



# The Tidings

## The message from the president

AFTJ会員の皆様、

新学期が始まり一ヶ月が過ぎようとしています。生徒、学生達の夏休み気分も抜け、授業の方もフル回転になってきたことと思います。AFTJは今年度最初の行事として9月5、6日にキスミーにてARTICULATION DAY合宿を行いました。当初の参加者からあいにく病気で2人欠席したものの、たっぷり時間をかけて指導法やアクティビティのアイデア交換をし、その後はタイサラダや手作りハマスやすき焼きを会食しながら参加者一同有益かつ楽しい時間を過ごしました。今回シェアした内容は量的にすべてニュースレターには入れられませんが、徐々に載せていきますので是非ご活用ください。次回はセントオーガスティンでのFFLAコンフェレンスです。AFTJより日本語プログラムの効果的推進、作文を取り入れた授業、アニメを使った授業でのアクティビティ、PRE AP日本語の授業の進め方と4つのワークショップが行われます。参加人数によって金額が変わりますが参加助成金、AFTJのランチ、セミアニュアルミーティングもありますので、みなさんの御参加をお待ちしています。

FFLAがEarly Registration Feeの期限を9月30日まで延長しました。ご登録はこちらのサイトにどうぞ。 [www.ffla.us](http://www.ffla.us)

Dear AFTJ members,

A month already has passed since the new school year started. The students finally realized that summer is over, and everybody's class must pick up at full speed. In the first event of AFTJ, we had an Articulation Day in Kissimmee, FL on September 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>. It was our first time to offer an overnight stay workshop. It was a huge success. Unfortunately, two people cancelled at the last minute due to illness. All the participants shared lots of ideas. We had a wonderful dinner consisting of homemade Thai salad, humus, and Sukiyaki. Because of the overnight stay, we didn't have to worry about getting home late. I believe it is beneficial for our participants to receive hands-on materials that are ready to be used. We came up with too many ideas and activities to upload into one newsletter, so we spread them over several. Our next exciting event is the FFLA Conference on October 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> in St. Augustine, FL. AFTJ has a full program planned for our members, including our Annual Fall Meeting, as well as sessions on Writing in the Japanese Classroom, Preparing Students for the AP Japanese Language and Culture Exam from Day 1, Using Anime in Class and Advocacy for Japanese Programs. Not only will you get to meet Florida's best teaching professionals, but also you will get ideas to take back to the classroom to promote Japanese language learning. FFLA extended Early Registration until September 30, 2009. Please go to [www.ffla.us](http://www.ffla.us) to register now. I'm looking forward to seeing all of you!

Mieko Avello, President

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### AFTJ

#### Board members

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Juan Carlos Morales

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Mako Nozu

*Director*

Etsuko Woodbury

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Marci Muench

# School reports

## K-12

### **Western High School, Davie**

We have adopted a new schedule from this year at Western High School. We are no longer using the Block schedule. Instead, we have a year long A/B rotation schedule. I have 6 classes/2days, and the students come to the class every other day. (Confusing? I am still confused with this schedule, too.) There are 125 level 1 students, 3 level 2 students, 20 level 3 students and 6 level 5 students this school year. We have over 30 new Japanese club members. We donated some money to Morikami Park last year. We would like to increase the donation and commit to our community involvement.

- Satoko Fisher

### **TERRA Environmental Research Institute, Miami**

The Japanese program at TERRA, the brand new Green School in Kendall, is off to a great start. Our Japanese 1 class has just over 30 students, and we have been busy learning hiragana and common expressions. We also have found out about how environmentally friendly the Japanese are, thanks to an article from the Japan Forum. We were very lucky to find out from the Japan Foundation that we will be one of the schools to benefit from their Materials Donation program. As soon as we receive the materials, I will make sure to send AFTJ members a list of the materials so that if anyone needs to borrow them, we can share. In addition, a big thanks to Mamiko Nakai for facilitating the delivery of decorations for our classroom including some cool posters that the students love. Thanks also to Avello-sensei, Cotton-sensei, Nozu-sensei and Komura-sensei for their awesome input and ideas - and food! - at the Articulation Day.

