

Chigasaki Breeze

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

No.52

Citizen Participation Ordinance comes into Effect

しみんさんかじょうれい せこう
市民参加条例が施行

The City keeps in touch with local opinion through annual town hall meetings in 12 districts, via collaboration with local NPOs or residents' associations, and so on. Previously, the City responded to citizens' requests or proposals informally, but, effective April this year, a new Citizen Participation Ordinance will formalize this process and make it more transparent. The basic idea of this ordinance is to encourage citizens' participation in community renovation and to establish a reliable information-sharing relationship with citizens.

A major feature of this ordinance is that citizens can make a request or proposal regarding City policy in a group of five or more people, by completing a Policy Proposal Form together with a Policy Proposal Signature List, and submit it to the Citizen Autonomy Promotion Section directly. These forms are available on the City home page or at the counter of public facilities.

The City is obligated to respond to any requests or proposals, and once accepted, the administration will decide how to proceed; it could be through meetings such as brainstorming sessions, open fora or symposia, or in the form of sending out a questionnaire, or providing an opportunity for a hearing. In addition, for the first time, under a new Public Comment Procedure, members of the public will be invited to assist the administration in studying the requests and proposals submitted. Any items referring to the City's basic plan or policy making/amending/abolishing have to go through this procedure, and its guidelines will have to be submitted to the City Assembly.

The City says your opinion will be handled with diligence, the process of collecting opinions will be made open, and the operation of this ordinance will be verified within three years after implementation.

Finally, the City intends that this ordinance will ensure that the voices of citizens will not only be heard but also reflected in administrative policies and services more closely, making Chigasaki a more comfortable and easier place to live.

Treatment Expense Aid for Recurrent Pregnancy Loss

ふいくしょうちりょうひ じょせい
不育症治療費の助成

The City has started offering aid to expectant mothers who suffer from recurrent pregnancy loss. According to the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare, each year in Japan, several tens of thousands of pregnant women may develop infertility (defined as the inability to conceive or to carry a pregnancy to full term). However, about 80% of such patients manage to carry their pregnancies to full term with the help of effective medical intervention. The City will partially reimburse treatment/examination expenses which health insurance does not currently cover. Patients, who have been/will be diagnosed with recurrent pregnancy loss at cooperative medical institutions and have had/will have treatments and examinations from April 1, 2014, can apply for this aid provided that they satisfy the following conditions:



- ① Either the husband or wife should be registered as a resident of the City during treatments and when an application for aid is made (which means that if you move away from Chigasaki during or after receiving treatment, you cannot apply for reimbursement of your treatment expenses).
- ② A couple's annual net income in the previous year (in the year before the previous if they apply between January and May) should be under 7,300,000 yen.
- ③ Both husband and wife should be registered under the national public health insurance system.

To obtain application forms, a complete list of cooperative medical institutions, or if you need further information, please contact the staff at the responsible sections*1 or access the City web site*2 given below. The web site also carries some stories of personal experiences, which may be helpful.

*1 Child-rearing Support Section & Child-rearing Consultation Section of City Hall Tel: 82-1111

*2 City Web Site: <http://www.city.chigasaki.kanagawa.jp/>→Foreigners Guide (top right of screen)→Start Translation (below your preferred language)→the image of a crawling baby (look for the image shown above near the bottom of the web page)

The Summer Gift-Giving Season of Ochūgen

おちゅうげん
御中元

Giving gifts is no simple matter in Japan. Of course, some practices are the same in my culture; such as taking a gift when visiting someone's home (*temiyage*), or bringing back souvenirs from a trip (*omiyage*) to give to your family, friends and co-workers.

What was less familiar to me was the summer gift-giving season of *Ochūgen*. This has historical connections to the ancestral worship rites of the *Obon* festival of souls, which explains why in the Kantō region, *Ochūgen* gifts are given around July 15, whereas elsewhere in Japan, they are given around August 15.

Ochūgen gifts were originally offered to Buddhist monks in gratitude for their prayers to ask forgiveness for the sins of departed souls and so release them from purgatory. These simple offerings, such as preserved fish, rice and rice cakes were also placed on family altars to welcome the spirits of ancestors during *Obon*. Over time, these spiritual offerings evolved into gifts of appreciation to parents, matchmakers, doctors, teachers, bosses, etc.

