

What's New?

Niihama City

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Moving back to Japan

Brad Patterson

My family and I lived in Japan 6 years ago. We came to teach English and to see a different part of the world. At the time, our family consisted of my wife, my daughter and me. My daughter was 1 year old when we moved. There was relatively very little to consider in terms of her well-being in what was a significant change in our lives. We just had to make sure we could provide food, shelter and clothing. We spent a year in Shiga-ken, and enjoyed the experience. We were exposed to Japanese culture and explored many areas of Japan not typically seen while on a vacation.

When my wife and I began discussing teaching abroad earlier this year, Japan was at the top of our list. We had many more things to consider this time though. Our family had grown from three to four and our children were much older than our previous Japan adventure. In addition to the basics for the children, we also had to consider schooling, socializing with other children, and adjusting to a new culture. Although my wife and I were very excited have our children experience a foreign country, we had to ask how they felt about moving halfway around the world. Fortunately for us, we have very brave, adventurous kids! They were very excited to see Japan, my daughter especially.

One of the first things we had to look at was schooling options for the kids. My daughter had just finished 2nd grade in California and my son was getting ready to enter kindergarten. There were basically three options. The first option was to teach the kids at home following the curriculum set by the school district my daughter attended last year. Her coursework would be provided by the school and she would complete her lessons online. One benefit of homeschooling the kids this way is that they would not fall behind their peers in school. Using this option, my son would not be officially enrolled in school since kindergarten is not mandatory in California.

The second option was to teach the kids at home using the traditional homeschool model used by many parents in the United States. In California, parents establish a “private school” and follow their own curriculum in teaching their children. The curriculum needs to meet basic standards, but this gives the parents a great deal of flexibility in their children’s

education. The parents are responsible for planning lessons, purchasing textbooks, and assigning school work. This option would probably be the most challenging for us, as it requires additional time for preparation.

The third option was to enroll the children in Japanese school. My daughter's birthday is in November, so even though she completed 2nd grade in America, she would have to finish the 2nd grade here in Japan since the school year is different. My son's birthday is in July and would need to enroll in 4 year old youchien since he was still 4 at the beginning of the school year. The benefits of enrolling the kids in Japanese school are that they get to meet and play with other children and they have a chance to learn Japanese. The challenge comes from the fact that they do not currently know Japanese. Also, my wife and I have very limited ability to communicate in Japanese which adds to the difficulty.

After many long conversations weighing the pros and cons of each of the options, we decided to enroll them in the Japanese school. Although youchien is not mandatory, we thought it would be a good opportunity for our son to be exposed to Japanese culture, meet children his age, and hopefully learn to speak Japanese. The children in his class are not officially learning to read and write yet, so he is learning to listen and understand directions right now.

My daughter entered school at a more advanced level and needs to learn how to read and write, in addition to speaking. Luckily for us, she is receiving assistance at school and is being taught Japanese, including reading and writing. It has been 6 weeks and she is able to read and write hiragana. She is quickly learning new words and gradually understands more every day. She has enjoyed school so far and has made many new friends. Even though there are language barriers, the children are still able to communicate enough to organize a game or point out an interesting bug on the playground.

We spoke with the administrators at my daughter's school in America and have been giving access to the online curriculum so she can keep up with her coursework back home. This is necessary due to the fact that some subjects are difficult follow in Japanese without being fluent. We focus most of her extra work on science, social studies, and English. With my son, we practice his English reading and writing. The balance of having the children at Japanese school during the day and American schoolwork to supplement has worked out very well so far. Our children are socializing with other kids in the neighborhood and making friends, which is very important to us. It was one of the main reasons we decided to send them to school versus teaching them at home.

Our second stay in Japan has been very interesting and exciting. We have seen many new places, made new friends, experienced new events. People have been very supportive of our decision to enroll the children in school and their help has been invaluable. Without them, we would be very lost with things required by the kids' schools. We can't wait to see what else the year will bring.

The Patterson's came to Niihama at the end of July. Mr. Patterson and his wife are working as language instructors.

MOVIE

TOHO CINEMAS Niihama (AEON Shopping Center)

October 6 ~	DR.SEUSS THE LORAX	2D, 3D	Dubbed
October 12 ~	THE RAVEN		English
October 20 ~	THE EXPENDABLES 2		English/Dubbed
November 1 ~	ABRAHAM LINCOLN: VAMPIRE HUNTER		
		2D English / 3D	Dubbed
November 3 ~	JAPAN IN A DAY		Japanese
November 9 ~	CIRQUE DU SOLEIL WORLDS AWAY		
		3D	English

Information Service

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

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

Movies might be changed without notice, so please check beforehand.



<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 K. Kaida & Y. Amano.

Introducing the Leading-edge Technologies & Sophisticated Techniques of Ehime to the World

(from Ehime Shimbun August 28, 2012)

The Ehime Prefectural Government has issued an English flyer, a guidebook to the database, "Sugowaza (highly skilled) Manufacturing Companies in Ehime", with the aim of introducing companies with leading-edge technologies and sophisticated techniques.

It will be sent to JETRO (Japan External Trade Organization) and overseas branches of Ehime's financial institutions to help business negotiations. The "Sugowaza" Database was created in September last year to introduce 133 companies and a further 20 companies were added this year in June. It can be found on the website <http://www.sugowaza-ehime.com/> which is being used in various exhibitions and business sales carried out by the Governor of Ehime.

