



## Challenge yourself and grow!

In this issue of Mimitaro, we interviewed Ms. Alma Kawasaki who works as a caregiver.



It has been 18 years since I married a Japanese and came to Shiga from the Philippines. My three children are now high school and junior high school students.

I started working 8 years ago. In my home country, I worked as a midwife but in Japan I couldn't use that qualification. For this reason, with recommendation from my husband and a thought that I might be able to do a job in the care sector, I started working at an after-school day care service. It was my first time working with children with special needs, so I treated them as if they were my own children, making sure to understand each child's personality. When I arrived at the facility, I found it so cute when the children would wave their hands and call out, "Alma-sensei!" to me. I also worked at a nursing home for six months, shifting time with this job, but without qualifications, I couldn't do the job I wanted, so I decided to take the training course for caregivers. During the training, I was able to learn about caregiving with people from many different countries, and it was like being in a new world. From the new encounters there, I joined a group of foreigners who deliver parties to children's home, and at Christmas we bring food from different countries and spend a fun day singing and playing games with the children.

I've been working at a facility near my home for 5 years now, after obtaining my qualifications for caregiving. At work, we have monthly meetings and training to improve my skills, which I find very motivating. I am the only foreigner among the staff, and where it only takes 10 minutes to write a daily work record for everyone, sometimes it takes me almost an hour using a medical dictionary. It is not difficult to have an everyday conversation in Japanese, but I find it necessary to improve my level of Japanese in order to do my job. I set my personal goal for the training to improve my Japanese language skills, so I studied online, and also challenged myself to take the Japanese Language Proficiency Test. I love this job because it makes people happy, and when I

see the faces of elderly people relaxing in the bath, I can't help but smile. Whenever I gets tired from work, for some reason I find that working in the garden is a great way to recover my energy. Sometimes I help my father-in-law with the rice paddies, and my family and I enjoy refreshing ourselves with a good workout.

My mother-in-law who passed away 6 years ago, used to take me for walks from place to place and introduced me to people she knew at each stop. Thanks to her, I have been able to live comfortably among the people of the community. But once my child entered kindergarten, I had to create a new relationship by myself. Living in an area with few children, I have served twice as a kindergarten board member, and when I first got the position, I was really confused and even angry as to why I was chosen when my Japanese was not good enough. Eventually, encouraged by my friend's words, "I'll support you," I took the position after reconsidering that they had faith in me. When I greeted everyone at the first meeting, they were surprised to see me, perhaps because they didn't expect a foreigner, but now it is all good memories. Somehow the position was manageable when I tried it, I could understand the organization and I got to know the kind mothers. In the community, there are many social activities such as serving on the board of children's association and assisting the senior citizen's association, and to be honest, I sometimes feel that it is a bit of a hassle. After attending, however, I unexpectedly enjoyed the event and the interaction with people, and when I leave, I find myself saying, "Please invite me back."

People may not do something because they think, "I can't do it because I'm a foreigner." But once you try it, you often find yourself saying, "I can do it, it's fun, I can do this too." Be brave and express your opinion, and if they say "Great, let's give it a try!" it will make you happy. Whether at school, at work, or in the community, start by participating. I believe that by building relationships there, and working hard on your role, you can become a member and grow as a person. And after all, even if you fail, you can always try again and again!



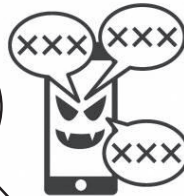
# Beware of Financial Troubles!!

## ◇ Electronic Money Troubles

The number of victims abusing electronic money as well as cash as a method of payment for scam activities, such as false billing for nonpayment of internet pay site usage fees, has been increasing rapidly.

※ With electronic money such as prepaid cards, the value of the electronic money is transferred simply by giving the number and other information on the card, without having to hand the card to the other party.

The usage fee has not been paid.  
If payment is not made by the end of today, **legal procedures** will be initiated.



It's a **scam!**

Buy an electronic money card at a convenience store and tell me your card number.

※ The term "**legal procedures**" is used to stir up the victim's anxiety!



- ! Do not reply to or contact any billings that you do not remember.
- ! Businesses, Ministry of Justice, courts, etc., will **never** ask you to purchase an electronic money card at a convenience store under the name of "payment of unpaid fees."

## ◇ Money laundering (To make the person who has the money related to crime indiscernible) is illegal!

It's a **scam!**

I want you to transfer this money from your account. I will give you 10,000 yen.