However, it would be wrong to compare modern-day *Ochūgen* with the casual exchanging of gifts at Christmastime. Rather, these are expressions of the Japanese sense of *giri* or social obligation, a somewhat formal gesture of gratitude to someone to whom you feel indebted. The value of the gift therefore matters and should reflect the importance of the relationship and the debt of gratitude you feel you owe. Gifts exceeding 100,000 yen in value are not unheard of in the business world, but the average spend is about 3,000 yen, with most gifts costing between 2,000 and 10,000 yen.

The most common gifts are seasonal food items and alcohol, as well as practical goods such as washing detergent, cooking oil, soy sauce etc. In early June, you will start seeing *Ochūgen* gift displays in department stores and supermarkets. Not only will these stores arrange delivery of your gifts but also package them beautifully and wrap them with a thin piece of *noshigami* paper on which is written 御中元 (*Ochūgen*) and the name of the gift-giver.

The custom of *Ochūgen* has been in decline in recent years, with some preferring to express their gratitude to others at the end of the year. Of course, what's most important are the relationships we have with others, but there's a special feeling to giving or receiving a gift at any time of year, isn't there?

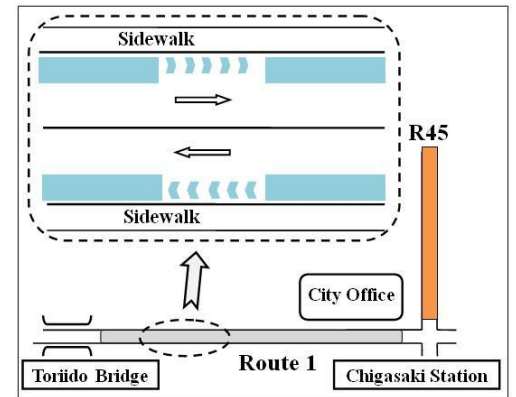


The traditional way - dressed in your best kimono, hand-delivering your gift wrapped in a *furoshiki* cloth.

New Bike Lanes on Route 1

こくどういちごう じてんしゃせんようどうしんせつ
国道一号に自転車専用道新設

New bike lanes have been created along Route 1 for a distance of about 1.4 km between the Toriido Bridge and the Shin'ei-cho intersection. The lanes consist of blue stripe zones, 1.5 meters wide, and blue chevron zones, 0.8 meters wide. The former are for bicycles only, while the latter are for all vehicles, including cars and motor bikes as well as bicycles. The blue chevrons indicate that the road is not wide enough for a 1.5-meter lane to be placed on both sides of the road, but acts as a reminder to motorists to be aware of cyclists. These areas are black spots for traffic accidents involving cyclists, and the new cycling facilities are expected to contribute to reducing the number of such accidents. Route 1 is only the second road in the City to have bike lanes following Chuō-dōri (Road 45).



Are you Still Prepared for Big Earthquakes? 地震は忘れた頃にやってくる

Three years have passed since the Great East Japan Earthquake and subsequent tsunami hit Tohoku. Are you still prepared for a big earthquake? It is not easy to remain vigilant, but disasters (both natural and man-made) can occur anywhere at any time. In late March, the government designated Chigasaki as one of thirteen Kanagawa cities which need special anti-tsunami measures because tidal waves are very likely to strike these cities in the event of a Nankai Trough Quake. Never let disasters be a thing of the past. Is your preparation enough for you and your family to survive for the first 72 hours (3 days) after a disaster? How about checking your preparedness regularly?

