

Events:

- 3月10日NAJET Election Deadline
- 3月16日Maibara English Camp
- 4月27日Hikone English Camp
- 4月27日~Golden Week

Mini Yet Meaningful Art Contest Topic: Curtain Call

The Shiga Situation

Mother of all Newsletters



The Final Days of an Era

Well well my friends, it looks like the Heisei era is finally coming to an end. But hey, I would say it sure has been a pleasant ride. While a lot of money-mongers miss the heyday before the bubble burst, 30 years with no military conflict is a pretty good thing, wouldn't ya say? Sure there are a lot of problems, but there is a lot of progress as well. It's been reported that while discussing the plight of foreigners, Prime Minister Abe said, "let them eat hay," but this is hearsay. Recent changes have aimed at making it easier for foreigners to live and work in Japan (fingers crossed it's not just propaganda).

Why not say thanks and be grateful to Emperor Akihito's service by remembering some of the good stuff?

Like "Cool Japan!" You know those animation shows you used to—or still do—love? Despite the bursting bubble, Japanese Cross National Cool has boomed continuously throughout the Heisei Era. Under the Heisei Emperor, Japan has conducted a master-class for the world on "soft power," and other countries have taken note. Japan has pressed its power and influence upon the world in the awesomest way possible. Raise your hand if you or someone you love has

played Nintendo, watched Dragonball, or eaten Japanese food. It wasn't an accident that our generation fell in love with this country. The Heisei will undoubtedly be seen by the cynics as a time of stagnation, inflation, and an

aging society, but by many many more people, it will be remembered as a wonderful moment of cultural history that greatly influenced our lives.



平成 平成 平成 平成 平成 平成 平成 平成 平成 平成 平成 平成 平成 平成 平成 平成 平成 平成 平成 平成



Tears are Coming

Unfortunately, the Heisei Era isn't the only thing ending... The school year is over, too (obligatory). Soon, the great migration of teachers will happen and some of you may lose well-loved coworkers—not to mention your graduating students! Make sure to ask about and attend your farewell parties, especially if it is a close coworker or a JTE who has helped you in the past year. This goes for welcome parties as well. Having had to miss both in various years, I can say from experience that it's worth it to go!

The arrival of your new students and teachers can be a stressful experience for everyone involved. Knowing this, however, can help you to make new connections and friendships. Be sure to attend your welcome party and brush up your self-introduction lessons. If you have an English board, Spring Vacation is a great time to revamp it. If you don't have one, then Spring Vacation is the perfect time to start one!



The Shiga JET Scholarship Fund

My flights were booked, destination: Japan. Bags packed and farewells said, I reflected, awaiting a connecting flight in my hometown's sleepy airport. How did I get here? A knowing smile accompanied my realization.

Years before, I'd read an article at school about a scholarship to study abroad. I applied. I got it. It was my first time living away from home and, what's more, in a country whose language I couldn't speak. It was hard. It was rewarding. It was one of the best experiences I've ever had. That was the catalyst that sparked my desire to see more of the world and gave me the confidence to do so.

I've settled into my life in Japan now and things have come full circle. We've started a scholarship to help your students realize their dream. We hope that you'll take advantage of it and share this opportunity with your students and coworkers.

Go to <https://shigajetscholarship.wordpress.com> for more information and official documentation you can show your administrative staff.

平成 平成 平成 平成 平成 平成 平成 平成 平成 平成 平成 平成 平成 平成 平成 平成 平成 平成 平成 平成



English Camps!

Shiga English Camp 2019!

The first ever Uminoko English Camp is fast approaching! In order to better gauge the availability of ALTs/volunteers we have created a simple form to be filled out at your leisure. Please click [HERE](#) and answer the questions about your participation. This is not an official sign-up for volunteers, so do not feel obligated to make your summer plans right now! If you are interested but honestly don't know where your life will be in August, just say that, [no worries](#). (the rest of this article has been translated into [pirate English](#))

Are ye ready t' sail th' high seas o' Lake Biwa aboard th' Uminoko. We embark from Otsu Port, headin' north across th' open blue o' Biwa, t' th' Port o' Nagahama. Thar, we'll lay siege t' th' village o' Black Wall 'n plunder our weasely hearts out! Th' time aboard th' vessel 'n in town will be filled wit' English-language activities t' be led by th' wonderful crew o' volunteer ALTs. All th' souls aboard will live like a sailor, sleep in th' brig, swab th' deck, 'n eat th' finest Ohmi cuisine.

