

Chigasaki Breeze

Truly great friends are hard to find, difficult to leave, and impossible to forget.

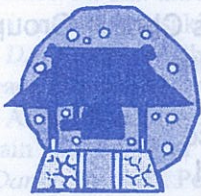
SHIWASU

師走

Now, we're running into the busiest season in the year in two ways; one is related to people's finances and the other to people's prayer. People get busy to catch up with what they couldn't handle by the end of December or *Shiwasu*. This includes, in good old days, paying back the money they borrowed during the year. Common citizens were living in that sort of environment before. In the meantime, "pine" decorations are put up at the gate of one's house by the 28th as the number nine (pronounced as *ku*) phonetically reminds a person of sufferings (*ku*), and at midnight on New Year Eve (*Joya*), millions of people visit temples throughout Japan to listen to the sound of bells rung 108 times which eliminate 108 kinds of sins and delusions of human beings. In January or *Shogatsu*, people celebrate the New Year by visiting shrines, wearing beautiful kimonos, and having all kinds of goodies such as *Ozoni* (soup with rice cake), *Otoso* (New Year's Special Sake), and so forth. Hope you will have a good year in this way.

SHOGATSU

正月



Allowance for Children

The city provides an allowance for families with children for them to grow in a sound environment as they are expected to lead the next generation.

{Objectives}

Families who are raising children up to six years-old and whose income does not exceed the level of the income restriction ceilings shown in the table* hereunder.

{The amount of allowance (monthly amount)}

Flat ¥10,000 for children under 3 years-old of age. ▽¥5,000 for the first and second child over 3 years-old of age, and ¥10,000 for the third child and above.

{The month of payment}

Pay the allowance to cover up to the previous month respectively in February, June, and October.

{Procedures for the claim}

Come to the counter of Kosodate-Shien Ka (The Child Care Section) taking the bank deposit note with the claimer's name (except Post Office) and a copy of your Health Insurance Certificate (to the office in case of public servant officials).

Give notice to the city hall in the following cases:

When you move out to another city. ▽When there is an increase or decrease in the number of children to whom the allowance is paid. ▽When residence and or family name changes. ▽At the time of retirement (when you leave a welfare pension). ▽When recipients become public servants. ▽When sponsors of the family accounts get changed. ▽When supporters of children to whom allowance is given get changed.

For further details, consult with the Child Care Section as mentioned.

* Income restriction ceiling in fiscal 2007

Number of Relative Dependents (*1)	Fiscal 2006 Income Amount in ¥000 (*2)	
	National Pension Participants/Non-participants	Welfare Pension/Mutual Aid Assoc. Participants
0	4,600	5,320
One person	4,980	5,700
Two persons	5,360	6,080
Three persons	5,740	6,460

*1 --- At each time when the number of relative dependents increases, the ceiling level goes up by ¥380,000.

*2 --- The amount of Deduction from Petty Losses, Medical Costs, Installments and other costs for Mutual Aid Assoc. of Small/Med-size enterprises, or deduction (special) for the physically handicapped, widows/widowers, working students, elderly support by relatives (¥60,000 per person), and an amount of flat deduction (¥80,000).