

# MINATO MONTHLY

Published by Minato City

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Falling furniture can block escape routes and cause injuries during an earthquake. Please secure large furniture with anti-tip devices for your safety.

## Preparation for Major Earthquakes

September 1 is “Disaster Prevention Day” and August 30 through September 5 is “Disaster Prevention Week.” Japan is an earthquake-prone country. The country has experienced numerous major jolts, including the 3.11 East Japan Earthquake, the Kumamoto Earthquake, and most recently, the Osaka earthquake in June 2018. To ensure everyone’s safety during and after a major earthquake, it’s essential to prepare in order to avoid injuries in the house. Minato City distributes disaster prevention brochure called “Preparing for major earthquakes” in English, Chinese, Korean, and Japanese. Also, the Minato City mobile disaster prevention application disseminates information.

### Damage caused by an earthquake

**Elevators:** Be aware that elevators may stop operating due to tremors. If you get trapped in an elevator, consider that help may not arrive promptly due to stalled traffic outside in case of a disaster. Use the stairs instead of elevators. Use of elevators at apartment buildings may become limited immediately after a quake.

**Damage caused by falling items:** According to a Tokyo Fire Department survey, 40 percent of

injuries inflicted during an earthquake are caused by toppling furniture or falling items.

**Utility damage:** Gas, water and electricity supplies may be suspended as a result of a large earthquake. It is highly possible that in case of a large earthquake in the Tokyo region, restoration of services may take a very long time, as it was after the 3.11 East Japan Earthquake. There is also a chance that toilets will stop working due to burst pipes.

### Evacuation

If a large-scale earthquake occurs, head to a community gathering spot, *chiki shugo basho*, designated by the town councils or residents’ associations, then confirm people’s safety and disaster conditions. If such places are at risk of fire outbreaks, go to a specified wide-area evacuation site, *koiki hinan basho*. If your area is a designated staying area, *chikunai zanryu chiku*, it is safer to stay there. If you have evacuated, you will be able to return to your home once tremors have stopped and fires have been extinguished. Only when it becomes difficult to continue living in your house due to full or partial collapse or fire, you can evacuate to the nearest Residents Evacuation Site. Even in case of utility

damage due to a large-scale earthquake, you should stay at your house if at all possible.

### Disaster measures in your home

- Learn about evacuation procedures and confirm your city’s evacuation sites. Decide on the means of communication for each member of your family in case of a disaster.
- Secure tall furniture or heavy items against falling. Especially in high-rise apartment buildings, tremors feel stronger on higher floors. Take extra measures to prevent furniture from toppling. Minato City provides furniture fasteners and appliances free of charge to city residents.
- Stock at least seven days of drinking water, emergency food, portable toilets and daily necessities.
- Talk with your neighbors about disaster prevention measures and make decisions together about safety confirmation, emergency food stocks and other supplies and services.

**Supervising Subsection:** Disaster Prevention Subsection

Minato Monthly is delivered with The Japan Times/International New York Times on the first of each month. It is also available at municipal facilities, post offices and subway stations (Akabanebashi, Akasaka, Akasaka-mitsuke, Aoyama-itcho, Azabu-juban, Daimon, Gaien-mae, Hiroo, Kamiyacho, Mita, Nogizaka, Omotesando, Roppongi, Shimbashi, Shiodome, Shirokanedai and Shirokane-Takanawa) in Minato City. The articles appearing in the Minato Monthly are also found on the Minato City Web: www.city.minato.tokyo.jp

**Minato Monthly home-delivery service:** For free delivery of Minato Monthly to foreign resident’s homes in Minato City, contact Minato Call or Minato Monthly by e-mail at kuminkoho@city.minato.tokyo.jp. Please write “Minato Monthly” in the subject line.

**Minato Call**  
CITY INFORMATION SERVICE  
03-5472-3710

## CHILD BENEFITS

## Medical Expense Subsidy for Children

Minato City will send a new medical certificate to children currently covered by the Medical Expense Subsidy in a blue envelope in mid-September. The color of the new certificate is green. If you do not receive it by October, please contact us.

