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Sunday

AM10:00~AM11:45



Shiojiri Sogo Bunka center 2F No.204

[ようこそ] Newsletter No.13 (2025.3)

Shiojiri City Civic and Regional Affairs Department,

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Shiojiri City Foreign Residents Consultation Desk Newsletter









ようこそ means "welcome" in English

No.13



Hinamatsuri (Girl's Day)

Hinamatsuri is celebrated each year on March 3.
Hinamatsuri is known as the "Momo no Sekku"







It's a special day to celebrate the health and happiness of young girls. Families display elegant hina dolls, to wish for their children's growth and well-being. These dolls are also believed to protect children from harm. In the past, substitute paper dolls were floated into rivers and the sea to ward off bad luck. During the Edo period, people began to display dolls in their rooms. The dolls represent the inside of the palace where the Emperor lives. The dolls are dressed in beautiful traditional imperial court costumes.

By displaying dolls, people hope that "life will be colorful, beautiful and pretty like dolls."

Today, we eat traditional dishes like shaped rice cakes (hishimochi),

Scattered sushi (chirashi-sushi),

and Clam soup



nenjoyed with family and friends .

Kodomonohi (Boy's Day)

Kodomonohi is known as "Tango no Sekku." It's celebrated on May 5th each year to wish for the health and success of boys.

Families decorate their homes with

met displays and

Carp streamers (koinobori)

Samurai hel-

Diamond-

In the old days, it was an event to ward off illness and misfortune. It is said that it was during the Edo period that people began to celebrate the growth and happiness of boys. Decorating armor and helmets is a custom that originated from samurai society. The reason why we decorate the carp streamer is because carp fish swim energetically in fast-flowing rivers and even climb waterfalls, so the meaning behind the carp streamers is that we hope that they will grow up as healthy as carp.

People celebrate by eating foods such as

kashiwamochi



and **chimaki**



May 5th is a national holiday known as Children's Day.







In modern times, there is a concept of **gender diversity** and **equality**. Some people think that it is not a good idea to limit the festival to a girls' festival or a boys' festival. The way of thinking that has been taken for granted for a long time is gradually changing with the times. Both "Momo no sekkul" and "Tango no sekku" were originally seasonal events to ward off evil spirits. **Age and gender don't matter at all**. Both adults and children can enjoy it, and men can celebrate Momo no Sekku and women can celebrate Tango no Sekku. We hope you all will enjoy these traditional Japanese events.