



# KIFA NEWS

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Kameyama International Friendship Association  
亀山国際交流の会

## Graduation Ceremony of Kameyama Part-Time High School

( 亀山高校の定時制、卒業式 )

A graduation ceremony was done on February 26 (Thu.), from 18:00. It is normally done on March 1 (Mon.) with the students of full-time high school. Some students have already worked and can't join the ceremony. Therefore it was their graduation ceremony in substance.

The number of the graduates of this year was 8 students. Miss Indira Mamani from Bolivia had studied for 4 years being compatible with job and happy to graduate this March. She said to us, "When I was in the third year of junior high school, I wanted to study Japanese more in high school. I almost thought to stop studying on the way, but now I'd like to speak Japanese better on her place to work and to make an effort to work hard. And also I really want to go back to Bolivia because I have never gone back to Bolivia for six and half years."

There was a Japanese man graduating with his wife who is pregnant. It was a heart-warming ceremony.

Photo: (from left) Wellington Hatano and Raphael Gibo (both from Brazil, 1st grade), Indira Mamani, Rodrigo Nakanishi (from Brazil, the graduate of last year), Hannah Belle Dambong (from the Philippines)

(There are more three students from Peru and other countries.)



## "Hana-mi" Cherry-blossom viewing (お花見)

Cherry blossoms "Sakura" has the special meaning for us Japanese, "Hanami" indicates to see cherry blossoms here and there such as parks or riversides to appreciate and enjoy the beauty.

In almost areas of Japan from the end of March to early April, the cherry trees are in full bloom. We often go out with family, friends, and co-workers and spread groundcloth under cherry trees, drinking or eating, singing songs "Karaoke". We enjoy the coming spring like this.

There are a lot of cherry trees not only in Japan but also Asian, European areas, and other countries. However only Japan has the tradition of "Hanami" except for Brazil, where a similar "hanami" is held by Japanese-Brazilians.

Japanese schools and companies start another new year in April, as related to the social system as April is the beginning month of the fiscal year. Cherry blossoms coincide with the new start. We feel a special delight and would have a hope of the next happy year, while seeing cherry blossoms at hanami. Therefore hana-mi has now become an indispensable event.



## Practitioner on Duty during Holidays 休日の当番医

(Normally from 13:00 to 21:00 pm)

4th (Sun.) Anoda clinic (Tel.83-1181)  
11th (Sun.) Iwama clinic (Tel.82-3135)  
18th (Sun.) Kawaguchi internal diseases clinic (Tel.82-8721)  
25th (Sun.) Matsuba otorhinolaryngology (Tel.83-0087)  
Isomura internist (Tel.96-1615)



28th (national holiday) Nakamura pediatrics (Tel.84-0010)

This information, especially the doctor on duty, is sometimes subject to change. Please call before visiting.

The doctors on duty follow a rotation system. In some cases a doctor does not meet the field, so it is not an absolutely sure system.

You may get Kameyama area emergency medical information center (Tel.82-1199) or City Office. (Tel.82-1111).

## General Consultation in April 各種相談

Administration Consultation 行政相談

9th (Fri.) from 9:30 to 15:00 in the "Shimin taiwa shitsu ( 1 ) "

Legal Consultation (Reservation system) 法律相談

Appointment start: before 1 month each day at the Shiminka-section

19th (Mon.) from 13:30 to 16:00 in the "Shimin taiwa shitsu ( 1 ) "

30th (Fri.) from 13:30 to 17:00 in the "Shimin taiwa shitsu ( 1 ) "

You have to make an appointment with the Shiminka-section. (Tel.82-1111)

## Garbage collection calendar ごみ収集カレンダー

City office made the garbage collection calendars to the foreigner of living in Kameyama. Calendars are Portuguese, Spanish, and English. Please understand the contents of judgment and collect days of garbage.

You can get calendars at City hall or Sogo-kankyo center (General environmental Center).

Information: Seikatsu kankyou-ka haikibutu taisakukakari (Tel.82-8081)



## Infant Examinations & Consultation and Lectures in April

保健 ( 健診・健康相談 )

1 and half year old infant- examination ( born in September, 2002 ) 1歳6ヶ月児健診

22nd (Thu.) from 13:30 (Please bring your "mother and child" health booklet and questionnaire.)

3 years old infant- examination ( born in October, 2000 ) 3歳児健診

15th (Thu.) from 13:00 (Please bring your "mother and child" health booklet and questionnaire, a urine sample and medical checklist.)

