

The Peach

COBBLER

Vol.3 Issue 4, 2026



Thank You Leavers!

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Editor's Note.....	3
Masthead.....	4
Teacher's Corner.....	5
Pocketbook Travel Guide.....	6
A Bouquet of Unrequited Love - Part II.....	11
State of Games.....	16
2026 Welcome Party.....	19
Okayama Events.....	20
September Theme/Help Wanted....	23

EDITOR'S NOTE

Happy August! We hope your summer break has been fun (outside of the endless desk warming)! In this month's issue you will find the first part of our new "Pocketbook Travel Guide - Our Okayama" series. Our media officer Alexa is on a mission to explore and capture the many towns and neighborhoods that our OKAJet community live in. We're starting off in West Okayama with Yakage Town. Find the piece on page 6!

We would also like to highlight the upcoming welcome party on September 5th. Please join us in greeting our new OKAJets! The deadline for sign up is August 28th. Find more information on page 19.

Lastly, we have a new email. For any communication with OKAJet (ie: submissions for the newsletter, questions regarding events, suggestions, etc.) please use our new email okajet.contact@gmail.com.



OKAJet 2026-27

President - Anna Wilson

Vice President/Treasurer - Maya Bewsher

Secretary - Karolina Wasilewska

Media Liaison - Elena Wilson

Media Officer - Alexa Davis

Media Officer - Wilson Yuan

Media Officer - Lewis Spencer

Contributing Writers

Alexa Davis

Lewis Spencer

Elena Wilson

Wilson Yuan

Design

Alexa Davis

Elena Wilson

Wilson Yuan



Teacher's Corner

This month's Teacher's Corner comes to us from me (Elena), a junior high school ALT in Yakage!



This is a game a predecessor from 15 years ago left on my school desktop that I used recently! It's called Grammar Betting or Grammar Casino. It's low-prep, low-tech, and



can be used for any grammar point or grade level.

The game play is simple. I put my students in groups and let each start with \$100 or points. Then, I show them a sentence. This can either be done on a screen, prewritten on a worksheet, or handwritten on the board. As a group, they must decide if the sentence is good (correct grammar, spelling, conventions, etc.), or bad, and write the correct sentence.

Here comes the fun part: then it's time to place their bets. Students can bet points up to a number decided by you or your JTE—we opted for 20. If they are correct, they will gain that number of points, but if they are incorrect, they will lose that number. The group with the most points at the end of time wins!

It's a simple concept, but just the word "casino" had my first years jumping out of their seats. This was a good activity for writing practice, and makes it a touch more fun than just writing lines on a page. It's also great as a review game, and can last an entire class period with enough quality questions.

You can modify it to suit your class' needs quite easily. While this game can be played individually, I find that students can become discouraged when they aren't able to bounce ideas off of each other, plus teams make the sense of competition more exciting.



I recommend giving this a try in your classrooms (at the risk of sparking an interest in gambling)!

Did you have a lesson or game that went well? Submit your stories to okajet.contact@gmail.com.



Pocketbook Travel Guide

Our Okayama: Yakage Town

With summer in full swing, sometimes finding things to do that aren't within your air-conditioned apartments feels rather...unappealing. I, for one, become a sweaty mess above 15 degrees C, so Japanese summer is my own version of a personal hell some days. However! I have adopted the motto of "suffering for the adventure," because summer WILL NOT hold me back from exploring. Henceforth came the cafe crawl idea! Short bursts of being outside followed by AC'd spaces with amazing food and company. This issue brings you a co-authored guide between Elena and I on Yakage Town! We got together a few weekends back to bring you this guide on what we think is personally one of Okayama's best tiny towns to visit. Enjoy and please stop by!

Yakage Shopping Street



Right away, the preservation of Yakage's History Post Town street is a delight for any Edo period architecture fan. The entire street is covered with modern coffee shops and restaurants slotted into Edo-period spaces. You could spend an entire weekend wandering through each of the spaces and tasting entirely different flavors in each one. The street sports coffee shops all over, a variety of noodle restaurants, and even a burger joint.

Sitting just off the main street, this shop includes some very punchy and fun drink flavors I haven't yet seen. The menu includes a lovely coffee menu that offers the addition of ice cream to any drink of choice. Some of their stand-out flavors include caramel and chocolate mint milk steamers, a lager and IPA beer, and a dark cherry and raspberry soda. A lovely little stop-in spot with a very friendly owner and coffee bags for sale.

