

9月 Important Dates:

- 6日 AJET Omi-Tetsudo Beer Train
- 16日 Respect for the Aged Day
- 17日 SDC Day 1 Materials Due
- 20日 AJET Biwa Bike Trip
- 27日 SDC Day 1

10月 Important Dates:

- 13日 Otsu Hikiyama Festival
- 14日 Health and Sports Day
- 18日 SDC Day 2 and 3 Planning Meeting
- 19日 AJET Mount Ibuki Hike
- 22日 Core Enthronement Ceremony

The Shiga Situation



Mother of all Newsletters

NEW BEGINNINGS



Welcome 2019 JETs

We've got a lot of new JETs this year. Seventeen to be exact, out of sixty-one. That's roughly 28% of all the JETs in Shiga. They've made it through the many orientations and now as the semester starts they're getting their real first taste of team-teaching. During this time of transition it's really important for senpai JETs to lookout for the new guard and do what we can to help them get settled.



New JETs, whether you're here for one year or the long-haul, I think like for many of us, you'll find Shiga soon feels like a second home. If I can offer some advice, say yes to everything. Invitations, events, experiences, foods (dietary restrictions excluded): say yes. You might be tired from teaching and listening to (but not understanding) Japanese all day but if you force yourself to get out, you'll have a richer experience in Japan. Just know you have an entire community to lean on if things get tough. We're all rooting for you!



AJET



For Your Health

Sam and the rest of the AJET team have been hard at work planning events to bring together JETs from across Shiga. I think it's worth giving them a shoutout for the awesome events they've already put on, and the ones coming down the pipe.

Awesome events to say thanks for:
 Farewell BBQ for departing JETs in Kinomoto.
 Welcome Dinner for Group A in Kyoto.
 Welcome Picnic for Group B in Otsu.
 Welcome Beach BBQ for all new JETs at Omi-Maiko.

Awesome events soon to come:
9/6 Beer Train: all-you-can drink on a rickety old train.

9/22-23 Biwa Bike Trip: two days of cycling around the Mother Lake, the gem of Shiga.

10/19 Mt Ibuki Hike: summit the highest peak in Shiga with your fellow JETs.

There are always more events in the works. Keep your ear to ground and make sure you've joined Shiga AJET's facebook page to stay up-to-date.



If you're feeling down and out, it's good to have someone to talk to. Having a strong support network is invaluable when things get rough. But if leaning on your support network isn't doing the trick, there are professional services you can access:

[Web Mail - JET Counseling Service](#) (no limit)
 Login Password: spufa2019

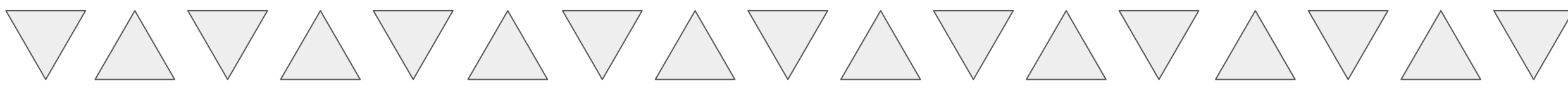
[Skype - JET Counseling Service](#) (max. 7 sessions from April 1st, 2019 to March 31st, 2020)
 Login Password: spufa2019

-AJET Peer Support Group: 050-5534-5566
 Skype: AJETPSG

-[TELL Counseling Services](#)

- [International Mental Health Professionals Japan](#)

And remember, though not mental health professionals, Kevin (kenchopa@gmail.com) and Emilie (shigapa@gmail.com) are always here to listen too. You don't have to go through things alone.



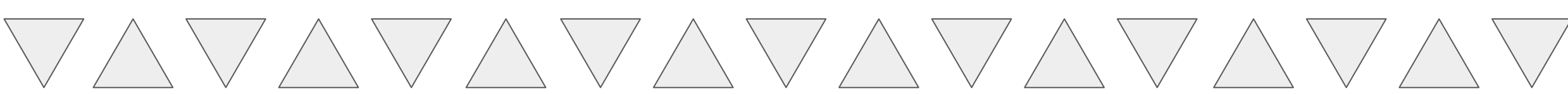
SDC

As you may have heard, this year's SDC (Skills Development Conference) is fast approaching. It's a month earlier than usual. This year, Day 1 of SDC will be held on Friday, September 27th at Collabo in Otsu. It's an all day affair and attendance is mandatory. Just a heads up that Days 2 and 3 of SDC will be held Tuesday, November 26th and Wednesday, November 27th.

