



## Don't Fear Failure!

In this issue of Mimitaro, we spoke with Mizuna Ando, from Omihachiman, who works at a hotel.



I came to Japan 8 years ago, after graduating from high school in the Philippines at 17. Until then, my sister and I had been raised by my grandmother, and I was overjoyed at the prospect of

living with my mother.

After arriving, I started going to a class for foreign students, the Niji Kyoshitsu. Since I was still of high school age here, I learned Japanese and studied intensively for my high school entrance exams. I remember practicing countless times for things like answering entrance interview questions, and properly opening the door and sitting. I went to Seiryō High School, which had many foreign students and offered a Japanese language course. I still look back fondly at the time I couldn't pronounce “hyaku en (100 yen)” and my teacher made me repeat it a hundred times. At the same time, I was lonely because I could only have simple conversations with my classmates; then I joined the badminton club and made friends, making my school life much more pleasant. They would correct me when I spoke, and I did my best to talk a lot and improved. Since I could use my school credits from the Philippines, I graduated from Seiryō after two years and went on to study English, Portuguese and Spanish at the Kyoto Junior College of Foreign Languages. Then, after working part-time for a year at “Hotel New Omi” in Shiga, I was hired, and I now I manage the front desk, where I can fully use my languages skills.

I like communicating with others, so I'm glad I found a job that's right for me. Since I work at a medium-size

hotel, I get to do other jobs around the hotel, too. It's interesting to get to know the whole place. I even sometimes drive the shuttle bus. Since I work with guests, my words, etiquette and my thoughtfulness are all very important, and what I learned in Japanese class and high school comes in handy. Guests may be surprised or praise me when they see I'm not Japanese, but polite speech continues to be a struggle for me. Also, since regional dialect can be hard to understand, I sometimes get callers who ask me to give the phone to a Japanese person. All of these are just more experience, and each failure just helps me grow. It may get me down sometimes, but I'm always better the next day.

Just like at any other workplaces, another thing that's difficult at work is the relationship with others. While I'm not Japanese, I had bitter memories of being bullied for having a Japanese face in the Philippines. Unfortunately, there are mean people in every country, so when I meet someone like that, I make sure to leave them alone. I overcame the hardship of living away from my parents during my childhood, but it wasn't all bad: it may have made me a stronger person.

Lastly, while I do not love studying, since coming to Japan I've done my best and become the person I am today. When I think about the many children back in my home country who are too poor to go to school, I think to myself how lucky I was to have been able to study like that in Japan. That's why I want to tell all of those who follow the same path not to abandon Japanese because it's hard; I hope you will tie this opportunity to your dream.



## Expanded Free Preschool and Daycare

The free preschool and daycare expansion will begin in October 2019. Please contact the establishment directly or your city hall to find out the extent and conditions of the expansion, since they vary depending on the establishment



- ◇ **In the case of kindergartens(yochien), daycares(hoikuen), certified centers for early childhood education and care(nintei kodomoen), and other establishments:** Free for children in classes for 3- to 5-year-olds. In the case of children from 0 to 2 years of age, free for households exempt from paying residence tax.
- ◇ **In the case of daycare services provided by a kindergarten:** You must get a proof of required daycare services from your city or town of residence. Using kindergarten's services and depending on the number of days of use, fees up to a maximum of ¥11,300 per month may be waived for daycare services.
- ◇ **In the case of unlicensed daycares:** You must get a proof of required daycare services from your city or town of residence. Fees up to ¥37,000 per month may be waived for children from 3 to 5 years of age. In the case of children from 0 to 2 years of age from households exempt from paying residence tax, fees up to ¥42,000 per month may be waived.
- ◇ **Support for children with disabilities of preschool age:** Free for children from 3 to 5 years of age who receive developmental support for children with disabilities of preschool age.

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## Bank Accounts and Remittance for Foreigners

- ◇ Those who are in Japan on a tourist visa or other short stay visa cannot open a bank account in Japan.
- ◇ A residence card, a My Number card or another identity document, a proof of current address and a personal seal (*inkan*) are required to open a bank account.
- ◇ Banks or money transfer service providers can be used when transferring money to another country.
- ◇ Companies who transfer money without registration are operating illegally and must not be used.
  - ✧ When transferring money abroad, the My Number is required.
- ◇ Contact the financial institution if the address, period of stay, status changes, after leaving the school or work, or if a bank book or cash card is lost. When the account will no longer be used because of a return to the home country, the account should be closed.



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## Consumption Tax Rising to 10% (Starting from October)

- ◇ Food (except restaurants and alcohol) and newspaper subscription will remain at 8%.
- ◇ To mitigate the burden on households, cities and towns are selling or issuing some families (those exempt from residential tax, those with small children) premium coupons that offer 25% rebates. ( valid until 6 months after the tax rise.)



# 「We Want your Opinion on Evening Middle School」

## What is evening middle school?

A school for people who did not attend middle school in the postwar chaos, who graduated without receiving a complete education due to circumstances such as non-attendance, or who come from abroad, etc., and who want to gain middle school-level knowledge and abilities.

## How it works:

Students of any age and from any country may attend.

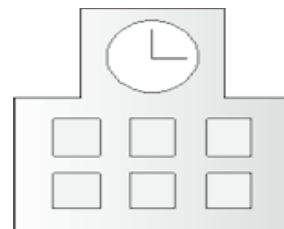
Tuition is free.

Classes happen 5 times a week, every evening.

The same subjects are covered as in a daytime middle school.

The teacher are all public middle school teachers who have a teacher's license.

The student becomes a middle school graduate once all courses are completed.



