

MOVIES

TOHO CINEMAS Niihama (AEON Mall)

- August 23~ ROCKETMAN
PG 13 English/Dubbed
- August 30 ~ ONCE UPON A TIME IN HOLLYWOOD
PG 12 English/Dubbed
- September 13 ~ A DOG'S JOURNEY
PG English/Dubbed
- September 20 ~ AD ASTRA
PG English/Dubbed

Information Service

Internet: <http://niihama-aeonmall.com>

Tape (24 hrs): 050-6868-5019 (in Japanese)

Movies might be changed without notice. Please check.



This newsletter is published by SGG, a volunteer group that helps foreigners living in Niihama. If you need any advice, information, or support, please contact SGG. SGG would welcome any suggestions, questions, or ideas for monthly articles.

email: sheep@abeam.ocn.ne.jp

yukiko-m@shikoku.ne.jp

* The editors for this month are M.Shimamura & Y.Miki

ONE POINT JAPANESE

～「～ことが あります」の表現～

A: **けん玉**を知っていますか。日本の**伝統的**なおもちゃです。

Kendama o shitteimasu ka. Nihon no dentōteki na omocha desu.
(Do you know “Kendama”? It’s a traditional Japanese toy.)

B: テレビで**見た**ことが**あります**。でも、**やった**ことは**ありません**。

Terebi de mita koto ga arimasu. Demo, yatta koto wa arimasen.
(I have seen it on TV. But I haven’t played it.)

A: **今度**、**遊び方**を**教えて**もらいます。いっしょに**どう**ですか。

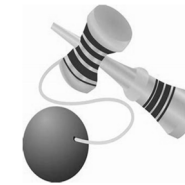
Kondo asobikata o oshiete moraimasu. Issho ni dō desu ka.
(Soon I’m going to have someone teach me how to play it.
How about learning it together?)

B: **難**しくないですか。

Muzukashiku nai desu ka.
(Isn’t it difficult?)

A: **大丈夫**です。**小学生**でも**できます**から。

Daijōbu desu. Shōgakusē demo dekimasu kara.
(It’s all right. Even elementary school students can do it.)



A: **健康**の**ため**に、**何か**して**います**か。

Kenkō no tame ni, nanika shiteimasu ka.
(Do you do anything for your health?)

B: **毎朝**、**滝宮公園**まで**ジョギング**して**います**。

Mai asa takinomiya kōen made joggingu shiteimasu.
(I jog to Takinomiya Park every morning.)

A: **滝宮公園**ですか！**私も****散歩**する**ことが****あります**よ。

Takinomiya kōen desu ka! Watashi mo sampo suru koto ga arimasu yo.
Really? Takinomiya Park? I sometimes take a walk there too!

A: **週末**、**台風**が**来**そうですね。

Shūmatsu, taifū ga kisō desu ne.
(This weekend it looks like a typhoon is going to come.)

B: **大雨警報**が**出**ると、**JR**が**止**まる**こと**が**あ**るので、**心配**です。

Ōame kēhō ga deru to, JR ga tomaru koto ga aru node, shimpai desu.
(When a heavy rain warning is issued, JR trains sometimes don’t run, so I’m worried.)

A: **そうですね**、**旅行**は**延**期**し**ましょ**う**。

Sō desu ne. Ryokō wa enki shimashō.
(That’s right. We should put off our trip.)

< by Niihama Nihongo no Kai >

NNK also provides Japanese lessons for foreigners living in Niihama. Feel free to contact us at: Tel 0897-34-3025 (Manami Miki). e-mail : manami-m@js6.so-net.ne.jp

What's New?

Niihama City No.289 September 2019

Published by SGG Niihama



ojorou Danuki

Michael Owain Smith

Niihama city has its own examination, called the “Niihama kentei”. It comprises questions relating to Niihama’s history, famous food, customs and general facts. There is a book sold at local bookstores that teaches you everything you need to know.

One topic of the test, for which I’m pretty sure I got full marks, was the legend of Kojorou Danuki. Kojorou is a tanuki, or a Japanese raccoon dog, and was the basis for Niihama city’s mascot character Machuri, making it the most integral entry into local folklore, and a mighty fine yarn at that. To learn the mythology is to understand a land’s fundamental moral codes, and I believe it is not only a lot of fun, but essential to transcend from the role of casual visitor to true resident. So, without further ado, I give you Kojorou Danuki, Eternal Guardian of Ikku Shrine.

Kojorou danuki, grew up with her two brothers, Kizaemon danuki and Hage danuki. They were considered Ehime’s premier tanuki pack, and as far as Tanuki magic is concerned Kojorou was the smartest of the bunch. From a young age the chief priest at Iku shrine recognized her potential and took it upon himself to teach her and raise her as his own.

