

GOOD MORNING, AOMORI!



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One hot humid night, a family friend brought us to the small park near his house in Tokyo. The park was really just a small lot with a lonely set of swings and an elephant slide wedged into the corner. But, my brother and I set out to conquer everything there. Before we got very far, we heard the crackle of the plastic and our mother calling to us. She extended her hand out with what looked like a sparkler so we held it upwards but my mother with a knowing smile turned them upside down and lit them. This was the sleepy cousin of the sparkler. It spit out licks of flame but slowly and because it was upside down, a small ball of fire collected at the tip. My brother was bored of it quickly, but I was enchanted. They were like mini galaxies with a bright burning star in the middle but this galaxy was within my grasp. I held it patiently till it reached the top near my tingling fingers and quietly extinguished.

-Sonomi Tanaka

Last 2 Months at a Glance

Melissa Fenrick (Aomori)

April saw the beginning of a new school year with new teachers to meet and new students to teach. Though the goodbyes to teachers and graduating students who left us may have been tough, hopefully the fresh start also brought fresh energy.

Starting the **end of April**, Golden Week meant many adventures for JETs. Travel destinations included South Korea, Vietnam, Nepal, Australia, and many others. Of course, some of us stayed closer to home, traveling to cities such as Tokyo, Kyoto, or Sendai and enjoying some of the many sites of Japan.

With spring also comes a time in Japan that is unlike any other, the cherry blossom season. The most popular festival in Hirosaki took place in **late April and early May**. I personally enjoyed more than my fair share of the festival food, including takoyaki, corn on the cob, and donuts. Many smaller cherry blossom festivals occurred around the prefecture, including Aomori City's in **early May**.

I think we have all been long awaiting these warmer days of spring, ready to put our kotatsus away and turn our kerosene heaters off. Now that brightly-colored flowers are in bloom and the trees are beginning to sprout leaves, Aomori seems full of new adventures. Many of us are getting more and more use out of our bikes and seeing more of each other now that the winter blues are long gone.

Nebuta Festival Dates

August 2—7 Aomori Nebuta Festival

August 1—7 Hirosaki Nebuta Festival

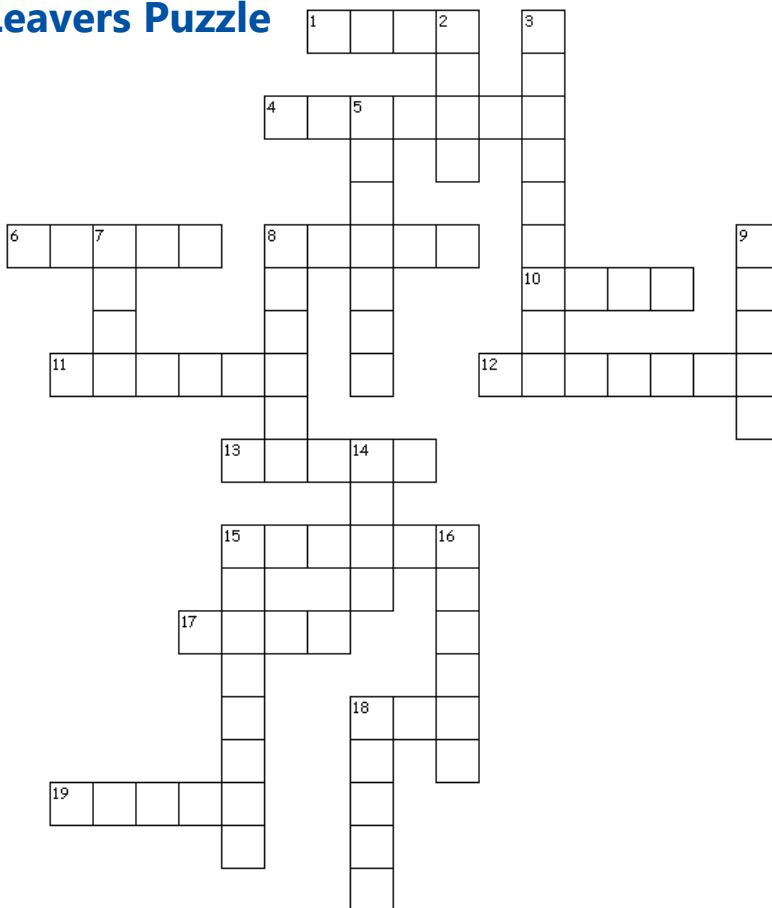
August 4—8 Goshogawara Tachi Nebuta Festival