If you're a first year, what you can expect are three days of professional conferences with various topics presented by senior ALTs and presentations by guest lecturers. Some sessions will be mandatory and others will be free-choice so you can attend the sessions that match your interests. Because it's a professional conference, all attending are expected to suit up.

Over the course of three days you should develop skills to better help you understand your role as an ALT, increase your knowledge of English education, improve your effectiveness teaching, etc.

To the ALTs presenting at Day 1, don't forget to submit your materials to kenchopa@gmail.com by **September 17th at the latest** (early submission is more than welcome).



Bake Sale

The real reason many of you will be excited about SDC is the return of the much-loved bake sale. Here's a few words from Austin, who's taking charge of it this year.

The first day for the annual SDC Bake Sale is fast approaching, and this year we're in serious need of bakers.

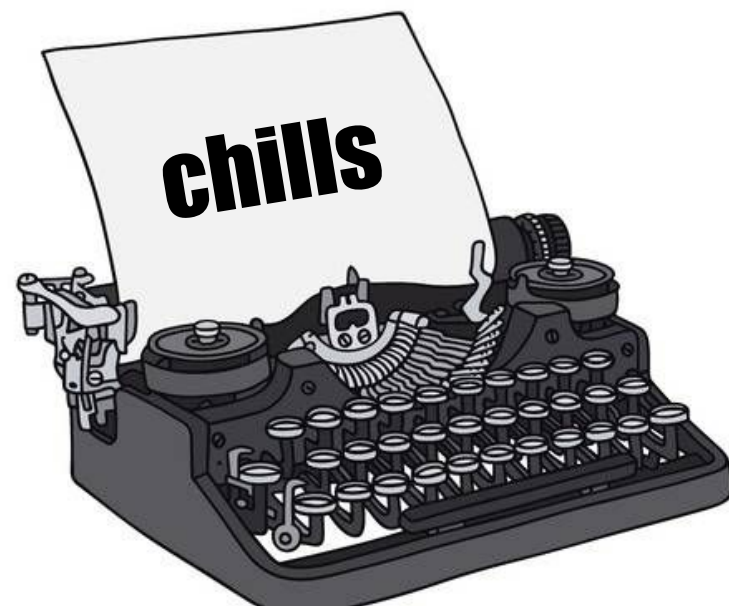
For the past consecutive years, there has always been a handful of generous JETs who are willing contribute time and money to create baked goods for this event. This year, the sales earned will go towards helping the charity Pencils of Promise and the Shiga JET Scholarship Fund. Pencils of Promise is an accredited NPO that helps build schools in rural Laos, Guatemala, and Ghana. And the latter is a scholarship started in 2018 to help our very own Shigan students study abroad.

If you're interesting in helping or would like more information, please contact Santisouk (Austin) Saycocie on Facebook or through email at santisoukas@gmail.com.

We'd appreciate all the help we can get, but if baking isn't your thing, you can still gladly help by buying bake goods at SDC.

Writers Wanted

I'm not the most eloquent wordsmith but perhaps you are. This is an opportunity to practice your writing skills and help spice up this newsletter. If you'd like to write an article for the next newsletter, or promote and event in your area, send me an email at kenchopa@gmail.com.

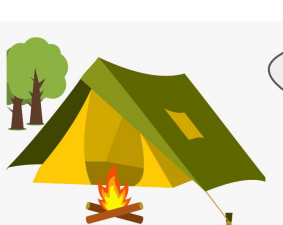


I'd also like to re-introduce the **short-story contest**. It's simple, write a 100-word story about a one-word prompt. This contest's prompt is **chills**. The winner will have their story featured in the next newsletter. This could be a fun chance to flex your creative writing chops, so why not try it out? Submit your short-story by Oct. 15th with the subject **100-word story** to, you guessed it, kenchopa@gmail.com. Don't forget to tell me the title and your name.



Pitch a Tent

You've likely been to Omi-Maiko for the Beach BBQ, but did you know that you can actually camp overnight outside of the months of July and August? That means you can now spend a whole weekend at the beach (lack of typhoons permitting). Enjoy the warm weather while it lasts.



Free Concert

The Nagahama Festival Orchestra is putting on a FREE Friendship Festival Concert on Monday, September 16th, It'll be held at the Azai Community Hall. If you're interested in attending, you can [reserve tickets here](#).