### What is the Medical Expense Subsidy System for Children?

This subsidy helps families cover medical expenses for their children. It is provided to all children until the March 31 after their 15th birthday. Please note, however, that this program only subsidizes expenses covered by National Health Insurance (NHI).

### Eligibility & registration

To be eligible to use this system, the recipient and his/her guardians should live in Minato City. The recipient should also be a member of the NHI plan. To register for the issuance of a medical certificate, please visit the Health and Welfare Subsection of any Regional City Office.

### Use of the system

For the deduction at time of payment, please present your child's NHI card and the medical certificate to the clinic where your child is undergoing treatment. If you were unable to present the medical certificate at the time of payment, or if you underwent treatment at a clinic outside Tokyo, you can claim the amount within six months after treatment. Please keep the original receipt.

### Note

Please notify the Health and Welfare Subsection in case of:

- Change of your address, name, and enrolled health insurance
- Guardian change
- Return of the medical certificate for children due to relocating or receipt of welfare support
- Loss of the medical certificate for children

**Inquiries:** Children's Benefits Subsection, Tel: 03-3578-2430

## CHILD BENEFITS

## Child Allowance State Report

The submission of the current state report on Child Allowance has been sent via postal mail to the eligible people in June. The submission deadline was June 30. Please submit the report as soon as possible if you haven't yet done so.

Notifications were sent again in August 31 for those who haven't yet submitted the report for fiscal 2016. The final submission is September 28. If you don't return the report by the deadline, you will lose recipient eligibility in October 8.

**Inquiries:** Children's Benefits Subsection, Tel: 03-3578-2431

## TRAFFIC SAFETY

## Autumn National Traffic Safety Campaign

The Autumn National Traffic Safety Campaign is held from September 21 to 30. The National Traffic Safety Campaign slogan this season is "Drive with care in the city and on the road."

### Focus of the campaign

1. Prevent traffic accidents involving children and senior drivers
2. Prevent traffic accidents involving pedestrians and cyclists during evening and night time
3. Enforce seat belt fastening and proper use of child seats
4. Eliminate drunk driving
5. Prevent two-wheel vehicles' accidents

**To children and senior citizens:** Please obey the traffic rules. Wearing reflective gear is essential at night.

**To cyclists:** Bicycles are also vehicles. Please follow all traffic rules. Use reflective stickers on your bicycle and always turn on your lights at night. When riding, never wear earphones or use your smartphone.

**To drivers:** Make sure all passengers fasten their seatbelts and that all children are secured in child seats. Never drive under the influence of alcohol. If you drink, ask someone who hasn't been drinking to drive you or order taxi services.

**To motorcycle riders:** Always wear a helmet. Do not speed. Slow down before entering curved roads or blind corners. Please follow all traffic regulations and maintain road safety.

**Supervising Subsection:** Community Transportation Subsection

**Inquiries:** Atago Police Station Tel: 03-3437-0110, Mita Police Station Tel: 03-3454-0110, Takanawa Police Station Tel: 03-3440-0110, Azabu Police Station Tel: 03-3479-0110, Akasaka Police Station Tel: 03-3475-0110, Tokyo Wangan Police Station Tel: 03-3570-0110

## MINATO CITIZENS' FESTIVAL

## Sale of Minato Citizens' Festival Badge

Memorial badges will be sold at the 37th Minato Citizens' Festival held from October 6 through October 8 at Shibakoen and the Minato Park Shibaura area. The design for this year's badge is based on the exterior of the Minato City Local History Museum.



### Advantages to purchasing a badge:

1. Badge holders receive free or discounted admission, or novelty goods, at 22 facilities in Minato City such as art museums.
2. Badge holders will receive special guide and may participate in a drawing that will be held at Zojo-ji on October 6 and 7.

A portion of the proceeds from the sales of the badges will be donated to the reconstruction of disaster-affected areas.

**Dates available:** September 5 through October 5.

**Where to purchase:** The Community Promotion Section on the third floor of the City Hall, the General Administration Section at each Regional City Office, civic centers, the Minato City Sports Center, and the Kissport.

**Price:** ¥200 per badge

**Inquiries:** Kissport, Tel: 03-5770-6837

## DOG OWNERS

## Be Kind to Animals Week

September 20 to 26

Be Kind to Animals Week was established under the Law Concerning the Humane Treatment and Control of Animals so that pet owners understand the habits and nature of their pets, continue to raise them with love, and take responsibility for them throughout their lives.



