

KCC Newsletter

October, 2022

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Announcement

"Kashiwa de International Exchange Festa 2022" will be held face-to-face for the first time in 3 years

Date & Time: Sunday, November 20,
11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Place: Howdy Mall (Kashiwa Station East Exit)

Contents: Performances, booth exhibits and sales,
food sales by vendors

(Details will be given in the November issue.)



Booths all lined
up in Howdy Mall
(2019)



Peruvian Dance
(2019)

Exchange Programs with Sister & Friendship Cities of Kashiwa

The Footsteps of Exchange with Camden (the 25 anniversary program with our friendship city Camden in Australia)

Date & Time: Sunday, November 6, 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Number of participants: First 50 applicants

Contents: "Camden day" will be held to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Friendship City Agreement. The KIRA Camden Committee will make a presentation on the 25-year history of the friendship city programs. The Quiz and Question time on Australia will be scheduled together with the Camden International Exchange Association. (Note: The quiz and question time will be conducted in English with an interpreter.)

Application: Sign up at the KCC office by Wednesday, November 2, or send an email to <boshu-1@kira-kira.jp>.

Place: Open Space at Pallet Kashiwa,
Participation fee: Free



Contestants Wanted for "the 7th Japanese Speech Contest in Kashiwa by Foreign Residents"

Dear foreign residents in Tokatsu area! This year, we will hold "Japanese Speech Contest" again! Please tell us in Japanese what you feel and want to tell us in your life in Japan.

Date & Time: Sunday, February 5, 2023, noon - 4:00 p.m. Place: Palette Kashiwa

People who can apply: You must live, work, or study in the Tokatsu area (Kashiwa, Mastudo, Noda, Nagareyama, Abiko, and Kamagaya) and your native language is not Japanese (your parents must be foreign nationals.) Approximately 15 people wanted.

Application form: Available at the KCC office or download it from KCC's website.

Awards: Kashiwa Mayor's Award (1), Kashiwa International Relations Association (KIRA) President's Award (1), Special Award (2), and Participation Award (for all participants other than the recipients of the above awards)

To prevent corona virus infection, the following measures will be taken. 1) The number of people in the venue may be limited. 2) Live streaming is planned. We will post more details on the KCC website in early January 2023.

Application deadline: Wednesday, November 30

How to apply: You can apply 1) by postal mail to 〒277-0005 Kashiwa-shi Kashiwa 1-7-1-301, KCC Office,
2) by email to <boshu-2@kira-kira.jp>, or 3) directly at the KCC office.

In case we receive many applications, we will select about 15. Results will be sent by email by Friday, December 16.

Contact: the KCC office phone: 04-7157-0281



Thank you for your support for the Ukraine Relief Fund.

Since April 2022, Kashiwa Cross-cultural Center has been fundraising to support Ukrainians evacuated to Kashiwa, while sharing information with Kashiwa City. The city has received 7 evacuees from 5 households as of August. Your donations are used to help pay for their medical expenses, daily necessities, and Japanese language learning materials. The donation box has been set up at the office counter. (8:30 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. except Sundays and national holidays) You can find information about Kashiwa's reception of Ukrainian evacuees on the Kashiwa City website.

<NOTE> When applying by email, please include the event name, your name and phone number. The events may be cancelled depending on the Covid-19 situation. Contact the office for more information. Please wear a mask when participating.

Announcement

Kashiwanoha Interactive Walking Tour in Autumn

Suwa Shrine at Komagi in Nagareyama has a history of more than 1,200 years and is fondly called "Osuwa-sama" among the locals. We will walk from Kashiwanoha to Suwa Shrine, visiting some historical sites on the way. After paying a visit to the shrine, we will explore the shrine precinct surrounded by tall trees to feel its sacred atmosphere.

Date & Time: Sunday, October 23, 1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. (tentative) May be cancelled in bad weather.

Course: Meet at Kashiwanoha Campus Station (TX) - Takadahara Settlement Monument - Former Army Air Corps Gate - Suwa Shrine (approx. 4.5 km.) To return from Suwa Shrine, 1) on foot, or 2) walk to and take a train at Toyoshiki Station (Tobu Urban Park Line) to Kashiwanoha Campus Station (TX) via Nagareyama Otakanomori Station. Returning by train takes about 15 minutes and costs 360 yen. The participation fee does not include the train fare.

Number of participants: 15 Participation fee: 100 yen (insurance and materials)

Application: Sign up at the KCC office by Thursday, October 13, or send an email to <boshu-2@kira-kira.jp>.

Please wear comfortable walking clothes and shoes, and bring drink and a towel.



Suwa Shrine

Online Interactions with People Around the World

Date & Time: Sundays, October 9 and November 16, 12:30 p.m.-1:30 p.m.

