



## Never give up on your dreams!

In this issue of Mimitaro, we interviewed Ms. Anny Kuratomi, who teaches Japanese at a Brazilian School.



I was born in Colombia, and spent my childhood days in Omihachiman. From the age of 4, I went to a nursery school run by a Brazilian, and learned Portuguese from my teachers. At home, we had a rule that we speak only Spanish. From a young age, it was very natural for me to use different languages at home and outside, and at nursery school I used to interpret between the teachers and my mother. Next in elementary school, I started learning Japanese. I consider myself as Japanese inside, but I think I picked up all the foundations of Japanese culture and language during elementary school. When I first started school, I was strictly instructed on everything from Japanese pronunciation to how to use chopsticks, which made me cry, but now I am very thankful for that. In the upper grades, the children around me started to comment on my appearance, and it was a difficult time for me. Even in those times, I was able to find emotional support at *gakudo* (after school children's club). There were kind teachers and friends of various ages, and it was like a big friendly family.

After graduating elementary school, we moved to Higashiomi, where I had to start junior high school without knowing anyone. Due to difficult adolescent relationships, I was subjected to severe bullying. "Don't touch, your dirty, go to hell." Harsh words were thrown at me, and my bicycle got tampered with graffiti. Days continued where I felt as if I was being erased and living in a world without color. Under this situation, it seemed impossible to study but I had a vague dream "to go to university" and for that I strongly wished to enter high school. With limited options for further education, what I chose was a correspondence high school. At first, I was embarrassed to go to a different school from everyone else, but I think it was a very positive decision. Since it was a credit-based school where students could choose the subjects they wanted to study and learn at their own pace, there was a

high degree of freedom. My high school years were an important period for me to be free from the strict school system and regain my self-confidence. At the same time, the "way of life" I encountered in the Brazilian community gave me the strength to get back on my feet, and a side benefit was that I became fluent in Portuguese, which I had not spoken since preschool, through my relationships with Brazilians.

I had planned to go on to university after graduating from high school, but being unsure of what I wanted to study, for the time being, I started working part time to save money for higher education. Around that time, I accompanied a friend of mine to interpret at *HelloWork* and was recommended to work as a Portuguese interpreter at the city hall. There, I was exposed to the real world, including meeting foreign residents with various problems. I became acutely aware of the need for English, and I was able to find the path I wanted to pursue. After working for two years, I went to an English language school and started studying English. I felt as if my world had suddenly expanded and my interest in the language grew even more. Now, I am studying linguistics at university and have been teaching Japanese at a Brazilian school for the past two years. Although the number of Japanese classes at Brazilian school is limited, I am working to create enjoyable classes, hoping that the children will learn Japanese properly so that they can succeed in Japanese society. With the increasing number of foreign residents, I wish to see a change in society where foreigners can play a more active role under a fair system, and we ourselves would like to change our mindset of separating "since they are Japanese" and "since we are foreigners," and grow to understand each other.

Starting with my native language Spanish, each time I encounter a different language, I enjoy discovering a new part of myself. My dream is to continue my research on linguistics and one day to create a school where foreigners and Japanese can learn various languages and cultures together. If you have a dream, please don't give up and hope you find your own path.