The Shiga Prefectural Board of Education is carrying out a survey to find out how necessary evening middle school and other means of catching up on education are necessary. If you wish to enroll in evening middle school or are thinking of introducing it to a family member, friend or acquaintance, please consider participating.

## How to participate in the survey

- ① Answer on a paper copy of the survey, which can be found in a variety of places such as city halls, city boards of education, and international associations.
- ② Put the survey in the return box at one of the above locations, or send it by fax to the Prefectural Board of Education.
- ③ Answer the survey on the Shiga Net online service.  
(The page is accessible from the Shiga prefectural website: <http://www.pref.shiga.lg.jp>)
- ④ Answer by telephone by contacting the Prefectural Board of Education.
- ⑤ If help in other languages is required, contact the Shiga Foreign Residents Information Center (Tel: 077- 523 - 5646 or email: [mimitaro@s-i-a.or.jp](mailto:mimitaro@s-i-a.or.jp))

※ The paper surveys and return boxes will be available until the end of December 2019.

### Contact information

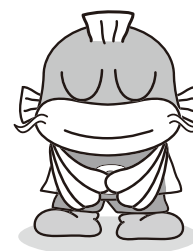
Shiga Prefectural Board of Education Educational Bureau

Early Childhood and Compulsory Education Division

Curriculum and Instruction Section

Tel. 077 – 528 – 4665

Fax 077 – 528 – 4953



# Event Information

## ◆ Nagahama Kimono Garden Party

10/12 (Sat) from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Around Nagahama city; 3-24 Kitafuna-cho

The most important kimono event in Japan, where about 1,000 kimono-clad women gather in Nagahama city.

 Nagahama Kimono Festival Steering Committee

Tel. 0749-65-6521



## ◆ Ojaya Suwa Family Estate Visits

11/3 (Sun) from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

171 Akanoi-cho, Moriyama city

A historical building used by local leaders (Shoya) since the Edo period.

City-designated cultural property; Japanese Heritage site

 Moriyama City Culture and Sports Promotion Corporation

Tel. 077-516-8160



## ◆ Aisho 66 Kiln Festival

10/27 (Sun) from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Abiko (Rapport Hatasho), Aisho-cho, Echi-gun

Sale of Aisho-cho local specialty products, presentation and experiencing of local groups' activities, stage events, flea market, and more!

 Aisho 66 Kiln Festival Office

Tel. 0749-37-3951



## Famous Spots for Fall Leaves Viewing



### National Treasure

#### \*Konan Sanzan Foliage Tour

11/16 (Sat) to 12/1 (Sun) from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

6-4 Nishidera, Konan city

 Konan City Tourism Office Tel. 0748-71-2157

#### \*Autumn Leaves and Nightscape

11/2 (Sat) to 11/24 (Sun) from sundown to 9 p.m.

776-3 Yamanaka-cho, Otsu city

Enjoy the lit-up foliage and the view of Lake Biwa at night!

 Hieizan Driveway Tel. 077-529-2216

#### \*Metasequoia Road Fall Leaves Festival

From mid-November to the beginning of December

Terakubo, Makino-cho, Takashima City

 Biwako Takashima Tourism Association

Tel. 0740-33-7101

#### \*Fall Leaves at Saimyoji Temple, Koto Sanzan

From mid-November to the end of November

26 Ozaikadera, Koura-cho, Inugami-gun

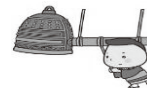
 Koura-cho Tourist Association

Tel. 0749-38-2035

The next issue of Mimitaro will be in January.

## New Year Bell Ringing

(12/31)



### ◆ Hikone Castle Bell 11 p.m. to midnight

(1-1 Konki-cho, Hikone City)

 Hikone Castle Management Office

Tel. 0749-22-2742

### ◆ Hieizan Enryakuji from 11:40 p.m.

(4220 Sakamoto Honmachi-cho, Otsu City)

 Hieizan Enryakuji

Tel. 077-578-0001

### ◆ Toyomitsu Shrine

(392 Toyomitsu, Aisho-cho, Echi-gun)

 Toyomitsu Shrine

Tel. 0749-42-3448



## Happy New Year 2020!



### New Year's Celebrations (1/1)



#### Taga Taisha

from midnight

(604 Taga, Taga-cho, Inugami-gun)

 Taga Taisha

Tel. 0749-48-1101



#### Toyomitsu Shrine from 10:30 a.m.

(392 Toyomitsu, Aisho-cho, Inugami-gun)

 Toyomitsu Shrine

Tel. 0749-42-3448



#### Namura Shrine

from midnight to 5 p.m.

(467 Ayado, Ryu O-cho, Kamô-gun)

 Namura Shrine

Tel. 0748-57-0160

### Kurokabe Bldg.13

#### Kurokabe Experience Center



11-21 Motoyama-cho, Nagahama city

10 a.m. to 6 p.m. (until 5 from November to March)

Make your very own glass creation!

• Fubuki Glass Experience ¥3,700 plus tax

• Stained Glass Experience from ¥3,500 plus tax

• Glass Bead Experience ¥3,000 plus tax

 Kurokabe

Tel : 0749-65-2330

## SIA Information

 Shiga Intercultural Association for Globalization

<http://www.s-i-a.or.jp/events/424>

### ▼“Career Fair” for Students with Foreign Roots

Participants: Students with foreign roots (from 5th grade to senior high school) and their parents, etc.

Date/Time: 10/20 (Sun) from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Venue: “G-NET Shiga”

(80-4 Takakai-cho, Omihachiman City)

### ▼Artists from Abroad Exhibition at Piazza Omi

Artist: Joan Lee

Date: 11/1 (Fri) to 11/15 (Fri)

Place: Piazza Omi, first floor

(1-1-20 Nionohama, Otsu City)