



The Shiga Situation

Mother of All Newsletters



Welcome to the first serialized PA newsletter in (our) Shiga history. Here you will find important announcements for ALTs in Shiga, short articles and essays about life, the job, and our prefecture, semi-coherent rambles, and generally interesting stuff (hopefully).

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ **Congraduations!** ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Today marks the graduation day for many schools in Shiga. Sit back and enjoy the festivities! Clap until your hands are raw; enjoy watching the student performances; let the sweet, sweet melody of “March 9th” fill you with feels; smile for pictures until your face hurts, and don’t forget to bring an ark for the flood of tears that will be gushing forth from every eye in the building.

Indulge in the traditions of the day and think about the past year. Some of you have only had a couple months to establish yourself, while some are now entering the homestretch of a five-year odyssey. Wherever you are on the JET timeline, it’s good to take a critical eye to the successes and failures that speckle the past. Not only to make note of them, but to understand why and how they came about. Perhaps you will find a perceived failure to be a hidden success or that you actually can’t claim a certain ‘success’ as your own. Either way, there is always something to be learned and improved upon.

With the closing of 3rd semester comes a lull in a lot of ALTs’ work life. What will you do with the time that’s been given to you?(#Gandalf) Hopefully this newsletter can give you some perspective.

Legalized Robbery - C. Coolidge

Tax season is upon many ALTs, and (unless you’re the U.S. president) you’re probably worrying about it. Here are some facts and resources to help Shiga ALTs of all nations:

- US ALTs are exempt for 2 years
- Don’t lose! Gensen-Choshuhyo 源泉徴収票
 - 英語で Earned Income Statement
- Japanese Inhabitants Tax
 - Two payment methods (ask BOE):
 1. Automatic monthly
 2. 1 heartbreaking bill in June
 - Occasionally deferred for 1st yr. ALTs

Useful Resources

- [2017 JET Handbook](#) -[The Good Ol’ IRS](#)
- [2017 Kumamoto U.S. Tax Page](#)
- [Canada](#) -[Singapore](#)

SPRING BREAK!

Believe it or not, that wonderful time of the year is almost here. For many, it means pulling out the ol’ nenkyulator and sciencing the most vacation days you can possibly divine from your contract. But for a lot of you, it means twiddling your thumbs for an ungodly long period every weekday... trying to occupy your time... and NOT sleeping...

If you can remember all the way back to the “Congraduations” piece, I hope you spend a little time reflecting. But what’s the point of looking back if you don’t also look forward? A new school year is coming. Why wait for it to knock on the door before getting your house in order? A great way to pass the long office days of vacation is to start planning, designing, and making lessons and activities that you want to teach in the coming year. The earlier you expose your coworkers to your plans, the more likely they will be to accept (at least some) of your vision.

Speaking of coworkers, many schools will be receiving new teachers soon. Now is your chance to polish up your Nihongo and set the tone in your new and improved teacher’s room. So, grab some Oumiage, sharpen your witty banter, consult your bow protractor, drink some ウコンの力, and enjoy your Spring Vacation!

Announcement about Contracts

***There are legitimate and acceptable reasons to break contract: for example, physical or mental illness, or family emergency. This is **NOT** a message to stop you from getting help or helping others. ***

If you are not one of the above people, we implore you to consider the extent of the ripples one creates when breaking contract. On a personal level, you run the risk of burning bridges with future references and marring your resume. But on a larger scale, breaking contract causes stress and added work for your former coworkers and fellow ALTs. Furthermore, it reflects poorly on the viability and reliability of the JET program. This negatively affects the prospects of future ALTs to hold secure and lasting positions and hinders the overall expansion/maintenance of the program.

According to Punxsutawney Phil, we still have a couple weeks of winter. That means we aren’t yet in the clear of frosty sniffles, the flu, and the myriad mental tribulations that accompany the cold, dark months. Even then, not all of us can shake the winter blues with just a little spring thaw. You are not alone. We are all together in this craziness of Life.

- [JET Counseling Service](#) Login: amejpi2017
- AJET Peer Support Group 050-5534-5566
Skype: AJETPSG
- [TELL Counseling Services](#)
- [Colin Zimbleman, PhD \(Kyoto\)](#) 090-8448-8608
- [Dr. Nakajima \(Kyoto\)](#) 075-462-3700

Coming Soon to a Machi Near You...

March 10 - AJET Makino Ski Trip
March 17-18 - Sagicho!
April 21 - AJET Shigaraki Trip
 Whenever/Wherever you see it... **HANAMI!**
[More Shiga Events HERE!](#)