

MOVIES

TOHO CINEMAS Niihama (AEON Mall)

- October 16 ~ Demon Slayer: Kimetsu no Yaiba
THE MOVIE "Infinity Train" Japanese
PG 12
- December 4 ~ The Witches English
- December 18 ~ Wonder Woman 1984 English
- December 18 ~ Bill and Ted face the Music English
Dubbed
- January 15 ~ Freaky PG 12 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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* The editors for this month are M. Hada & H. Yamamoto

ONE POINT JAPANESE

「夢中(むちゅう)」と「集中(しゅうちゅう)」の使い方

A: 田中さん、あそこで何をしているの?
 Tanaka san, asoko de nani o shiteiru no?
 (What is Tanaka-san doing over there?) 

B: いま、田中さんは「どうぶつの森」に夢中なんだよ。
 Ima, tanaka san wa "dōbutsu no mori" ni muchū nanda yo.
 (Right now Tanaka-san is absorbed in playing 'Doubutsu-no-mori'.)

A: ああ、任天堂のゲームだね。流行語になったよね。
 Ā, nintendō no gēmu da ne. Ryūkōgo ni natta yo ne.
 (Oh! That's the Nintendo game! It's become a buzzword!) 

B: 一度やり始めると、夢中になって何も聞こえないんだよ。
 Ichido yarihajimeru to, muchū ni natte nanimo kikoenain da yo.
 (Once he starts doing it, he gets so into it that he can't hear anything.)


A: 困ったね。もうすぐ、昼休みが終わるのよね。
 Komatta ne. Mō sugu hiru yasumi ga owaru noni ne.
 (That's too bad. Our lunchtime will be over soon.)

A: 日本語能力試験って、会場はどうだった?
 Nihongo nōryoku shaken tte, kaijō wa dō datta?
 (How was the test site for the Japanese-Language Proficiency Test?)

B: 思ったより隣のひとと近かったです。
 Omotta yori tonari no hito to chikakatta desu.
 (I was closer to the person next to me than I expected.)

三密を避けて、人が少ないと思っていたのに。
 Sammitsu o sakete, hito ga sukunai to omotteita noni.
 (To avoid the 3 Cs (Closed, Close-contact, Crowded) I thought there would be few people.)

だから集中できなくて……。結果が心配です。
 Dakara shūchū dekinakute.... Kekka ga shimpai desu.
 (That's why I couldn't concentrate on the test. I'm worried about the results.)

A: まあ、終わったんだから、忘れてゆっくりしよう。
 Mā, owattan dakara, wasurete yukkuri shiyō. 
 (Well, it's over, so you should forget it and relax.)

< 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.305 January 2021

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Kakizome 書き初め First Writing of the Year

'Kakizome' is a 1200 year old Japanese tradition of writing calligraphy for the first time that year usually on January 2nd. It started in the 8th century Heian era imperial court but eventually filtered down into the masses in the 17th century Edo era through temple-run schools. Ink was dissolved in the first water drawn from the well on New Year's Day, and people would face the favorable direction of that year, and write auspicious words or phrases in 'kanji' to show off their calligraphic skills. Recently people simply write their New Year's goal or resolution.

These writings were originally burned in the mid-January Dondo-yaki festivals (bon-fire events in which new year decorations are burnt) and it was thought, that like the smoke floating up to the heavens, writing skills would improve and goals would be met. But some people keep them in a visible place to keep their motivation up all year round. Students are often assigned 'Kakizome' as winter vacation home work.

In Ehime, I was able to experience 'Kakizome' first hand at the annual Matsuyama Castle event held on January 1st. After a pre-dawn hike to the castle, we watched the first sunrise of the year. Free pork miso soup was handed out to warm us up as we watched 'Shishi-mai' and 'Taiko' performances, and then we took turns to try our hands at 'Kakizome' with ink made from the castle's well-water.

In order to write skillfully, of course it is necessary to practice, and several sheets are written before the actual final 'piece' can be written. This is a ritual stemming from the art of 'Shodo' the Japanese 'way of writing'. Where you have just one chance to write perfectly and no touch ups or corrections can be made. If you make a mistake you have to start again from the beginning.

Hint for Hit

500 Colors of Colored Pencils: TOKYO SEEDS

Ehime Shinbun July 27,2020

Red to pink, pale yellow to green...emotions run high just by seeing the 500 hundred colored pencils, called "TOKYO SEEDS", made by Felissimo. A riot of colors provokes the creative mind. The selling price for all 500 colors is ¥71,500.

1992 was the 500th anniversary of Christopher Columbus reaching the American continent. To commemorate this occasion, a plan was made to create a dreamful new product with all members of the company participating. The 500 colored pencils was the idea of the company president himself who said, "I thought that we should create a new exciting product which only our company can produce."