### Minato City rules about having dogs

It is important to mind good manners and be sure to give consideration to people who are not comfortable being around animals.

- Under the Minato City Ordinance, pet owners must clean up after their pets. Dog feces should be taken home. For urine, dog owners should dry and rinse over the spot properly. If you place a small amount of vinegar in the water, you can eliminate some of the odor. Please carry plastic bags and water with you when you walk your dog outside.
- Under the Tokyo Metropolitan Ordinance, dog owners must keep dogs on a leash except in dog runs. It is dangerous to use a retractable leash without locking it. The leash lock is important to ensure the safety of pet owners and their pets. Make sure to use a short leash when you walk with your dog.
- To prevent dogs from contracting rabies, all dog owners are required by law to register and have them vaccinated against rabies annually. Notify the Residents Support Section at any Regional City Office to receive the license and registration tags and put them on your dog's collar.

### Prepare for disaster for your pets

When preparing for any potential disasters, please also consider your pets.

- Prepare at least five days of dog food, water, medicine, a dish, a collar, a leash, and toilet sheets.
- Make sure that your dog is vaccinated against rabies and other diseases.
- Have your dog's registration tag, license tag, identification card, microchip, and a picture with its owner.
- Properly housetrain your dog and teach other manners, including going into a cage without reluctance and not being afraid of other people or animals.

### Animal-derived infectious diseases

There are about 30 diseases which you can be infected with from other animals. In order to maintain the health of you and your pets, please follow the guidelines below.

- Wash your hands after touching your pets.
- Don't share food containers and dishes with your pets.
- Brush the fur and cut the nails of your pets regularly.
- Clean your pets, and pets' houses frequently to maintain a sanitary environment.
- Don't sleep together in the same bed with your pets.

**Supervising Subsection:** Life Hygiene Counseling Subsection

# MINATO BULLETIN BOARD



Programs may change without notice. All events listed on this page are conducted in Japanese except MIA events. For more information, please see the Minato City Web.

## Minato City Events

### SCHEDULE FOR SEPTEMBER

All events listed on this page are conducted in Japanese except MIA events. For more information, please see the Minato City Web. Programs may change without notice.

