

AIZU WAKAMATSU INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION MONTHLY ENGLISH NEWSLETTER

SynthesAizu

November 2021
Volume 1 Issue 11



Stories in
English, Korean,
and Hindi!

Foreign Language Storybook Day

Date: **November 28th, (Sun)**

Time: **10:00 -12:00**

Price: **FREE!**

Place: Aizu Wakamatsu City Learning
Center, Lecture Halls 1, 2, and 3

Aizuwakamatsu-shi, Sakaemachi, 3-50

Come join us once again for our semi-annual Children's storybook event at the local library! For this event, Elementary school children are invited to come enjoy stories read aloud in 3 different languages by native speakers! Students will have a chance to meet new friends, and interact with different languages through fun games and activities!

Sign-Up: Please contact the library at 0242-22-4711

Finding New Friends at "FIND" English Club



Over the summer, some of our student members asked us if there was a place where they could practice natural English conversation outside the classroom. When we weren't able to recommend a specific place, they decided to make one themselves!

Last month, the students held the first meeting of "FIND," a free English conversation club for both native speakers and those wanting to practice their English skills. In each meeting, participants can enjoy making new friends through casual conversation and English language activities. If you are interested in joining the next session, just give us a call or send an email to mail@awia.jp!

"Yummy French Kitchen" Cooking Workshop!

Come learn how to make authentic, French-style crepes with Mrs. Emilie Bouquet Nanko! Born in Vannes, France, Emilie grew up around delicious local specialties like galettes, which she introduced to us in the August issue of this newsletter. Now, she's bringing the sweets straight to you with this tasty hands-on event! Spots are limited, so sign up ASAP!



Saturday, December 4th (14:00 - 16:00)

Place: Aizu Wakamatsu City Learning Center, 1F Cooking Studio
Aizuwakamatsu-shi, Sakaemachi, 3-50

Price: 500JPY (AWIA Members), 700JPY (non-members)

Capacity: 9 Groups* (The cooking studio has 9 stovetops available.
Participants can join as an individual or as a group of 2 people who are able to share a stovetop.)

Please Bring: Apron, handkerchief

Sign-Up: Contact the AWIA by Friday, December 3rd



会津若松市国際交流協会

TEL (0242) 27-3703

EMAIL: mail@awia.jp

AIZU WAKAMATSU INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION

This Month in Aizu-Wakamatsu

Autumn Leaves Light Up at Tsuruga Castle

Oct. 22nd (Fri) - Nov. 23rd (Tue)
From Sundown until 20:30



Image Source: <https://www.aizukanko.com/event/103>

Covid-19 and Vaccine Updates

Aizu Wakamatsu Reaches 70% Vaccinated

At the end of October, Aizu Wakamatsu city reported that 71% of Aizu residents over the age of 12 have been fully vaccinated. An additional 17% are scheduled to be vaccinated over the coming weeks, leading to a projected vaccination rate of nearly 90% by the end of the month.

Aizu to Pause Vaccinations at the End of the Month

Due to the significant progression of Aizu's vaccine campaign, the city has announced that they will be temporarily pausing vaccination reservations this month. For those who still wish to be vaccinated, but have not made a reservation, please keep in mind the deadlines below.

Deadline to reserve 1st vaccine dose: Friday, Nov. 5th

Deadline to reserve 2nd vaccine dose: Tuesday, Nov. 9th

Koanji Temple Chrysanthemum Festival

Drop by the Koanji Temple Nakada Kannon-do in Aizu Misato this month for their annual autumn chrysanthemum festival! According to legend, if you bring a chrysanthemum to the temple as an offering during this time and eat it afterwards, you will be blessed with good health and harmony in your household.

Chrysanthemums will be on display from
November 1st - November 10th.

Address: *Donoatoko-147 Yoneta, Aizumisato*



~ 2022 Lucky Bag Watch ~

If you've been in Japan for a while, you're probably familiar with "Fukubukuro," or "Lucky Bags." Lucky bags are typically sold around the new year's holidays and contain a bundle of mystery items which are usually worth considerably more than the actual cost of the bag. For example, a 5,000JPY mystery bag from a popular store often has 8,000 - 10,000JPY worth of goods inside.

Small retail shops typically release their lucky bags on or just after new years on a first-come, first-served basis, but major name brands often set up pre-orders for their lucky bags months in advance. For particularly popular bags, some even require you to enter a lottery just to have the *chance* to buy a bag. That being said, if you're a big fan of a particular brand, you'll want to have your eyes peeled this month for Lucky Bag announcements.



Thanksgiving Word Quiz! Can you guess these popular Thanksgiving foods?

Although this Thanksgiving essential is the main dish on a Thanksgiving table, it's quite hard to find in Japan!

— — — — —

This creamy, white side dish is delicious both on its own or when topped with a scoop of gravy.

— — — — —

No Thanksgiving is complete without this popular dessert! The leftovers also make for a tasty breakfast the next day.

— — — — —



Member Spotlight: Isabella Keenan



Hello everyone! It's nice to meet you. My name is Isabella. I'm Australian and I've been living in Aizu Wakamatsu for two and a half years now. Some of my interests include traveling, writing and Japanese tea ceremony. Today I'd like to share with you a little about my tea ceremony journey.