The name of the colors is also daring. The president named light blue like an early summer sky, "koinobori (carp steamer) swimming sky". "Our company's name Felissimo means to realize happiness, so we wanted the names to express happiness through colors. Characteristics such as the realization of delicate florescent or metallic colors, the prismatic cross-sectional shapes that make the pencil hard to roll, and thicker lead are realized by our company's traditional skillful craftsmanship."

Naming of the colors are in both Japanese and English. Vivid yellow is TAXI RIDE (タクシーが快走) and so forth. There is a row of names that inflate fancy. With all his heart, he selected the name of the new product wishing, "From the seeds of happiness of 500 colors born in Tokyo, each and every owner makes their own flowers bloom."

Request to Ehime Shimbun by Ihara Mitsuko, Chief of Niihama Senryu-kai

(Ehime Shimbun, Oct. 15, 2020)

I have been writing Senryu, a type of comic Haiku, for a long time, so I make it a rule to read through newspapers every day in order to grasp what is happening in the world. Starting from the column, 'Chijiku', on the front page, then on to interesting articles, eventually checking all the headlines and turning all the pages. I subscribe to two newspapers, a local and a national paper. The best thing about the local paper is the reporting about familiar local topics, especially when my neighbors appear in the newspaper.

It is said that 'Shodo' has spiritual, mental and even organizational benefits which can improve your quality of life and overall skills. Grinding the wettened ink-stick into the ink-stone to create smooth consistent ink provides an opportunity for peaceful meditation. The distinct fresh ink smell is also relaxing. The repetitive nature of writing 'Shodo' (until you get it right) allows for routine, calmness and concentration on the immediate moment, and since mistakes cannot be covered up, 'Shodo' fosters patience, commitment and control for a steady, calm mind and body. It provides you with ways to improve your understanding of beauty as well as your ability to create it, as it includes elements of design, arrangement, balance, and simplicity that can be applied to other aspects of life too.

I started calligraphy thinking it would make me an expert at 'kanji.' Unfortunately, even after 20 years I have become somewhat of an expert at shapes and balance when "writing kanji with a brush while imitating a sample," but my concentration does not stretch to the readings and meanings. I do 'big-brush', 'small-brush' and 'pen' calligraphy, with level tests twice a year and submissions every month.

I'm just one level away from the instructor 'shihan' level for 'small brush' calligraphy...so my kakizome for this year will be 誠心誠意 with wholehearted effort in calligraphy and all my other endeavours. What will yours be?

Here are some typical Kakizome idioms...
しんまいってん 心機一転 turning over a new leaf,
こうこくのこころざし 鴻鵠之志 soaring high with aspirations,
ししふんじん 獅子奮迅 with determination of a raging lion, ゆうおうまいしん 勇往邁進 full speed ahead,
いちねんほつき 一念発起 take the initiative, しよしかんてつ 初志貫徹 adhering to original intention,
いちいせんしん 一意専心 concentration with heart and soul, いっかだんらん 一家団欒 harmonious household, むびょうそくさい 無病息災 in sound health, たいぜんじやく 泰然自若 imperturbable calmness and poise,
めいきょうしすい 明鏡止水 clear and serene as a polished mirror or still water



Noella came to Toyo as an ALT and has experience teaching at nursery schools, elementary schools and junior high schools. She is a car, boat and private plane license holder. When she's not taking pictures of, or climbing Mt. Ishizuchi, she runs marathons, does aerial yoga, does Japanese calligraphy, learns and teaches figure skating and appears on a local FM radio show.

I hope that Ehime Shimbun will report what is going on in the present real world accurately and in detail. I sometimes feel the writing is stereotypical, or in a uniform tone, like "We're expecting ~" or "~ is required". I'd like to read an identifiable article which expresses the reporter's personality vividly. I hope they will value the reporter's thoughts and how he or she lives.

Ihara Mitsuko, 84, a chief of Niihama Senryu-Kai.


January Event


- ★1/1: New Year's Day
People pay a visit to a Shinto shrine to pray for happiness and good health.
- ★Akagane Museum
○1/2 Lion Dance 10:00AM~5:00PM Free Admission
○1/2 · 1/3 Yo-Yo Beanbag Making 10:00~11:00 AM Free Admission
○1/2 · 1/3 Kakizome (First Calligraphy of the Year) 10:00AM~2:00PM Free Admission
You can join without any tools.
○~1/7 Exhibition of "Omocha-toshokan & Otedama Free Admission

Global Party in 2021 is cancelled due to COVID-19.



Online Information in English from Niihama City

★Garbage Rules: 
Go to: city.niihama.lg.jp
Search: How to sort and put out your trash and garbage"

★What's New? in English & Chinese 
Go to: city.niihama.lg.jp/soshiki/chiiki/whatsnew2019.html

Multilingual Living Information from Clair:
<http://www.clair.or.jp.tagengorev/en/>