| Date  | Time                 | Program  | Place/Capacity                            |
|---|----------------------|--|---|
| 2   | 11 a.m.-5 p.m.       | <b>Noryo Children's Festival:</b> Food booths & fun games  | Mita 2 chome Children's Park              |
| 8   | 11 a.m.-4 p.m.       | <b>Plaza Shimmei Festival:</b> Booths enabling international exchange, business networking, and art exchange   | Plaza Shimmei                             |
| 9   | 9 a.m.               | <b>Mita-kasuga Jinja Annual Festival:</b> <i>Mikoshi</i> & food booths   | Mita-kasuga Shrine                        |
| 11-21   | 9 a.m.-3 p.m.        | <b>Shiba Daijingu Daradara Festival:</b> Parade of <i>mikoshi</i> on 17th  | Shiba Daijingu Shrine                     |
| 13 & 14   | 5-9 p.m.             | <b>Akasaka Autumn Festival</b>   | Hitotsugi-dori, Misuji-dori, Akasaka-dori |
| 14-16   |                      | <b>Akasaka Hikawa Festival:</b> Parade of <i>mikoshi</i>   | Akasaka Hikawa Shrine                     |
| 15 & 16   | 6:30-9 p.m.          | <b>Moto-shimmeigu Annual Festival:</b> Bon dance on 15th, food booths & <i>mikoshi</i> on 16th   | Moto-shimmeigu Shrine                     |
| 16  | Noon-4 p.m.          | <b>Nisseki-dori Autumn Festival Bazaar</b>   | Nisseki-dori                              |
| 19  | 12:15-12:45 p.m.     | <b>Lobby Concert: Duo concert with piano and flute</b><br><b>Performers:</b> Mika Watanabe & Erina Komaki<br>Everyone is welcome. Come to the venue directly.<br><b>Inquiries:</b> Promotion of Art and Culture Subsection, Tel: 03-3578-2343 (Japanese only)  | Lobby of Minato City Hall                 |
| 23  | 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.     | <b>Tennis Tournament: The 36th Minato International Goodwill Mixed Doubles Tennis Festival</b><br><b>Category:</b> Friendship Mixed doubles, 27 women and 27 men<br><b>Fee:</b> 2,000 yen per person, please pay on the tournament day. Revenues from the tournament will be donated to the UNESCO Fund.<br><b>Application:</b> Apply individually. The committee groups players into teams. Send an email to john.ito@hotmail.co.jp with your name, address, email address, and tennis level (advanced / intermediate / beginner) by September 7. First-come first-served basis | Azabu court 5-6-33, Minami-azabu          |
| 23  | 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. | <b>Waterfront Festival-Inter-regional Boat Race:</b> Players who nominated themselves from Shibaura and Kaigan 2 chome and 3 chome, Konan, and Daiba areas with six rowers per team compete in boat races.<br><b>Inquiries:</b> Minato Call, Tel:03-5472-3710  | Odaiba Seaside Park                       |
| 28 & 29   | Vary*                | <b>Kakashi, Scarecrow Festival</b><br>*28: 4-8:30 p.m., 29: 3-7:30 p.m.  | Azabu East-dori                           |
| 28-30   | 6-9 p.m.             | <b>Dedicated Dance Event:</b> People from various areas come to dance  | Aoba Park                                 |
| 29  | 10 a.m. to noon      | <b>Yochi-yochi Child Rearing Club</b><br><b>Eligibility:</b> Infants and their guardians living in the Akasaka district, about 20 groups, reservations unnecessary, come directly to the venue with a bath towel<br><b>Program:</b> English-speaking staff will provide information about childrearing, reading picture books, singing and taking rhythm to the music.<br><b>Inquiries:</b> Health and Welfare Subsection, Akasaka Regional City Office, Tel: 03-5413-7276 (Japanese only)   | 5F, Akasaka Civic Center                  |
| <b>Library Movies</b> *Doors open 30 min. before the starting time. Programs may change without notice. |                      |  |   |
| 1   | 1 p.m.               | "Shoah, Volume 2" - 1985, France, 293 min.   | Minato/90                                 |
| 1   | 2 p.m.               | "Camille Claudel" - 1988, France, 166 min.   | Takanawa/40                               |
| 8   | 2 p.m.               | "Little Lord Fauntleroy" - 1936, U.S., 102 min.  | Konan/45                                  |
| 15  | 2 p.m.               | "A Place In The Sun" - 1951, U.S., 122 min.  | Akasaka/35                                |
| 18  | 1 p.m.               | "La Bataille d'Alger" - 1966, Italy, 121 min.  | Minato/90                                 |
| 23  | 2 p.m.               | "Rolling Home With a Bull" 2010, Korea, 106 min.   | Mita/60                                   |
| <b>Library Events</b>   |                      |  |   |
| 7   | 2 p.m.               | <b>Recitation, "Beautiful Japanese Language"</b><br><b>Eligibility:</b> Junior high school students and older<br><b>Application:</b> Call or visit Takanawa Library, Tel: 03-5421-7617   | Takanawa/30                               |
| 8   | 2 p.m.               | <b>Seminar, "Origami in English"</b><br><b>Eligibility:</b> Junior high school students and older<br><b>Application:</b> Call or visit Azabu Library, Tel:03-3585-9225   | Azabu/20                                  |
| <b>Sale of Recycled Bikes</b>   |                      |  |   |
| <b>Minato Recycling and Management Office Working Contact</b> , 3-9-6 Moto-azabu                        |                      |  |   |
| 9   | 10 a.m.              | About 15 recycled bikes in good condition that are reclaimed and repaired are sold. The drawing starts at 10:30 a.m. Minato City residents have priority.<br><b>Price:</b> Ranges from ¥7,900 to ¥9,900 <b>Inquiries:</b> Minato Call, Tel: 03-5472-3710   |   |

