

# The Shiga Situation

Mother of all Newsletters

## AJET Events:

- 11月10日: Eigenji Fall Trip
- 11月16日: Wine Train
- 12月8日: Christmas Party



## Important Word Dates!

- ★ 11月15日: SDC Materials Due
- ★ 11月22日: PA Applications Due
- ★ 11月27日: SDC 2 (ALT, JTE, HRT)
- ★ 11月28日: SDC 3 (ALT Only)
- ★ 12月14日: PA Interviews

Well hello there! Happy Friday and welcome to the 5th issue of The Shiga Situation. We would like to start by saying お疲れ様でした! Thank you very much for your active participation at October SDC. There were many great things to take away from the conference, not least of which was the outstanding sum of donations raised by the ALT bake sale! We hope that you found the presentations and discussions useful to your life and work in Shiga. Looking forward, we have less than a month until the last two days of SDC. Now is the perfect time to try what you learned and discussed in October. Those of you that do, we're sure everyone will be excited to hear about your experiences in November. Please remember that JTEs and HRTs will be attending the session on November 27th.

We know you are probably tired of hearing about SDC by now, so we will try to keep announcements to a minimum in the rest of this newsletter! Besides, we have plenty to talk about: the first-ever winner of the 100-word story contest will be announced, new guidelines and the next story contest topic will be revealed, AJET will update y'all on coming events, Boromir from Equilibrium, and more!



Happy Halloween Shiga!  
Thank you for not flipping any cars.

## FIREWORKS

We were very impressed with the entries for the first-ever 100-word story contest. The decision was very difficult, but in the end we had to choose one. **Congratulations to Genna** of Nags for her excellent story! To those of you who entered but did not win, please remember that judging is subjective and has no reflection on your ability as a writer. Don't be discouraged and please submit for the next issue! And now, Genna's story...

I wait for the understated pop in a sky of explosions. The giant dandelions fill the dark, punctuated by straight shots of lily splitting into fingers, pointing to the stars. The air grows cooler, as if the lights are taking the heat from the atmosphere as they fade, causing—rather than celebrating—summer's end. I could watch the colors in a carefully choreographed dance all night, but I remain expectant for the ones like willows, which trail back toward the ground, slowly growing dim, but still alive when the next burst splits open the sky.

We hope you enjoyed her story. You can find the rest of the submissions right [here!](#) Check it out. We promise they are all worth a read.

## Changes to the 100-Word Story Contest Mini Yet Meaningful Art Contest

It has come to our attention that writing isn't the only form of art out there. In order to better incorporate all of the artistic folks in Shiga, we are expanding the 100-word story to **include visual art draw on a business card** (or 91x55mm piece of paper). Now, even if writing isn't your thing, you have **no excuse not to participate!** If you look at the stunningly beautiful rectangle below at 100%-zoom (so not zoomed?) on PDF, that's the size you'll be allowed in the contest. You can submit visual art by sending a picture of your business card to the kencho email. If you make your image digitally, please be sure that the size of the final image is the correct dimensions. 100 word stories and business card art will be accepted until **December 20th**.

November/December theme:  
**Holidays**

[Halloween](#), [Thanksgiving](#), New Years, [Christmas](#), Kwanzaa, [Hanukkah](#)... it almost feels like our ancestors were just desperately making up excuses to not get depressed in winter. Tell us or show us what [holidays mean to you!](#)

A little bit of **SDC** makes the world go round...

**Bake Sale  
Total:  
¥22,900**

A BIG thanks to Joni and all those who put in the work to make this year's bake sale a resounding success! But the jobs not done. We still have two more glorious days of SDC to raise money and get fat. Please contact Joni if you are interested in baking something for November SDC.

Please don't forget to fill out the survey made by November's Keynote Speaker, Betsy Lavolette. Your responses will help direct and inform her presentation, making it more applicable to the reality of Shiga ALTs. Remember: SDC is as good as you make it!

Find the survey [HERE](#).

Please remember to check your emails for SDC updates and workshop sign-ups in the coming weeks! Also, check-in with your JTEs to find out who will be attending Day 2 (November 27th) with you!

**SDC Dates:  
Nov. 27 & 28**

Along with the other great things happening to the Shiga Website (see Brad's message), we will soon be posting SDC materials to help those ALTs who "misplaced" their SDC packets.

## Season's Greetings from AJET

Hey Shiga, how are you today? Hungry? Yeah, me too. How's the weather? I know, it's gotten colder recently, hasn't it! So let's get together and enjoy the best parts of autumn (FALL LEAVES!) at [Eigenji in Higashiomori](#) on the 10th. Also don't forget to save the date for this year's AJET Christmas party which will be December 8th. We'll be running the ugly Christmas sweater competition again this year so start seeking out those festively gaudy outfits now (there'll be prizes for best dressed). Finally, our website admin Kevin is in the process of updating the [lesson share](#) on the Shiga AJET website. If you've ever felt the pressure of planning multiple lessons for your schools you'll know how beneficial it is to be able to share lessons with fellow ALTs. Right now we're looking for lessons to upload at ES, JHS and SHS levels. If you have any ace lesson plans you'd like to share with your fellow Shigans please send them (along with a short description on how to run it) to Kevin at [shigaajetwebmaster@gmail.com](mailto:shigaajetwebmaster@gmail.com). Have a good one Shiga!



## NOT a link to a Game of Thrones Meme

As the villain of the [documentary](#) "National Treasure" once said, "Winter is coming." But as the Reverend Garth Algar also said, ["Live in the now."](#) Winter isn't here yet! If you are unable to make the AJET trip to Eigenji (for more info, look about three inches to the left), there are plenty of chances to catch the [紅葉 while it's here](#)--namely, walking out your door! The PAs suggest absolutely any and every temple, shrine, and park in Shiga. If you're feeling adventurous, the view from a [mountaintop](#) is second to none. [Makino Pic-land](#) also boasts a [picturesque road](#) lined with beautiful foliage and you can get some fresh fruit! As the season continues to cool, be sure to warm up under the kotatsu and enjoy the winter food culture of [nabe](#), [oden](#), and more!

## ALT Highlight: Byron Mcleod

You know how people say SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESSES? Well, this has nothing to do with that. But if you are interested in reading some hopefully helpful words about someone's life or you're bored and trolling the internet as a full-time hobby, check my blog out. Because at the end of the day, with the entirety of the internet out there, you really could do worse.

<https://byronmcleod.wordpress.com/>



If you would like to have your blog, website, art, etc... featured or promoted in the Shiga Situation, contact Nick ([kenchopa@gmail.com](mailto:kenchopa@gmail.com))

## Don't be Jack.

Jack thought his country was cold. Jack insisted he wasn't a baby about "a little weather." Jack thought that heat-tech was overrated and that a kerosene stove was fine in an enclosed room. Jack figured he could just live under his kotatsu despite the dry skin and risk of dehydration. Jack decided that black ice was a myth and rode his bike everywhere in defiance of the weather. Jack didn't buy winter boots and just "manned-up" to wet socks and frostbitten toes. Jack had a runny nose but never went to the doctor. Jack thought going to work before the sun was up and getting off work after it set would be something new and exciting. Jack thought he didn't need to rely on friends and never left his house as though the snow was lava. Jack didn't realize that not all colds are the same, and now Jack is dead.

Don't be Jack.