Upcoming Summer Festivals

in aomori

July 17 –18	Towada Fountain Festival 十和田湖湖水まつり	Towada
July 24	Summer Jazz Festival 南郷サマージャズフェスティバル	Hachinohe
July 20 –24	Osorezan Festival 恐山大祭	Osorezan
July 24	Tohoku Fireworks Festival 東北町湖水まつり花火大会	Tohoku
July 23-25	Misawa Tanabata Festival みさわ七夕まつり	Misawa
August 1	Asamushi Fireworks Festival 浅虫温泉花火大会	Asamushi
August 3	Goshogawara Fireworks Festival 五所川原花火大会	Goshogawara
July 31– August 4	Hachinohe 八戸三社大祭	Hachinohe
August 3	Goshogawara Fireworks Festival 五所川原花火大会	Goshogawara
July 30- August 5	Kuroishi Fireworks Festival 黒石ねふた祭り	Kuroishi
August 7	Aomori Fireworks Festival 青森花火大会	Aomori
August 22	Hachinohe Fireworks Festival 八戸花火大会	Hachinohe

Leavers Puzzle



Alex (Gordon), Allison (Reed), Andrey (Nova), Andy (Pozniak), Brandon (Cline), Brian (Stapleton), Bryan (Haut), Dana (Berte), Daniel (Van De Sandt), Eric (Clark), Genevieve (Murphy), Joe (Colistro), Julie (Austad), Karen (Eaton), Karesa (Crockett), Kristina (Alvero), Lisa (Petro) Melissa (Fenrick), Mike (Larson), Molly (McGuire), Taylor (Austad), Trish (Soltysiak)

Across

1. Drives the short bus
4. Most Godzilla-like leaver (in terms of height and awesomeness)
6. Ran the Hirosaki Full Apple Marathon
8. Muay Thai kickboxing and yoga addict
10. Likes Tsugaruben, tofu, classical guitar, surfing and fly fishing
11. German CIR
12. In high school swing choir
13. Hates Led Zeppelin
15. Came with one extra person, leaving with two
17. Stalks the streets of Mutsu with a drink in one hand and poker in the other
18. Perpetually shirtless
19. Wants to be a shoe designer

Down

2. Track suit lover
3. Off to new adventures in Taiwan
5. Only 5th year female
7. Debatably the onsen queen
8. College and public radio DJ
9. Name a query inside high-fiber breakfast cereal
14. A guy most Aomori JETs have never met
15. Has lived in 5 different countries and 9 different cities
16. Aomori's Uncle Jesse
18. Varsity cheerleader in junior high

Leavers Superlatives

Congratulations
to all of the
winners!

*Voted for by the
Aomori JET*



Most active JET
Wyomia Mouwers

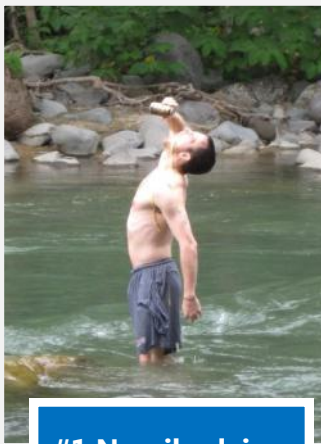


Quirkiest
Taylor Austad



Most Athletic
Molly McGuire

おめでとうございます！



#1 Nomihodai-er
Joe Colistro



Most Mysterious
Andrey Nova



Friendliest and Flirtiest
Genevieve Murphy

Most likely to...



...be missed

Dana Berte



...travel the world

Erik Kumetz



...be onsening

Lisa Petro



...be on the slopes

Tina Wang



...be a lifelong JET

Allison Reed



...be in Japan forever

Eric Clark



...make you laugh

Bryan Haut

Advice from Alumni

**'Go confidently in the direction of your dreams.
Live the life you have imagined.'**

Henry David Thoreau

"One way to get the most out of life is to look upon it as an adventure. It may not go as you have expected, but sit back, relax, and enjoy the ride. You are bound for something great. Good luck!"

