

Japan Now: April 2025

Japan Now is the email newsletter of the Consular Office of Japan in Anchorage

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Sakura Season

- Japan's Spring Dyed in Pink -

When it comes to spring in Japan, cherry blossoms are the highlight.

For centuries, they have captivated people with their beauty and are deeply tied to Japanese culture and traditions.

Their natural beauty is not limited to cherry trees, but also integrated into people's daily lives in Japan.

Somei-Yoshino, a well-known variety of cherry tree in Japan, accounts for about 80% of all cherry trees in Japan.

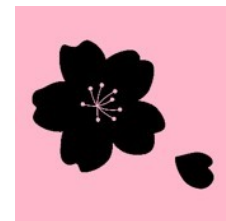
This variety, which has been popular since the Edo period, is one that cannot produce viable seeds; so to reproduce, it requires human help, and since the Meiji period, the number of trees has been increased using grafting and cutting, which are techniques for “cloning” those individual trees with the best genes in order to preserve their excellent characteristics. Isn't it romantic to think that the Somei-Yoshino you see are the same ones that people saw in the distant past?



Generation after generation, era after era, you can see how much Japanese people have loved cherry blossoms in the traditional colors and food of Japan.

Japanese Traditional Colors□

Did you know that there are colors in Japan that have been named and loved in the context of Japan's unique culture, traditions and seasonal changes? The color “Sakura,” known as cherry blossom pink in English, is one of the traditional colors associated with Japanese seasons and is representative of spring.



It is a pale pink that first became popular in the Heian period, and it shows that the Japanese have loved cherry blossoms since ancient times.



Food

These dango are made with three colors of dumpling dough: pink, white and green, and have been loved since the Edo period.

They are also called “Hanami dango” (cherry blossom viewing dango), and sometimes the three colors of pink, brown and green are used to match the cherry blossom trees. They have the sort of simplistic sweetness that doesn’t require using any sauce or bean-jam you might find on other forms of dango.

Spring in Japan, when both nature and the city are dyed pink, is a great season for anyone planning a trip to Japan.

Entrance Ceremony of the Anchorage Japanese School



ご入学おめでとうございます。
Congratulations on starting school!

On April 5, 2025, the entrance ceremony and the first-day-of-school ceremony for the 2025 academic year were held at the Anchorage Japanese School, and Head Consul Kiyohiko Hamada attended the ceremony and delivered a congratulatory speech.

This year, one student enrolling at the elementary school was welcomed on his first day of school.

At the ceremony, Operating Chairman Yazaki congratulated the new student on his new beginning. Head Consul Hamada gave a congratulatory message to the new student and their family and encouraged the current students to continue their studies at the school.

Graduation Ceremony of the Anchorage Japanese School



On March 22, 2025, the graduation ceremony for the 2024 academic year was held at the Anchorage Japanese School, and Head Consul Kiyohiko Hamada attended the ceremony and delivered a congratulatory speech.

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2025 National Day Reception

On February 27th, Head Consul Hamada hosted the National Day reception in celebration of the 65th birthday of His Majesty, Emperor Naruhito of Japan, at the Marriott Anchorage Downtown, which was attended by approximately 220 invited guests.



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