

# MOVIES

TOHO CINEMAS Niihama (AEON Mall)

October 16 ~	Demon Slayer: Kimetsu no Yaiba	
	The Movie "Infinity Train"	PG 12
		Japanese
March 19 ~	Tom and Jerry	Dubbed
March 26 ~	Monster Hunter	English / Dubbed
March 26 ~	Nomadland	English
April 9 ~	Freaky	R15+ English
May 7 ~	The Gentlemen	PG 12 English
May 14 ~	Godzilla vs Kong	English
May 21 ~	Unhinged	PG 12 English

Due to the new coronavirus infection, movies might be changed without notice. So please check the homepage for information.

### Information Service

Internet: <http://niihama-aeonmall.com>  
Tape (24 hrs) : 050-6868-5019 (in Japanese)



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.

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\*The editors for this month are N. Naomi & Y. Amano.

# ONE POINT JAPANESE

受身形① (passive voice)

A : うれしそうだね。何か <sup>なに</sup> あったの。

Ureshisō da ne. Nanika atta no?

(You look happy. Did something happen?)



B : 先生に <sup>せんせい</sup> レポートを ほめられたの。

Sensē ni repōto o homerareta no.

(My report was praised by my teacher.)

A : すごい! <sup>か</sup> <sup>かた</sup> <sup>ちゅうい</sup> <sup>か</sup> <sup>なお</sup> ぼくなんて、書き方を 注意されて、書き直したよ。

Sugoi! Boku nante, kakikata o chūi sarete, kakinaoshi da yo.

(That's great! Me, I get cautioned about how I write and I have to write it over.)

B : <sup>たいへん</sup> 大変ね。 しかられた?

Taihen ne. Shikarareta?

(That's awful. Did you get scolded?)

A : ううん、ていねいに <sup>おし</sup> 教えて もらえたよ。

Uun, tēnē ni oshiete moraeta yo.

(No, I was actually taught politely.)



B : よかったじゃ ない。

Yokatta ja nai.

(That's great, isn't it!)

A : パーティーの <sup>か</sup> <sup>もの</sup> <sup>たの</sup> 買い物を 頼まれたんだけど、どこで <sup>か</sup> 買ったら いい?

Pātī no kaimono o tanomaretan da kedo, doko de kattara ī?

(I was asked to do the shopping for a party. Where should I go?)

B : イオンで いいんじゃない? <sup>さけ</sup> お酒も <sup>か</sup> ケーキも 買えるし、<sup>ちか</sup> 近いから。

Ion de ī ja nai? Osake mo kēki mo kaerushi, chikai kara.

(AEON's good, isn't it? Because you can buy drinks and cake there, plus it's close.)



A : <sup>なんにん</sup> 何人 来るんだっけ。Nannin kurun dakke.

(How many people are coming?)

B : <sup>にんぶん</sup> 15人分 買って 来る ように 言われてるよ。

Jūgonin bun katte kuru yō ni iwareteru yo.

(I was told to buy enough for 15 people.)



< 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](mailto:manami-m@js6.so-net.ne.jp)

# What's New?

Niihama City

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# 5



## Weathering the Storm

Giovanni Madonna

I recently started a part time job at a drug store. Each day I go in, greet my coworkers, and spend a busy day stocking the shelves and assisting our customers. It's the sort of ordinary work you might find anywhere, though for many of us the word "ordinary" has changed in the last year.

The first thing I do each day before walking into work is to put on my mask. When I work at the register there is a plate of plastic between me and the customers. These sorts of precautions have become such a part of our everyday life that when someone walks in without a mask, it becomes a source of gossip and discomfort. Many times these people mean no harm, they're usually older and just forgot to put it on, but that does little to put us at ease. For all our attempts to live as normally as we did before, there's a certain tension in the air whenever you're out in public. You're always just one comment away from talking about the virus, from tumbling down the rabbit hole of wondering when the vaccine will be available and when we'll finally be able to go back to how things were.

There isn't a public space in my town unaffected by social distancing rules. Banks have shut their doors, you either use the drive through to make deposits and withdrawals or you schedule an appointment to be allowed into the building. Restaurants are only allowed to let half as many people inside, and only a maximum of four people can share a table. Delivery and takeout

services are under constant strain since very few people feel comfortable going out to eat, and during the busier times of day it can take upwards of an hour to get food. And of course, hospitals are facing their own hardships. My cousin ordinarily works in the maternity ward, but the influx of patients has forced her to help in the new COVID wards as well. The vast majority of patients appear to be elderly men from nursing homes, and the homes refuse to take them back until they get negative test results, which can take anywhere from a few weeks to three months.