## Interpretation \* Consultation Desks for Foreign Residents in Shiga

Note: "Others" is by AI interpreting devices and remote interpreting



Area	Consultation Desk	Language(s)	Consultation Schedule	Contact
<b>Otsu</b>	City Hall Kanko Shinko-ka MICE Promotion Office	English, others	Mon - Fri 9:00am-5:00pm	077-528-2864
	Otsu Int'l. Goodwill Association Free Private Consultation for Foreign Residents	Japanese	2 <sup>nd</sup> Wed 5:30pm-, 6:15pm-, 7:00pm- (Reservation required)	077-525-4711
<b>Hikone</b>	City Hall Hikone Foreign Residents Support Center ( <i>Hikone Gaikokujin Soudan Center</i> ) · Honkan (main bldg) 3F Jinken seisaku-ka · Chuo-cho bekkann (annex) 1F	Portuguese	Mon - Fri 8:30am-5:15pm 1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Thu 8:30am-7:00pm	0749-30-6113
		English	Mon - Fri	
		Chinese	Tue, Fri (Wed) 8:30am-5:15pm	
		Vietnamese	Tue, Thu, Fri	
<b>Nagahama</b>	City Hall Shimin-ka	Portuguese, Spanish	Thu 8:30am-7:00pm	0749-65-8711
		English, others	Mon - Wed, Fri 8:30am-5:15pm	
		Vietnamese	Tue 1:00-5:15pm Thu 1:00-7:00pm	
	Nagahama-shi Tabunka Kyosei Kokusai Bunka Koryu House (GEO)	Japanese	Every day (expect Thu) 10:00am-6:00pm	0749-63-4400
<b>Omi-hachiman</b>	City Hall 2F International Association	Portuguese, English, others	Mon - Fri 9:00am-4:45pm	0748-26-7092
<b>Kusatsu</b>	City Hall 2F Machizukuri Kyodo-ka	English, others	Mon - Fri 9:00am-4:00pm	077-561-2337
<b>Moriyama</b>	Moriyama Int'l. Friendship Assn Moriyama Shimin Koryu Center	English (Inquire beforehand for other languages)	Mon - Fri 9:00am-4:30pm	077-583-4653
<b>Ritto</b>	City Hall 3F Ritto Int'l. Friendship Association	Portuguese	Wed 1:00-5:00pm	077-551-0293
<b>Koka</b>	City Hall Shimin Katsudo Suishin-ka	Portuguese, Spanish others	Mon - Fri 8:30am-5:15pm	0748-69-2146
	City Hall Kosodate Seisaku-ka			0748-69-2176
	Koka International Society Koka Multicultural Center	Portuguese, Spanish English, others	Tue - Sun 9:00am-5:00pm (Reservation required)	0748-70-3721
<b>Yasu</b>	City Hall Kikaku Chosei-ka Each department	English, others	Mon - Fri 8:30am-5:15pm	077-587-6039
	Yasu Int'l. Friendship Association South Annex	English	Mon - Fri 9:00am-5:00pm	077-586-3106
<b>Konan</b>	City Hall Higashi chosha 1F Jinken Yogo-ka	Portuguese, others	Mon - Fri 9:00am-4:00pm	0748-71-2354
	Konan Int'l. Association City hall Nishi chosha 4F	Portuguese, others	Mon - Fri 8:30am-5:00pm	0748-69-7530
		Vietnamese	4 <sup>th</sup> Fri 8:30am-5:00pm	
<b>Takashima</b>	Takashima Int'l. Friendship Assn	English, Vietnamese	Irregular schedule (by appointment)	0740-20-1180
<b>Higashiomi</b>	City Hall Shinkan Shimin Seikatsu Soudan-ka	Portuguese, others	Mon - Fri 9:00am-5:00pm	0748-24-5521
<b>Maibara</b>	City Hall Santo Shisho Chiiki Shinko-ka	Portuguese, others	Mon - Fri 8:30am-5:15pm	0749-53-5172
	Maibara Multicultural and International Association Santo shisho bekkann (annex) 2F	Portuguese	Mon - Fri 9:00am-5:00pm	0749-56-0577
		Chinese	Mon - Thu 9:00am-3:00pm	
<b>Hino</b>	Town Office Jumin-ka	Portuguese	Mon, Wed, Thu 9:00am-5:00pm	0748-52-6571
<b>Aisho</b>	Town Office Echigawa Chosha Mirai Sosei-ka	Portuguese	Mon, Tue, Fri 8:30am-5:15pm Wed, Thu 8:30am-4:30pm	0749-29-9046
		Others	Mon - Fri 8:30am-5:15pm	
<b>Shiga Prefecture</b>	Shiga Intercultural Association for Globalization / Shiga Foreign Residents Information Center	Portuguese, Spanish, Tagalog, English, Vietnamese, others	Mon - Fri 10:00am-5:00pm	077-523-5646

