

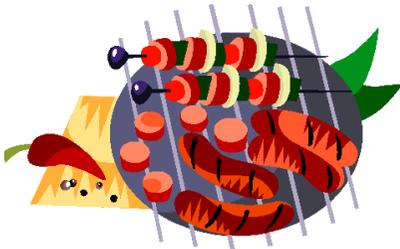
# What's New?

Niihama City

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# 8

## Why Barbecues Are So Awesome!

**Daisuke Yoshida**

Everytime I enter the month of July, there is one thing that comes into my mind. And that's BARBECUE! Why? Well... I am from the United States of America and July 4<sup>th</sup> is my country's Independence Day. Or I like to call it in front of my students, "America's Birthday." We celebrate this national holiday by exhibiting our patriotism with decorations and clothing colored red, white, and blue. We also celebrate and end this special day with an explosive "big bang." We go all out and light up the night on 4<sup>th</sup> of July with hundreds or even thousands of colorful fireworks.

However, before the wonderful and beautiful bright show of fireworks, we get together with our family and friends and enjoy a great barbecue feast. Summer has kicked in and it's warm enough to cook outside as well as enjoy the open outdoors and the summer breeze. We bring out the barbecue grills, fire them up, and spend the entire day grilling a wide selection of meats: hamburgers, hot dogs, steaks, chicken wings, shish kabobs, pork ribs, and so forth. We enjoy our barbecued meats with some classic all-American side dishes and desserts such as potato salad, corn on the cob, baked beans, strawberry-blueberry cheesecake, and good old apple pie. My family celebrates the 4<sup>th</sup> of July with my mother's special teriyaki skirt steak. Without it, the day would simply not be the same.

Here in Japan, barbecue is also very popular and quite different compared to the United States. Japanese barbecue is like “yakiniku” style where people gather around the grill to cook and eat small slices of meats and vegetables with their favorite dipping sauce. To accompany the barbecued meats, there is often a mountain of hot yakisoba. When I attended my first Japanese barbecue party, I was very surprised to witness this style. I never expected yakisoba to be served at a barbecue event and never imagined that it could be made so easily on the grill. At first, it was so strange to me, but now I love the Japanese style. Whenever I attend any barbecue function, I always bring the ingredients to make yakisoba. Just like my mother’s steaks, a Japanese barbecue party is never complete without it.

However, despite these differences, barbecue in both countries and in the rest of the world achieve one common goal. It brings people together and gives them the opportunity to spend some quality with each other. It doesn’t matter what dishes are served at the barbecue event. What matters the most is the time spent together in preparing, cooking, and enjoying the meal. I think barbecues are awesome solely for this reason regardless if I have to grill up some hamburgers or make a pile of yakisoba. I enjoy barbecues for its wonderful concept of family and friends being united as one through a meal.

I recommend more people to cook together not only through barbecue but in general. I urge many to cook with your family and friends because not only it is fun to do so, but it further strengthens the relationships with them. In light of recent tragic events, let’s take advantage of every moment that we have and cherish them! We are always busy, but we all have to eat at some point right? Why not spend some quality time and bond more with your loved ones through cooking?

I had a wonderful 4<sup>th</sup> of July this year with my friends here in Japan. It was a wonderful combination of American and Japanese style of barbecue. I look forward to many more barbecue parties throughout the summer season. Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July everyone!

Daisuke Robert Yoshida is an assistant language teacher in seven junior high schools of Niihama city. He is a second generation Japanese-American from California, USA. This is his second year on the JET Programme and will be staying in Japan for another year or so.

## Enjoy Cool Mountain Stream and Refresh Yourself in Omogokei Kuma-kogen

(From the Ehime Shimbun July 8, 2011)

Omogo Valley is well known for its beautiful clear stream and red and yellow leaves in fall. How about visiting it to escape from the scorching summer. You can enjoy many things led by a special guide such as walking and swimming in the clean cool stream, climbing waterfalls, jumping into the deep. You will be also enchanted with the beauty of steep rocky cliffs and sunlight filtering through the trees. This new way of enjoying Omogo is arranged Ishizuchi Tourist Company, "Keisen-tei".

For further information such as equipments or guides, please call (0892-58-2511)

### **A u g u s t   E v e n t s**

#### **★August 7&14 Sunday Flea Market**

7:30-12:00 Location: Chuo Park, north of City Hall

#### **★August 21 The 7<sup>th</sup> Shimin Ongakusai (music festival)**

13:00 Admission fee: ¥500 Phone: 33-2180

Location: Shimin Bunka Center

Dances, wadaiko(Japanese drums), koto(Japanese harp) and classical music will be performed by senior and junior high school students and others.

Guest artists: Abe kazunari(a bamboo flutist)

NolenNiu-de-Ossi(guitar&accordion duo)

#### **★August 21 Summer Festival in Minetopia Besshi**

10:00-15:30 Location: Minetopia Besshi, Phone:32-4028

Character shows for children, dances will be performed for free and there will also be food and drink stands.

You can read on the Web.