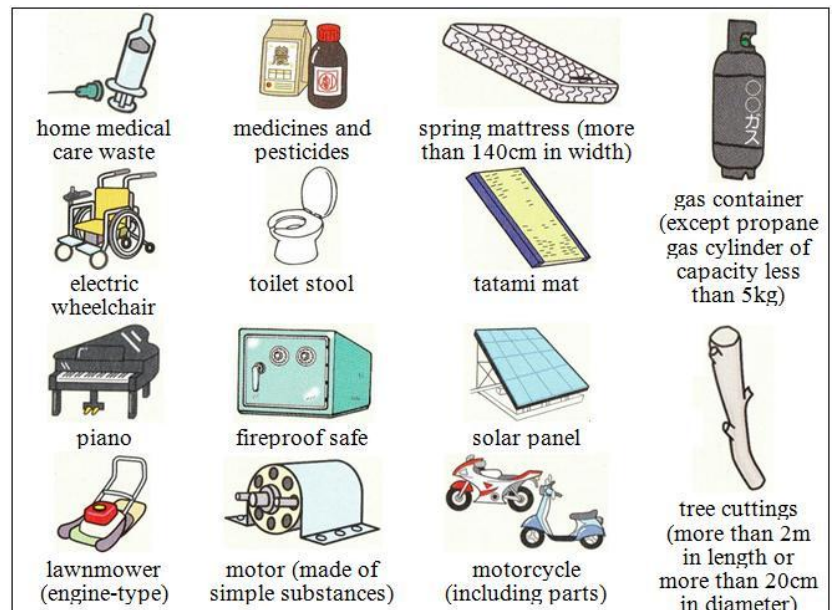
You can find a useful checklist at the following URL: <http://i.r.cbz.jp/cc/pl/xquu6977/a3c3/tp19sdc4/> (courtesy of INFO KANAGAWA). Or, you can access advice about preparing for disasters on the City's website - see Chigasaki Breeze Issue No. 48 at <http://7jp.com/iac/cb/index.htm>. It is highly recommended that you browse through the section on 'Disaster measures'.

How to Dispose of the Waste the City does not Collect 市が収集しない廃棄物の処分は?

If you are troubled with waste the City does not collect, you can ask licensed waste collectors to dispose of it for you, for a fee. Such items include building waste materials (roofing tiles, concrete blocks, floor/wall tiles, insulation materials, asbestos, rubble, and so on), tires, car batteries, fire extinguishers, waste oils (excluding cooking oils), paints and thinners, as well as singular items like those shown in these images.

You can access a list of waste collectors by following the route shown below (correct at time of publication).

Go to: <http://www.city.chigasaki.kanagawa.jp/> → Foreigners Guide (top right of screen) → Start Translation (below your preferred language: English, Chinese, Korean, French, German, Italian, Spanish or Portuguese) → Handbook for living in Chigasaki → Environment, garbage, pets → How to put out garbage (third from the top) → As for the wastes collection transportation work... (fourth from the bottom) → [Chigasaki-shi wastes collection transportation work permission supplier list \(as of February 2014\)](#) (PDF file of supplier list in Japanese)



As well as these assorted items, the City does not collect electrical appliances such as TVs, air conditioners, refrigerators, washing/drying machines, and PCs, as these products have to be disposed of as stipulated in various Recycling Acts. Instead, you should first ask the shop you bought them from or the manufacturer, or refer to the following websites:

- The Association for Electric Household Appliances: <http://www.rkc.aeha.or.jp/> (Japanese only)
- PC3R Promotion Association: <http://www.pc3r.jp> (English available)

History of Chigasaki

Jōken-ji Temple and Ne-no-Gongen in Hagisono

はぎぞの じょうけんじ おの ごんげん
萩園の常願寺と子之権現

Jōken-ji temple is located at 1441 Hagisono, adjacent to and on the south side of Manpuku-ji temple. Jōken-ji temple, whose head temple or *honji* is Myōhon-ji temple located in Kamakura, belongs to Nichiren-shū Buddhist Sect and so it has a *sango* or *mountain name*, which is Honryū-zan. This temple was reportedly newly built sometime during the period 1319~1326 (covering the three imperial eras of Gen'ō, Genkō and Shōchū).

Deified in the main inner temple, and having an inscription of 1527 (Daiei 7 of the Muromachi era), is an old seated statue (height: 29.3cm) of Nichiren-Shōnin, a virtuous priest. The statue was designated as an important cultural asset of the City in November 1996 (Heisei 8).

In 1874 (Meiji 7), Hagisono school [originally called Shōkyō Gakusha] was built in the yard of this temple, but lasted only until 1877 (Meiji 10) when "Dai-gakkō school" was opened in Imajuku. A monument to commemorate the school can be seen in front of the main inner temple.

The *Gongen-dō* or the house of Buddha's reincarnation seen on the left side of the inner temple was built in 1898 (Meiji 31) and has withstood the test of time in good condition, even surviving the Great Kanto Earthquake of 1923 (Taisho 12). The *Ne-no-Gongen* or the Buddha's reincarnation of the Year of the Rat is deified here. (*Ne* comes from *nezumi* which means *rat*.)