Information: General Health and Welfare Center. (Tel. 84-3316)



## Our Friends In Our Town ~ Do you know him/her? ~

### Tsukada Dental Clinic

Tsukada Dental Clinic has prepared translated explanation in Portuguese about dental treatment, so Portuguese speakers can undergo treatment immediately without uneasiness. The reason that Dr. Tsukada has prepared such explanation was the difficulties on communication with foreign patients. Thanks to the translation, more foreign people have come, like 3-4 people pre day. Specially on Saturdays, it is very crowded. Sometimes, more than 10 people come!"

He uses not only many words but also many pictures and X-ray photographs, so we can understand the situation well.

Lastly, Dr. Tsukada said, "I want prepare translation in Spanish, Chinese and English from now."

Information: Tsukada Dental Clinic (Director: Mr. Koji Tsukada)

Address: 3-10-4 Hon-machi, Kameyama city

Tel. (0595) 83-5454 Fax (0595) 83-5455

Opening Hour: 9:00-12:00, 14:30-19:00

Closing Day : Thursdays, Sundays and National Holidays



## OPENING JAPANESE CLASS (日本語教室の開講と申し込み)

A new Japanese language class will begin in May. If you have an interest in "Nihongo", please come and join us.

Application: from April 30th.

The first class will be held on May 8th (Sat.).

Fee: ¥ 5,000 (May to next March)

Time: Every Saturday, 19:00 – 20:30 (May to next March)

Place: Seishonen Kenshu Center (Wakayama-cho 7-10)

Information: Social Service Section of City Hall (Shimin-ka)  
(Tel.82-1111)

\* Open to people who live or work in Kameyama

If you are younger than 15 years old, you have to be accompanied by your parent or guardian.



## An Entrance Ceremony(入学式)

An entrance ceremony is important and a happy event in Japan. Because it is one step for children to go out into society. Children are looking forward to meet new friends. And they feel uneasy about their new surroundings.

Grandparents and relatives give children gift certificates, stationery or cash to celebrate their entrance into school.

It is common for parents to attend entrance ceremonies until their children become high school students. In the entrance ceremony, students put on their school uniform or neat clothes. Parents also wear semiformal clothing. Fathers often dress in a dark suit. Mothers may wear nice clothing, a one-piece dress or a kimono. In the past women usually wore black formal dresses. Recently they wear more colorful clothing.

We have a custom in Japan that, if we receive a gift, we must send something in return. In this case, it isn't necessary. A letter of thanks is appropriate.



## The Social Insurance System in Japan

The social insurance system in Japan varies depending on the occupation of the insured person. There are two major categories, which are National Health Insurance (Kokumin Kenkou Hoken) and Health Insurance (Kenkou Hoken). National Health Insurance is to cover the people such as farmers or self-employed, while Health Insurance is to cover workers who work at factories or sales companies. The major objective of the two insurance systems is to stabilize the people's daily lives with providing medical care benefits and various allowances. We will start the study of the social insurance system in Japan in detail from next month.



## Kameyama castle cherry blossoms festival (亀山城さくら祭り)

“Kameyamajou sakura matsuri” (Cherry blossoms festival) will be held very soon at Kameyama castle.

At the festival as entertainment, we will have “Sakura” couple contest, game contest, drawing contest, photographing contest “Kobudo (ancient material arts),” kendo contest and mini-live music and presentations of works of several groups will be given at the event.

Also there will be booths of handmade arts and crafts and local products for sale. The persons wearing or bringing something related to Cherry blossoms will receive free “Mochi” (rice cake) and “Amazake” (sweet Sake). We are looking forward to your presence at the festival.

Date: April 4th (Sun) from 10:00

Place: On the surroundings of Kameyama castle



## City Hall Will Open on Sundays (市役所日曜窓口の開設)

There is a lot of moving in March and April in Japan. City Hall of Kameyama will open on Sundays as follows:

1. Date and Times:

March 28th (Sun.) 8:30 – 17:00

April 4th (Sun.) 8:30 – 17:00

2. Services:

Shimin-ka – moving, alien registration, national health insurance, etc.

Gakkou Kyouiku-ka – proceedings of changing elementary or junior high school

Hoken Fukushi-ka (Aiai Center) – proceedings of nurseries, etc.

Zeimu-ka – Certificates of tax, tax payment of Kameyama city, etc.

3. The other cities will open on Sundays as follows:

March 28th (Sun.) --- Kuwana, Yokkaichi, Suzuka

April 4th (Sun.) --- Kuwana

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協力：亀山市役所 市民課・企画課