Exploring Restaurants: Surprising

Niihama No.11

Marutomo



by Michael Newlin

With some frequency, people ask me to recommend a special restaurant appropriate for visitors or a special occasion. The answer is always the same: Marutomo Suisan (マルトモ水産) in Saijo which is a wholesale and retail fish market. In one part of the store, they have a small but excellent restaurant with the freshest fish in the area. They are famous for their kaisendon (海鮮丼) which is a mix of fresh sashimi over rice. But, I can also recommend the fried shrimp which is perfectly cooked and the largest I have ever seen. For true local destination dining, that is excellent, yet, casual, Marutomo Suisan is the answer. Directions: While the restaurant is in the port area of Saijo (somewhat near the Asahi Beer Factory), it is best to take a taxi or ride with a friend who knows the area. For a map and great photos and the menu, visit

<http://nomchan.exblog.jp/16504870/>

November Events

- ☆11/3(Sat): **Tea Ceremony** 9:30-15:30
In front of the Bunka Center ¥300
- ☆11/3(Sat)・4(Sun) **Student Festival of Niihama Kosen** 9:30-
You can enjoy various foods, dancing, exhibition.
Two taiko floatss on 11/4.
- ☆11/11(Sun): **Free Skin Cancer Check** 13:00~16:00
at Ishi-kaikan Shonai-cho 4-7-54
Only skin cancer is checked.
- ☆11/11(Sun): **San-san Market** 9:00-15:00
at Noborimichi Street
- ☆ 11/17(Sat):**Workshop for Supporting Foreign Residents in times of Disaster**
10:00-12:30 at Fureai Plaza 2F
- ☆12/2(Sun): **HAMA2 Winter Festival by JC** 12:00-18:30
at Marine Park Niihama
Flea Market, Food Vendors, Industrial Products, Dancing, Concert and
Fireworks at night
- ☆12/2(Sun): **2013 Global Party's First Staff Meeting** 10:00-
at the Women's Plaza 1F

Niihama's mascot character, "Yuru-kyara"!

(from Shisei Dayori, Monthly City Letter November 2012)

Young people in Niihama are trying to create Niihama's "Yuru-kyara" mascot character. They aim to vitalize Niihama through creating the mascot in co-operation with local citizens. They set up a committee and asked for ideas about the character from both within and outside of Niihama.

Finally 308 drafts of various types have been submitted. Some are based on gorgeous Taikos from the Niihama festival some are based on the raccoon dog of local folktales.

The president of the committee is Mr.Tatsuya Sakai, a senior of Niihama Higashi High School says, "I hope that more people will discover how attractive Niihama is and that they will become interested in community development by joining in and creating "Yuru-Kyara".

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/>

[Clair:*Multilingual Living Information](#)

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

ONE POINT JAPANESE

いろいろな “こんど”

A : 紅葉の季節になりましたね。

Kōyō no kisetsu ni narimashita ne.

(Now is the season for autumn leaves.)

B : そうですね。今度の週末、どこか行きませんか。

Sōdesu ne. Kondo no shūmatsu, doko ka ikimasen ka.

(That's right. Shall we go somewhere at the end of this week?)

A : 白婦りバス旅行は、どうですか。

Higaeri basuryokō wa, dō desu ka.

(How about a one day bus trip?)

B : たぶん、予約でいっぱいでしょうね。

Tabun yoyaku de ippai deshō ne.

(It's probably full.)

A : じゃ、右鎚山に登りませんか。

Ja, Ishizuchi-san ni noborimasen ka.

(OK, how about climbing Mt. Ishizuchi together?)

B : もう、紅葉の見頃は終わっていると 思いますよ。

Mō, kōyō no migoro wa owatteiru to omoimasu yo.

(I think the fall colors are past their peak already.)

A : じゃ、滝宮公園で、散歩でも しましょうか。

Ja, Takinomiya-kōen de, sanpo demo shimashō ka.

(Well, then let's take a walk around Takinomiya park.)

A : 遅くなって、すみません。Osokunatte, sumimasen.

(Sorry, I'm late.)

B : 携帯も つながらないし、心配してたんですよ。

Ketai mo tsunagararanai shi, shinpai shitetan desu yo.

(I couldn't get you on your cell phone, so I was worried.)

A : 実は、きのう夜更かしして、うっかり寝坊して しまったんです。

Jitsu wa, kinō yofukashi shite, ukkari nebōshite shimattan desu.

(Actually, I stayed up late last night and I carelessly overslept.)

B : 今度から 気をつけてくださいね。

Kondo kara kiotsukete kudasai ne.

(Please be careful from here on.)

A : どうしたんですか。元気がないですね。

Dōshitan desu ka. Genki nai desu ne.

(What's the matter? You look kind of down.)

B : 今度の試験、全然 できなかったんです。

Kondo no shiken, zenzen dekinakattan desu.

(I didn't do well on the last exams.)

A : くよくよしないで。今度また 頑張れば いいですよ。

Kuyokuyo shinaide. Kondo mata ganbareba ii desu yo.

(Don't worry. Just do your best next time.)

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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