If ye think ye be ready for such a venture, Grab yer eye patches, peg-legs, 'n dictionaries 'cause this voyage will be lingual as Davy Jones' locker. Put ye mark on the survey above, and keep ye eye on th' horizon fer more information!

Date: August 23-24 **Cost:** 2000yen

If you simply can't wait for the prefecture-wide English camp in August, there are two more opportunities to volunteer! Maibara and Hikone East High Schools are having their own English days in the coming weeks and months.

If you are interested, please read the information that Kavya and Zack have provided here, and be sure to contact them ASAP!

米原 Ready for another Maibara English Camp!? The wait is over... in a couple weeks. Maibara needs 8 ALTs to work with 2nd years on March 16th. This is an all day event. Lunch will be made for you by 3rd grade students. Transportation to and from the school will also be paid! You do not need to be a prefectural ALT to volunteer for this event (though only Pref. ALTs are guaranteed daikyu). If you've ever been interested in what teaching SHS students would be like, this is a great opportunity! If you are interested, please contact [Zack!](#)

When: Saturday, March 16th (10:00 to 16:30)
Where: Maibara High School

彦根東 Hikone Higashi High School is looking for 10+ ALTs to help out with a science fair-type event on April 27th! ALTs would be required to listen to a few scientific presentations in English, to give feedback on presentation and English skills, and ask the students questions. The event will be from 2pm to 4:30. Prefectural ALTs will receive daikyu. ES and JHS ALTs must discuss daikyu with their COs on an individualized basis. Please keep in mind this is the first Saturday of Golden Week! If you are not travelling at this time and are available to join this event, please message [Kavya!](#)

When: Saturday, April 27th (~14:00 to 16:30)
Where: Hikone Higashi High School

平成 平成 平成 平成 平成 平成 平成 平成 平成 平成 平成 平成 平成 平成 平成 平成 平成 平成 平成 平成

Mini Yet Meaningful Art Contest

Snow Country

Our selection for this edition was submitted by Janeth Diggs-White (Takashima). We hope you enjoy it as much as we did. You can read the rest of the wonderful submission [HERE](#). Thank you to everyone who participated!

This breathtakingly ingenious masterpiece was submitted by [Bob Ross](#).

March/April theme: **Curtain Call**

Written entries must be 100 words or less. Visual entries (sketch, drawing, painting, etc...) need to be the size of a standard business card.

Winter jail
Counting days
Until bail

I hate needing an umbrella almost every Single Day

hate
The sad skies
Always Looking Grey

hate putting on 100 layers of clothes
There are so many many woes

But I can't show True feelings Inside
there's too much pride
So I hide

But these are my winter confessions

I'm waiting for summer BBQs,
Omi-maiko,
Lake Biwa trips,
I'm waiting to take Chuu High sips
I'm waiting to enjoy dipping chips
Showing hips
And beach Dips

I'm waiting for my one true love
My summer sun
Im waiting
Despite
Winter has me
Feeling numb

Get Your Culture On!

Are you a scholar of Hina Dolls? Do you absolutely adore those little dolls that line the shelves this time of year? Are you currently asking yourself, "What the heck is a Hina Doll?" If you said yes to any of these questions, you are primed and ready to attend the International Cultural Day in Higashiomi on March 9th! Come join a 2 hour event and tour (in English!) devoted to the Hinamatsuri and the Omi Merchant district. Enjoy an afternoon steeped in history and art!

HET, HOW BOUT WE MAKE MACRON AND MERKEL HINA DOLLS?

Reservations are required. Contact the Higashiomi Tourist Association phone: 0745-29-3920 email: info@higashiomi.net !Click [HERE](#) to view the official flyer!

A Message From Your Friendly Neighborhood AJET

How's it hanging Omi? Winter is beginning to release its cold grip on the land of the lake and the sun's finally coming out to play! If that news wasn't good enough, AJET also has a heap of fun events on offer over the coming months so let's get straight down to business.

Sake Train, March 8th: Last booze train for the year so let's make it a memorable one! If it turns out you can't make it on the day please let us know so we can move people up from the waitlist (and also so you can get your money back!)