### MIA Events

**Minato International Association** Toei Kita-aoyama 1-chome Apt. No. 3, 1-6-3-B1 Kita-aoyama, 107-0061  
**Tel:** 03-6440-0233 **Fax:** 03-6440-0234 **E-mail:** office@minato-intl-assn.gr.jp  
**Web:** http://www.minato-intl-assn.gr.jp

|    |                   |   |  |
|----|-------------------|---|--|
| 13 | 10 to 11:30 a.m.  | <b>Intercultural Mothers' Chatting Salon</b><br>Surprises in raising children in Japan and other foreign countries: Mrs. Olga Chelyukanova, who is the mother of four children is going to share her experience in raising children in Russia, Moldova, India and Japan. Come to discuss and ask questions with other mothers about parenting in Japan and other countries.<br><b>Eligibility:</b> Mothers currently raising children<br><b>Capacity:</b> 12 people<br><b>Application:</b> Accepted by phone or email | Meeting Room 1, Minato International Association |
| 22 | Noon to 1:30 p.m. | <b>Let's Chat in Japanese</b><br>Enjoy chatting in Japanese with other participants.  | Space D of Mita NN Bldg, 4-1-23 Shiba            |
| 22 | 2 to 3:30 p.m.    | <b>Let's Rediscover Japan</b><br><b>Topic:</b> Japan from my eyes<br><b>Speaker:</b> Mr. Scott Chang<br><b>Participation fee:</b> ¥500 or ¥200 with student ID<br><b>Capacity:</b> 40 people  | Space D of Mita NN Bldg, 4-1-23 Shiba            |
| 22 | 10 a.m. to noon   | <b>Welcome to Minato City ~ Coffee Morning ~</b><br>Having difficulty finding the information you need? We can help you. Coffee will be served.   | MIA/Call or send an email to MIA                 |

### Kissport Events and Announcement

**Kissport, Minato Sports, Community, Culture, and Health Foundation**  
**Tel:** 03-5770-6837 **Fax:** 03-5770-6884 **Web:** www.kissport.or.jp \*Programs may change without notice.

|      |          |  |                                  |
|------|----------|--|----------------------------------|
| 9/23 | 2-4 p.m. | <b>Music and Rakugo, Japanese comical storytelling</b><br>Guitar & wind instrument performance, and comic monologue<br><b>Capacity:</b> 400 people, first-come basis<br>Come to the venue directly.<br><b>Inquiries:</b> Akasaka Civic Center, Tel: 03-5413-2711 | Civic Hall, Akasaka Civic Center |
| 10/7 | 2 p.m.   | <b>Nostalgic Film "The Five Pennies"</b><br><b>Capacity:</b> 400 people, first-come basis<br>Come to the venue directly.<br><b>Inquiries:</b> Akasaka Civic Center, Tel: 03-5413-2711  | Civic Hall, Akasaka Civic Center |

## Minato Public Health Center

### SCHEDULE FOR SEPTEMBER

**Eligibility:** Registered residents or registered foreign residents of Minato City

**Minato Public Health Center:** 1-4-10 Mita, Tel: 03-6400-0083

|                       | Eligibility                                       | Date                | Time              | Place |
|-----------------------|---|---------------------|-------------------|-------|
| Stomach, colon cancer | Residents aged 35 or older<br>Capacity: 20 people | Weekdays in October | 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. | (B)   |

**Appointment for HIV test, Tel: 03-6400-0081**

| Eligibility   | Examination date | Exam. results available | Place                  |
|---------------|------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| HIV/STD test* | Open to all      | 9/6, 9/20               | 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. (A) |

\*The result is two weeks later from the check-up day at the Minato Public Health Center

### Other examinations

|   | Eligibility   | Date  | Time                                     | Place |
|---|---|-------|--|-------|
| Checkup and consultation for babies/infants | An eligible resident must receive the notification<br>- 4-month-old: Born in June, 2018<br>- 18-month-old: Born in March, 2017<br>- 3-year-old: Born in September, 2015 |       | A notification will be sent to eligible. | (A)   |
| Birthday dental checkup                     | Babies aged one and two-year-olds born in September   | 10/12 | 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.                        | (A)   |

(A) Minato Public Health Center

(B) Genki Plaza Medical Center For Health Care, 3-6-5 Iidabashi, Chiyoda-ku

**Note:** You need to apply and make an appointment in advance.

**Inquiries and appointment:** Minato Public Health Center, Tel: 03-6400-0084

For inquires in English, contact Minato Call, Tel: 03-5472-3710

### Himawari Medical Facilities Consultation Service

If you are looking for a doctor or pharmacy, you can call or visit the Himawari English language website.

