

What's New?

Niihama City

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University Entrance in Japan

Peter Gabites

Like so many other parents in Japan the last six months has been quite a hectic time with two daughters preparing to enter university in April. In our case there has been the added complication of whether they should study in Japan or overseas and my own ambivalence about Japan's university system. However April 1st has now been and gone and our daughters are already coming to terms with university life and the excitement of living by themselves in Tokyo. We now just have to concentrate on paying for everything and hope that they make the most of the opportunities they are given.

As a New Zealander I am a product of a far simpler university system where internal high school assessment is the main criterion for entering any of our national universities and our version of the "Centre Test" was used by these universities to select students for elite courses like medicine and law. Once you had entered you were expected to study hard and many who failed to make the transition to a freer, less regulated educational environment soon found themselves looking for full time employment. So as an outsider the almost "holiday-like" reputation of Japanese universities (or at least undergraduate studies) left me less than impressed.

However, the decision was not mine to make and my daughters were eager to study in Japan. They were particularly attracted by the more social nature of Japanese universities where students develop completely new social networks that

will play important roles in their adult lives. In comparison their Australian friends were busier studying and supporting themselves with part time jobs and socialized more with old high school friends. Ultimately, it was the opportunity to enter a whole new world of social experiences that attracted them to Japanese universities.

If only the entrance process had been easier though: the extra studies, the exams, the forms to be filled out, the interviews and lots of travelling between Niihama and Tokyo. The stress of it all, but at least we had the security of knowing that they had already been accepted at an Australian university if they were unsuccessful at getting into one of the universities they were applying for in Japan. Plus it was kind of interesting to look at how the different Japanese universities handled the entrance process ~ those that were more internationally focussed, flexible and helpful and those that were more conservative and rigid.

Once we got the official acceptances we could relax and even wonder how our daughters had been lucky enough to get into their first choice university. Then came the more practical matter of setting up an apartment in Tokyo for them and either buying or sending their things up there from Niihama. (Perhaps Australia would have been a better option after all as none of that would have been necessary?)

However, on April 1st there we were, like thousands of other proud parents around Japan, sitting in a somewhat uncomfortable stadium, watching professors in colourful robes welcome fresh-faced new students into a new and important stage of their lives. (A new experience for myself, as strangely in New Zealand we don't celebrate or even recognize the start of university studies, only their successful completion.) And then for me the most exciting part of the day, running the "gauntlet" of literally hundreds of circle members trying to entice the freshmen into their clubs. A fitting sign that they were now truly university students. I guess we can relax now for the next four years until it will be our older son's turn to decide where he wants to go to university.

I am/was a long term foreign resident of Niihama and lived here for nearly 20 years teaching English. At the moment I live in Australia while my sons are going to school there but we visit Niihama regularly and I look forward to returning here to live once the boys finish their education. "Hello to all my old students and friends."

Event in June

Observation of Venus passing over the Sun's surface

Date: Wed., Jun 6th from 10:00 to 14:00 in front of Ehime Science Museum

Sunday Market

Date: Sun., June 3rd and 17th, from 7:30 to 12:00

Place: Street on east side of Niihama Central Park

Niihama City Pool

Open from June 20th to August 31st

Fee: 60 yen / 2 hrs (Adults) 10 yen (Children)

Time: June 20th to 30th, 12:30 ~ 17:30; Sat. and Sun. 9:30 ~

July 1st ~ Aug. 31st 9:30 ~ 20:00

Saturday Evening Market

Every Saturday from June 2nd to July 21th at Kichoji Shopping Arcade

Summer Festival at Marine Park

Sun., July 1st, from 9:00 to 16:30

Exhibition of the products of Niihama, catching fish with your hands, chopping watermelon (only children), Hula and more

Japanese Speech Contest

Date: Sun., July 8th

Time: 13:30 ~ 16:00

Place: Sougou Fukushi Center (Fureai Plaza) 2F

Please come and enjoy listening to the contest. The speakers are all non-Japanese living around Niihama and learning Japanese.

They will give speeches about their experiences, opinions and thoughts.

Just a Small Piece of Information

Thank you for your cooperation with shopping bag reduction!

The average rate of bringing your own bag was 85% at 15 Super Markets in Niihama last fiscal year.

SGG would welcome any suggestions, questions or ideas

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*The editors for this month are Ms. Miki & Ms. Okame.

Vaccination for Children

(From the Monthly City Letter, April, 2012)

*Vaccination is important to protect your children from infectious diseases.