YKNOT Coffee Works



Deli Cafe 鳥頭のおやま

Directly on the main street, this deli cafe rotates its menu daily to reflect whatever the garden and the chef's creative juices bring them that day! This space is a quiet book lovers/date night/lazy Sunday afternoon kind of spot. The upper floor is a beautiful tatami room with bookshelves, low tables, zabutons and pleasant lighting. You can order à la carte from the deli display for a lunch that feeds the soul and gut (so many fresh veggies and fruits :D). For the change-up in menu items, freshness scale, and the upstairs vibes, this was one of the best cafes I have visited in my time here. This would also be a lovely spot to escape the chill of the winter months as well! Stop in on any weekend and Monday from 11-6.



Issai Ishibiki Cacao

This shop boasts bean-to-bar chocolate that will have you wishing they shipped internationally. From their ice cream to bars to seating arrangement, this was a very unique experience. While the chocolate and drinks are of amazing quality, it received higher marks for interior originality, which was a first for me. While you wouldn't spend an entire day here, the interior is all done in marble with super cool columnar marble chairs and tables attached to the walls, and a beautiful checkout counter. Even the outdoor seating is entirely made of sculpted marble. Nice and cool to sit on in the heat and a unique space meant for contemplating the space's art and architecture occupy in daily life. Not to mention their ginger soda and handmade chocolate ice cream float was a flavor combination I didn't know I needed in this heat.

Tsuki to Akari

While not conducive to the heat (unless you are a hot weather fanatic), this cafe is located outside of Yakage, but well worth the stop in. About a 20-minute drive or 40-minute bike from the station is a very quaint cafe themed around the moon, and currently, cheesecake. The small space has a front porch I hope to have someday and a decorative interior that feels a bit like you could be in a child's favorite cafe memory. Calming and with unique antique furniture and chairs for you to sit on, Tsuki to Akari was lovely for a slow conversation and enjoying their delicious seasonal cheesecake flavors.

Caffe dell'Orto

We finished out our day here as happy little clams because this restaurant had an Italian-style cheeseboard! A real, authentic one with cheese that made our mouths water. While that is only served at dinner time, and we missed the window, we indulged in a pizza and freshly toasted bread. Owned by an Italian family and a local agricultural co-op AND located in Yakage's new Outdoor Village center- complete with a kayak rental agency and a full sized Montbell- one of the perks to this space was that it is open 7 days a week until 9 p.m. Open from 9 a.m., catch breakfast

before heading out to the river, or satisfy post kayak cravings right in the same building. If you'll be in Yakage in the later evening, here is where you can satisfy your sunset cravings (the struggle for this is REAL in small towns).



There are also five amazing ALTs in Yakage that would love to show you around town!

Our recommendation is to plan at least a full day to wander into the shountengai and surrounding area. Most of the restaurants and cafes close before 6 p.m., so it's best to start early. Throughout the year, you can also participate in different food-themed stamp rallies. While the cream soda stamp rally just wrapped up, you can still find special menu items at participating stores, or visit in the fall for the sweet potato stamp rally. We also invite you to wrap up the summer with us at the Kouta Odori Festival on August 22nd

"But I Can't Drive!" Map

This one is easy peasy to get to from Okayama City! Take the Hakubi Line from Okayama Station, then transfer to the Ibara-sen at Kiyone Station. Ride it to Yakage Station, and you're there. Yakage unfortunately isn't connected to the JR main line, but don't let it stop you from enjoying everything the town has to offer. The first train from Okayama City runs at 5:25 a.m., and the last one back is 10:24 p.m.



A Bouquet of *Unrequited* Love - Part II

The Flowery Visuals of Episodes 4 and 5 of “Kamiina Botan Fully Blossoms When Drunk”.

The euphoria of having someone and the anticipation of shared feelings; to fall in love is such a wonderful thing. Yet, not everyone can have that fairytale ending. With the act of falling in love comes the risk of heartbreak. With heartbreak comes lasting pain. With pain comes healing.

Last time, we introduced the anime that’s central to this article, as well as two flowers, the White Lily and the Peony. The White Lily, with its representation of the sapphic themes present in *“Kamiina Botan Fully Blossoms When Drunk”*, and the Peony, with its resemblance, in name and personality, to the titular main character. In this part of the article, I will discuss the Hydrangea, its appearance in two scenes, and its importance to the psyche of another character, Gujo Kanade.



Gujo Kanade and the Hydrangea

The Hydrangea (*Hydrangea macrophylla*), otherwise known in Japanese as *Ajisai* (紫陽花), is a flower that is associated with the rainy season in Japan. Like the flowers before, the hydrangea carries different meanings depending on culture. In European cultures, the flower can mean arrogance, vanity, and boastfulness. However, in Japanese culture, what we are focusing on, hydrangeas represent many things depending on the colour. Purple represents deep longing and heartfelt emotion, while blue represents regret, remorse, and apologies.

