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Japanese 'Flying Fish' to Grace Turner Field for Asian Heritage Night

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Koi-nobori flying in Japan. Photo used under [Creative Commons license](#) with no modifications.

Colorful carp streamers as long as 15 feet will blow in the breeze during a pre-game parade at Turner Field for the **Atlanta Braves'** Asian Heritage Night May 6.

The event will come a day after Japan celebrates Children's Day, a time when the carp, called *koi-nobori*, are displayed by families with young boys to signify hope for an upbringing filled with strength and resilience, according to the Consulate General of Japan in Atlanta.

Consul General **Takashi Shinozuka** said the streamers carried in the parade by students from the bilingual **Seigakuin International School** will invoke childhood memories from Japanese attendees.

Mr. Shinozuka will be the honorary captain for the game as the Braves face off against the Arizona D-backs at 7:35 p.m.

Baseball is a shared pastime for the United States and Japan, signified by the country's decision to honor Atlanta Braves great and former home run king **Hank Aaron** with an **imperial decoration** earlier this year for his work promoting baseball as a tool for understanding between the countries.

Previous **Japanese consuls general** have thrown out the first pitch for the Braves, and the team's signing of a (since-departed) **Japanese pitcher years ago** prompted a major news conference and reflections on the importance of the city's Japanese community.

Attracting the international community is vital to the Braves, who are situated in a sport that is becoming more globally accepted by the year, Braves President **John Schuerholz** recently told Global Atlanta at a naturalization ceremony where 500 new Americans **took their oath of citizenship** at Turner Field.

Along with theme of children, **Japan-America Society of Georgia** is funding an exchange program for four Atlanta students to attend the Asia-Pacific Children's Convention in the Atlanta sister city of **Fukuoka** in July. For more information, send an email to jasg@mindspring.com.

