

What's New?

Niihama City

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“Surprise, surprise!”

Anna-Kay Dunkley

The real world is the biggest classroom that you will ever enter and needless to say it has some of the most interesting tests that you will take. The fascinating thing is that no matter how many years you spend in this classroom there is always something new on the teaching plan to challenge what we already know and present us with a new perspective.

I am from a small island that is different from Japan in many ways. So, before I made Japan my new home I tried to find out as much as I could. Even though I learned a bit from what I had read and what my friends who live here had told me, this was not enough to prepare me for some of the pleasant surprises that I would experience. Let me share some of the “surprise, surprise!” moments I have had since living in Japan.

Before coming to Japan I learnt just enough Japanese to give basic greetings and ask for the bathroom. Even though I only know a little Japanese I think I can safely say that Japanese and English language are worlds apart. The sentence structure, writing system, phonology and grammar seem to have very little in common. So imagine my ‘surprise, surprise!’ after I came to Japan and realized how many English words I could decode after learning to read katakana. Association between the two languages is next to impossible until you stumble upon those English words skillfully crafted into the Japanese language using katakana. I believe I hear at least five (5) ‘*katakana-ized*’ English words each day.

I'm sure I'm not the only one who appreciates a meal, that not only satisfies hunger but is delicious and looks great on its plate. It's a pleasure to see Japanese meals creatively arranged in bento boxes. Surprise, surprise ! From smiling Disney characters to the ever popular Hello Kitty and Anpanman this edible art form's "*kawaii-ness*" knows no bounds. The culinary works of art leave me wondering should I eat it or stare at it with great delight.

From time to time I see my students draw something, whether they are just doodling or they are asked to draw in class. No matter how meticulous and creative I try to be, my drawings generally come out to resemble something that was brought to the paper by the winds of a typhoon. Surprise, surprise! My students on the other hand, make masterpieces in just minutes without any difficulty. I look at them with such amazement.

I know the weather is not entirely predictable but modern technology has been doing a pretty commendable job forecasting what is next on the weather scene. In my country the weather is generally the same throughout the year with temperatures averaging about 28 degrees Celsius and falling just below that in the winter months and rising a bit in the summer months. Japan is said to have four distinct seasons. Of them all, this is my biggest Surprise, surprise! I cannot understand the bipolar weather pattern that toys with your emotions and confuses the order of your wardrobe. Am I the only one who has left home on an early-spring morning in two layers of thermal wear only to find that by afternoon the temperature is similar to that in mid summer and you feel like your body has been baked to perfection and then the evening has hale or even snow. It just seems there are some days that no matter what you wear, at some point in the day you will not be dressed for the current weather.

Considering all the diversities of life, I believe in trying to make the most of all experiences. So for me, coming to Japan was a new challenge. The language and culture here are very different from other countries that I have visited or lived. I know I have a lot to learn, therefore I look forward to having many more 'surprise, surprise' moments.

Anna-Kay Dunkley is a 'go-getter' who likes to be challenged by something new every once in a while. She likes seeing new places and trying new things. She enjoys event planning because it allows her to be creatively involved in various activities. Motorsports is also a passion of hers but she prefers participating in it than watching it

Events in August

☆8/3,8/10(Sun.) 7:30 ~ 12:00 **Sunday Market**
at Chuo Koen, north of City Hall

☆8/ 10,24,31 (Sun.) 8:00~12:00 **Asa-ichi,
Morning Market**
at Kikoji Event Place Tel: 0897-41-5420
Visitors will be able to buy fresh vegetables.

☆8/24(Sun.) 9:00 ~ 15:00 **Sun Sun Market**
at Noborimichi, Sun Road

☆8/ 9~17 **Kanokoyuri Festival**
at Minetopia Besshi Tel: 0897-43-1801
Kanokoyuri is very rare lily with red spot in white.
About 4.000 lilies in the garden are at their best.

☆8/ 17(Sun.) 13:00 ~ **Music Festival**
at Bunka Center Fee: ¥500
Tel: 0897-33-2180 Bunka Center
Junior high school students, high school students and
other amateur players will do their performances.

☆8/ 24(Sun.) 10:00 ~ 15:30
Summer Festival in Minetopia Besshi
Tel: 0897-32-4028 Niihama Kanko Kyokai
You can enjoy playing bingo, riding on a small SL, and seeing dance
performance. You can also eat and drink at a variety of refreshment stands.
In case of bad weather, you enjoy them indoors.

Information in English & Chinese on the Web

*What's New?

*How to sort garbage and trash

*Information on living in Niihama

Click  <http://www.city.niihama.lg.jp/english/>

Clair: [*Multilingual Living Information](http://www.clair.or.jp/tagengorev/en/index.html)

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

SGG would welcome any suggestions, questions or ideas
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*The editors for this month are A. Akiyama & K. Kumata.

“Angel Helper” Can Help a Mother with a Newborn Baby (from Monthly City Letter, June issue)

Niihama City Office has a service to help pregnant women and mothers with newborn babies.

*** Who can receive help?**

- You are a resident of Niihama.
- You are pregnant and have the Maternal and Child Health Handbook (Boshi-Kenko-Techo).
- Your baby is 6 months old or younger and you take care of your baby at home and you have difficulty in doing household chores and baby rearing because no one helps you during the day.
- If you have multiple babies (twins etc), you can receive this service until your babies become 12 months old.
- You are too sick to do household chores and to rear your children who are preschool age.