The *Ne-no-Gongen* was eagerly believed in by the neighboring farming villages as the guardian creator of *gokoku* (five grains: rice, barley, beans and two kinds of millet) and *yōsan* (silkworm-rearing or sericulture) in the olden days, and exhibitions to worship *Ne-no-Toshi* (the Year of the Rat) were very crowded. Recently, the worship of *Uma-doshi* (the Year of the Horse) has also taken place.

And in front of the *Gongen-dō*, there is a stone monument of 1980 (Showa 55) engraved with a poem of Kuichi Iida: "Mitobira ya Sakura no Sora e Akehanatsu" (loosely translated as "Throw open the door to the cherry blossom-filled sky."). The *Inumaki* conifer beside the *Gongen-dō* is said to be around four hundred years old. The tree has been watching the history of the Jōken-ji temple.

In the graveyard of the successive chief priests of the temple located on the left side of *Gongen-dō*, there is a small *hōtō* or treasured tower inscribed with the year of 1452 (Hōtoku 4 of the Muromachi era). Although far from perfect, the figure of the *hōtō* is a precious relic for the Prefecture because of the inscribed era name.



Jōken-ji temple

IAC ACTIVITY

Five French Students to Homestay

だいがくいんせい ちがさき
フランスの大学院生が茅ヶ崎に

In July, five graduate students from the French Space Aeronautics Engineering University known as ISAE (Institut Supérieur de l'Aéronautique et de l'Espace) are coming to Chigasaki from June 29 (Sun) to July 27 (Sun), staying with host families. French student visits to Chigasaki have taken place annually since 1999 and are said to be very well reputed in France. The IAC finds host families and plans their schedule, including a meeting with the Mayor, the welcoming and farewell parties, a junior high school visit, and so forth. Details of their Chigasaki tour will be shown in the next issue.

The IAC will also offer exclusive Japanese language classes to the students every Tuesday and Friday throughout the day.

Japanese Speech Contest for Foreigners

がいこくじん にほんご
外国人による日本語スピーチコンテスト

The IAC's 17th Speech Contest for Foreigners held on March 23 (Sun) went successfully with eleven speakers from Vietnam, France, and Indonesia.

The winner of the Mayor's prize was Zam Froni from Indonesia, who has lived in Chigasaki for two years. His talk, entitled *obakeyashiki* (or *haunted house*), also received the Popular prize (based on the audience's vote). Tran Thi Quyen, who arrived from Vietnam only five months ago, took the International Soroptimist Chigasaki prize with her talk "My Dream". The IAC prize went to Tran Van Lihn, also from Vietnam, who talked about "Happiness". He has been in Chigasaki for two and half years.



Listeners were amazed to hear good Japanese from these newcomers to Japan.

Portal Site "MANAKORE" for Culture and Lifelong Learning

ぶんか しょうがいがくしゅう
文化生涯学習ポータルサイト



The City has opened a web portal to a culture and lifelong learning web site called MANAKORE which stands for a collection of learnings: *manabi*. The City hopes the site will encourage you to take up lifelong learning and get closer to the culture and history of Chigasaki. The project was initiated by the City, but is managed by the NPO Shonan Style acting as a collaboration promotion business for the City. Unfortunately, the site is only viewable in Japanese. However, it is currently displaying interesting photos of *Hamaori Festival*, the historical *Hōzōji* temple, the south entrance of Chigasaki station in the old days, *Nanko-in*, and so on. In addition, the site introduces some lifelong learning courses, including European-type flower arrangement and photo processing techniques on PC. Navigation to the site is as follows:

Go to: <http://www.city.chigasaki.kanagawa.jp/> → Foreigners Guide (top right of screen) → Start Translation (below your preferred Language) → マナコレ (bottom right) → chigasaki studies nabi collection 'Mana this' (near the bottom). Or, you can go there directly using the URL: <http://www.mana-colle.com/>

People in Town

Gary Bayliss from the UK

The people around me make for a pleasant atmosphere.

Gary Bayliss hails from Ipswich, England, and has lived in Takata for a year with his Japanese wife, whom he met in Los Angeles. He has so far been to and/or worked in France, Spain, India, the U.S.A, China, Taiwan and Germany. In comparison, he says, Japan, and specifically Chigasaki, is an easier place to live because the food is delicious and everything is convenient.