- Juan Carlos Morales

### **Miami Palmetto Senior High school, Miami**

Miami Palmetto Senior High School has 34 students in Japanese 1, 26 students in Japanese 2, 17 students in Japanese 3, 1 student in Japanese 4, and 6 students in AP Japanese and culture. Japanese 3, 4 and AP are a combined class. It is a challenge for me to make all these levels of students to pass their respective courses. Since the AP group is very determined, I don't have to take too much of my time. Therefore, I can spend more time with the Japanese 3 group. There are five students who visited Japan this last summer. I asked them to do presentations. It was fun and educational to watch their collection of pictures. The whole class enjoyed listening to their interesting stories. This year again, we have a very strong leadership in the Japanese Honor Society and the Japanese Club. They have a joint project of producing TV commercials to promote Japanese language and its culture. Two fantastic ads were already aired in our school broadcast, on which we received a lot of compliments. There was a club fair on September 16. The Japanese Club signed up over 50 students. I'm looking forward to a great year.

- Mieko Avello

### **Woodland High school, Daytona Beach**

This school year I have 2 classes of Japanese 1 and Japanese 2 classes. Also I have one class of Japanese 3. I have total of 90 students at my school and enrollment has been steady at this point.

Japanese club had our first meeting with 32 students for the first meeting. This year's club president has an extended knowledge of the Japanese pop culture and I am very excited of his enthusiasm. We also selected this year's club shirt designed by one of my own student, Kristen Petrakis. She will be awarded for a free trip to our field trip to EPCOT.

Our first club activity is the Homecoming Carnival. We decided to sell *ramune*, the Japanese soda, Glico Pocky chocolate snack, Dance Dance Revolution, and Wii Sports.

My classes are started off very well and hope for the wonderful school year.

- Etsuko Woodbury

### **Deerfield Beach High School, Deerfield Beach**

Our students are highly motivated this school year. Our beginning Japanese class is 31 students strong, while the intermediate class has 12 students and the advanced class has 15 students, for a total of 58 students currently studying Japanese at our school. Our Japan Club is thriving with close to 40 members. We are hoping to re-charter as a Japanese National Honor Society school in the coming year and implement a few new service projects for community outreach. The students are beginning preparations for Japanese competitions early this year, including National Japan Bowl. We look forward to seeing other schools at events throughout the year.

- William Collazo

### **Middleton High school & Tampa Bay Technical High School, Tampa**

I am teaching at two schools in Tampa, Middleton High School and Tampa Bay Technical High School. This year I was given a decent room at Middleton! Although I am still floating at Tampa Bay Technical High, now I can stay in the same place in the mornings. So, I am able to decorate my classroom! My favorite one is lined up photos of flower arrangement. I am using old calendar photos sent from Miami council. I put them on the wall right below the white board. so they are beautifully displayed to appeal their aesthetic sense to the students. Mr.Ogishima brought some posters for my classroom, too.

- Hiroko Watanabe

### **Gulliver Schools, Miami**

This year, Gulliver Schools offered Japanese 1, 2, 3, and 4 to high school students. In addition to those classes, Gulliver introduced a class called "Introduction to Japanese" to middle school students. Last year, Gulliver schools decided to expand the Japanese language program to Middle school students. They offered "Introduction to Japanese" to 8<sup>th</sup> graders. This year, Gulliver decided to offer the class to 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders. Fortunately, the number of students who enrolled in the Japanese language program gradually increased despite that fact that the schools offered quite a few languages such as Chinese, Spanish, French, Latin, and Italian.

- Chiho Cotton

## University

### University of South Florida, Tampa

At University of South Florida, we are excited to welcome Tamako Ratliff-sensei for year 2009! There are now three teachers - Ohtani, Nozu and Ratliff-sensei. We offer five sections of Japanese I, two sections of Japanese III and a section of Japanese V for Fall 2009. All the classes are very popular and each has maximum number of 25 students registered. Even Japanese V has 25 students this year! Ogishima-san, Japan Outreach Initiative (JOI) coordinator, will continue to station at International Affairs at USF this year, promoting understanding of Japanese culture, language, and business practices in the community. We are planning a language exchange picnic for the students in Tampa Bay area on Saturday, October 31. It will be from 10am to 2pm at USF Riverfront Park on Fletcher Avenue in Tampa. For the details, please contact Nozu ([mnozu@cas.usf.edu](mailto:mnozu@cas.usf.edu)). In Fall 09, ten USF students are studying at Kansai Gaidai as exchange students. Study Abroad Office is seeking more opportunities for studying abroad in Japan for USF students. One of the USF students, John Gifford, an International Business major, was awarded JP Morgan Bridging Scholarship for his study at Kansai Gaidai. Congratulations, Gifford-san!