Marti Deyo Aomori PA



"Eat as much sushi as you can before leaving. No sushi anywhere will ever match Kantaro in Aomori. Most of your last weeks in Aomori will be spent consuming enkai food, festival food and beer. Eat some vegetables too."



Karen Retter Aomori ALT

Advice for those applying to grad school:

"Start searching for potential graduate advisers and contact them before you get home. Read up on research/publications that interests you etc. and ask the authors questions. Having a contact at a school you're applying to can be a huge help."

For those applying for jobs:

"Find someone to do practice interviews with. I found Japan got me in subconscious "super humble mode" when talking about myself; which, I found hurt more than it helped for competitive interviews back home."

Dan Veltri Aomori ALT



"Live it up! Spend time with the people who've made your experience special and take time to express gratitude to those people. Pack early and keep your blue book with you as you pack."



Michelle Nguyen Hirosaki ALT

Advice from Alumni cont...

Make the most out of your remaining time in Japan. Personally speaking, the experiences I had whilst on the JET Program will not be matched, without a doubt. Secondly, make sure you have a plan of attack in terms of place of residence and job/ study. Give yourself a limit as to how long you can spare a mini holiday before getting back into the grind or you will find yourself extremely mendokusai about a lot of things, or maybe that's just me.....

Yumiko Dark Kuroishi ALT



Sending boxes home? One last piece of advice ...

"3 out of the 4 boxes I sent by sea came back pristine but for the final one... by "sea" they really meant "Silk road -> Eastern war-torn Afghanistan -> Atlantic."

*The thing was so ripped to shreds any small loose item I had put in there was gone. Perhaps more advice to pass on to the returners: **"If it's something you cherish don't send it by sea."***

-Dan Veltri



1st Year JET Profiles



Kristina Alvero

Towada

Job description: **One shot ES and JHS**

First year on JET in one word: **Oishii**

Most memorable JET experience: **In Japanese , I told my section boss 'I'm your Canadian small present' while giving my omiyage and self-introduction. He got really excited!!!**

3 desert island musts: **Combini Onigiri, Konyakuu, Shrimp Chips**

Sherrie Blackwell

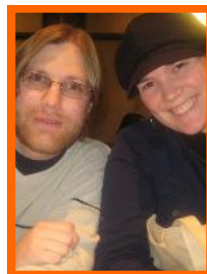
Sannohe

Job description: **Walking English slang dictionary**

First year on JET in one word: **hysterical**

Most memorable JET experience: **Walking past my ES 1st graders' classroom during break and hearing them play 'Rock, Paper, Scissors' in English all on their own**

3 desert island musts: **Katsu Curry, Strawberries, and Totoro pan**



Trevor Cobb

Mutsu

Job description: **Office Chair Occupant and occasional guest lecturer @ 大湊高校**

First year on JET in one word: **growing**

Most memorable JET experience: **no shower heater and low pressure - using the kitchen sink several times to bathe**

3 desert island musts: **pad thai, かつカレー, pasta**

Michael Coombes

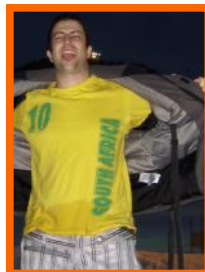
Hiranai

Job description: **Fruutsu Basuketto World Champion**

First year on JET in one word: **Lekker**

Most memorable JET experience: **Trying to convince my BOE I wasn't going to die in Thailand.**

3 desert island musts: **Pizza, White Chocolate Cheerios, Zuwaigani**



1st Year JETs continued...



