

## HERITAGE IN CHIGASAKI STATUE of NINOMIYA KINJIRO

Soon after you go through the gate of Chigasaki elementary school located on Southern Street near Chigasaki station, you will find a statue on the left side standing under some large trees as if the statue is guarded by them. The figure is of *Ninomiya Kinjiro* (or *Sontoku*) who lived from 1787 through 1856, and the statue was meant for young generations of those days to pay respect for his way of living. *Ninomiya Kinjiro* was simple-minded, thrifty, dutiful and diligent in his life, and he was an ideal symbol when the hardship on nations was so large. The government wanted to encourage the nation to behave like him.

*Ninomiya Kinjiro*, born in Odawara, made a thorough study of The Analects of Confucious from his boyhood, learned the spirit, and made it his own.

By the special order of the Hanshu (the head of a feudal domain), he calmly and deliberately carried out the drastic reform of the impoverished farming villages with his tough spiritual power and with perfect moral behavior, and he had great success realizing the ideal rural communities. This would be accepted by people even today. He trained capable people providing an opportunity for not only a number of pupils but also leaders of the farm villages.

The figure of *Kinjiro* stands carrying firewood on his back and reading a book of the Analects of Confucious while walking, and actually he was very popular as a hard worker. In Chigasaki, there are three other statues that you will see at three elementary schools in Koide, Tsurumine and Shorin. It might be interesting to see and compare them. These statues might have you think *Kinjiro* was small and cute, but the real *Kinjiro* was as tall as 182cm and he weighed 94kg. So he was a very big guy, which must have been very unusual in those days.

## Japanese Proverbs And the English Equivalents

○馬鹿 も 一芸

**BAKA MO ICHIGEI**

Even a broken clock is right twice a day.  
(Even a fool has one talent.)

○負ける が 勝ち

**MAKERU GA KACHI**

The race is not to the swift.  
(To lose is to win.)

○残り物 に 福 がある

**NOKORIMONO NI FUKU GAARU**

Last but not least.  
(The leftover will have luck.)

○八方美人 は 薄情

**HAPPO-BIJIN WA HAKUJO**

Fair and fickle.  
(An eight-sided beauty is cold hearted.)

## Something special in Chigasaki

### PACIFIC BEACH CLUB



A really attractive project is now under preparation in Chigasaki. That is the "Pacific Beach Club" led by Mr. Shiozawa, a representative of the Chigasaki Outrigger Canoe Club.

The "Pacific Beach Club" is, as its name implies, a club where people can enjoy marine sports around Chigasaki, but it is not an ordinary type of sports club. Its interesting characteristic is that it is one of the national projects under the name of "Synthetic Community Sport Club" and they aim at introducing to citizens the sports that are conducted by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology.

Mr. Shiozawa thinks it's too bad that marine sports are not major sports in Japan compared to other countries (they're not popular even in the sea-faced-city of Chigasaki!). He says it's a shame that people in Chigasaki don't try to start doing sports in the sea that effectively teach both adults and children not only canoeing but also about the environment and global warming. That's the reason why he launched this project.

If you participate in the club and if you want to try, you can enjoy outrigger canoeing, paddle surfing and other marine sports. This interesting canoe is 15m long, and 6 people row together mainly in the sea. The history of the outrigger canoe originated in Polynesia and dates back 2000 or 3000 years. (It is said to be the first transportation tool invented by human beings!). It seemed very wild and cool, but, to our surprise, it was easy to start. (Actually many children and women take part in the activity.) After several classes you can row this canoe and go as far as Eboshi rock, about 1,800meters from the beach!

Their class is open on weekends at Headland Beach in Chigasaki. You can take part in as many activities as you want for ¥3,985 per month for either canoeing or paddle surfing, and ¥5,985 per month for both. They also offer free classes several times a month. These are also held at Headland Beach around noon on weekends. (The schedule of free classes is shown in the URL below. For learners, it is necessary to take an initial instruction course for tools and rules first.)

Mr. Shiozawa says there are some members from foreign countries too. So why don't you start something new? It could be exciting!

URL : <http://www.pacificbeachclub.net/index.html>

TEL : 0120-14-0454

Mail : [info@padificbeachclub.net](mailto:info@padificbeachclub.net)

### Confucious says ....

"Now a man of humaneness, wishing himself to be established, makes others established, and wishing himself to accomplish his task, makes others accomplished in their tasks. The ability to compare what is near at hand with the treatment of others may be called the rule of humaneness."

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