- Mako Nozu



### University of Florida, Gainesville

This fall semester at the University of Florida, we are offering 5 sections of Beginning Japanese, 2 sections of Intermediate Japanese, 2 sections of Advanced Japanese courses, and an Advanced Original Text Reading course. We have about 200 students enrolled in the language courses this semester. In addition to these courses, we are offering a variety of content courses in our program: Introduction to Japanese Culture, Structure of Japanese, Land, People and Modern Japan, Modern Japanese Fiction in Translation, and Samurai War Tales. This year, the University of Florida is hosting 10 students from Kansai Gaidai University and 1 student from Aoyama Gakuin University. Many of our students have made friends with these exchange students who are participating in Japanese Club activities such as informal language tables twice a week. From October, we will have a weekly official language table to provide greater opportunity for our students to interact with Japanese students in order to enhance their proficiency further. On Sunday, October 25, from noon to 6 p.m. we will have an exciting community event: "The Heart of Florida Asian Festival" at the Thomas Center for the Arts (City of Gainesville Cultural Events Center). It will feature the rich performing, visual and culinary arts of the Asian continent. There will be booths to introduce Japanese culture (ikebana, origami, etc.) as well as a kimono fashion show. This event will raise cultural awareness of Japan in the community.

- Yukari Nakamura

## University of Miami, Miami

During Eiko Isogai Williams sensei's maternity leave in fall 2009, I am teaching her two sections: Japanese 101 (level 1) and Japanese 201 (level 3). Our Japanese program is very popular here, and each semester, many students beg us for overrides (the limit for each class is 25 students). Our dean is interested in adding more sections, so we hope to expand our program in the near future.

Most of the students in our program hope to study in Japan. Many attend the summer program of Sophia University in Tokyo, but some have studied there for a regular semester. A few students participated in the JET program after graduation, and they are all happy to tell us about their experiences in Japan.

I believe that the number of students interested in Japanese culture is increasing. Hopefully, we can all expand our programs in Florida.

- Mari Williams

## Florida International University, Miami

Our team at FIU is still the same; Asuka Mashav, Naoko Komura, Mari Willimas and Atsuko Noguchi. This semester, we started with overwhelming number of students, over 250 student in total, enrolling in the following classes; 4 sections of JPN 1, 2 sections of JPN 2, 1 section of JPN 3, 4, 5 and Conversation and Composition I. Near future, we intend to offer JPN 6,7, and 8 which will complete 4 years of continuous Japanese courses. As for students activities, Japan club and Anything Goes Anime are very active connecting with Modern Language Department, Institute for Asian Studies and Japanese Consulate participating in various Japan-related events in the community. We hope to continue this trend and further expand our Japanese program at FIU. In addition, we had another successful summer study abroad program at Ritsumeikan University in this summer. All students who had participated this program had had a great time staying in Kyoto. This is one of most popular program at FIU and we will do coordinate the program next summer again.

- Asuka Mashav



## Related News

### Origami goes to the hospital

On May 16, 2009, students in the Japanese club and Japanese national Honor Society from Middleton and Tampa Bay Technical high schools went to Shriner's Children's Hospital to do volunteer work for the first time. While there, they continued their long running traditional dance, Sooran-bushi. They folded one thousand paper cranes and took them to the patients this Sembazuru to symbolize good fortune and wish for their quick recovery. They also taught the children and some of their parents and caretakers how to make an origami crane. By the end of their visit, there were many smiles, and all of us enjoyed going as much as Shriner's seemed to enjoy having their come.

- Anthony Jackson (who led the visiting students' group)

### "Succeed in Japanese" for Hillsborough County Teachers

On June 12, Ms. Melissa Morgado, SDHC's supervisor of World Languages, conducted a full-day workshop at USF for 39 county teachers who wished to learn more about current Japanese language education in Florida. It was planned in hopes of expanding Japanese classes in the county, perhaps to middle schools and even elementary. Hiroko Watanabe presented what her students are learning and doing at her two high schools, Sachi Ann Welsh talked about comparative elements in Japanese & American education systems and Mr. Mitsuo Ogi-shima offered his service for school visits and cultural demonstrations.

- Sachi Ann Welsh

### The successful IB Japanese program

On June 30th, the DBHS Japanese program received good publicity through a presentation given by William Collazo at the 6th Annual Japan-Southeast U.S. Summit in Jacksonville. Collazo was invited to be a participant on the education panel to share information about the school and in particular, the IB Japanese program, the only one of its kind in the state. In addition to educating those invested in the Japanese community in FL about the program, he shared samples of student digital work to much praise by the delegation.