To recap, Gujo Kanade is embroiled in a lopsided love triangle that's heavily against her. Botan and Ibuki are getting closer, which leaves Kanade off to the side with a longing storm inside her. At this point, she tries to fight and to wedge herself in between the other two, but no matter what she tries to do to win Ibuki's attention, she is always fighting an uphill battle.



Kanade (right) sits apart from Akane (left). Purple and blue hydrangeas surround them.

In the show, the hydrangea shows up most prominently in episode 4, acting as a backdrop for Kanade. One scene features a 17-second wide shot showing her sitting alone with another character, positionally contrasting her and balancing the shot while being mostly surrounded by purple hydrangeas with a touch of blue. Largely nothing is said other than the songs of the birds. At this point of the episode, Ibuki and Botan have run off together leaving Kanade with the rest of the group. This is important to Kanade's current state of mind, which mirrors the purple of the flowers behind her. She feels a great sense of longing as she thinks about what could have been. She then feels a bit of regret, as blue hydrangeas make a small appearance amongst the sea of purple. A close-up shot of blue hydrangeas interrupts the lingering shot. "The two of them sure are taking their time," Kanade breaks the silence. Wouldn't it be nice if it was her who went instead of Botan?



An "in your face" shot of blue hydrangeas as Kanade speaks aloud.

In the immediate next scene, we find Kanade framed by window panes in the foreground, but this time, alone with nothing but blank white sheets drying to balance the shot, as if the pure white sheets are contrasting the "impure" dark thoughts of Kanade. Unlike the previous scene, she is now surrounded only by blue hydrangeas. The change from a mix of purple and

blue to blue alone indicates that Kanade has begun the painful journey of giving up on Ibuki. The regret of falling in love in the first place. The regret of not trying hard enough. The feeling of being sorry for even trying. Her lighter fails to produce a flame, as she tries to light a cigarette.



Kanade sits alone, surrounded by blue Hydrangeas as she lights a cigarette. She is framed by the window panes on screen right while perfectly balanced by the hanging laundry on screen left.

Conclusion

An unlit cigarette. Unfocused blue and purple hues. Flashes of Ibuki and Botan together in mind. The clouds darken, and the first drops of rain start to fall on the hydrangea hanging above. A droplet slips off a petal and hits Kanade's cheek, running down her face as if it were a tear. It might as well have been.

This month, we focused on one flower, the Hydrangea, but in two colours, blue and purple, and how the meanings of those two colours connect with Gujo Kanade's state of mind. Purple Hydrangeas with longing, heartfelt emotion and blue with apologetics and regret, both

reflecting Kanade's longing feelings for Ibuki and the eventual regret of not trying hard enough. Next time, we will dive into the final three flowers as we explore Episode 5 and the final nail in the coffin for Kanade's feelings for Ibuki. Those three flowers being the Marigold, the Balloon Flower, and the Orange Day Lily.



The rain drop rolling down Kanade's cheek, as if it were a tear.



Written by Wilson Yuan



The State of Games

Remastered

Nothing's Changed, I Just Put a Buzzword in the Title to Artificially Increase Interest

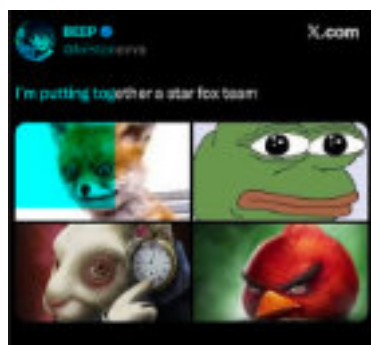
Guess who's back? Back again...



Alright, I'm never saying that again. Let's be real, I'm the last person anyone could call "Slim" Shady.

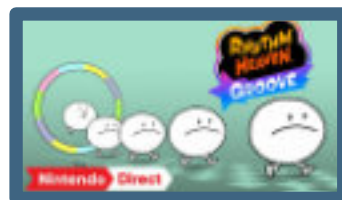
The real question is, what did I miss? It hasn't been all that long since I last wrote one of these, so nothing too crazy could've popped up in the gaming world. Let's do a quick rundown for some of the positives.

Star Fox released (yet again) at the end of June, restoring a franchise to its classic rail shooter roots. Some might complain at the lack of originality or distinction from the original, but if it can act as a springboard for future projects and introduce a whole new generation to the four unfortunately uncanny furry mercenaries,



then it will in time be remembered as a solid game and smart business decision.