Sagicho Fire Festival Omi-Hachiman, March 17th: Don't miss one of Shiga's most exciting (and craziest) events! Be sure to get there before 8:00 PM Sunday to catch the lighting of the floats.

Block 6 & 7 Hanami, March 30th: Hanami season is just around the corner and is definitely one of the most beautiful times to be in Japan. The combined block 6 & 7 hanami at Osaka Castle is also a great chance to mingle with fellow JETs from around Kansai!

Ibuki Hike, mid-late April: Our last attempts at hiking Ibuki last year were unfortunately postponed due to some pesky typhoons, but that means we can now hike while Ibuki's magnificent wild flowers are in bloom! If you haven't already hiked Ibuki it's a challenging but rewarding climb and worth it for the views at the top alone!

National AJET Elections!

As spring's arrival draws near and many graduations bring an end to a chapter in our students' lives, National AJET is gearing up to welcome a new group of dedicated volunteers. The National AJET Elections for the 2019-2020 council are currently live and are running until March 10th. If you have ever thought of giving back to your community, to pushing yourself to do something new and exciting, and working alongside a dedicated team all sharing the same goal, then National AJET is for you.

There are many **Appointed Positions** for those with specialised skills ranging from management, design, and communications. Or, if you fancy yourself a bit of a leader, as someone to affect change right at the top of National AJET, then try your hand at the **Executive Council**.

The great thing about National AJET is that you shape the experiences that you have and the lessons that you learn, all while being productive member of the JET community. If you see yourself being a positive force in National AJET, by all means apply. Follow the instructions on the following website and write a 400 word platform for the position that piques your interest.

AJET Elections website: <https://ajet.net/ajet-elections/>

平成 平成 平成 平成 平成 平成 平成 平成 平成 平成 平成 平成 平成 平成 平成 平成 平成 平成 平成 平成

Job Opportunity!

Calling all ALTs who will leave the JET program this fall! Torahime High School is looking for a full-time (non-JET) English teacher to begin work in April 2020. This will be a direct hire situation, and thus you would be given the responsibilities and pay of a normal teacher, making you eligible to receive the yearly pay raises and bonuses that ALTs do not. Additionally, the job would be bound by a limited contract! That means, if you are a capable and motivated teacher, you could stay until your retirement.

A teaching degree is not required for this position. More information will be coming in the coming months. The application will be posted publicly, but we wanted to give JET ALTs a heads up to keep your eyes peeled for announcements coming from Kencho this spring.

The Hira Mountains view from across the Mother Lake

Golden Week

Unless you've been living under a rock, you've probably heard that this year's Golden Week is gonna be pretty crazy. With the abdication of Emperor Akihito, we're getting a full ten days of sweet sweet vacation. According to Prime Minister Abe, "This is gonna be epic." However, before you get your ten-day epic on the way, make sure to remember that approximately 127 million other people in Japan are going to do the same thing. That means ridiculous prices, crowded transportation, and overly booked hotels.

I'm not saying stay in Shiga for the vacation. Everyone should use this opportunity to explore Japan or another country, but just be aware that you should've started booking like last December. My advice is to avoid tourist locations and major cities. Now might be the perfect time to explore those lesser known areas that you've never been able to get out to. The most important thing is to hop on your vacation and reservations ASAP.

Hanami

Soon, the forlorn eyes of the world will turn to Japan and the fleeting beauty of the cherry blossom that's just so freaking Zen. Make sure that you are ready for the season. Sure plans with your friends, get some snacks, grab the sake, find a place, and make sure to get there ridiculously early. Of course, you can always just walk out your front door with a 80% chance of seeing sakura, but might as well play the game and visit some famous sites too!

Shiga: Kaizu Osaki (Makino), Hikone Castle, Miidera (Otsu), Nagahama Park

Kyoto: Pretty much everywhere. Perfect for communing with nature and thousands of other people.

Nara: [Yoshino](#), Todaiji

Hotels: [Booking.com](#), [Jalan.net](#)
Ideas: [ANA](#), [Jetstar](#), [Peach](#)
Flags: [11 tourist things](#), [Tottori Sand Dunes](#), [Yakushima](#), [Hakodate Hanami](#)

Hello Vacation

This view can be found at the Miho Museum