Upon arriving in Aizu Wakamatsu, I was immediately invited to join tea ceremony lessons by a new co-worker. I'll always remember my first lesson quite clearly. It was a sticky summer day, and I was not yet used to the Japanese humidity. Unfortunately, I hadn't realized I would need socks for the lesson... Of course, it's traditional to wear kimono and tabi socks when practicing tea. But there I was, dressed minimally in my Australian summer clothes. I was teasingly told by my new teacher that we had a dress code of sorts at tea.



That day was the first time I walked on tatami (in borrowed socks), and the first time I drank matcha. The tea was served in a blue glass tea bowl. The teacher explained that the presentation was supposed to elicit a cool refreshing image, like clear running water. In the beginning, I didn't understand much of the explanations or instructions in Japanese. My co-worker who had invited me kindly interpreted for my while she performed the role of the guest, and I tried to follow along as best I could. Now, looking back at how much progress I've made since then with both my Japanese and tea studies, I feel a strong sense of accomplishment.

Last month, my tea teacher brought me as her guest to a tea ceremony event held at the Oyakuen gardens. I was eager to attend as these events have been far and few between since to the pandemic. My teacher was honoured as the first guest and I the second. I met our organization's leader, and other esteemed members of the community too. I sincerely hope to be able to attend more events in the future, and I encourage everyone reading to try them too.



At the time of writing this, I am currently working on a variation of the bon temae. Bon temae is a type of ceremony that includes the use of a tray for tea utensils. Soon, we will also begin preparing for the opening of the furnace ceremony, which marks the change of seasons. I look forward to this and to the arrival of the colder months.

As the year begins to draw to an end and I reflect on everything, I'd like to share my gratitude for the lessons and the happy memories my tea ceremony journey has given me. Sharing tea and some sweets with the ones you love is one of the greatest treasures. I hope you can all enjoy Japanese tea culture too.

Events in November

1	MO	Closed
2	TU	13:30 Nihongo Salon
3	WE	Closed
4	TH	18:30 Japanese Conversation Class (PM)
5	FR	10:00 Japanese Conversation Class (AM)
6	SA	
7	SU	Closed (Inbound Guide Seminar)
8	MO	Closed
9	TU	13:30 Nihongo Salon
10	WE	
11	TH	18:30 Japanese Conversation Class (PM)
12	FR	10:00 Japanese Conversation Class (AM)
13	SA	13:30 Hello World Club
14	SU	10:00 Storybook Room Volunteer Meeting
15	MO	Closed
16	TU	13:30 Nihongo Salon
17	WE	
18	TH	18:30 Japanese Conversation Class (PM)
19	FR	10:00 Japanese Conversation Class (AM)
20	SA	
21	SU	Closed (Inbound Guide Seminar)
22	MO	Closed
23	TU	Closed
24	WE	
25	TH	18:30 Japanese Conversation Class (PM)
26	FR	10:00 Japanese Conversation Class (AM)
27	SA	13:30 Newsletter Preparation 13:30 Hello World Club
28	SU	10:00 Children's Storybook Room Event
29	MO	Closed
30	TU	13:30 Nihongo Salon

Other Information

Volunteer Opportunities at the AWIA

Volunteers Needed for Children's Storybook Day at the Library



Do you like working with kids? Do you enjoy working with a team on fun activities? If so, come join us for our Children's Storybook event on November 28th! We are looking for volunteers to help prepare activities, manage classrooms, and assist with translation. Anyone is encouraged to join, but we are especially looking for people who have some familiarity with one of our 3 featured languages: English, Korean, or Hindi.

If you would like to help with the event, please send us an email at mail@awia.jp by Friday, November 13th!

We will have a volunteer meeting the following day to break into teams and discuss activity ideas.

Volunteer Meeting

Date: November 14th, Saturday **Time:** 10:00~

Place: Aizu Wakamatsu International Association Office

Call for Newsletter Volunteers!



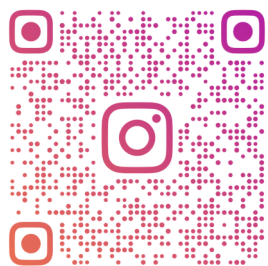
Volunteers needed to assist with folding, stamping, and preparing our monthly publications for mailing. Come enjoy chatting with other members during this casual volunteer event! No need to sign up, just come by if you can!

Date: November 27th, Saturday **Time:** 13:30~

Place: Aizu Wakamatsu International Association Office

Message from the Editor

At the end of October, the AWIA had one of our biggest events of the year, our annual Halloween Festival! I'd like to thank all the volunteers who came out and helped us with the event. We had so much fun working with you, and it honestly would not have been possible without the amazing support from our members. As a community organization, we can only exist thanks to our members and volunteers, but during Covid it has been a lot more difficult for everyone to get together as a community. As such, we are so incredibly grateful that we were able to see everyone again and work as a team to put together a great Halloween Festival. Thank you!!



We're on Instagram!

Follow us for photos and news about our upcoming events!



AWIA_PHOTO

<http://facebook.com/awiajp>



Visit our Facebook page for the latest updates in multiple languages!

965-0871 Fukushima-ken, Aizu Wakamatsu-shi, Sakae-machi 2-14, Lion D'or Garden 5th Floor

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