

GIFU BULLETIN

Vol. II | No. 2

Featuring News, Events, and Updates from Around the Geefs

November-December 2015



News – The My Number System

From January of next year the “My Number” System will be brought into force in Japan. The my number system resembles the Social Security number in the US, the SIN in Canada or PPS number in Ireland, whereby each citizen has one number which they use when filing tax returns, applying for social welfare payments etc.

Non-Japanese citizens residing in Japan will also receive their own number. The government began sending out letters to people nationwide as of the end of October (it started to send notifications to Gifu in November). You will need to sign for the letter and your number will be found on top of a small post card sized slip of paper right above your name. It is 12 figures long.

Finally, beginning in January 2016, you will be able to apply for a card which will display your number, face, sex etc. The notification card showing your number also acts as this card. It is not obligatory to get the card as of the time of writing. The system is quite controversial in Japan so your colleagues may be a bit weary of it.

For more info see:

<http://www.cas.go.jp/jp/seisaku/bangoseido/english-faq.html>

Or watch an informative video here:

<http://nettv.gov-online.go.jp/eng/prg/prg4473.html>

Upcoming Events

There are slim pickings for events this month however, with the long autumn we are enjoying you still have ample time to grab a glimpse of the autumn leaves (see the website for more deets) before enjoying the Christmas lights.

Nov. 28th – Jan. 11th

[Fuyu no Hikari Monogatari @](#)

[Kisogawasansen Park](#)

[Kaizu.](#)

Japanese Phrase of the Month

Before the snow hits:

転ばぬ 先の 杖
korabanu saki no tsue

A cane before falling
(Better safe than sorry)

English Camp Recap

Last month, on the 7th and 8th of November, the 3rd Annual Gifu Prefectural High School English Camp was held in Gifu City. English loving High School students from all over the prefecture came together for a weekend of fun and educational activities planned, coordinated, and carried out by a star-powered staff of 27 ALTs and CIRs.



English Camp Recap – continued

While this year's English Camp retained its core structure (World Showcase on Day 1 and English University on Day 2), this year's edition came with some upgrades. The change that made the biggest difference was recruiting more ALT volunteers. Municipal-ALT volunteers made up more than a third of our staff.

Having more hands on deck meant that we were able to do things like (1) have more booths at the World Showcase and (2) make English University more of an authentic experience by having more lectures and giving students the chance to sign up for classes and receive individualized schedules. More importantly, it meant that our campers were able to get more one-on-one opportunities to communicate in English and learn more about the world. These welcome additions enriched the English Camp experience for all of our campers and staff alike. This year's English Camp was a great success and next year's will be even better. If you couldn't make it this time, join us next year!



Winter Holidays

Our winter holidays begin on the 28th of December and last until the 3rd of January. Have a great break!

What did you think?

Is there something you want to see in the next bulletin?

Do you have any pictures or announcements you would like us to share?

Let us know what you think of the bulletin and what you would like to see in future issues by emailing us at gifupas@gmail.com

Winter is Coming

Despite our unusually high November temperatures be warned that the winter is fast approaching and that some parts of the prefecture will soon be turning into a magical festive wonderland/ white hell (it depends on your point of view).

Given how large the prefecture is, the north experiences substantially more snow than the south (roughly 4 months as opposed to 4 days) but here are some things you should all keep in mind over the winter months.

- Put on snow tires (there are checks)
- Remember to stock up on kerosene for those heaters
- Remember to avoid large buildups of snow around your house or on roofs (accidents have happened)
- Consider buying special warm clothing available at places such as Uniqlo.
- Consider buying *kairo*. They are patches which heat up when exposed to air and can be stuck onto the body.
- Fire up the kotatsu!
- Don't become a hermit (especially important for the Hidans).
- Consider amazing winter sports.