Place: Palette Kashiwa

Content: Those who are good at English and those who are not join together to interact with people around the world using the web conference application Zoom.

Number of participants: Elementary school to university students living or studying in Kashiwa City. (Venue: 20 participants per session. Online: 20 participants per session)

Application: Send an email to <boshu-1@kira-kira.jp> with your name, contact details and the date you want to participate.



Free Legal Advice and Administrative Procedure Support for Foreign Resident

To foreign residents. Are you in need of help? Lawyers and administrative procedure specialists are available for consultation. You can ask for specialists' advice on issues such as family or partner violence, divorce, visa procedures, and problems at work. Reservation necessary.

Date & Time: Wednesday, October 26, 1:00p.m.-5:00p.m. ,

Place: Palette Kashiwa, Room A

Reservation: the KCC office



Announcement of Video Posting

You can see the video of "KCC Activities in FY2021" (available in Japanese and English) on our website.



Information from
other organizations

Online study meeting for KIRA members "Utilizing Zoom for convenient online meetings"

Date and Time: Thursday, October 20, 8:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Lecturer: Kumiko Yamaguchi

Participation fee: Free

Number of participants: 25

Application: Sign up at the KCC office, or send an email to <boshu-1@kira-kira.jp> with your name and phone number.

We will send you the invitation link on the day.

Online Study Session "Effective Methods of Vocalization: Voice is a barometer of health" (9/15)

We invited Naomi Yamazaki, a professional vocalist, to our Zoom meeting as a lecturer, and 39 people participated including non-member Kashiwa citizens. Starting at 8 o'clock in the evening, from the warm-up vocal exercises to the finishing song of "Hamabe no uta," the participants belted out and enjoyed letting off steam, as we had to keep our voices low in our daily life because of the Covid-19 pandemic. First, we stood in front of our own PC, and did light exercises, facial muscle training, and abdominal breathing. Then, we did vocal exercises saying "a-e-i-u-e-o-a-o." At the end, as we repeatedly sang with Ms. Yamazaki's wonderful voice, our voices came out better and better. She explained that when making high-pitched voice, we need to breathe in heavily, put pressure on our abdomen and let the exhale breath carry our voices. It was a very convincing explanation to me, who could not sing well. I learned that abdominal breathing and vocal exercises are good for health and beauty, and that it is effective in doing them every morning before you start to move. Various types and genres of online study meetings are possible by taking advantage of online. They are easy to access and fun, so please join us next time! (The 2nd meeting of Effective Methods of Vocalization is scheduled for March 2023)

Picture-story Show: The Three Little Pigs (9/18)

First, the story was read aloud in Japanese. Then, it was divided into four parts and the members of KIRAKC read each part respectively in English, Tagalog, Chinese and Indonesian.

The parents and children in the room seemed very interested in the sounds of foreign languages they had not normally heard. After that, we all said aloud such words as 'mother,' 'little pig,' and '1-2-3' in the four languages. In the room, a large world map was displayed and the countries and regions using the four languages were pointed out and explained. We hope that the little children were aware that there are many different languages in the world.





Mr. Chris Pigao, a new ALT (Assistant Language Teacher)

from Kashiwa Municipal High School

Q: What is the origin of your family name, Pigao?

A: My parents immigrated to the U.S. from the Philippines, and I am a second-generation immigrant.

Q: When did you come to Japan? Was it hard to enter the country?

A: I arrived in Japan on August 9. I was required to have the third COVID-19 vaccination and a negative PCR test 72 hours before. I also needed to obtain a visa, but the Kashiwa City Board of Education supported me, and I was able to get it.

Q: What kind of work did you do in Torrance?

A: As I majored in English literature, mainly poetry and creative writing, in graduate school, I was a temporary English teacher at my alma mater, Torrance High School, at Torrance North High School, a sister school of Kashiwa Municipal High School, and at Torrance West High School. I also sold Hawaiian-style shaved ice and drove a truck at the Port of Los Angeles.

Q: Why did you decide to teach at the high school this time?

A: I was originally planning to apply for an ALT position through the JET (Japan Exchange Teaching) program, which recruits ALTs for prefectural high schools in Japan, and the place of appointment is decided a month in advance. At that time, Kashiwa Municipal High School was looking for a new ALT. I knew that Kashiwa was a sister city of Torrance and the high school was a school with distinctive features. I was especially interested in the activities of school's pop music club I saw on the website and decided to apply for the high school as I enjoyed popular music.

**JET Program: Recruiting and sending English teachers mainly from the U.S., Canada, the U.K., and Australia to schools in Japan*

Q: Is this your first time in Japan? What is your impression of Japan and Kashiwa?