One day, a ritual offering of sea bream was made at the shrine, and Kojorou stole a fish*. The priest was very angry and cast her out of her home in the shrine's camphor tree as punishment. She searched high and low for a new home and somehow ended up at the sea. There she saw fishermen preparing their rowing boat to leave. "Noone would give free passage to a tanuki", she thought, so she used her magic to transform into the head monk at Jigen temple. Her skills in transformation were exceptional and the fishermen gladly let her onto their boat.

By unfortunate happenstance, mid-route the fishermen caught a bumper load of sea bream. Poor, hapless Kojorou tried everything she could to keep her mind from the fish, but to no avail. Just to see the fish dancing on the deck made her tummy rumble. She slipped a handful of fish under her robe and secretly began to eat. The more she ate the more careless she became, and she was soon discovered by the crew. A big tussle broke out and in the melee one crew member hit her on the head with an oar, the shock of the impact momentarily breaking Kojorou's concentration. Her big raccoon dog tail popped right out the back of her gown and she was revealed.

The crew were furious with the deceit. They were about to toss her into the sea, but Kojorou pleaded with them. "I promise I will change my ways" she said, "and I will pay you back for every single fish I have eaten. I will transform into a big golden teakettle and you can sell me at the markets when we arrived at Osaka." With the debt paid the crew forgave Kojorou and she changed her form once more to a beautiful young lady to explore Osaka.

The big city was wonderfully exciting but after some time she decided that she missed her home in Iku shrine and returned. She had learned her lesson never to steal again and was permitted to make the camphor tree her home once more. Kojorou danuki protects Iku shrine to this day. The end.

* Sea bream is donated in any number of ritualistic activities in Japan, one example being to ask permission from the gods to build a new house. Sea bream is famous in Ehime.

Apart from a few minor embellishments this version echoes the one written on a sign in Ikku shrine grounds, Kojorou danuki's home, so to me that makes it the most valid. There are many themes in Kojorou's twisting tale, but with the recurrence of sea bream, Kojorou's Achilles

heel, it seems to me that at its heart it is a cautionary tale of giving in to temptation, and taking culpability for your actions, themes as valid in Japan today as they were back when Kojorou was just a wee pup. While I essentially agree with the sentiment, there is a notable difference between Kojorous material greed and a healthy temptation to learn. Curiosity brought me to the Niihama Kentei and I now proudly carry my level 1 Niihama Kentei license card in my wallet everywhere I go. If, as I hope it may do, my amateurish translation of Machuris story sparks any further interest in knowing more about Niihama, why not give in to your natural, healthy desire to learn and make the wise 1050 yen investment in you copy of the "Totteoki no Niihama Kentei" book today.

Michael Owain Smith has worked as a teacher at Packwood English School, in Niihama for 8 years. His hobbies are making music on his PC and exploring Japan.

Online Information in English from Niihama City

☆Garbage Rules:

Go to: city.niihama.lg.jp



Search: How to sort and put out your trash and garbage"

☆What's New? in English & Chinese



Go to: city.niihama.lg.jp/soshiki/chiiki/whatsnew2019.html

Multilingual Living Information from Clair:

<http://www.clair.or.jp.tagengorev/en/index.html>

September EVENTS

Photo Exhibition in Akagane Museum

8/31(Sat.)-9/23(Mon.) 9:30-1700

Closed on 9/3, 9/9, 9/17

You can see lots of beautiful and historical photos.

For Free

Tel: 0897-31-0305

Japanese Folk Songs Concert at Niihama Bunka Center

9/29(Sun.) 14:00-

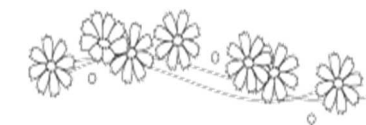
Fee ¥1500 (advanced fee ¥1000)

Free for Students

Tel: 0897-65-1554



A Hint for Your Life



Diet Not to be Obese

(from Ehime Shimbun April 2, 2019)

Many people know that eating light suppers can increase your chances for a long life. But easier said than done. How about changing your way of eating? Try to eat slowly, and you will easily feel full. And how about resting your chopsticks often and drinking tea or water while eating. Using a smaller spoon can also work well. Dishes should be lightly seasoned because strongly seasoned foods encourage you to consume more rice or alcohol. You should be careful about the order in which you eat your food. Start off with food rich in dietary fiber, such as vegetables, konjak and seaweed, and you can easily refrain from overeating and restricting the absorption of fat.



When your child is urgently sick at night or on a holiday and you don't know what to do

(from Niihama Monthly City News March, 2019)

Please call "#8000" if your child gets sick at night or on a holiday and you have no idea how to treat them and whether or not you should take them to a hospital. By calling this number, you can ask for a pediatrician or nurse and get advice about what to do. One user commented, "My child had caught a cold and I took him to a doctor. But later that night his fever jumped up. I wondered whether I should wait and see until the next morning. I felt so uneasy and called the number. I was able talk to the doctor and get some advice. I felt so relieved. This is the first time raising a child, so it is very helpful for me to can ask for professional guidance even in the middle of the night."