*Please read your vaccination leaflet well and understand the details properly so that you have no concerns about your children's safety.

*Your children should receive vaccinations at the appropriate times so that they can work the most effectively.

*Vaccinations can be received throughout the year. But you need to book and take your child to the doctor for the following vaccinations:

~ BCG for tuberculosis,

~ Triple vaccinations for Diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus,

~ Double vaccination for measles and rubella and Japanese encephalitis.

*Vaccination for measles and rubella is given as a double vaccine two times as follows:

Period 1: one time between the ages of 1 year and 2 years old.

Period 2: one time between the ages of 5 years and 7 years old.

Period 3: one time between the ages of 12 and 13 years old.

Period 4: one time between the ages of 17 and 18 years old.

(Only in 2008-2012 for Period 3 and 4)

For further information for the when and where, please call the Hoken Center
TEL: 0897-35-1070

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>

Exploring Restaurants: Spicy Niihama

No. 8

Coco



by *Michael Newlin*

If you are looking for some truly spicy food in Niihama, think about trying Coco Ichi Ramen (not Coco Ichiban Curry House). For some spice, try the Karashi Tsukemen which comes with a spice mixture you add yourself. For the dedicated spice lover, the Kukyoku Tan Tan Men has five spice levels you can select. The geki kurai (very spicy) level is a surprise! Additionally, the karaage is different, light, and excellent. Directions: Across the street from Gusto, near Niihama City Hall.

MOVIE

TOHO CINEMAS Niihama (AEON Shopping Center)

May 11 ~	LARRY CROWNE	English
May 18 ~	THE DESCENDANTS	English
May 19 ~	DARK SHADOWS	English/Dubbed
May 25 ~	MEN IN BLACK 3	English/Dubbed
June 6 ~	WE BOUGHT A ZOO	English
June 15 ~	SNOW WHITE AND THE HUNTSMAN	English/Dubbed
June 30~	THE AMAZING SPIDERMAN	English/Dubbed

Information Service

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

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

ONE POINT JAPANESE

いろいろな「いい」その2

A : この本、貸してくれない? Konohon, kashite kurenai ?
(Could you lend me this book?)

B : いいよ。Ii yo. (OK.)

A : いつまでに返せばいい? Itsu made ni kaeseba ii?
(When should I return it to you by?)

B : Cさんも読みたいてって言うたから、来週中に返してくれる?
C-san mo yomitaitte itteta kara, raishūchū ni kaeshite kureru?
(C-san says she wants to read it, so could you return it next week?)

A : オッケー。読んだらすぐ返すね。Okke. Yondara sugu kaesu ne.
(OK. I'll return it to you as soon as I finish it.)

A : Bさんは、結婚しないんですか。B-san wa kekkon shinain desu ka?
(Aren't you going to get married, B?)

B : したいんですが、なかなかいい人にめぐり合わないんですよ。
Shitain desu ga, nakanaka ii hito ni meguriawanain desu yo.
(I want to, but it's very difficult to meet a nice person.)

A : 好みのタイプは? Konomi no taipu wa? (What's your type?)

B : えーと、優しく、イケメンで、料理が上手で、頭がいい人!
Eeto, yasashikute, ikemen de, ryōri ga jōzu de, atama ga ii hito!

(Well, someone who is kind, good-looking, a good cook, and intelligent!!)

A : そんな人、永久に見つかりませんよ。
Sonna hito, eikyū ni mitukarimasen yo.

(You never find such a man ever!!)

(スーパーのレジで) (At a supermarket cash register)

店員 : レジ袋、要りますか。Rejibukuro, irimasu ka.

(Do you need a plastic bag?)

客 : あっ、いいです。持っていますから。A, iidesu. Motteimasu kara.

(Ah. No, thank you. I have one.)

A : 重そうですね。1つ持ちましょうか。

Omosō desu ne. Hitotsu mochimashō ka.

(Those look heavy. Shall I carry one of them?)

B : いいです、いいです。一人で持てますから。

Ii desu, ii desu. Hitori de motemasu kara.

(That's OK, that's OK. I can carry them by myself.)

A : エレベーターに 乗らないんですか。Erebētā ni noranain desu ka.
(Aren't you going to take the elevator?)

B : ええ、体にいいので、いつも階段を使うようにしています。

Ee, karada ni ii no de, itsumo kaidan o tsukau yō ni shiteirun desu.

(No. It is good for your health, so I always take the stairs.)

< 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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