The worst of it is probably how it is affecting our students. Many of my coworkers are college students and say that even though they will go back to campus in the coming months, the majority of their programs will still be conducted online and any sort of large social gatherings could result in them being expelled. While many primary schools have the students attending every other day, the remaining days are spent in an online classroom. My cousins' children are all elementary age and they've often talked about how difficult it has been getting their children to sit down and focus for online lessons. They're simply too young, without the teacher and the classroom setting their grades have begun to slip and they're worried how it will affect the kids going forward. The teachers' can't be blamed either, many have little to no experience using online platforms, and even those who do can only do so much to keep younger students on track.

A lot of this may sound familiar to you, or it may be quite surprising. I remember during my time in Japan that many of these same restrictions and difficulties arose when the virus was at its worst. The mental stress of this kind of everyday life has no doubt taken a toll on everyone. But, what we must remember is that this is temporary. It might be hard now, and it will take time for us to recover, but things will get better. We just have to hold our heads high and do our best to keep ourselves and our loved ones safe until this storm passes. When it does, I hope we will be able to look back on his strange year and find something to smile about, find something that made us stronger, or something that brought us closer together.

My name is Giovanni Madonna. I'm a former ALT that worked in Niihama and currently a graduate student in New York, USA. Be safe out there!



## MAY EVENTS

**Most of the events in Niihama in May are canceled because of the new coronavirus.**

○5/1~5/31 Peony Flowers at Minetopia Besshi.

40 different kinds (about 30,000 flowers in total) are in full bloom.

(Please wear a mask and follow the 3Cs against COVID-19)

○5/29 (Sat) Cleaning the Ninai Beach 10:00AM-12:00PM

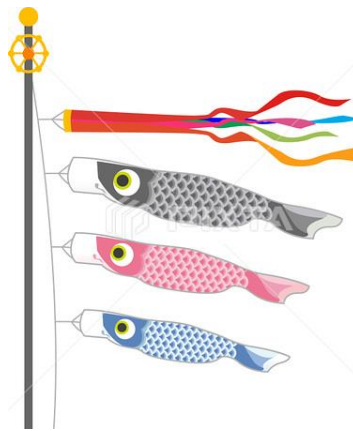
SDGs action in Niihama. Please join us.

E-mail: [masato-ono@e-yuki.biz](mailto:masato-ono@e-yuki.biz)

TEL: 0897-65-1218 Chiiki-Community Section, City Hall

### Carp Streamers Swimming in the Sky of Industrial City Niihama

(Ehime Shimbun, April 1, 2021)



Through the sea breeze, 88 carp streamers are leisurely swimming in the sky at Marine Park Niihama (3-chome, Habu, Niihama).

This year the event started on March 24<sup>th</sup>, one week earlier than usual. You can see them until the end of May. They are part of 480 carp streamers donated from all over Japan, mainly from Niihama.

On a fine and clear March 26<sup>th</sup>, parents and children alike were looking up with a smile at the carp streamers brightly painted black, red, and blue. The person in charge there said, "By all means, we'd like many families to come and see them." (Hasegawa Yusuke)

### White Elephant Message Board Still Popular Citizens Feel at Ease in It Building up Mutual Eco Consciousness

(From Ehime Shimbun: March 14, 2021)

The White Elephant message board, which bridges givers and takers of used things that are still usable at home, is still popular. The activities limited within the citizens' circles make people feel secure, and the proposal of expensive items such as school uniforms and bicycles contributes popularity. The city office renews the content of the message board everyday. The board plays a role in enhancing the "mottainai" spirit among citizens.

The White Elephant message board started in the summer of 2001 to reduce the volume of refuse. Persons who would like to give up unused things and who would like to procure those such as school supplies, clothes, furniture, etc. must register on the board the name of the item, price (up to ¥5,000), condition, and so forth. The messages can be read at City Hall or the homepage of the city, and if you find an interesting item, you can make an inquiry at the Garbage Reduction Section or the section's homepage. You will be given the contact address and from there business can be conducted between persons concerned.

The term of registration is one year at maximum. The registered item should be administered by the person concerned, and the following items cannot be registered: living creatures, food, art objects, jewelry, cash vouchers, large home electric appliances such as TV sets or refrigerators designated by the Electrical Appliances Recycling Law.

The numbers of hits to the homepage was 6,774 in 2018, 8,561 in 2019, 8,746 in 2020, showing people's lively interest. Needs for the board exist all year round. There are people who ask, "Is there anyone who will kindly use this furniture which I cannot discard because it was my bridal gift?" or "We use school uniforms and school supplies only for a very short period because our family moves around a lot due to job transfer." Since there are many frequent users, Garbage Reduction Section would like to make an appeal to the citizens to use the system further, advertising, "this activity inspires people to reduce the volume of refuse and to cherish things." (Kuroda Naho)

#### Online Information in English from Niihama City

☆ **Garbage Rules in English:**



**How to sort and put out your trash and garbage"**

☆ **What's New? in English**



☆ **Multilingual Living Information from Clair:**