guardian)

**Date and Time:** Tue. July 30<sup>th</sup> 10:00~12:00

**Participation cost:** ¥900 ※ Guardians not required

**Seating Capacity:** 15 (first come, first served)

### ④ Make Your Own Hand-Drawn Fan with 'ONORESHO'

"ONORESHO" is truly a one-of-a-kind calligraphy, meaning 'calligraphy of one's own.' Letting your brush run freely, expressing your worldview joyfully.

**Participant:** 1<sup>st</sup> graders to Adults

(Under 2<sup>nd</sup> graders must be accompanied by a guardian)

**Date and Time:** Sun. Aug. 18<sup>th</sup> 10:00~12:00

**Participation cost:** ¥900 ※ Guardians not required

**Seating Capacity:** 10 (first come, first served)



The hand-kneaded bread workshop scheduled for June 22<sup>nd</sup> (Sat) will feature 'Potato Bacon Cheese Bread'. Participation is limited to elementary school students only (those in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade or below must be accompanied by a guardian), and the participation fee has been changed ¥1,500 to ¥1,600.

## Hiro Cultural Federation Spring Festival

The 'Spring Cultural Festival' has successfully concluded. As usual, it featured stage presentations and artwork exhibitions (ikebana). On the stage presentations, although brief, the variety of groups and performers who appeared one after another was remarkable. I wished not only those involved but also more people could see it. Especially, the children's dances were captivating with their energy and enthusiasm. The artwork exhibition this year featured submissions from four ikebana groups, showcasing the results of their daily dedication and practice.

The cultural festival concluded with great success. This achievement is thanks to all the audience members who attended, the performers, and the staff who contributed. I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to everyone. Thank you very much.

Director, Hosokawa





## Introduction of Short Courses of Hiro C.D.C.

### ⑥ Let's Make Sparkling Shaker Keychains

Ms. **Kairi Kai**, the instructor, is a handmade artist who is active in events and online sales.



This is her first time leading such a workshop, but she made various preparations to ensure that the children would enjoy and understand it. In this keychain-making session, participants used resin liquid dyed in their favorite colors to create molds, into which they inserted beads, sequins, and other decorative elements.

The process involved multiple steps, including repeated curing with LEDs and finishing with sandpaper.

Children from kindergarten to middle school enthusiastically participated, engaging in conversations with new friends, deliberating on color choices, and enjoying the hands-on activities. Although it took a bit of time due to individual color selection and teacher assistance with finishing touches, each participant successfully crafted a unique and stylish keychain.



This workshop quickly reached its capacity due to its popularity. We plan to have Ms. Kai lead the workshop again. We look forward to everyone's participation!

## Thank You for Your Feedback!



○I had a lot of fun. ○I was happy to be able to make a keychain. ○There were many things to choose from, so it was enjoyable. ○It was fun to put in decorations. ○It was enjoyable to pour the resin liquid! ○I had fun choosing my own materials and making them. ○I had been wanting to make a shaker keychain for a long time, so I'm glad I could participate. ○Even when there were some issues, the teacher kindly assisted us.

**Our office is normally closed on 4<sup>th</sup> Monday**  
**Next : Mon. 24<sup>th</sup> June**

## From Hiro Sports Association

### 55<sup>th</sup> Hiro Town Suburban Open Table Tennis Tournament

**Date & Time:** Monday, July 15<sup>th</sup>, starting at 10:00

**Venue:** Kure City General Gymnasium (Shishinyo Oak Arena)

#### Qualifications for Participation:

- (1) Those who reside in Hiro district and adjacent areas (**Aga/Gohara/Nigata** district)
- (2) Those who work at companies, schools, government offices, shops, etc. in Hiro district
- (3) **Hiro/Aga/Gohara/Nigata** Community Development Center table tennis class students and instructors
- (4) Students and pupils enrolled in schools in Hiro district and adjacent areas (**Aga/Gohara/Nigata** district)

**Participation Fee:** General section ¥500, Junior high school students and below section ¥200 (Collected at reception on the day. If you cancel on the day of the event, you will be charged a participation fee.)

**Application Destination:** Hiro C.D. C.

☆Hiro Sports Association Secretariat

☞ Submit the prescribed application form.

**Application Deadline:** Sunday, June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024, 17:00



## Information from Hiro Library

**Opening Hours:** 9:30 AM to 8:00 PM Closed on Thursdays and public holidays

**Closed days in June:** 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup>

**\*Babar Picture Book Exhibition**

**Date & Time:** June 22<sup>nd</sup> (Sat) 10:30 to 11:10

**Location:** 6th floor of Hiro Civic Center, Room 604



## How about Walking with us?

◎ **Event Date:** June 18<sup>th</sup> (Tue), 2024

◎ **Meeting Place:** Hiro Civic Center

◎ **Meeting Time:** 9:00AM

**RAIN OUT!**

**Course:** **Aki-no-Kosuma Walk 10km**

Hiro Civic Center → Nagahama → Kotsubo  
Aki-no-kosuma → JR Nagahama St. (leave off)

※The event may be canceled or the course may change due to weather or other circumstances.

※Sign at the reception to apply for recreation insurance.

**Contact:** Hori ☎ 080-1919-6088



## From Community Collaboration Center

In the Hiro Collaboration Center Free Space, we are holding an **exhibition of activity posters** from town planning councils and committees in Kure City.

Throughout Kure City, there are various councils and committees engaging in community-building activities, and staff from the Kure City Civic Collaboration Center conduct interviews to learn about their activities, take photos of events, and compile them into posters.

Please come visit the Hiro Collaboration Center to see the activities firsthand.

**Date:** Every day until the end of June (Closed on Wednesdays)

**Location:** Hiro Collaboration Center Free Space  
(4th floor of Hiro Civic Center)

**Phone:** Hiro Collaboration Center ☎ 0823-71-0321

## Information from Hirohiro-ba First Daddy Workshop 2024

We support men who want to enjoy parenting and spending time with their families.

**Participant:** Dads and Grandfathers of children aged 0-2

**Date:** Saturday, June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024

**Time:** 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

**Location:** Hirohiro-ba Seminar Room  
(4F of Hiro Civic Center)

**Content:** Let's listen to what *Kayo-chan* (licensed psychologist) has to say!

**Capacity:** 15 people **Fee:** Free

**Registration:** Please apply via QR code.

Reservation required Kure City *Sukoyaka* Child Rearing Support Center 'Hirohiro-ba'

Phone: 76-1616 Email: kosodate@key.ocn.ne.jp



## Editorial Note Myth of Amano-Iwato Opening

It's the rainy season, but Japanese mythology has stories related to natural phenomena. One day, the goddess *Amaterasu-Omikami*, who controls the weather as the sun goddess, got into a fight with her younger brother, *Susano-no-Mikoto*. She became angry and hid in a dark cave called *Ama-no-awato*. Since she is the goddess of the sun and the god of the weather, the world was shrouded in darkness and people were in great trouble. *Susano-no-Mikoto* made a comb-shaped instrument using ears of rice and played beautiful sounds in an attempt to draw her out of the cave. Intrigued by the sound, she emerged from the cave when she saw beautiful clothes and a mirror. The world brightened, and people felt relieved. Now is the time to hope for a bright and secure future...