- ! It is illegal to give your account to another person.
  - ! If you cannot determine whether the provider is illegal or not, please do not use that provider. Any provider that is not on the list of registered fund transfer service providers on the Financial Services Agency's website is illegal.
- You can check from here→ [https://www.fsa.go.jp/menkyo/menkyoj/shikin\\_idou.pdf](https://www.fsa.go.jp/menkyo/menkyoj/shikin_idou.pdf)

To prevent harm caused by email and SMS (short message service), it is effective to set up a receiving rejection setting in advance.

**! If you think something is wrong, immediately consult your family, friends, or the police #9110 (dedicated police consultation line)!**

Consumer Hotline 188 (Japanese)

Consumer Hotline for Tourists 03-5449-0906 (English, Chinese, Korean, Thai, Vietnamese, French, Japanese)

Financial Services User Consultation Office 0570-016811 (From IP phone 03-5251-6811)

English General Service email: [equestion@fsa.go.jp](mailto:equestion@fsa.go.jp)

# Mimitaro Information



**Happy New Year!**

Best wishes for 2023

the year of rabbit Mimitaro

## ◇ Save on Nagahama sightseeing with “Nagahama Odekake Passport”

Passport that allows you to enter any of 14 major tourist facilities in Nagahama City for only 1,500 yen (valid for 2 days).

Discounts, gifts, and other special offers too.

♪ Recommended Facilities ♪

- Yanmar Museum

Many contents for children to experience, such as moving an excavator.

- Kaiyodo Figure Museum Kurokabe

A museum where you can see Figures from various time periods and enjoy family time with all generations.

You can also visit many other tourist facilities at a reasonable price. For more information, check the website.



## ◇ Hikari Kanaderu Oka Rosa & Illumi 2022-2023

Kansai's largest sparkle, nature based illumination.

Until Feb 12th (Sun) 6pm to 9pm

English Garden Rosa & Berry Tawada

TEL: 0749-54-2323



## ◇ Katsube Fire Festival

Omi's unique festival where young people will light up a huge “taimatsu” (torch) in the shape of a snakes body and dance, praying for good health and prosperity.

Katsube Shrine

8-8 Katsube 1chome Moriyama

Jan 14th (Sat) From 6:00pm



## ◇ The Little Prince

~Letter from Saint Exupéry~

A dance performance based on "The Little Prince."

There will be no dialogue. Enjoy the beautiful dances, costumes, music, and stage set.

Biwako Hall Medium hall

TEL: 077-523-7136



Feb 4<sup>th</sup> (Sat) from 3pm, Feb 5<sup>th</sup> (Sun) from 2pm

## ◇ Best time to see Plum blossoms

Mid-January to End of March

Nagahama : Nagahama “Bonbai” exhibition  
(at Keiunkan etc.)

Yasu : Omifuji Karyoku Koen

Otsu : Ishiyama Temple,

Kanoshjuan Sunai no sato

Hikone : Hikone Castle Otomon plum grove



## ◇ Biwako Marathon 2023

Cheer on the nearly 7,000 runners in this memorable first event!

March 12<sup>th</sup> (sun) 8:20am start

Course : Start/ Ojiyama Track-and-field stadium

Goal/ Karasuma Hantou



## ◇ BIG BREATH

A new skateboard park has appeared at a sports facility on the foot of Mt. Ibuki. There are also horse-riding club, athletic facility for children, futsal courts, tennis courts, and barbecue area.

1777 Onogi Maibara TEL: 0749-56-0695



# Mimitaro News



## ◇ Let's prepare for earthquakes!

Japan is prone to earthquakes. It is important to be prepared on a regular basis.

1. Confirm the wide-area evacuation center with the municipal office.
2. Designate a meeting place for the family.
3. Secure furniture etc., that are likely to fall over.
4. Prepare emergency carry-out supplies.



## ◇ Period to file for final tax returns

February 16th (Thu) to March 15th (Wed)

If you need a correction for deduction due to payment of high medical bills or housing loans, business income earners, those with income in more than one company, please file for final tax returns at the tax office.

**Shiga Foreign Residents Information Center**  
(within Shiga Intercultural Association for Globalization)  
Multilingual support and free legal consultation available.

TEL: 077-523-5646 FAX : 077-510-0601

E-mail: mimitaro@s-i-a.or.jp

Next issue of Mimitaro is scheduled in April