

5.風俗

<花見>Hanami (Cherry Blossom Viewing)

花見は桜の花を楽しみます。

It is our tradition to enjoy the beautiful cherry blossoms in full bloom.

桜は、河東町では4月中旬に咲き始め、一斉に咲いて、1週間ほどで一斉に散ってしまいます。

The cherry blossoms in Kawahigashi start blooming in the middle of April. They bloom all at once and then fall all together. The blossoms only bloom for a week.

桜の木が何十本も続くようなところは、人が集まり、その下で、お弁当を食べたり、酒を飲んだり歌を歌ったり、楽しいパーティーをします。

In the areas with many cherry trees, people have lunch, drink sake, and have parties under the trees.

河東町では、ゴルフ場の近くにある「鍋沼」の桜がすばらしいです。

In Kawahigashi, very beautiful cherry blossoms can be seen at the place called "Nabenuma", near the golf course.

<端午の節句>Tango no Sekku (Boys' Festival)

5月5日は端午の節句です。男の子の家で祝います。

The Boys' Festival is held on May 5th and is celebrated by the families with boys.

今は、「子供の日」の祝日になっています。

It is also a national holiday.

鎧兜や武者人形を飾ります。

Armor helmets and warrior dolls decorate their houses.

また、布で鯉の形に作った鯉のぼりを空に掲げます。

Koinobori (carp-shaped streamers made of cloth) are put up outside the house so that it looks as if carps are swimming in the air.

鯉のぼりは子供達が鯉のようにたくましく成長することを祈って飾られます。

The carp streamers are folk decorations symbolizing the family hope that their children will grow big and healthy like carps.

端午の節句には、もち米を笹で巻いて蒸したちまきを食べたり、魔よけといわれる菖蒲を入れたお風呂に入ったりします。

People enjoy eating chimaki (sweet, soft rice dumplings wrapped in bamboo leaves) and taking baths with petals of the Japanese iris. The petals of the Japanese iris are believed to be a talisman.

<七夕>Tanabata (The Star Festival)

7月7日は七夕です。

The Star Festival is on July 7th.

七夕は星に祈る祭りです。

People pray to the stars.

中国の風習が日本に伝わって七夕になりました。

It originated in the Chinese custom.

この日は牽牛星と織姫星が一年に一度会える日です。

The constellations called the Weaver Princess (Orihime) and the Cowherd (Hikoboshi) cross the Milky Way on the 7th day of July. They meet only once a year.

牽牛星は天の川を舟に乗って織姫星に会いに行きます。夜空が晴れて、この2つの星が会えることを祈ります。

It is important for the sky to be very clear on that day so that we can pray to the stars.