

## MOVIES

### TOHO CINEMAS Niihama (AEON Mall)

December 8 ~	Wonka	Dub
December 15 ~	Wish	Dub
December 15 ~	Paw Patrol: The Mighty Movie	Dub
January 12 ~	Aquaman and the Lost Kingdom	Sub / Dub
February 16 ~	Beau is afraid	Sub

Movies might be changed without notice. So please check the homepage for information.

#### Information Service

Internet: [niihama-aeonmall.com](http://niihama-aeonmall.com)

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



This newsletter is published by SGG, a volunteer group that helps foreigners living in and around 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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## ONE POINT JAPANESE

「それが」の使い方  
(How to use 'that')

A : にほんごのうりよくしけん 結果、もうすぐ で 出ますね。  
Nihongo nōryoku shiken no kekka, mōsugu demasu ne.

(The Japanese Language Proficiency Test results come out soon, right?)

B : ビエンさんは、よく できた と いって いたから、たのしみですね。  
Vien san wa, yoku dekita to itte itakara, tanoshimi desu ne.

(Vien-san, you said you did well, so you're looking forward to it,

right?)

A : それが、あとから かんがえたら、どっかい 読解が ぜんぜん できて いない ことが わかって、おちこ んで いるの。  
Sore ga, atokara kangaetara, dokkai ga zenzen dekite inai koto ga wakatte, ochikonde iru no.

(Well, about that. When I thought about it later, I realized I didn't do well on the reading, so I feel down.)

B : そうですか。じゃあ、しちがつ 7月に いっしょ 一緒に う受けましょう。  
Sōdesu ka. Jā, shichigatsu ni issho ni ukemashō.

(Really? Then, let's take the test together in July.)



A : こんど 今度の にほんご 日本語の せんせい 先生、おとなしおとなし そうな ひと 人だね。  
Kondo no nihongo no sensei, otonashisō na hito da ne.

(The new Japanese teacher looks quiet, doesn't he?)

B : それが、おとなおとなしい どころか、すごいんだよ。  
Sore ga, otonashi dokoroka, sugoin da yo.

(About that - far from being quiet, he is amazing!)

A : へえ、どんな ふうに すごいの？  
Hē, donna fū ni sugoi no?

(Wow, how is he amazing?)

B : それが、からて せんせい 先生の しかく 資格を も持 って いるんだって。  
Karate no sensei no shikaku o motte irun datte.

(I heard he has a license as a karate teacher.)



A : スキーツアー、どうだった？ Sūkī tsuā, dō datta?  
(How was your ski tour?)

(How was your ski tour?)

B : それが、ゆきが た足りなくて、すべる ことが できな かつたんだ。  
Sorega, yuki ga tarinakute, suberu koto ga dekinakattan da.

(Well, we couldn't ski due to the lack of snow.)

< by Niihama Nihongo no Kai >

NNK also provides Japanese lessons for foreigners living in Niihama.

Feel free to contact us at: Niihama Kokusai Kōryū Kyōkai

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# What's New?

Niihama City

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## Valentine's Day

Sophia Carrico

In Japan, gifts of chocolate reign supreme above all others when celebrating Valentine's Day. This interpretation of the holiday is a bit different from what I experienced growing up in the southern part of the United States. One of the most interesting differences is how Valentine's Day is acknowledged and even celebrated while in school in America, using class time for the holiday, starting as early as elementary school.

In the days leading up to Valentine's Day, we were instructed to bring an empty tissue box to class. We would decorate it with construction paper hearts of red and pink as well as our names. These boxes were the perfect size and shape to become our very own mailboxes to be placed on desk corners and filled with Valentine's cards. The cards were made of serrated card stock and typically had cartoon characters in a variety of poses with cheesy phrases written across them. There was only enough space on the cards to fill out the sender and receivers' names as well as a small message if you wrote tiny. Some of the cards came with lollipops attached or stickers of

the characters. I remember preparing the cards the night before, carefully selecting the cards with the coolest characters to give to my friends. On Valentine's Day, we would all walk around the classroom depositing a card into each box as it was

mandatory to bring a card for everyone in your class. We returned to our desks to a box full of cards and small candies, ready to be taken home and read.

In junior high and high school, this system was completely abandoned. No more did we make mailboxes out of tissue boxes or fill out cartoon character covered cards. That type of thing was now considered too childish for us teens. Instead, for the price of \$2 you could send a carnation to your friends or crushes which would be delivered to them while they were in class. This went over about as well as could be expected amongst teenagers.