Kasey Crawford

Tohoku

Job description: **Elementary ALT**

First year on JET in one word: **Cold**

Most memorable JET experience: **Knee surgery, it wasn't enjoyable but it was memorable**

3 desert island musts: **Daikon, rice, and Natto (because that is the only way I would eat it)**

Ikumi Crocoll

Nambu

Job description: **Attempting to teach JHS, ES, and occasionally, kindergarten**

First year on JET in one word: **Educational**

Most memorable JET experience: **My first Japanese junior high graduation - as I watched the students I had connected to the most leave and ended up crying with everyone else at the ceremony.**

3 desert island musts: **rice, chocolate, peaches**



Melissa Fenrick

Aomori

Job description: **Plan lessons, teaching 240 1st graders, assist writing classes, visit special needs school.**

First year on JET in one word: **Enriching**

Most memorable JET experience: **Teaching the students at my special needs school**

3 desert island musts: **Veggie pizza from Pizza Hut, Meiji milk chocolate bars, and tortilla chips.**

Kat Hoffman

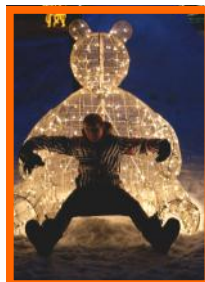
Hachinohe

Job description: **EYE-CONTACT**

First year on JET in one word: **EYE-CONTACT**

Most memorable JET experience: **Road trip in a typhoon**

3 desert island musts: **Avocados, Granola, White Chocolate Cheerios**



...and continued....



Janice Kim

Gonohe

Job description: **ALT**

First year on JET in one word: **Surreal**

Most memorable JET experience: **Watching Yu-Na Kim's Winter Olympics performance in a Teacher's Room full of Japanese teachers.**

3 desert island musts: **Rice, Kimchi, Watermelon**

Erik Kumetz

Towada

Job description: **Bill Nye the Science Guy but teaching English**

First year on JET in one word: **Seeyouuuu!**

Most memorable JET experience: **Three days with my JHS kids during our Sanbongi English Camp.**

3 desert island musts: **Mochi (for sustenance), natto (the elixir of life), and shredded squid (to show any harmful sea creatures that I mean business)**



Jonathan Liang

Nakasato

Job description: **JHS and ES ALT**

First year on JET in one word: **Dream**

Most memorable JET experience: **Junior High School graduation ceremony**

3 desert island musts: **Maguro otoro, soba, dark chocolate truffles.**

Jean-Marc Giffin

Hirosaki

Job description: **Hirosaki High School ALT**

First year on JET in one word: **Distant**

Most memorable JET experience: **Driving through the mountains on bright clear days**

3 desert island musts: **Bread, Cheese, Fruit**



...and continued....

Trevor Masse

Kodomari

Job description: **Official being chased around town by little kids English**

First year on JET in one word: 驚異的

Most memorable JET experience: **Watching all the nursery school kids (attempt to) sing and dance the Doraemon theme song.**

3 desert island musts: **Nikuman, Tsunamayo-maki, Mochi-bread.**



Molly McGuire

Hirosaki/Owani

Job description: **Human recorder in the classroom, Soccer STAR at recess**

First year on JET in one word: **Surprises**

Most memorable JET experience: **travels around Japan, exploring new places with good food!**

3 desert island musts: **Trader Joes Almond Butter, Quinoa, Coconut Curry Sauce**

Lisa Petro

Aomori

Job description: **ALT**

First year on JET in one word: **Imminent**

Most memorable JET experience: **Yuki Matsuri, Bubbles Mckinley, JANICE and me (I don't clean)**

3 desert island musts: **Onigiri, Kantaro, Pizza**



Andy Pozniak

Hachinohe

Job description: **Talk Show Host**

First year on JET in one word: **Suteki**

Most memorable JET experience: **First ever perfect powder day**

3 desert island musts: **Yakitori, Yakiniku, Chocolate**

...and continued!

