

The IEI Reporter

Volume 12, Issue 7

Dec. 13, 2007

Birthdays

Reyna Fisher
Dec. 13

Maria Calvo
Dec. 14

Deok Hyun Park
Dec. 25

Jose Bonilla
Dec. 27

Neira Rodriguez
Dec. 27

SMILE!!!! BRING YOUR CAMERA BY THE OFFICE OR E



MAIL YOUR BEST IEI PHOTOS FOR THE IEI WEBSITE!

EXAMS

DEC. 13 & 14

PLEASE CHECK YOUR MAILBOX FOR YOUR INVOICE!

SPRING 1 DATES:

JAN. 11-Last Registration Day

Jan. 14 -Testing

JAN. 15-MARCH 6-CLASSES

SPRING BREAK - MARCH 7-10

IEI REPORTERS: Naoki Onoda, Hazem Othman, Marta Luz Perez Montoya, Neira Rodriguez, Chakaran Ruephanit, Ryota Yamaoto, Yu Yoshida
Editor: Rebecca Tieman

Happy Holidays from the Newspaper Staff!!!!



Good-Bye from the UP Class! We'll miss you!

Teenage Suicides of Japan

By: Ryota

The rate of teenage suicides has been increasing each year in Japan. This is not well known, yet it is said that Japan is the country which has the most suicides in the world. Statistics in 2007 show that the number of teenage suicides is more than six hundred and fifty. Young people seem to be full of hope, but many of them have problems that they can't put up with. Even though the reasons are many, the most common are from abuse, depression and being bullied.

First, there are several types of abuse like physical, sexual and psychological. The most common reason that parents abuse their children is that they are annoyed by their unwanted child. Also, many parents who abuse were abused in their childhood. Institutions that protect such children exist, but some parents visit there to take their children back home and they begin to abuse them again. Children eventually end up killing themselves. The Japanese government has not really done anything about it.

Next, young people usually between the ages of 12 and 17 don't feel like doing anything and they tend to be in a state of panic; fear or mental disorder. They are already depressed and don't feel interest or pleasure in anything, and it's a state like being emotionally paralyzed. Finally, they don't realize a sense of self worth and they decide to kill themselves. Because there are medicines and treatment, they can recover from depression, but they can't unless they recognize their disease.

The most problematic cause of teenage suicides is bullying. Bullying has been seen as one of the worst problems in education for many years but it has never decreased. It especially happens in junior high schools. Modern bullying not only causes physical harm, but psychological harm. Children enjoy bullying without caring about someone else's feeling because they themselves are not bullied; bullying makes some feel powerful. Although we often hear that both the bully and the person who is bullied have a problem, it's ridiculous. It is because of the present condition that so many teenagers commit suicide.

A lot of children who have problems always call for help. However, they will attempt suicide unless someone notices them asking for help, and the rate of teenage suicides won't decrease. Teachers, friends and family need to support teenagers and should be taught about the importance of "life". Therefore; Children's lives depend on all the people around them.



Christmas in Colombia

By: Marta

Colombia is a catholic country that has celebrated Christmas for many centuries. Christmas is an important celebration for us. It starts on December 16 beginning with the "Novena" (1).

First, the people meet with their families and friends to read the novena and pray the novena for 9 consecutive days. On the 16th of same month, the people build nativities in their homes with miniature figurines that represent when Jesus was born. The nativities have a little hut with Joseph, Mary, a flock of sheep, shepherds and donkey.

On the 24th of December the people meet and eat special Colombian food together. Second, after midnight, it is customary that the people give presents to their families and friends. When it is 12:00 p.m. the people hug each other and shoot fireworks in the street. This spectacular event is wonderful to see. Finally, the people sit down to eat "Ajiaco,(2)" "Buñuelos,(3)" and "Natilla (4) " typical Colombian food with a good drink to toast when Jesus born. The people stay at this celebration talking, dancing and enjoying their time together until 2 or 3 in the morning while the children play with their presents. Novena (is a catholic book that contains events from Jesus' life) Ajiaco (is a soup that have 3 kinds of potatoes ,chicken and guascas) Buñuelos (rolls of flour with cheese) Natilla (dessert with coco)

MOTTAINAI Movement

By: Naoki

Have you ever heard MOTTAINAI? That word is included in Buddhist words and is a solution about environmental problems. This time, I'd like to tell you about the concepts of MOTTAINAI and the activity of one African professor that has popularized MOTTAINAI. After I arrived in the US, I noticed that most people in the US throw food away in the garbage can and often use disposable products. For example, when we eat lunch in the cafeteria, we usually use chopsticks, spoons, forks, knives, and paper plates which we can use only once. Thanks to using those, there will be too much garbage. It is inappropriate for us to throw anything away in the garbage. That's why I decided to tell you about MOTTAINAI.

First, MOTTAINAI includes Buddhist words. Essentially, that is the word denying MOTTAI in Buddhist words. Now, we usually mean that we make something useless because we turn it into garbage because we don't use things as much as we could. We throw things away too soon without reusing or recycling them.

