

MOVIE

TOHO CINEMAS Niihama (AEON Mall)

- October 16 ~ Demon Slayer: Kimetsu no Yaiba THE MOVIE "Infinity Train" Japanese PG 12
- December 18 ~ Wonder Woman 1984 English
- January 1 ~ Peninsula English

Due to the new coronavirus infection, movies might be changed without notice. So please check the homepage for information.

Information Service

Internet: <http://niihama-aeonmall.com>

Tape (24 hrs) : 050-6868-5019 (in Japanese)



This newsletter is published by SGG, a volunteer group that helps foreigners living in Niihama. If you need any advice, information, or support, please contact SGG. SGG would welcome any suggestions, questions, or ideas for monthly articles.

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Online Information in English from Niihama City

☆ Garbage Rules in English:



How to sort and put out your trash and garbage”

☆ What's New? in English



☆ Multilingual Living Information from Clair:

<http://www.clair.or.jp.tagengorev/en/>

The editors for this month are K. Kumata & T. Oishi.

ONE POINT JAPANESE

「～うちに」の使い方②

A : Bさん、しばらく 会わないうちに、やせたんじゃない？
 Bsan, shibaraku awanai uchini, yasetan ja nai?
 (B-san, haven't you lost weight since the last time I saw you?)

B : 最近、毎日 自転車に乗っているんですよ。
 Saikin, mainichi jitensha ni note irun desu yo.
 (Recently, I'm riding my bicycle every day!)
運動してるうちに、体の調子がよくなってきたみたいです。
 Undō shiteru uchini, karada no chōshi ga yokunatte kita mitai desu
 (While I have been exercising, my body condition seems to be getting better.)

A : いいなあ。わたしも サイクリング 始めようかな。
 Īnā. Watashi mo saikuringu hajimeyō kana.
 (That's great. Maybe I should start cycling, too.)



A : 漢字の勉強、続けてる？
 Kanji no benkyō, tsuzuketeru?
 (Are you continuing your study of kanji?)

B : それが・・・いつも 本を 見ているうちに 眠ってしまうんです。
 Sorega... Itsumo hon o miteiru uchini nemutte shimaun desu.
 (Well... while I read books, I always fall in asleep.)

A : マンガを読むのも、いい勉強法ですよ。
 Manga o yomu no mo, ii benkyōhō desu yo.
 (Reading manga is a good way to study, too.)

B : ふりがなって 何ですか。
 Furiganatte nan desu ka.
 (What are furigana?)



A : 漢字の読み方を説明するための ひらがなですよ。
 Kanji no yomikata o setsumē suru tame no hiragana desu yo.
 (They are hiragana that indicate how to read the kanji.)

B : ああ、見たことがあります。
 Ā, mitakoto ga arimasu.
 (Oh, I have seen it.)



< by Niihama Nihongo no Kai >

NNK also provides Japanese lessons for foreigners living in Niihama. Feel free to contact us at: Tel 0897-34-3025 (Manami Miki). e-mail : manami-m@js6.so-net.ne.jp

What's New?

Niihama City

No.306 February 2021



Published by SGG Niihama



がんばりましょう!

both in Philadelphia and Niihama

Fabienne Darling-Wolf

It is sometimes difficult to remember what life was like before the moment when, in what felt like a matter of days, the coronavirus morphed from a vague threat affecting a faraway nation to a global pandemic sending our cities into lockdown. The rush to secure basic necessities, the empty store shelves and toilet paper shortages, the early homemade masks, the first zoom meetings, the last visit to the museum or to the gym — all now seem like a distant memory. Fully grasping the extent to which life has changed in the almost eight months since these early days is quite a challenge, especially when there seems to be no end in sight. Of course, some differences are immediately obvious. Masks, not previously a part of everyday life in the United States, have become a fashion item and, in some cases, a political statement — as some, following Donald Trump's example, refuse to wear them. Handshakes have disappeared from public life and our personal space increased. Hand sanitizer and stickers telling us where to stand are now a normal part of shopping.

Some changes, however, are more subtle. In Philadelphia, the pandemic has transformed the very texture of the city. With fewer cars on the road as many people still work from home, the traffic has both diminished and sped up. Driving,

always a somewhat risky endeavor here, seems even less guided by any set of rules than it used to be. In the city's center, however, cars are being pushed out by restaurants whose tables spill onto the streets as establishments attempt to increase their capacity for outdoor dining. On the weekends, these tables give the city an almost festive feel, as if everyone gathered for a strange festival.