*** What services can you receive?**

- Household chores:

Preparing meals and clearing the table, washing clothes, cleaning up the rooms, shopping for everyday necessities and other household chores

- Baby rearing:

Giving milk, changing diapers, bathing the baby, helping you go to the hospital or health checkup and other help for baby rearing

*** When is the service provided & for how long?**

- Less than 2 hours each time and repeatable up to 10 times. If you have twins, up to 20 times.
- Mon. to Fri. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. except for the New Year’s holiday period.

*** How to apply?**

- You need to register beforehand at Kosodate-shien-ka (Child Support and Rearing) Tel: 65-1242

*** How much does it cost?**

- 500 yen per hour for up to 2 hours a day, with a minimum charge of 500 yen.
- You have to pay a cancellation fee if you cancel later than 17:00 on the previous day.

For further information, please ask Kosodate-shien-ka, City Office. TEL:65-1242

MOVIES

TOHO CINEMAS Niihama (AEON Mall)

June 28 ~ TRANSCENDAENCE 2D English

July 4 ~ ALL YOU NEED IS KILL
D English / 3D Dubbed

July 5 ~ Maleficent 2D English · Dubbed

July 19 ~ Planes : Fire & Rescue 2D Dubbed

July 25 ~ GODZILLA 2D English · Dubbed / 3D Dubbed

August 8 ~ TRANSFORMERS: Age of Extinction
2D English / 3D Dubbed

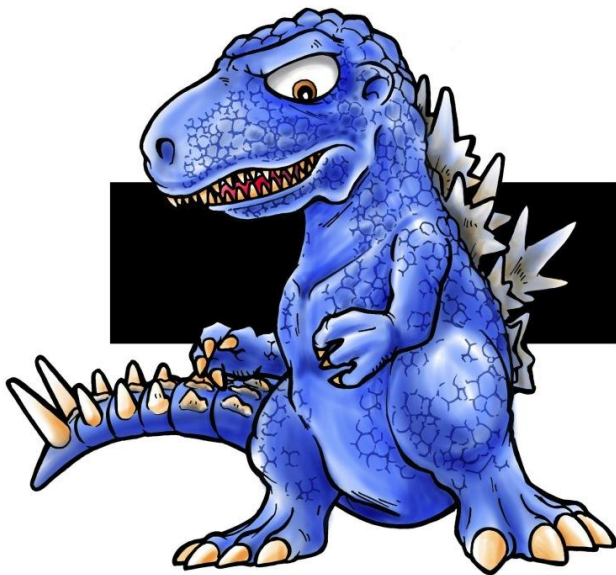
Information Service

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

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

Movies might be changed without notice. Please check.

GODZILLA



ONE POINT JAPANESE

“ゆでる、ゆで～”

A : 猛暑日が 続いて いますね。Mōshobi ga tsuzuite imasu ne.

(We've been having a terrible heat spell.)

B : そうですね。最近 食欲が なくて・・・。

Sō desu ne. Saikin shokuyoku ga nakute...

(That's true. I haven't had any appetite recently...)

A : よかったら、うちで そうめんでも 食べませんか。

Yokattara, uchi de sōmen demo tabemasen ka.

(If you'd like, won't you come and eat somen at my house?)

B : えー、いいんですか。実はそうめんを 食べるのは 初めてなんです。

Ee, iin desu ka. Jitsu wa sōmen o taberu no wa hajimete nan desu.

(Really? Is it OK? Actually, it would be my first time to eat somen.)

(Aさんの家で) (At A-san's house)

B : 美味しくて、いくらでも食べられます。ゆで加減も いいですね。

Oishikute, ikura de mo taberaremasu. Yudekagen mo ii desu ne.

(It's so delicious that I could eat any amount. And it's boiled just right.)

A : 音を 立てて 食べるんですね。Oto o tatete taberun desu ne.

(You make noise while you eat it!)

B : 友達に「麺の カッコいい 食べ方」を 教えて もらったんです。

Tomodachi ni “men no kakkoi tabekata” o oshiete morattan desu.

(A friend taught me the “cool way to eat noodles.”)

A : けさ ゆでた 枝豆です。ゆで卵も どうぞ。

Kesa yudeta edamame desu. Yude tamago mo dōzo.

(These are edamame boiled this morning. Help yourself to the hardboiled eggs, too.)

そうめんの 作り方 (Sōmen no tsukurikata) (How to cook somen)

1. 鍋に たっぷりの お湯を 沸かす。

Nabe ni tappuri no oyu o wakasu.

(Boil plenty of water in a pot.)

2. 人数分の 麺を 入れ、強火で ゆでる。(1分半~3分)

Ninzūbun no men o ire, tsuyobi de yuderu. (ippunhan ~sanpun)

(Add noodles for the number of people and boil on high heat for 1 to 3 minutes.)

3. ザルに 移して、流水で もみながら 洗う。

Zaru ni utsushite, ryūsui de mominagara arau.

(Move noodles to a colander and rinse, rubbing under running water.)

4. だしに 薬味 (ショウガや ネギ) を入れ、めんを つけて 食べる。

Dashi ni yakumi (shōga ya negi) o ire, men o tsukete taberu.

(Put ginger and negi into stock and dip noodles into the stock to eat.)

< 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).

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