



October Schedule



(10:00-12:00)

Date	Subject	Place
Oct. 5 (Fri.)	Japanese/Chatting Table	Community Center 2F Gakusyūshitsu
Oct. 12 (Fri.)	Japanese/Chatting Table	Community Center 1F Shūkaishitsu
	Board Meeting	1F Washitsu
Oct. 19 (Fri.)	International Understanding (Open School)	Community Center 2F Gakusyūshitsu
Oct. 26 (Fri.)	Japanese/Chatting Table	Community Center 2F Ongakushitsu



“What should you do when disaster strikes?”

~How do you inform people
who don't understand the language?

Let's tell by easy Japanese!!~

. Charades. Let's talk about a possible disaster!

★ We welcome the attendance of as many people as possible.



The Star Festival (*Tanabata*)

Duan Jinna (China)

This year's *Tanabata* Festival was the second one I've attended in Japan, and I enjoyed it very much. *Tanabata* is the day when “*Hikoboshi*” (the Herdsman) and “*Orihimeboshi*” (the Weaver) meet on a bridge of wings made by a flock of magpies. This romantic festival, *Tanabata*, is celebrated in various ways from ancient times in many parts of China. These many practices, however, have faded over time. The story about the devoted love between “*Hikoboshi*” and “*Orihimeboshi*” is the only thing that has been passed down to posterity. In Japan, however, *Tanabata* is still celebrated and the custom has been enriched as it was passed down from generation to generation.

People enjoy this festival by writing their wishes on “*tanzaki*” (small pieces of paper) of different colors, making decorations with beautiful colored paper by cutting and folding, then hanging them on branches of a cut bamboo.

When I went to the *Tanabata* Festival in Iwate in 2008, I was really impressed by the various kinds of lovely decorations. I felt for the first time that the Star Festival was so romantic and fantastic.

This year, everybody in AIS celebrated the *Tanabata* Festival by decorating a bamboo branch with handmade ornaments and wished for our desires to be fulfilled. This reminded me of my dear old childhood.

I hope that this former Chinese traditional custom will also be handed down in mainland China as in Japan and be developed further.



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Receptionist Group Leader: H. Miura

Minutes of Board Meeting

Sep. 14 (10 Board Members and 2 Observers)

*Schedule and report from each group *Ihara, Ito and Maeda attended the Japanese Language Education Meeting conducted by the Cultural Office.

*Thank you to the 38 members for volunteering as water suppliers in the Saika Festival

Information

*Teaching Japanese to Beginners: Oct. 12 (Fri.) 9:00 to 9:50

*We will collect the member ship fee for the next 6 months (¥1,800) on Oct. 5 (Fri.) Please bring the envelopes that you received before. We will reuse them

*On Nov. 17 (Sat.), AIS will take part in Asaka Shimin Katsudō Matsuri. Please contribute goods for the bazaar and we will appreciate your cooperation.

■ AIS Volunteer Lecture ■

“Exchange Japanese Language with Foreigners”

Date & Time: Oct. 5(Fri.), Nov. 2 (Fri.), Dec. 7 (Fri.) (3 times)

From 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm.

Lecturer: Ms. Kyoko Matsuo

(Association for Japanese-Language Teaching)

*The first lecture will be held at the Community Center, 1F, Shūkaishitsu 2

My Summer Holidays

On Sep. 7th, I asked members who came back to AIS after a long while about their summer holidays.



Stayed at home in comfort as it was very hot outside. Studied Chinese culture with my friend./ Watched videos of ‘Bodyguard’, ‘Morocco’ and ‘West Side Story’/ Went to Izu Peninsula/ Spent the days lazily/ Studied Japanese language/ Visited a Vietnamese friend's home/ Went to Vladivostok and Khabarovsk. Wasn't so hot there. Glad to go back Russia/ Did my best to do housework because my wife's in bed with cold. Tired!./ Visited my hometown Ehime and Nara where I spent my college days and talked with my old friends, my former teacher and my brother/ Had dinner and then went to karaoke with members of a study group/ Took care of my grandson. Celebrated my mother's eighty-eighth birthday at her house/ Didn't go out and had Sūdoku (number game)/ Took part in volunteering as water suppliers in the Saika Festival/ Took part in a Bon Festival folk dance (*bon-odori*) and carried a portable shrine (*mikoshi*) at a festival/ Went to Tama Zoo and a shrine, and then had barbecue by the river at night with my Sri Lankan friend/ Unfortunately couldn't make a trip due to the typhoon/ Spent the summer vacation as usual/ Came back to Asaka for the first time in three years and a half. It was very tough to move house in fierce heat/ Returned to my country for a while/ Nothing in particular. Met friends of mine in Ikebukuro sometimes/ Sent handwritten summer greeting cards to my friends and relatives/ Saw a display of fireworks in Asaka with my family/ Exchanged letters with my teacher/ Practiced Japanese archery (*Kyudo*) / Played table tennis (ping-pong) and took care of my grandchildren/ Too busy with work to go anywhere/ Wanted to enjoy the summer holidays but actually was not in very good shape/ Saved electricity, water and money/ Opened a new shop in Shiki/ Went to Inner Mongolia in China/ Passed the hours immersed in watching many videos in a cool room. It was sheer heaven!/ Played golf in Karuizawa

Ms. Limei Pan (China) Ms. Xiao Lin Li (China)
New Members: Mr. Onah Uchechukku Adindu (Nigeria)
Mr. Lassaad Houssaini (Tunisia)