With little access to museums, bars, shopping, or movie theaters, life has significantly slowed down. In the spring and summer, gardens blossomed everywhere as homeowners suddenly had plenty of time to tend them. In the fall, firepits are lighting up back alleys as neighbors find creative ways to continue to safely socialize outside. 'Pods' — where a small group of people choose to have contact only with each other — are being formed. Friends are taking care of each other's children. We know we're in this for the long haul, so people are getting organized. Our world has become smaller, more locally focused.

Philadelphia has always been a city of neighborhoods where community ties are strong. In many respects, the pandemic has brought people even closer. On the other hand, the stress of the situation — combined with politically volatile conditions and anger over continuing incidences of racial injustice — means that everyone is on edge. Tempers flare up sometimes. Nightly curfews established in fear of violent protests also are a new part of life. Who knows what will happen next?

Someday, I hope, the world will open up again and we will be able to come out of our shells. I look forward to the moment when the borders between Japan, the United States, and Europe are no longer closed, and I can return to Niihama. I know the day will come. For the time being, though, we must take things one step at a time. **がんばりましょう!**



'Omizutori' : People pray for good health in the New Year

(Ehime Shimbun, January 8, 2021)

The New Year's event 'Omizutori' was held at the municipally designated historic site, 'Tsuzura-buchi' (spring) at 2 chome, Wakamizu-cho, Niihama city in the early morning of January 7th. It is a very familiar event to the local people where they scoop spiritual water from the spring, which they carry and dedicate to the nearby shrine. This time they prayed for good health in the coming year while COVID-19 is spreading.

Tsuzura-buchi is located on the corner of a residential area in the north of Niihama. There's a legend that Ryujin, the sacred god, lives there, so the water has never dried up. January 7th is also the Feast of the Seven Herbs of Health, so gatherers also hold an event to appreciate the blessing of water. This year, it was held on a smaller scale because of COVID-19.

About 20 people gathered around the spring lit up with paper lanterns at six AM. After the Shinto ritual, four people born in the Year of the Ox, aged 12 to 84 scooped water from the spring and poured it into the earthenware vase. Every year children carry the vase full of spring water on a handcart to Ikku shrine about one kilometer away, but this year it was carried by car in order to avoid close contact. Nanakusa-gayu, seven-herb porridge, usually served to the participants was canceled this year.



Dietary Education Picture Book To Help Kids' Eat Their Veggies

(Ehime Shimbun, November 20, 2020)

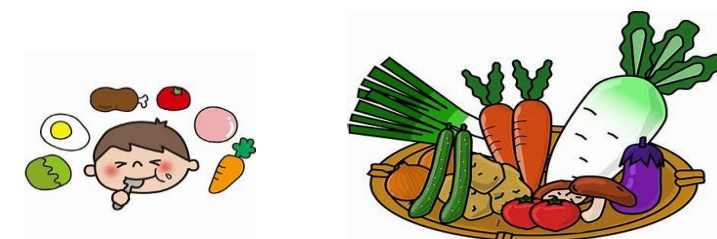
A new picture book is highly recommended for kids who hate eating their veggies. Ms. Iwakami Ai, a picture book writer, has released her new book, "An eggplant who wants to be a hobgoblin." It is a book about a girl who hates eggplants and an eggplant who wants to be liked by others. The book has colorful pop-up pictures along with an exciting story. It also contains a picture puzzle where you look for disguised eggplants, so both parents and kids can enjoy the book together.

This is the third book of the series following a book about a green pepper and one about a carrot. The purpose of the series is to educate kids about their diet, especially veggie-hating kids.

Some time ago, Ms. Iwakami taught arts and crafts to children. She says with a chuckle, "At lunch time, some kids hide the vegetables in their pocket or intentionally drop them on the floor. They went through a lot of trouble not to eat their vegetables". One way she found to motivate the kids was to create a simple picture book. She said to the kids, "Please imagine that you are a vegetable." And kids get to eat vegetables. The picture book was born out of her magical experience. And it also makes the readers to be more considerate of others.

"After solving a hidden picture puzzle, you get a sense of accomplishment," said Ms. Iwakami. "It's so challenging that parents and kids enjoy the book together for a long time." That is why it is a 'delicious' picture book.

Issued by Iwasaki-shoten. ¥1,540.



February Events

☆ 2/2 (Tue) **Setsubun**(the day before the first day of spring on the old lunar calendar)

☆ 2/16 (Tue) **Laughter Yoga**
18:30~19:40 Akagane Museum
Admission free.



The Global Party has been cancelled for 2021 due to COVID-19. We hope to see again next year.