A: I visited Japan as a tourist in 2018 and 2019, and I went sightseeing in Tokyo, Osaka, Nara, Kyoto, etc. I thought the quality of things, such as food, facilities and service to customers, was high in Japan. I was impressed by the hospitality of the people, even those who do not speak English were kind enough to give me directions. I love Kashiwa. In Kashiwa, there is a big shopping mall, but there is peaceful farmland and homelike contact with the locals. I feel it is similar to my hometown, Torrance.

Q: How is your life as a teacher at the high school?

A: Students treat me with respect and talk to me a lot. On the other hand, they seem friendly to me, perhaps because of my appearance, which they call adorable(cute). I feel that they are easing my tension as I have just transferred from the U.S.

Q: What would you like to teach your students at this school?

A: I am in charge of a class called "English Expression. The students learn to decide their own theme and present it. I want not only to teach them the basics of English such as grammar but also to teach them the importance of connecting with others and communicating.

Q: Please tell us your hobbies and how you spend your days off.

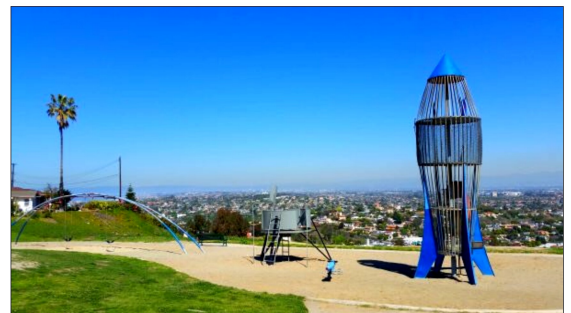
A: I listen to music and read at home. I cycle around the Teganuma area on my electric bicycle. When I go out in Tokyo, I go to Nakano Broadway, which sells anime goods, a guitar shop in Ochanomizu, and Shin-Okubo, which has now become an international town. I like Japanese anime, especially comedic ones, and "K-On!" because I like pop music.

Q: I heard that you are going to teach English at KCC. Which course are you going to teach?

A: I will be teaching from October. I have heard that there are many enthusiastic students, so I would like to help them debate and express their own opinions.



Chris Pigao



Rocketship Park in Torrance

Mr. Chris Pigao is the 35th generation ALT from Torrance. Many past teachers still live in Japan, and some parents and children became ALTs. We felt the long and strong bond between Kashiwa and Torrance. (Interviewers: Yoko Nakano, Noriko Fujita)

October Events

Japanese Shonan Classes		
Online Classes		
Sat	7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.	Primary II
Sun	10:00 a.m.- 11:30 a.m.	<i>Minna no Nihongo</i> , Primary I (2 classes), Intermediate II
In-person Classes (Shonan Community Center)		
Thu	10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.	<i>Minna no Nihongo</i> , Primary I, Japanese from intermediate level
Sun	10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.	<i>Minna no Nihongo</i> , Primary I
Japanese Kashiwa Classes		
Online Classes		
Tue	7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.	<i>Minna no Nihongo</i> , Primary I (Starts at section 8)
Wed	10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	Conversation elementary 2B
Wed	7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.	<i>Minna no Nihongo</i> , Primary II (Starts at section 26)
Thu	10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	Conversation elementary level 1 -Start
Thu	10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	Conversation elementary level 1
Thu	1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.	Conversation elementary level 2 A
Fri	7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.	<i>Minna no Nihongo</i> , Primary II (Starts at section 48)
Sat	9:30 a.m. - 11:20 a.m.	Conversation intermediate level
In-person Classes (Palette Kashiwa)		
Wed	10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	<i>Minna no Nihongo</i> , Primary II (Starts at section 26)
Sat	10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	<i>Minna no Nihongo</i> , Primary I (Starts at section 1)
Sat	10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	<i>Minna no Nihongo</i> , Primary I (Starts at section 10)

Consultation for Foreign Residents

Monday: Spanish
 Tuesday: Korean (only the 2nd and 4th Tuesday)
 Wednesday: Chinese
 Thursday: English
 Friday: Chinese
 ※ 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. everyday
 Consultation Counter for Foreign Residents
 (Main City Hall 3F)
 TEL: 04 - 7168 - 1033 No reservation required.

Information about COVID-19 for Foreign Residents



Available in multiple languages

Kashiwa Information Delivery Service

Sign up to receive email announcements from the city, such as information about earthquakes, fires, crime, and infectious disease outbreaks in the language of your choice. Scan this QR code and register.



Also, please read Kashiwa City Magazine. It contains information about COVID-19 vaccination.



Questions?

Please contact the office of
Kashiwa Cross-cultural Center (KCC)

Tel: 04-7157-0281 Fax: 04-7165-7321
 Hours: 8:30 a.m. - 5:15 p.m.
 Closed on Sundays and national holidays