Himawari informs medical institutions and Japanese healthcare system.

Tel: 03-5285-8181, 9 a.m.-8 p.m.

www.himawari.metro.tokyo.jp/qq/qq13enmnl.asp

### Tuberculosis Health Checkup

Tuberculosis is an infectious disease caused by bacteria, which causes inflammation, primarily in the lungs. Common symptoms are similar to a common cold and include cough, sputum, fever and a sense of fatigue. If cough and sputum symptoms persist for more than two weeks it is important to visit a medical institution for a checkup. Early stage detection and early treatment are also essential to preventing the spread of infection. Please be sure to have regular chest X-ray screenings.

**Inquiries:** Public Health and Disease Prevention Subsection, Tel: 03-6400-0081

## EDUCATION

## School Enrollment in April 2019 for Children of Foreign Nationals

Applications for children of foreign nationals who wish to enroll at municipal elementary and junior high schools in April 2019 will be accepted starting October 1 at the School Affairs Section. Please bring your child's personal ID, such as a residency card, that verifies her/his name, address and date of birth. The application process is handled in Japanese only, so please bring someone who can interpret if necessary.

Japan's school year runs from April to March. Children who were born between April 2, 2012 and April 1, 2013 are eligible to enroll as first graders in 2019. Children who were born between April 2, 2006 and April 1, 2007 are eligible as seventh graders in 2019. Minato City will send an information letter in October regarding junior high and elementary school registration to eligible guardians whose child is a foreign national residing in Minato City. Other related documents and required forms, including the "School Selection Slip," will be mailed to you after you apply.

### School selection system

In principle, each child is placed in a school according to the school district policy. However, Minato City provides alternatives by allowing applicants to choose the school where they wish their children to be enrolled.

### Eligibility

Minato City residents who will enter the first grade of municipal elementary or junior high schools in April 2019. Those eligible for elementary school may select an elementary school in their neighboring school district or a junior high school anywhere in Minato City. However, if the number of applicants exceeds the capacity available, a lottery may be held. Because of population growth, some schools will not take students outside of its own district.

### Caution regarding school selection process

Students have to commute to school on foot, by train or by bus. Schools prohibit commuting by bicycles and/or vehicles. Consider your child's commute burden first when selecting the school. Confirm the safety of the route to and from school. After registering at the school, please participate and cooperate actively in school events, PTA activities, community events, and other school-related affairs.

### Open school days

All municipal elementary and junior high schools will hold open-school days. Please use these opportunities to learn about the schools' characteristics and academic content before making your selection. For detailed information on open school days, please see the Minato City Web.

### Procedures to enter school

From October 1, applications to enroll in school will be accepted at the School Affairs Section of Minato City Hall's 7F. After, the city will send the request

form of school selection and other documents to eligible guardians. The health checkup notice will be sent to students who will enter elementary school. If you don't receive the documents by the end of October, or if you lose the documents, inquire at the section in charge.

### Distribution of school guide brochure

The brochure will be distributed to eligible families through municipal kindergartens, nursery schools and elementary schools in Minato City in the middle of September. You can also browse the brochure at the School Affairs Section, municipal elementary and junior high schools, each Regional City Office, and children's halls in Minato City. An English guide brochure will be available on Minato City Web in October.

### International classes

#### English Support Course

An English Support Course (ESC) for students of foreign nationalities taught in English is established at Higashimachi Elementary School and at Nanzan Elementary School. Each school has a spot for 10 students. In English classes, English-fluent assistant teachers help foreign students. Both foreign and Japanese students work in the same class to encourage each other.

#### Native English course at Roppongi Junior High School

An English international class is held once a week. The course offers an intensive English language curriculum for native English speakers or students with competent English ability.

### Japanese classes

Japanese support classes are available in Azabu and Kogai Elementary School, and Roppongi Junior High School. These classes are offered for foreign or returnee students studying in municipal elementary or junior high school who are unfamiliar with Japanese language and culture. Please note that guardians must accompany their elementary school children who are residing in other school districts when attending Japanese classes.