He likes to eat many types of Japanese food; especially his favorite, *daikon* radish. He has also taken a fancy to *myoga* (Japanese ginger) which has a strong flavor and so is used as a relish. In addition, he feels that most people around him are nice and this creates a good atmosphere. When it comes to the language barrier, living in Chigasaki is easier than other countries such as France or Germany. The seashore is one of his favourite haunts and whilst cycling there he sometimes finds funny English signs. His only criticism of Japan is that most houses are cold during winter because they rely on air conditioners for heating.

He works as an illustrator and he has a painting class twice a month in his home. He exhibited his paintings at Serendipity Café in March. Besides his job, he plans scavenger hunts in Chigasaki in April and May when the climate suits brisk activities and cycling is enjoyable. The goal of a scavenger hunt is to find knick-knacks. Participants in the game compete on bicycle to gather (without buying anything) all the interesting and funny things written on a list prepared by the organizers. The next game is scheduled for May 10 (Sat). If you are interested, please contact Serendipity Café at:

serendipity.cafe.chigasaki@gmail.com

Saturday Music Salon in Hagisono

はぎその どよう
萩園の土曜ミュージック・サロン

Saturday Music Salon will be held on May 17 (Sat), from 13:45 to 14:45, in the lobby of Hagisono Ikoi-no-sato or Relaxation home, featuring a music ensemble of guitar, mandolin, bass, and percussion, called Guitāra Shonan.

Their program will include the famous tango "La Cumparsita", "Miami Beach Rhumba" and a Japanese song called *Chisana-tabi* or "Little Trip".

So many Countries, so many Customs!

どころか しなご
所変われば、品変わる

Easter in Serbia and the Tradition of Egg Dyeing

Easter celebrates the resurrection of Jesus Christ and it is the most important and sacred Christian holiday in Serbia. Among various traditions, dyeing eggs is one without which we cannot imagine the Easter holidays since it is linked to the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The eggs are colored on Good Friday, the day Jesus Christ was condemned to be crucified. On this day believers fast; they eat dry bread and drink water and do not work. Some believers fast for 40 days with Good Friday being the 40th day. The custom is to paint the first egg in red symbolizing the blood of Christ, his sacrifice but also the belief in the resurrection and new life. This first egg is also called "housekeeper". It is believed to have magical powers and is therefore kept in the house until the following Easter. It is considered a great evil for the family members if the egg breaks.

In some parts of our country the eggs are only dyed in red, while in others all other colors are being used. Although today, due to the modern lifestyle, people generally use artificial colors, there are still housewives who dye eggs using a variety of plants or onion skin.

Saturday is reserved for decorating homes with flower wreaths and preparing the Easter feast. Easter Sunday starts with bells ringing in churches throughout the country. Children also wear little bells around their necks as a symbol of Jesus' coming.

Most Serbs spend Easter visiting friends and family and exchange colored eggs between themselves. The phrase exchanged most commonly in greeting is "Hristos Vaskrse", meaning, "Christ has Risen". After morning mass, families have breakfast together and play the game of "tucanje", which involves cracking eggs against each other to see which one breaks first.



Note: This letter was written by Vesna Puvlovich, an English teacher from Belgrade, Serbia, living in Chigasaki.

City Branch Office to Open in Tsujido

し つじどうえきまえしゅちやうじょ かいせつ
市が辻堂駅前出張所を開設

A new City Branch Office located close to Tsujido Station starts operation from May 7 (Wed) as a foothold of administrative services for citizens living in the eastern area of Chigasaki. The office is located five minutes' walk from the south exit of JR Tsujido Station via the street running westwards from the station toward the Hamatake area. Because of this new setup, however, the Kowada Residents' Center closes its operation as of May 2 (Fri).

Opening times: Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays - 08:30 ~ 17:30
Tuesdays and Thursdays - 08:30 ~ 19:30

Closing days: Saturdays, Sundays, public holidays and during the year-end and New Year holidays.

Services Provided:

- Issuance of Certificates of Residence, Family Register, Residence Tax, etc. *
- Acceptance of Resident transfer and Family Register notification
- Seal registration
- Receipt of City tax and insurance *
- Acceptance of applications for National Health Insurance, National Pension, and Healthcare for people aged seventy-five and over.
- Procedures re. Resident transfer, Marriage, Childbirth, Child-rearing, etc.
- Acceptance of other simple applications (e.g. publication videos, lending of City song, sale of City history/booklets, issue of Disused Articles Registration Cards, issue of bathing tickets, etc.)

Between 17:00 ~ 19:30, services will be limited to those marked with a * above.

