



The Shiga Situation

Mother of All Newsletters

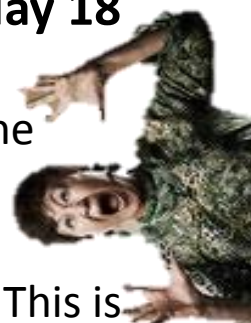


Happy Golden Week! From us ^{つゆ}梅雨...

Mandatory Volunteering Opportunity!

Deadline: May 18

It will soon be that magical time of the year when locals around Shiga suddenly realize their beloved gaijin has mysteriously turned into a different looking gaijin. While there is no orientation to help the bewildered Obasans, the story is different for us! This year's application for **Survival and Job Orientation is out now!** Every recontracting ALT is required to complete this form and [FAX](#) it (ohhhhh yeah...) to Nick. This year we are also including an "original presentation" section for anyone that wishes to pitch an idea for Survival or Job Orientation. This is your chance to fill in whatever gaps you found in your experience when getting set up in Shiga those many moons ago. Please take some time and think about what you wished [you would've been told](#). You can find the application attached to the same email as this newsletter!



April Showers Bring... [JET Essays?](#)

Deadline: June 29

There's an old tradition that requires JETs in Shiga to write an essay every year. Is it an [offering to Hikonyan](#)? Does the Mother Lake demand it? Nobody knows. You will have found your instructions [attached to the same email](#) as this newsletter (and your COs will also be sending them out forthwith). Essentially, your mission is to write a half-page English essay about teaching, life in Shiga, or Japanese culture, translate it into Japanese (ask your friendly neighbourhood JTE!), allow it enough time to go through the red tape (and collect those [inkans](#)) and hand in the final product to Kencho by June 29th. What do you want to tell your readers? In the olden days, the essays would be printed and distributed around the prefecture, but you can now find [the previous year's essays](#) on the prefectural government's [website](#) if you're looking for inspiration or want to meet your past selves.

Now You Are the Master!

If you follow the incoming JET groups or have any memory of how it was in The Old Country, you know how people are getting excited about finding out about their placement and hearing from their preds. You need to wait for your CO's OK before contacting your successor, if you find them, but why not start making your predecessor's guide? (A template will be sent out in June for any lost souls.) Do you remember what you wanted to know back then? Is there anything you wish you had known before? The power of information is in your hands!



Smitten 'bout the Mitten?

Every year, JCMU helps to send high schoolers from Shiga to towns throughout Michigan for a two-week homestay. In order to better prepare the students, there is an orientation held at JCMU where they have the opportunity to learn about the state and practice applicable English. If you are interested in helping to create an engaging, interesting, and informative seminar this year, please make sure to check the box on the Summer Orientation application. You do not have to be a Michigan ALT to participate (though if you are a Michigander, please sign-up!). Honestly what could be better than talking about [Michigan for a day!?](#)



Greetings from AJET—a message from Joni!

It's almost time for your 2017-18 Shiga AJET team to pass the baton over to a team of Shigans. It's the perfect opportunity to look back and reflect on a year of successes for Shiga AJET. By the end of our term, we'll have hosted and promoted 24 events all over Shiga, including new ones, like ice-skating, a games night at Round 1, and a tour of the Sagawa Art Museum. Credit goes to the AJET reps in Shiga. It's been a real pleasure to work alongside them all, and it'll be with real sadness that I'll see our year of hard work draw to a close.

For anyone interested in being a member of Shiga AJET for this coming year, there'll be a discussion in Omihachiman on Monday, May 28th. We'll be there to answer everyone's questions and get the ball rolling about putting a new team in place by mid-June. Aside from the obvious but very beneficial resume material, I guarantee you'll have a fantastic year exploring Shiga with your friends old and new.