# Japanese Language Classes in Shiga



Area	Classroom Name	Venue	Class Schedule	Contact
Otsu	OIGA Hamaotsu class	Otsu Kokusai Koryu Salon	Fri 1:30-2:30pm, 7:00-8:00pm	077-525-4711
	OIGA Katata class	Katata Community Center	Thu 10:00-11:45am	
	Nihongo no kai	Otsu Kominkan	Thu 10:00am-12:00pm	090-1479-5468
	Omi Nihongo Fureai Club	Piazza Omi 2F	Mon 10:30am-2:00pm	077-523-1061
		Seta-kita Kominkan	Sat 7:30-9:10pm	
Tabunka Kyosei Shien Club	Seta Kominkan 2F	Fri 7:00-8:30pm	077-543-9414	
Hikone	International Association Nihongo Hiroba	Hikone Kokusai Koryu Salon	Inquiry required	0749-22-5931
	Nihongo Kyoshitsu Smile	Innovation Office Nayashichi	Mon - Fri ①9:30-10:50am ②11:00-12:20pm ③1:30-2:50pm ④3:00-4:20pm	070-5661-7345
	VOICE Nihongo Kyoshitsu	Naka-chiku Kominkan	Sat 2:00-4:00pm	090-5156-6916
Nagahama	Nagahama UNESCO Kyokai Nihongo Kyoshitsu	Kokusai Bunka Koryu House	Wed, Sat 7:00-8:30pm	0749-65-6552
	Tanoshii Nihongo	GEO	Tue 6:30-8:00pm	0749-63-4400
Omi-hachiman	Nihongo Koryu Kyoshitsu Tanpopo	Kaneda Community Center	Sat 7:00-9:00pm	0748-26-7092
	Nihongo Koryu Kyoshitsu Azuchi	Azuchi Community Center		
	Nakayoshi Nihongo Koryu Kyoshitsu	Kaneda Community Center	Wed 10:00-11:30am	
Kusatsu	Olive	Kirarie Kusatsu	Sat 7:00-8:40pm	077-565-9215
	SHIPS	Tabunka Kyosei Shien Center	Wed, Fri 10:30am-12:00pm	077-561-5110
	KIFA Nihongo Hiroba "Kizuna"	Ritsumeikan Univ. BKC	Sat 10:20am-12:00pm	077-561-2322
Moriyama	Moriyama Nihongo Kyoshitsu	Moriyama	1 <sup>st</sup> - 4 <sup>th</sup> Sat 10:00-11:50am	077-583-4653
	Nihongo Salon	Shimin Koryu Center	Mon - Fri 10:00am-12:00pm	090-8648-9749
Ritto	RIFA Nihongo Kyoshitsu	Community Center Daihou	2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Sat 10:15-11:45am	077-551-0293
Koka	KIS Ninja Nihongo Kyoshitsu	Minakuru Plaza	Sat 7:30-9:30pm	0748-63-8728
	KIS Nihongo Kyoshitsu "Niji"	Maroom	Mon 2:00-4:00pm	
	Hajimete no Nihongo	Minakuru Plaza	Inquiry required	
Yasu	YIFA Nihongo Kyoshitsu	Yasu International Association	Arrangements possible	077-586-3106
Konan	KIA Nihongo Kyoshitsu Ishibe	Ishibe Machizukuri Center	Mon 2:00-3:30pm Wed 3:30-5:00pm Thu 7:00-8:30pm	0748-69-7530
	KIA Nihongo Kyoshitsu Mito	Mito Community Center	Sat 6:30-8:00pm	
	Caminando	ELD	Mon, Wed 7:00-9:00pm	090-1448-3350
Takashima	International Association Nihongo Kyoshitsu	Imazuhigashi Community Center	Arrangements possible	0740-20-1180
	Nihongo de Hanaso	Shin-asahi Kominkan	5 times a year (Inquiry required)	
Higashiomi	Yokaichi Nihongo Kyoshitsu	Higashiomi International Friendship Association	Sat 1:30-3:00 pm 1 <sup>st</sup> - 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sun 1:30-3:00 pm	050-5802-9606
	Notogawa Nihongo Kyoshitsu	Notogawa Community Center	1 <sup>st</sup> - 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sun 1:30-3:00 pm	
Maibara	Nihongo Kyoshitsu	Maibara City Hall Santo shisho bekkann (annex)	Sat 9:30-11:00 am	0749-56-0577
Aisho	International Friendship Assn. Volunteer Nihongo Kyoshitsu	Echigawa Kominkan	Sat, Sun ①10:00-11:30am ②1:30-3:00pm ③3:15-4:45pm	070-5593-1769
Toyosato	Nihongo Yomikaki Kyoshitsu	Toyosato Rinpokan	2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Sat 2:00-4:00pm	0749-35-0611
Online	ONRITANS	Online classes	Mon - Fri / Arrangements possible	satorubox@gmail.com

# Mimitaro Information



*Be careful of heat stroke and enjoy the summer!*

## ◆ Fireworks Festival

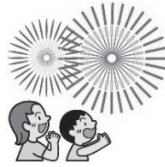
Echigawa Gion Noryosai Fireworks Festival Jul 13<sup>th</sup> (Sat)