Rhythm Heaven Groove danced its way onto shop shelves and it's just as much of a fever dream as longtime players will remember. Japan is no stranger to wacky beat-filled games that rely on precise timing and punish you brutally for



not paying attention during year 8 (or 7th grade) music class.

A Nintendo Direct happened in June, and amongst 45 minutes of fighting off sleep, there were about 3 actual announcements anyone gave a shit about. A new installment in the Xenoblade franchise, Genesis, the world premiere of Kingdom Hearts IV which admittedly was a massive coup for Nintendo to secure, all topped off with the first official teaser for the remake of The Legend of Zelda: Ocarina of Time. Yeah fair enough I guess, if there's any game that could even stand a chance of not taking a massive hit by releasing close to GTA VI, it might just be the return of the highest rated game ever made.



See? Nice and positive so far. I bet you all thought I'd launch into a massive tirade about how everything seems to be getting worse around the hobby.

And you'd be very fucking right.

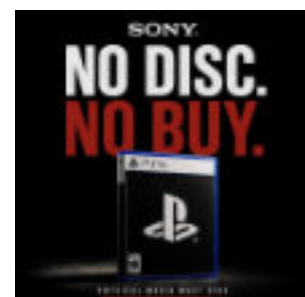
Speaking of Grand Theft Auto, the name is becoming more apt every moment. During the build up and hype surrounding a potential gameplay trailer, it was reported that GTA VI will launch with no printed physical copies. The biggest game ever made will be digital only.



The most optimistic players hoped one would arrive shortly after launch, perhaps to prevent counterfeiting or major spoilers being leaked, until their hopes and dreams were dashed by an official Sony announcement on July 1st, in what might be the biggest shot to the foot I've ever seen a gaming company do.

After January 2028, no games released will have a disc version, meaning the PS6 will almost certainly be a digital only system. I cannot even begin to express how much this kills my enthusiasm for the future of gaming. They've attempted to shift the concept of ownership steadily for years now,

but this is truly a shameless attempt to monopolise every game they make and destroy the livelihoods of thousands of manufacturers and small game store owners. It snatches the choice away from the consumer, and prevents companies offering discounts to drive competition.



Digital only game licenses are pathetic, and we can all thank corporate members of Sony for showing their hands to confirm what we already knew. They do not care about players, they do not listen to the people that made the company what it is, they do not even stand by their own slogan. 'Play Has No Limits.'

It does now.



Memory shortages have caused PC price surges for a while now, but if they make a console digital only, they're essentially selling a worse PC for what you would expect to be well over \$700. And before any bootlickers try to tell me that they can distribute games cheaper if they're digital only, I'd advise you to remove your head from your clearly unwashed arse and get some sunlight. You're paying \$70-80 per game now, and they will try to make you continue to do so.

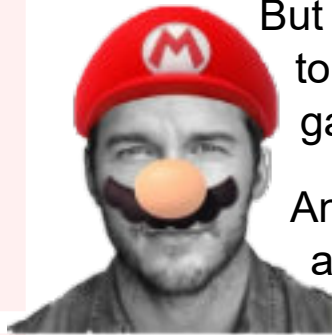
How the hell has Nintendo come out looking best here? At least with a

keycard, you still get something to put on your shelf. You still get that opportunity to please your inner child and go to the shop to pick it up. If you like to buy games digitally, there isn't anything wrong with that, so long as everyone has a choice. Even the dynamic pricing system for Switch 2 where a physical card is slightly more expensive than the eShop version, whilst not ideal, still makes a lot more sense than completely gutting the joy of collecting and turning a console into a paperweight. You can even lend these accursed things to friends, and re-sell them at your



leisure. I feel sick for the fact I even have to defend these.

Even with the sense of inevitability that this would happen, it's deeply sad that greed and a weird drive for minimalism has cannibalised the industry from the inside out. It probably won't even make a dent in PlayStation's profits, and that's exactly why they won't change their minds.



But hey, at least I still get to play funny Mario games for children.

And I haven't forgotten about the GabeCube, more on that next

month...

GAME OVER

Written by



@lewischissio

Okayama AJET

2026 WELCOME PARTY BBQ & BEER

✦ BBQ

✦ Drinks

✦ Prizes

SEPTEMBER 5TH 6:30PM - 8:30PM

¥6,000 per person

@ OKAYAMA TENMAYA ROOFTOP
BEER GARDEN

Let's welcome our
newcomers to the sunny
Okayama Prefecture!
Deadline to sign up is
August 28th. See QR code
for link to sign up form.