- William Collazo

## AFTJ Articulation day in Orlando

On September 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> of the labor day weekend, we had articulation day held in Orlando. It was the first time for overnight stay for this event. Although only 5 people (Mieko Avello, Chiho Cotton, Naoko Komura, Juan Carlos Morales and Mako Nozu) participated, we shared fun and productive time together. After meeting at the accommodation, we had the first study session. Avello sensei brought a lot of ideas for activities that she learned at AP Japanese reading in June and we also shared our various activity ideas. It was very informative and good to know what other teachers do in class. Some activities are ready to use right away in class. We also shared useful websites to get resources for our teaching. Everyone had some wonderful sites to share and this exchange was great for saving our time. After the productive study session, it was the time for fun! We had Sukiyaki for dinner and great conversation until late night. This was one of advantage for overnight stay that we did not have to worry about going home and had plenty time to know each other. Next morning, we had the second session continued from yesterday's session while we were eating breakfast until checking out. It was a valuable opportunity as a Japanese teacher to exchange our teaching ideas and we gained a lot of teaching information. We hope you will be able to participate this wonderful articulation day next year!

- Naoko Komura



## Nihongo Library at Japan Foundation in Los Angeles

Do you have your Nihongo Library card?

I would like to mention the wonderful resource for teachers - Nihongo Library. Whenever I need more videos, I go to the Japan Foundation Los Angeles web page. Nihongo Library offers teachers free video loan for 2 weeks (plus extra days for shipping) and send it to your school. They are constantly adding the latest DVDs, including latest full-length movies and educational videos.

When I attended the Los Angeles teacher's workshop through the Japan Foundation, I was impressed the extensive collection. The library staff quickly responds my requests and always helps me with any questions I have.

The Nihongo Library also has extensive textbook selections and auxiliary materials. I borrowed several textbooks from the library when I selected my textbook for the adoption year. I was very glad for the service since I had difficulty getting any textbook samples.

I also borrowed some DVDs before I submitted to the Japan Foundation's Material Donation mini grant. I will be able to preview "Erin ga chosen, nihongo dekimasu" to make sure the video can be useful and suitable for my classroom.

If you are interested, go to the Japan Foundation Los Angeles office's website and go to the Nihongo Library page. Hope you will be getting your card soon.

- Etsuko Woodbury

# Useful websites

Beginning with this issue, we will share useful websites to help our teaching. If you know any good websites, please let us know by e-mail at [komuran@fiu.edu](mailto:komuran@fiu.edu) !

## 1. Chococo CM

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_Urg9rDLvfI](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_Urg9rDLvfI)

Even Japanese I students can understand 100%, so all the students love it. I bet you they will say "Chococo doko?" all the time after watching this commercial!

## 2. Meguro Language Center website

<http://www.mlcjapanese.co.jp/Download.htm>

This site has full of teaching ideas and activities especially for listening comprehension with transcripts.

## 3. Kaitou Nekopy

<http://www.nekopy.com/>

This site is designed for elementary students in Japan. However, there are a lot of things we can use for our class!

## 4. Free download pictures

<http://www.bigfoto.com>

As you know, you cannot use many pictures because of copyrights. But check this site out! There are a lot of pictures you can download freely!

## 5. Yontaku Mondai Sakusei Tool

<http://www.fureai.or.jp/~irie/webquiz/4taku-s/>

This site teaches you to how to make multiple choice questions easily. You can actually make your own one just minutes!



# Useful activities

Beginning with this issue, we will introduce you to some activities that you can use in class immediately. If you would like to share your ideas about activities, please send your activities to [komuran@fiu.edu](mailto:komuran@fiu.edu).

This issue focuses on Kanji activities.

1. Some kanji may look complicated, but they can be divided into simpler components. For example, 「語」 looks quite complicated, but it is easier to remember if you break it up into 言, 五 and 口. You may like to create tasks such as the ones below:

1. かんじのさんすう		
1. 好 =	女 + 子	
2. 林 =	□ + □	
3. 男 =	□ + □	

2. カタカナのさんすう		
1. 多 =	夕 + 夕	
2. 外 =	□ + □	
3. 右 =	□ + □	

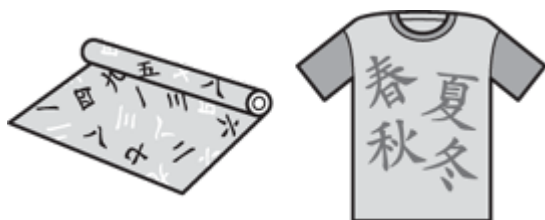
## 2. Grouping in categories

Task 1: Students put kanji into topic groups. They may use kanji cards or you may give them a chart such as the one below to fill in.

Example:

Topics	かんじ
人 (people)	父 母 兄 姉 弟 妹
からだ (body parts)	口 目 耳 手 足 頭
すうじ (numbers)	一 二 三 四 五 六 七 八 九 十 百 千 万
きせつ (seasons)	春 夏 秋 冬

Task 2: Choose a topic and design a T-shirt or make kanji wrapping paper with kanji from a kanji group.