If you are not sure whether a service is provided by this new office, please contact them beforehand on 0467 (82) 8182.

Address: 〒251-0047 Stella Shonan Building 2F 2-2-14 Tsujido, Fujisawa

Solar Cooking on a Sunny Day

は び
晴れた日にはソーラークッキング

Every third Saturday in fair weather, from 10:00 to 14:00, a solar cooking gathering takes place in the garden of *Sato-no-ie*, at the northern edge of Satoyama Park. It is amazing that we can cook nice dishes and confectionary just making use of solar heat. Ms Nishikawa, the demonstrator, who lives in Chigasaki, serves as Secretary of the *Japan Solar Cooking Association* and Vice Representative of the *Chigasaki Renewable Energy Network*. She has also been active in promoting solar cooking overseas, in Tanzania and Nepal.



Why not come and enjoy cooking in the sun surrounded by bucolic scenery? Entry is free, but please bring your own food to cook! Of course, you are welcome if you just want to watch the demonstration.

Parking is available, or take a No.50 bus bound for Bunkyo University from the north side of Chigasaki station, 5-minute walk from the Serizawa-iriguchi bus stop.

Further information: Satoyama-koen Park Center Tel: 0467-50-6058

URL: <http://www.kanagawa-park.or.jp/satoyama/> (Japanese only)

Useful Japanese Expressions

やく た に ほんご
役に立つ日本語

SARIGENAKU さりげなく

You can use the adverb *sarigenaku* (さりげなく) to say or do something in a casual or nonchalant way. For example, if a lady does not try to draw attention to her beautiful kimono, you can say "She is wearing it *sarigenaku*"; or, if someone is trying to tell you something in a subtle or indirect way, you can say "I wasn't sure what he was hinting at as he said it *sarigenaku*", and so on.

In English, there are many equivalent ways of saying or doing something without pushing too strongly or without showing your true intentions. For example, by "inquiring casually about something", "dropping a gentle hint", "throwing something into a conversation as a by-the-way", "saying something with a straight face or look of innocence" or "doing something discreetly".

WE 21 Japan Chigasaki

WE 21 ジャパン ちがさき

In Chigasaki, there are two "WE shops" operated by the Chigasaki branch of a non-profit organization called WE 21 Japan. One is located on Southern-dōri in Nakakaigan, and the other is on Route 1 in Jukkenzaka. Volunteers at the shops sell clothes and household goods donated by citizens and use the proceeds of their sales mainly to support and empower women in Asian countries such as Palestine, Mongolia, Afghanistan, India, Bangladesh, etc. through various overseas NPOs. However, they have also offered aid to people who were seriously affected by Typhoon 30 in the Philippines and by the 3.11 earthquake in the Tohoku area.

WE 21 Japan Chigasaki started operating in November, 2000, and since then, they have reportedly provided monetary support in excess of 4.6 million yen. The spirit of Recycling and Reusing to promote good usage of resources is their motto, and WE 21 Japan Chigasaki welcomes your donations as well as your custom at their "WE shops".

According to the website of WE 21 Japan, they operate people-to-people cooperation in more than 20 countries around the world and they say they want to make an equal and peaceful society by sharing information, wisdom, and experiences.

URL: <http://www.we21japan.org/> (English page available)

Bonsai Display at the Civic Hall

し みんぶん か かいかん ほんさいてん
市民文化会館の盆栽展

You will be able to see beautiful Bonsai trees and pots in the 1st floor exhibition room of the Civic Hall for three days:

May 30 (Fri), 13:00~17:00; May 31 (Sat), 09:00~17:00;

June 1 (Sun), 09:00~16:00. Admission is free.



Japanese Proverbs and their English Equivalents

にっほん せいよう
日本と西洋のことわざ

●親の心 子知らず

OYA NO KOKORO KO SHIRAZU

(The child does not know the heart of the parent.)
No child knows how dear they are to their parents.

●弘法にも 筆の誤り

KŌBŌ NIMO FUDE NO AYAMARI

(Even Kōbō-Daishi makes slips of the pen.)
Even Homer nods.

●自業自得

JIGŌ JITOKU

(You suffer the consequences of your own actions.)
You reap what you sow.

●万事休す

BANJI KYUSU

(All is lost.)
Gone to pot.

●まかぬ種は 生えぬ

MAKANU TANE WA HAENU

(You must sow before you can reap.)
Nothing comes of nothing.