Otsu Shiga Fireworks Festival Jul 25<sup>th</sup> (Thu)

Koka-ryu Ninnin Fireworks Festival Jul 27<sup>th</sup> (Sat)

Biwako Fireworks Festival Aug 8<sup>th</sup> (Thu)

Nagahama Kitabiwako Fireworks Festival  
Sept 17<sup>th</sup> (Tue) - 20<sup>th</sup> (Fri)



## ◆ Konan Summer Festival

Aug 3<sup>rd</sup> (Sat) 4:00-8:30pm

Yasugawa Shinsui Park 589 Natsumi Konan

## ◆ Taga Taisha Manto Sai (Lantern Festival)

Aug 3<sup>rd</sup> (Sat), 4<sup>th</sup> (Sun), 5<sup>th</sup> (Mon)

Taga Taisha 604 Taga Taga-cho Inukami-gun

## ◆ Nagahama Railway Museum (Japanese heritage)

The facility shows the development of Japan's railroad culture, including the oldest existing railroad station building in Japan. Visitors can see real SL and diesel trains up close.

1-41 Kitafuna-cho Nagahama

## ◆ Shiga Agricultural Park Blume no Oka

New animals have joined the park, a new course has been added to the climbing attraction, and the "Seseragi Ogawa" water play area has opened!

843 Nishioji Hino-cho Gamo

## ◆ ASOBIWA HIRA BASE

Located on Omi Maiko Minami-hama, a spot where you can enjoy lake activities and BBQ to the fullest in a location with beautiful white sand beaches.

Open all summer 9:00am-5:00pm

934-2 Kitahira Otsu



## ◆ Outdoor Swimming Pool (fee required) Jul-Aug

There are also children's pool and waterslides too!

Yabase Kihanto Park 2108 Yabase-cho Kusatsu

Rokuha Park 11-2 7chome Oiwake Kusatsu

※ Please check the calendars of each facility.

## ◆ Free Open Days of Prefectural Facilities!

"Kazoku Fureai Sunday (Family day)"

Date: 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday every month

Target: Families residing in the prefecture.

"Taiken Gakushu no Hi (Hands on learning day)"

Date: Every Saturday

Target: Children under 18 who lives in, or are enrolled in a school or kindergarten in the prefecture.

Eligible Facilities:

- Samegai Trout Farm (Free admission)
  - Azuchi Castle Archaeological Museum (Free admission to permanent exhibits ※Closed until Sept 2<sup>nd</sup>)
  - Lake Biwa Museum (Free admission to permanent exhibits)
  - Shiga Museum of Art (Free admission to permanent exhibits)
  - Shigaraki Ceramic Cultural Park Ceramic Museum (Free admission to special exhibits)
- ※ To use the service please show a proof of residence



# Mimitaro News

## ◆ The Child Allowance System will be changed!

Income restrictions on child allowance will be abolished from the October payment. The payment period will be extended from "until the end of junior high school" to "until the end of senior high school age." 15,000 yen per month will be paid to children aged 0 to 2, 10,000 yen per month to children aged 3 to the end of the first March of their 18th year, and 30,000 yen per month to the third and subsequent children. The month of payment will also change to six times a year. (Even-numbered months)

## ◆ Shiga Prefecture's first Night Junior High School will open! (Open in April 2025)

Konan-shi Kosei Night Junior High School

School information session will be held

August 31<sup>st</sup> (Sat) 2:00pm, October 25<sup>th</sup> (Fri) 6:00pm

Night junior high school: A place for relearning for people who have passed the school age without completing compulsory education, those who graduated from junior high school without receiving sufficient education due to various circumstances such as not attending school, and those of foreign nationality who were unable to receive compulsory education.

[\[Inq\]](#) Konan-shi School Education Division

Tel 0748-77-7011



## ◆ "Career Guidance" for students and guardians with foreign roots will be held again this year!

Oct 27<sup>th</sup> (Sun) G-NET Shiga (Omihachiman)

### Shiga Foreign Residents Information Center

(within Shiga Intercultural Association for Globalization)

☆ On August 8<sup>th</sup> (Thu), due to Biwako Fireworks Festival, consultation in person will be until 3:30pm.

Multilingual support is available. TEL: 077-523-5646

FAX: 077-510-0601 email: mimitaro@s-i-a.or.jp

Next issue of Mimitaro is scheduled in October