Thanks for an excellent 12 months everyone!
Joni



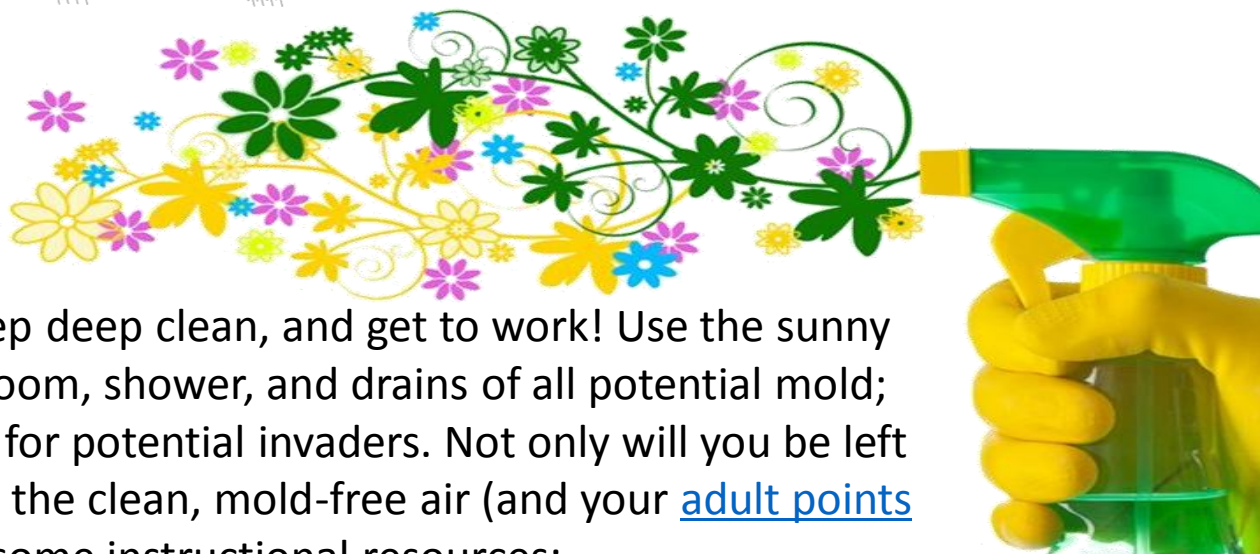
[Down with the Sickness](#)

Have you heard of Gogatsu-byo, or May sickness? After the hectic months of March and April, people get to rest during Golden Week before [going back to real life](#). That's when it hits them: they get into a funk, can't get used to the routine, become frazzled. Think of it as a more extreme change to daylight savings time. This can affect your students, your coworkers, your neighbours and even you! It is important to be aware of this when interacting with those around you. If you've fallen prey to this [May malady](#) and feel tired physically and mentally or depressed, remember to take care of yourself, [eat](#) and [sleep](#) well, make the most of your [friendships](#) and keep in mind your useful JET mental health assistance! If you need any further information, or if you just need to talk to someone, your [PAs are standing by!](#)



[Spring Cleaning](#)

We're well into Spring, and that means it's getting hotter and more humid by the minute. As the mercury rises and the air becomes wetter than Biwa, your apartment will terraform into a haven for [mold and bugs](#). It's time to stop putting off that deep deep clean, and get to work! Use the sunny days to air out your futon, sheets, and tatami; clean your bathroom, shower, and drains of all potential mold; check your entrances (windows, doors, vents) and floor boards for potential invaders. Not only will you be left with a presentable apartment, but your body will thank you for the clean, mold-free air (and your [adult points will sky rocket](#)). If you need any guidance on cleaning here are some instructional resources:



- [Cleaning tatami](#)
- [Drains and sinks and futons, oh my!](#)
- [Cleaning products galore](#)
- [Dealing with mold](#)



Yo! Biwako

Are you a die-hard Shiga fan? Do you want to spread the gospel of the Mother Lake across the world? Are you really excited about the JET Essays and Successor's Guide and wish you could write them all the time? Do you just enjoy writing like a normal person and don't care about that other nonsense? Then join the ranks of Yo! Biwako today! (by clicking one of these pictures...