Second, do you know who Wangari Muta Maathai is? She is an African professor at Nairobi University and the activist who is trying to protect the environment of the earth. Moreover, she got a Nobel peace prize as an environmental and political activist for the first time in the world. She was invited by "The Mainichi Newspapers Company" (A Japanese Newspaper company) because of events about Kyoto protocol (the protocol about environmental problems decided in Kyoto). There, she learned about MOTTAINAI. She was impressed with the thinking of MOTTAINAI. Because she thought MOTTAINAI is appropriate thinking about how to solve environmental problems. She started to look for other words which mean MOTTAINAI in other languages, but unfortunately there is no word which means that in those. Specifically, MOTTAINAI includes the concepts of respect or love for nature and other things. Also, it includes the concept of reducing, reusing, recycling, and repairing. She couldn't find words including those two concepts in other languages. That's why she decided to popularize MOTTAINAI without translating it into other languages.

Finally, I feel that action or thinking where most people in the US throw food away in the garbage can and dump everything in the garbage is MOTTAINAI. Because food makes us alive. If there is no food in the world, we can't live. So if you can't eat food because of being full or that you are allergic to something to eat, you had better ask someone to eat your food. Or you had better bring containers when you are full. And, you don't need to throw food away. When you use disposable dishes, I think we should use those until they are used up. Because it is important for us to use recyclable products, but it is more important for us to reduce or reuse products, too. If we do so, we don't need to throw away too much. Anyway, I think we have to treasure everything to protect the environment of the earth and prevent Global warming.



Wangari Muta Maathai



Kyoto Protocol

*Practice makes.....
you the master. Marta
Me grow and be successful.
Naoki
me stronger than other peo-
ple. Douglas everything possi-
ble. Bank
you much better. Ryota
A good effort. Grace
You the master -perfect. Neira*

*A little knowledge
is equal to nothing. Yoshi
Means nothing. Bank
Is worse than no knowledge.
Grace
Will not be useful. Ryota
Makes us increase our intelli-
gence. Naoki*

Why We Choose to Use Free Software

By: Bank

I think almost everybody is familiar with the Microsoft window XP or Vista or even Microsoft office. Do you know how much this software costs? Yes, both of these software are the regular software that every computer has and the owner has to pay more than three hundred dollars for it. Some people did not know that this price is already included when they purchased their computer. Do we have another choice to choose? If you buy your computer you can choose another operating system instead of Windows, and it is free. Linux is the answer, Linux is a free operation system that everybody can download from the internet legally. Nowadays, Linux was developed to be close to Microsoft Windows, so it is user friendly or not difficult to use. Why is it free? Because this kind of software is open source software so that every user can download it to use, copy and modify it. When the programmer finishes modifying this software, they will upload it to the internet to share with each other. It means this kind of software will develop continually, and be better every time. Not only Linux but Open Office is also free software. It looks like Microsoft Office, this package contains word processor, spreadsheet and presentation software. These is the free software that came from many thousands of programmers all around the world, and many people believe that this type of software will be better than company license software soon.

Holidays By: Neira Rodriguez

All over the world, Christmas and New Year's are the most important celebrations, most awaited by the people. Some of the reasons are because the families have a big dinner, exchange gifts, the children are waiting anxiously for Santa Claus, people spend a lot of time decorating their houses and almost all of the families are together enjoying these holidays. In this article I am going to explain how we celebrate these two important holidays in my country and compare them with the United States.

In Mexico we have interesting traditions for Christmas and New Year's. We start the Christmas celebration with "the posadas" our Mexican tradition. It takes place from December 16 to 24th. Every night in neighborhoods all over the country processions take place leading to a particular home (a different one each night). The people walk with candles and often with an image of the Virgin Mary and Joseph. When the people reach the door of the home they sing a special posada song. After all the prayer is done, then comes the party for the children. There will be a piñata, while the child tries to break it, the other children are waiting for their turn and also singing too. After the posadas finish, we have a Christmas dinner and we exchange gifts with all the members of the family.

Finally the children open the gifts from under the Christmas tree. We celebrate New Year's Eve by having a late night dinner with our families. Also we have several superstitions about the New Year's. One of them is that we eat 12 grapes as the clock strikes midnight on December 31st. As you eat each grape, you can make a wish for the New Year. Another superstition is if you want to have a good luck in love in the coming Year, you need to wear red underwear on New Year, get out your luggage and take it for a walk around the block. In contrast, in the United States these holidays are celebrated differently. For example most families have a Christmas dinner on December 25th and the food is different. At midnight on New Year's, they watch TV to see Time Square in New York city, they drink champagne and everybody says happy new year.

Finally I can say that each country has its own way to celebrate these festivities, but the purpose is the same, to be in harmony with the family and friends, enjoy the dinner and thank God for the year ending and the coming year. My best wishes to all in these next holidays.





