

# Inuyama Multilingual News

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## Let's Build Communication with our Children!

It is said that when parents speak with their children in a mutually familiar language, their children will gain confidence in communicating in that language. Why not read have story time with your younger children? It is also a good idea to talk with your children about the culture of Japanese schools when they start attending.



### Reading Aloud

The time spent reading picture books with your children can be an important time for building communication between parents and their children. By reading to your children, you can not only improve their language development, but also their ability to concentrate and listen, as well as broaden their imaginations.

### Inuyama City Library (Inuyama Shiritsu Tosyokan)

The Inuyama City Library

([lib.inuyama.aichi.jp](http://lib.inuyama.aichi.jp)) has picture

books, picture story shows, and children's books in various languages. There are two libraries, the main library in Inuyama and the Gakuden Fureai Library.



	Honkan			Gakuden	
	Picture Books	Children's Books	Picture Story Shows	Picture Books	Children's Books
<b>Spanish</b>	5	1	0	2	0
<b>Portuguese</b>	6	1	0	0	0
<b>English</b>	197	46	23	11	1
<b>Chinese</b>	0	4	0	0	0

### Japanese School Culture

School lunches and cleaning are an important part of Japanese school culture.

#### School Lunches

In Japan, school lunches are available at elementary and junior high schools. Recently, people are concerned about the health of their children due to their unbalanced diets at home and not eating breakfast, which can lead to being overweight or even obesity. School lunches play an important role in dietary education, helping children to acquire correct knowledge about food and eating habits.



#### Cleaning

In Japanese schools, there is time set aside for students to clean the classrooms and bathrooms they use. Cleaning is something that all children can work on themselves during their time at school. In addition to keeping the school clean, it is also a valuable opportunity to learn the importance of group activities, such as fostering a sense of caring through cooperation.



**The Guest for *Our Neighbors* in this issue is Miyaji Dos Santos Leide who is teaching Portuguese in a *Mother Tongue Class*\*.**

\*The Mother Tongue Class is a language class for non-Japanese residents to improve their language ability in the language of their own home country.



Instructor: Miyaji Dos Santos Leide  
Nationality: Brazil  
Qualification for Stay: Permanent Resident  
First Visit to Japan: January 2005  
Family Members: 2 children (1st and 2nd graders in elementary school)  
Language Class: Isshiki Cosmo Support Gakushu-no-kai, Komaki City  
Number of Mother Tongue Class Students: 3 students

**Why did you start the *Mother Tongue Class*?**

In order to raise my children in Japan, I struggled to learn Japanese. I also came to realize that my children may need to use Portuguese in their future. So, I decided to teach my children Portuguese. If my children can use both Portuguese and Japanese, they can get a good job and widen their ability to choose the country in which they would like to live in their future. One of my teachers recommended that I teach Portuguese not only to my own children but also to other children who might wish to learn.

**When did you start the *Mother Tongue Class*?**

I started the class in October of 2020. I started teaching Portuguese after my older child started 2nd grade in elementary school. I wanted to wait until he had learned hiragana and katakana to avoid the risk of confusion.



**What language do you speak at home?**

All my family members speak in Portuguese. There is no language problem for daily life at home.

**Can you share any positive changes, since the children started studying their mother tongue?**

A mother of one of the students in our language class got a nice note from her child in Portuguese that read, "Thank you for preparing delicious meals after you return from your day-time job even though you are tired. On Saturdays and Sundays, we will have a surprise for you." The mother of the student burst into tears when she read her child's letter, and when I heard the story, I cried too!

**Do you have any suggestions for the non-Japanese residents who are raising children in Japan?**

Even if you can't speak Japanese well, when your children get home, you can ask them, "What did you learn in school today? Can you tell me?" Your children can teach you Japanese. I sometimes ask my children for some Japanese words. You can look up the words you don't know. Praise your child when your child did well! Your children will be happy and their confidence will improve when you praise them. Also, you don't have to do this every day, but often share with your child about your own language, national holidays, and the folklore stories of your own country. Please keep at it and your child will gradually learn and remember. Your child is growing day by day. Keep showing your interest in your children's daily lives and keep talking with your child, and you and your child can continue to learn together.

I could see how hard Ms. Leide is striving to not only teach her mother tongue to her kids but also to learn Japanese. I could also see the importance she placed on both languages in raising her children. Ms. Leide's comment that "If a mother does her best, so do her children: The children follow their mother's example." made a strong impression on me.

(Interviewed in February 2022 by Tsuji Aiko, Inuyama International Association)

## Portal Site\* for Foreign Workers and Companies in Aichi Prefecture

This is a portal site for foreigners newly arriving in Japan to work and for companies to help them in their professional and social lives. It is available in Japanese, Tagalog, Vietnamese, English, and Chinese.

<https://www.pref.aichi.jp/syakaikatsudo/tabunka/yokosoaichi/index.htm>



\*A portal site is a website that serves as a gateway to access the Internet.

## Renting a House

If you would like to find a house to rent, you can go to a *Fudosan-ya* (a realtor). The *Room Search Guidebook* explains in various languages (Japanese, Spanish, Tagalog, Vietnamese, English, and Chinese) what you should do when renting a house.

●English <http://www.mlit.go.jp/common/001317844.pdf>



### Useful Words and Expressions When Renting a House.

*Ooya*: Landlord. A person who leases out a house.

*Yachin*: Rental fee. Money that is paid every month by a person who rents a house.

*Shikikin*: Security deposit. When a house is found, the person who rent the house pays the money. It is used by landlords for repairs after moving out. When you move out, any money not used by the landlord will be returned to you.

*Reikin*: Key Money paid by the person renting the house when the house is found.

*Chukai Tesuryo*: Fee to be paid to the fudosan-ya who helped you find a rental house.

## Cool Japan

### Shodo

Shodo is a way of expressing one's thoughts by writing letters on paper using a writing brush called *fude* and ink called *sumi*. By practicing to write beautiful letters, you can also develop your ability to concentrate. In school there is a similar class called *shuji*. But the big difference in shodo is the emphasis on self-expression rather than just on penmanship as in *shuji*. Why don't you try your hand at shodo?



## Please meet Somoson Sheila Mae Saberon: A foreigner who is studying hard at the Inuyama Japanese Language School.



Nationality : Republic of the Philippines  
Date of arrival in Japan : June 2013  
Work : Manufacture of plastic containers



I have loved to study since I was a child. The teachers of the Japanese language classes are cheerful and fun. I am also happy to be able to learn Japanese little by little. The Japanese I have learned is useful in my daily life. I continue to attend the classes because they help me grow as a person.

My dream is to work hard and put my two children through college. Once they are in college, I would like to start a food business because I love to cook.

### Comments from a Volunteer

Somoson is very interested in everything and participates in the class very enthusiastically. She is actively trying her best to learn and use the Japanese she has just learned. She speaks so cheerfully that I enjoy her class.



Volunteer Teacher: Beppu Kai

## Fun Japanese Onomatopoeia!

Do you know what *onomatopoeia* is? Onomatopoeia is a word that expresses a state or movement with sounds. Learning Japanese onomatopoeia will make your conversations in Japanese more enjoyable. If you learn Japanese onomatopoeia, you can enjoy conversing in Japanese more. Let's try to use them!

• Ukiuki: When you are happy and excited.



• Iraira When you are reeling irritated



• Kutakuta: When you are feeling very tired.



• Gubigubi: When you are drinking a drink with gusto.



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