Rachel Rottman

Tsugaru

Job description: **JHS, ES and kindergarten ALT**

First year on JET in one word: **Wonderful**

Most memorable JET experience: **My car battery dying while very far from home and a stranger bought and put a new one in my car for me.**

3 desert island musts: **Lasagna, Skyline chili, a big juicy hamburger.**



Trish Soltysiak

Hachinohe

Job description: **ES and JHS ALT (at 9 schools)**

First year on JET in one word: **Indescribable**

Most memorable JET experience: **Attending K1 max finals in Yokohama and getting dressed up as a maiko in Kyoto are at the top so far.**

3 desert island musts: **gyoza, chicken and mayo onigiri and vegetable and shrimp tempura.**

Sonomi Tanaka

Aomori

Job description: **JH/ES ALT**

First year on JET in one word: **Subarashiii**

Most memorable JET experience: **The first snow of the year in a rotenburo**

3 desert island musts: **Curry-cheese man, chocolate, mikan**



Lance Wright

Oirase

Job description: **ALT**

First year on JET in one word: **Splendiferous**

Most memorable JET experience: **"Dodging" whale sperm at the bonenkai.**

3 desert island musts: **Anything short of three helpings of whale sperm.**

Ask a PA

advice from Zack and Abidemi

Being a Good Predecessor

It's that time again- the sakura have bloomed and dispersed in the warm spring winds, and once again for some of us to get ready and say goodbye to our temporary home of Aomori. While there are still 2 months left, it seems hardly enough time to do everything that you need before leaving.

Before you get overwhelmed, the first thing you should do is get a jump-start on the daunting task of moving and disposing your belongings. Now is the perfect time to go through all of your belongings, send books and winter clothes home, dispose of unwanted items, and prepare detailed lists and photocopies of items you want to sell or offer to leave your successor. In your last few weeks you will be so busy with farewell parties, tax paperwork, hanko-ing documents, and saying goodbye that you won't have time to deal with the stresses of moving, so the earlier you can finish it all the easier it will be on yourself, giving time for you to enjoy and make the most out of your special last days in Aomori.

For most people leaving JET, you will be a predecessor to someone anxiously anticipating a new life and experience here in Aomori. Being a good predecessor is simple. It isn't your stellar Japanese skills, or your juggling act that you did at the Bonenkai, as memorable as it was, in short, the following things make a great predecessor:

- Provide thorough and adequate information for your successor.
- Settle and terminate any bills, subscriptions, or other financial obligations.
- Clean your living space and dispose of anything unwanted, including toiletries, food, spices, etc.
- And yes, even if you do not have a successor, please take responsibility for your own belongings, trash, and obligations.

Work Event Schedule

July 9	Leavers Party in Aomori City
July 19	Marine Day
July 25—28	Group A JETs Tokyo Orientation
July 28	Group A JETs arrive in Aomori
August 1-4	Group B JETs Tokyo Orientation
August 4	Group B JETs arrive in Aomori
August 25—28	Group C JETs Tokyo Orientation

Summer Update



Everest of Apples
Children Education Equality

Everest of Apples has entered the busy **summer** season! We just wrapped up a **nabe cooking contest** in Mutsu, run by Amy Miller, as well as our biggest event this year, our first **Undokai**. We met up at the campgrounds at Ajigasawa on Saturday, June 26th, for a full **weekend of games**, drinks, delicious food, and great prizes. Hope to see you all again next year!

Everest of Apples is completing its **8th year** and we are recruiting people for leadership positions for the coming year. Do you have **great ideas**? Do you want to make them happen this year? **Contact E of A** for more information; we are waiting for you!

ITS YOUR BIRTHDAY! お誕生日おめでとう

July

- 3 Andrew Read
- 8 Benjamin Munley
- 11 Sonomi Tanaka
- 16 Nick Swanson
- 19 Wyomia Mouwers
- 27 Greg Hachenburg
- 31 Genevieve Murphy
- Ellen Bolas

August

- 12 Alice Cruell
- 13 Angela Lee
- 21 Zachary Heyman
- 26 Lisa Petro
- 28 Erik Kumetz
- 30 Adrian Hogan
- Ikumi Crocoll
- Stephen Pendlebury
- 31 Michael Warren



Sonomi Tanaka

Contribute to Good Morning Aomori!

We are always looking to add to the Good Morning Aomori! imagination. Send your ideas, articles, photographs and drawings to:

goodmorning.aomori@gmail.com

Upcoming Issue:

Have you been to China or Hong Kong?

Send us an email and let us know!

Have something to share about your area?

Pass on information about festivals & events happening in your part of the ken!

GOOD MORNING, AOMORI!

July–August 2010

Editors: Christy Bahr & Tesia Smith

Contributors: Aomori JET & Aomori Community