It is interesting that a holiday dedicated to love and appreciation of others would receive so much attention during the school day as this is a subject that one is generally expected to learn about on their own time. The message is quite positive though so I think this Valentine's day in Japan, I will attach a note of appreciation to the chocolate that I hand out.

Sophia Carrico was born and raised in Houston, Texas USA. After completing a college degree, she transferred to Sophia University in Tokyo which she graduated from in 2021. She moved to Niihama with her Japanese husband in November of 2022. She currently works as a teacher at an English conversation school and enjoys walking their 2 dogs near the river.

### Something Wonderful

(Ehime Shimbun: November 22, 2023)

"Coverage Frontier" Column

*Kuwabara Daisuke, Digital News Department*

When I recently attended a pediatrician's lecture on the influence of smartphones, TV programs and videos on infant children, I had to say "Uh-oh". A chill ran down my spine when the doctor warned against smartphone babysitting, explaining that much research suggests that TV and videos have a negative influence on children. The doctor went on to emphasize some of the specific problems that come with screens, such as the deterioration of eyesight, physical strength and linguistic development.

In my two-income home with a two-year-old son, it can be exhausting taking care of him after work. Before the lecture, it was not uncommon that I would sit on the sofa to catch my breath and let the TV help with childcare. They say that children under the age of two must not be allowed to look at screens, and even after two screen time must be limited to two hours a day.

The doctor also advised us to try a more engaging activity, so-called 'something wonderful', like reading a picture or story book, or playing together.

Since the lecture, I have increased playtime with my son in an effort to maintain "two hours a day". In the beginning he disliked switching off the TV, but now he gives me a laugh calling out, "Papa!" I have been frequently and pleasantly surprised with his development seeing all of the new things he can do. As long as the parent engages with something wonderful, the child will return in kind.

### Be Prepared for Disasters!

(Ehime Shimbun: January 11, 2024)

Early earthquake alerts sounded over and over again and TV newscasters called for evacuation. On January first of this year, a big earthquake hit the Noto Peninsula in Ishikawa Prefecture. As the old saying goes, "Disasters come without regard for human convenience." We were confronted with this harsh reality once again.

Evacuees are still having difficulty securing water and toilets even a week after the earthquake occurred. It seems that their importance is emphasized after every natural disaster, but individual preparation is still lacking.

Previously, this newspaper reported on how to use toilets in a disaster, and I tried using portable toilets in my house. When you use one, you should set a plastic bag on the toilet and put some powder into the bag to solidify moisture. It was unexpectedly easy to use, and I feel strongly that every home should stockpile these kinds of portable toilets.

As a professor of Ehime University who is an earthquake expert said, "This earthquake has caused comprehensive damage," an earthquake may not only cause the collapse of buildings, but also tsunami or fires. If possible, stockpile a week's supply of water, food and portable toilets in the house, the outdoor shed, stock house or in a car.

News Department  
Masuda Yuri

### February Event

Niihama SDGs Art Festival

February 2<sup>nd</sup>(Sat) to 13<sup>th</sup>(Mon)

9:30AM to 9:00PM (3:00 on 13<sup>th</sup>(Mon))

Akagane Museum Admission Free

Further Information :

Niihama SDGs Art Executive Committee







Tel : 090 2788 9931

### The 32<sup>nd</sup> Global Party

- Date: February 11<sup>th</sup> (Sun) 1:00pm~3:30pm
- Venue: Niihama Women's Plaza
- Fee: ¥500/person Free for children 6yrs and below
- How about wearing your national costume or trying Japanese Yukata?
- Learn some fun dance moves!
- Meet some new friends!
- Have some drinks and snacks.
- Choose some Japanese tableware or kimono from the Giveaway Corner.



### Online Information in English from Niihama City

- ☆ A Guide for Living in Niihama 
- ☆ The Niihama Medical Institution Map 
- ☆ How to Sort Your Trash and Garbage 
- ☆ What's New? in English 
- ☆ Niihama Tourist Information  
<https://niihama.info/> 
- ☆ Help with legal matters, discrimination, insurance, etc  
Japan Life Guide  
(Nationwide service) multilingual 
- ☆ Yorisoi Helpline for foreigners  
[TEL:0120-279-338](tel:0120-279-338) 10:00 a.m.~10:00 p.m.  
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