### 3. Kanji dominoes

Prepare sets of cards showing kanji and their readings as shown below. Make at least 20

cards, and make sure not to put a kanji and its reading on the same card. Groups of students receive a set of cards, and matching the kanji with its reading, they keep connecting them until the last word connects to the first word. Example cards:

月よう日	ちいさい	小さい	おおきい	大きい	にほんご
日本語	がっこう	学校	さん	三	げつようび

### 4. Kanji maze

Make a grid like the one below. Students find their way to the exit by moving only to a kanji which has the same stroke number. Example maze:

いりぐち→

子	二	火
女	上	三
犬	木	山

→でぐち

Answer: 3 strokes

子	二	火
女	上	三
犬	木	山

Reference:

かんじ ほん たろうじろうしゃ  
漢字がたのしくなる本 182 ( 太郎次郎社 1989)  
Basic Kanji Book 1 (Bonjinsha 1989)

### ■ 漢字チャレンジ Kanji challenge

Here is a task you can try with your students - you might discover some new characters.

How many kanji can you make by adding one stroke to the kanji 日?  
Hint: You can add the stroke inside or outside.

Answers to Kanji challenge: 田 目 旦 旧 由 甲 申 白

# Current News in Japan

## Future favorite place to hang out (Japan Times Weekly)

The commercial complex called "New people" has opened in middle of August to sell Japanese music, fashion and animation in Japan town, San Francisco. Now Japanese cultural addict can go to the one building to visit in SF!

## Stopping for wasting of water?! (Yahoo Japan News)

A Japanese toy company started selling the unique key chain called "Eco Otome." According to the company, they invented this as an ecological good for saving water for resolving the women's embarrassment for using the toilet and also stopping for using too much water. Hope it helps for using too much water in Japan.....

## One out of four women (Yahoo Japan News)

The total number of women over 65 years old is now 16,590,000. This means over 25.4% of total population of women in Japan is over 65. For men, it is 12,390,000 and 19.9% of men are over 65 which is one out of five.

## Silver week?! (Ashahi.com Kids)

You know "Golden Week" in May, but now Japanese people have "Silver Week". "Silver week" is a long vacation week like Golden week but not necessarily every year. However, if it is a long vacation week in fall, they call Silver week. This year, it became 5 days weekend including the weekend because three national holidays happened to be three days continuously (21<sup>st</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>) this year.



## Japanese Trivia

Summer in Florida has still continued and we hardly believe but it is fall! So the theme of this issue is "*Otsukimi*(お月見)."

- Q1: Where did the event *Otsukimi* come from?
- Q2: What was the purpose for *Otsukimi* before?
- Q3: What do you prepare for *Otsukimi*?
- Q4: Why do you decorate Chinese silver grass?



**Association of Florida  
Teachers of Japanese**

**President  
Mieko Avello**

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**AFTJ Website:  
www.aftj.net**

**AFTJ Annual Membership 2009-2010**

If you have not paid your AFTJ membership for 2009-2010, please pay by **November 1, 2009**. You can download the membership form from [www.aftj.net/membership.html](http://www.aftj.net/membership.html).

Please make your check payable to AFTJ and submit to:

**Marci Muench, AFTJ Treasurer  
22024 Flanders Court  
Boca Raton, FL 33428**

**AFTJ Calendar of Events**

FFLA 40th annual conference	October 15-17, 2009	St. Augustine
ACTFL annual conference	November 20-22, 2009	San Diego
Japan Immersion Day – East	December 15, 2009	FIU campus
Japan Immersion Day – West	December 16, 2009	USF campus
Japan Immersion Day – West	March 19, 2010	USF campus
Speech committee meeting - East	January, 2010	TBA
Japanese Speech and Skit Contest – West	March, 2010	USF campus
Japanese Speech and Skit Contest -East	April 17, 2010	FIU campus
National Japan Bowl Competition	April 8 and 9, 2010	Maryland
AFTJ Board Meeting	April, 2010	TBA
Asia Fest	May 2, 2010	Tampa
Annual Meeting	May 8, 2009	The Morikami Museum, Delray Beach

Answer to the trivia (page 11)

A1: From China in Heian Era.

A2: To celebrate for harvest the sweet potatoes

A3: Potatoes, vegetables, sweet rice cakes and Chinese silver grass

A4: Chinese silver grass is strong and a symbol for good health.

If you have any comments or ideas about the newsletter, please e-mail them to [komuran@fiu.edu](mailto:komuran@fiu.edu).