**\*What's New?**

**\*Garbage and trash Collection Calendar**

**\*Information living in Niihama**

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

## **"Window for Non-Japanese" opened in the City Hall**

From Monthly City News, July, 2011

The new counter for non-Japanese in Niihama has been set at Citizens Activity Promotion Section on the 2nd FL in the city hall since last April. Ms.Chou Bunbun, who is a Chinese, can serve as a receptionist as well as an interpreter to help visitors with various procedures.

Day and Time: 13:00 - 17:00 (from Mon. to Fri.)

Language: English and Chinese

Information as listed below is available by free

- ①Niihama Sightseeing Guide Book
  - ②Niihama City Map
  - ③A GUIDE FOR LIVING IN NIIHAMA
  - ④What's New?( Monthly Newsletter )
  - ⑤Niihama Sightseeing Map
  - ⑥Emergency Card on disasters
  - ⑦Precautions against the earthquakes
- \*① English, Chinese, Korean
  - ② - ④ English, Chinese
  - ⑤ - ⑦ multiple languages

For further details: [Tel:65-1218](tel:65-1218) Fax:65-1255

## **City Hall's Lobby is Open to Citizens**

From Monthly City News June, 2011

The lobby of the city hall on the 1st floor is open to you as the place to show what you are doing in your activities. This is one of the ways for the Niihama City Government to try to make the city hall to be friendly and useful.

\*Candidate: a citizen or a group who is doing activities.

\*Required documents: The filled out application form, you can get on the website of City Government or at Shimin-katsudo-suishin-ka 2nd FL.

\*Application: By one month before your exhibition

\*Period: Five days from Monday through Friday 8:30—17:15 (on the last day to 16:00) \*Items to be lent: 2 boards (120cm high x 180cm wide),

4 desks (180 wide) and hooks

\*Exhibition with purposes of politics, religions, profit-making, or partying is not allowed.

All the preparations and cleanups must be done on your own.

For further details: [Tel:65-1218](tel:65-1218) Fax:65-1255:

## MOVIE

TOHO CINEMAS Niihama (AEON Shopping Center)

July 2 ~	THOR	English
July 15 ~	HARRY POTTER AND DEATHLY HALLOWS : Part II	3D English/Dubbed
July 30 ~	TRANSFORMERS: DARK OF THE MOON	3D English/Dubbed
July 30 ~	CARS II	3D Dubbed
August 19 ~	Hop	Dubbed
August 19 ~	Kung Fu Panda 2	3D Dubbed

Information Service

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

Tape (24 hrs): 0897-35-3322 (in Japanese)



<Contributed by Adam Schartup>

SGG would welcome any suggestions, questions or ideas for monthly articles.

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\*The editors for this month are XXXX & XXXX

## ONE POINT JAPANESE

### どこでも

A : 日本に いる うちに、いろいろ 旅行しようと 思っています。

Nihon ni iru uchini, iroiro ryokō shiyō to omotte imasu.

(While I'm in Japan, I think I'm going to travel to various places.)

B : 特に 行きたい ところが ありますか。

Tokuni ikitai tokoro ga arimasu ka.

(Is there any particular place you want to go?)

A : そうですね、歴史の 古い 所なら、どこでも いいです。

Sodesu ne, rekishi no furui tokoro nara, dokodemo ii desu.

(Well, as long as it has a long history, any place will be fine.)

A : 今から、新幹線の 予約が 取れるでしょうか。

Imakara shinkansen no yoyaku ga torero deshō ka.

(Is it still possible to get a Shinkansen reservation now?)

B : 指定席は ちょっと 無理かも しれませんね。

Shiteiseki wa chotto muri kamo shiremasen ne.

(It's probably pretty much impossible to get a reserved seat.)

どこへ 行くんですか。

Doke e ikun desu ka. (Where are you going?)

A : 東京です。Tōkyō desu. (Tokyo.)

B : それじゃ、夜行バスは どうですか。

Sorejā, yakō basu wa, dō desu ka.

(Well, how about taking the night bus?)

あまり 眠れないかも しれませんが、安くて 便利ですよ。

Amari nemurenai kamo shiremasen ga, yasukute benri desu yo.

(You probably won't be able to sleep well, but it's cheap and convenient.)

A : それは いいですね。わたしは どこでも 寝られるので、大丈夫です。

Sore wa ii desu ne. Watashi wa dokodemo nerareru node

daijōbu desu. (That sounds good. I can sleep anywhere, so it's no problem.)

A : “どらえもん” の 道具で、何が 一番 ほしい？。

“Doraemon” no dōgu de, nani ga ichiban hoshii?

(Which of Doraemon's tools would you like to have most?)

B : ええと、やっぱり “どこでも ドア” かなあ。

Eeto, yappari “Dokodemo doa ” ka nā.

(Let me see...I guess it would be the “Anywhere Door.”)

A : どこでも 行きたい 所に行けるから？

Dokodemo ikitai tokoro ni ikeru kara?

(You mean because you can go anywhere you want through it?)

B : うん、過去や 未来、時代を 超えて どこでも 行けるから。

Un, kako ya mirai, jidai o koete, dokodemo ikeru kara.

(Right. Past or future, any time period - I could go anywhere.)

< 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