✦ okayama-ajet.com

✦ @okajet on instagram

OKAYAMA EVENTS



OkaSyo Grand Bon Dance Festival

OkaSyo大盆踊り

Date: Tuesday, August 11th

Location: OkaSyo Co., Ltd.
Headquarters

Time: 16:00-21:00

Admission: Free

More info: [日本語](#)



Nishikawa Natsumi Akari 2026

西川夏あかり2026

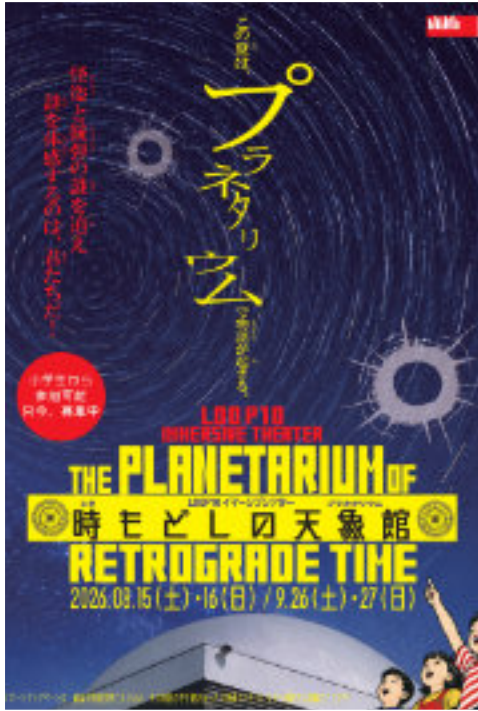
Date: until Monday, August 31st

Location: Nishikawa
Greenbelt Park, Haremachi
Street

Time: 18:30 - 22:00

Admission: Free

More info: [日本語](#)



Theater x Mystery Solving: "LOOP10 Immersive Theater: The Celestial Phenomenon Museum of Time Reversal"

Date: Saturday-Sunday,
August 15th-16th

Location: Okayama
Prefectural Lifelong
Learning Center, SciPIA

Time: August 15th (Sat) at
13:00 and 17:00, August
16th (Sun) at 10:00 and
13:45; doors open 30
minutes before start

Admission: 3,900 general
admission, 3,100 JHS
students and younger

More info: [日本語](#)



The 26th Okayama Momotaro Festival: "The 31st Uraja Festival" and "Family Festa"

Date: Saturday, August
22nd and Sunday, August
23rd, 2026

Location: Various locations

Admission: Free

More info: [日本語](#)



Nomi in Maniwa 真庭deのみ〜の

Date: Saturday, August
22nd and Sunday, August
30th

Location: August 22nd (Sat)
at participating restaurants
in Hokubo District, August
30th (Sun) at participating
restaurants in Yuhara
District

Time: Varying times

Admission: In store fees
apply

More info: [日本語](#)



Bitchu Takahashi Matsuyama Dance

**備中たかはし
松山踊り**

Date: Friday, August 14th to
Sunday, August 16th

Location: Main street in
front of JR Bitchu-Takahashi
Station

Time: 19:00-22:00

Admission: Free

More info: [日本語](#)



Reptile, Insect, Amphibian, etc. Exhibition: Bug Brigade in Okayama

Date: Saturday, August 22,
2026

Location: Fukutake Jolly
Building

Time: 11:00

Admission: 1,500 yen, free
for children under JHS age

More info: [日本語](#)



Goho Festival

護法祭

Date: Friday, August 14,
2026

Location: Ryozanji Temple

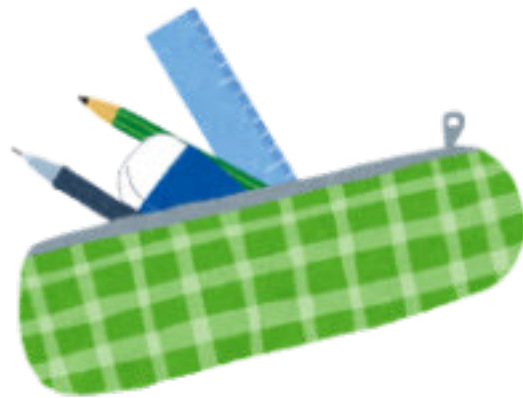
Time: 17:00 - 26:00

Admission: Free

More info: [日本語](#)

September Theme: Back to School

With one more month of summer break school will be back in session soon. Share any of your teaching tips or back to school advice, especially for our new OkaJETs! Please keep submissions to no more than 500 words, and feel free to include pictures!



Want to be part of the newsletter?

We are always looking for new talent and help at the newsletter, so if you have writers itch you want to scratch, or have some ideas for the newsletter look, please contact us at our email!

okajet.contact@gmail.com