### Academic enrollment schedule

**October 1:** Start accepting applications for enrollment

**Mid-October:** Mailing of School Selection Slips

**Beginning of November:** Deadline for submitting the School Selection Slip

**End of November:** Announcement of application status

**Early December:** Drawings will be held for school with applicants over capacity

**Mid-January:** Mailing of enrollment notification

**February to March:** Briefings of each school

**Inquiries:** School Administration Support Subsection

Tel: 03-3578-2726 to 2729

## COLUMN

## Four Seasons and the Japanese Food

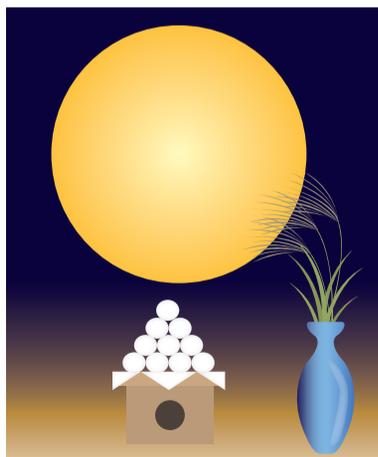
### Otsukimi, Moon Viewing and the Autumn Harvest

*Tsukimi* or moon-viewing is an autumn seasonal event to enjoy the beauty of the moon at night in mid-to late September. The exact date of the *Otsukimi* changes every year, and this year, it is on September 24.

In autumn there tends to be mild weather, which is when the moon rises high, so it is the best season to view the beautiful moon. Also, historically, this was a busy harvest season for farmers. Farmers were busy working until late at night gathering crops. When there were no electrical lights, farmers appreciated the full moon shining upon the farm fields. To show their gratitude to the moon and to wish for the harvest of grains, farmers offered taro, persimmon, chestnut, *tsukimi dango*, and other autumn harvests.

*Tsukimi dango* is a round dumpling made with rice flour resembling the full moon. It is said that this dumpling will bring happiness and help to maintain good health. Next to the *tsukimi dango* are decorated Japanese pampas grass called *susuki*. This grass is considered to be sacred and said to drive out evil and prevent diseases.

Gazing at the moon in the cloudless sky may be a delightful event. Please admire the beautiful moon at night while wishing for your continued health and happiness.



Rice flower dumplings, pampas grass, and the full moon.

## CHANNEL 11

## Minato Public TV Program Guide

J:COM MINATO-SHINJUKU **SEPTEMBER schedule**

| Program  | Time   | Program  |
|--|--|--|
| <b>Hi from the Mayor of Minato City</b><br>20 min. bilingual program   | 10:30 a.m.,<br>1:30 p.m.,<br>3:30 p.m.,<br>5:30 p.m.,<br>9:30 p.m. | The Mayor talks with Akemi Masuda, a sports journalist and advisor of the Minato City Marathon Secretariat, about the charm and features of the Minato City Half Marathon 2018, which will be held on Sunday, December 2.  |
| <b>Minato-ku Koho Topics, Topics in Minato City</b><br>30 min. program | 10 a.m.,<br>1 p.m.,<br>3 p.m.,<br>5 p.m.,<br>9 p.m.                | <b>&lt;Public Announcement&gt;</b><br>Delivers important announcements, new information, or events in Minato City.<br><b>1-10:</b> Disaster Prevention Day<br><b>11-20:</b> Elementary school students in Akasaka district visit Gujo City.<br><b>21-30:</b> Autumn National Traffic Safety Campaign |

**Note:** Programs may change without notice. You can also see the programs broadcasted by this channel on the Minato City Web or Youtube. Video/DVD lending is available at the Office of the Mayor, Regional City Offices, and each public library. Videos/DVDs of programs broadcasted from August 2017 to last month are available.

**Inquiries:** J:COM Minato-Shinjuku, Tel: 0120-914-000

## Population of Minato City

**Total: 256,477** As of August 1, 2018

**Japanese Residents:** 236,633

Male: 110,341 / Female: 126,292

**Registered Foreign Residents:** 19,844

Male: 10,458 / Female: 9,386

