

# Crossroads

CROSSROADS Language Studio's Newsletter, September 2008

## ATTACK OF THE GIANT JELLYFISH!

Have you heard about the jellyfish problem? In recent years, a great number of huge jellyfish have been found in the Sea of Japan. These jellyfish have brought many problems to the area.

While the local fishermen *do* net fish, many huge and heavy jellyfish get caught in the fishnets too, causing the nets to break. Repairing these nets is very expensive for the fishermen, and as the huge jellyfish eat so much plankton they cause an imbalance in the marine environment!

There are some who say that the sudden increase in these huge jellyfish is the fault of human beings: fishermen catch too many fish, extra plankton remains, jellyfish have abundant plankton to eat so, become huge. And, they also eat many young fish along with the plankton, reducing the number of fish even more.

Even though some Chinese dishes, even ice-cream makers, use jellyfish, these only consume small quantities; there is no way to make use of so many jellyfish!

But recently there has been some good news concerning jellyfish. The professors at Ehime University and a local food company in Ehime studied the jellyfish together and made some very valuable discoveries: Jelly fish are made up of 95% water, 4% salt and 1% nutrients like nitrogen, phosphorous and collagen. When cut and dried for use as fertilizer, they found that the jellyfish could supplement nitrogen, phosphorous and collagen in the soil, which are necessary for plants to grow. Also, dried jellyfish can absorb 7 times its own weight in water. And, it's biodegradable.

Desertification is now a big problem in the world, and soil is becoming infertile, so the idea is to use jellyfish to make fertilizer. This could not only solve the fishermen's problem, it

could also solve severe desertification problems. They say they expect to use this most inexpensive fertilizer to change the deserts of our world.

A patent for the jellyfish fertilizer has been applied for and they are planning to start experiments next year in Sakurajima, in Kagoshima, and in the forest near Imabari, which was damaged by fire last spring.

I believe this study will turn the useless jellyfish into a useful solution for the desertification of the earth.

- Article by Kumfa in S(b)I



**NET LESSONS:** Are you too busy to come to CROSSROADS?... Try our *lessons on the Internet!*

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**NET SITE OF THE MONTH:**

[http://archive.dailypicture.net/echizen\\_kurage\\_nomuras\\_jellyfish\\_giant\\_invade\\_japan.htm](http://archive.dailypicture.net/echizen_kurage_nomuras_jellyfish_giant_invade_japan.htm) for a Jellyfish article with some pictures.

**NET NOTEBOOK:** Don't forget to take a look at the Internet activity notebook in our open-house. You'll find games, news and English learning sites.

# Some Thoughts for the Month

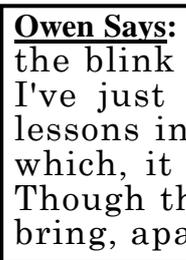


**Joshua Says:** Last month's B-B-Q Summer party was a quiet and relaxing affair, and, all-together, a very pleasant event. We had some impromptu guitar playing from some of the students (occasionally assisted by Michael) and the food and drinks were just right for the occasion. Thanks very much to those who came along and participated. For those who missed it, check out P3.

**Junko Says:** We are trying to think of some new event ideas to make our activities here at Crossroads even more interesting. Of course we have our regular end-of-term performance parties, and the Christmas and Summer B-B-Q parties, but we would like to do more! To help, I would like to hear your ideas too! So, we are going to hand out a questionnaire which I hope you will fill in and return to me in the office. Any suggestions you have will help, so don't hold back!



**Michael Says:** Hurricane Gustav is coming! Well, to Louisiana, that is. My family farm is in South Louisiana, but my father told me that none of the family is staying there. He himself is going to Texas where my sister lives. Strangely enough, some people that live closer to New Orleans have asked to stay at the farmhouse, though. I hope that old home is strong enough for those winds! I wonder if the snakes, scorpions, tarantulas, and alligators or other creepy-crawlies will try to take refuge in the house, too! Yikes!



**Owen Says:** My! How time flies. It's shot by as though on roller blades; in the blink of an eye. The last six months have gone by so fast I still feel I've just arrived. This summer has been filled with very interesting lessons interspersed with days at the beach and barbecues; speaking of which, it was so good to see many of you at the Crossroad's barbecue. Though the summer may be over, I'm interested to see what winter will bring, apart from heating bills!



**Greg Says:** Well in a blink of the eye, the Olympics have come and gone. It was becoming addictive sitting there late at night watching the best of the best perform magic. The highlight for me was watching Michael Phelps from the U.S win 8 gold medals with 7 World Records. Amazing to think that some people don't win 8 races during their entire school carnival life, and yet he does it on the Olympic stage in one week.

**Emilie Dit:** J'ai eu la chance de gravir le Mont Fuji le dernier jour du mois d'août. Tout laissait prédire que mon ascension serait annulée. Le ciel était couvert et le Mont caché derrière une barrière de nuages. Toutefois, la pluie avait cessé, ça ne coûtait rien de tenter sa chance. La fortune sourit aux audacieux. Au fur et à mesure que je montais la pente glissante du volcan, je m'élevais au-dessus d'une mer de nuages (« un kai ») et le spectacle était splendide. Divin.



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### KIDS' (キッズ) クラス

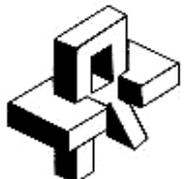
グループOR プライベート



### MOTHER & CHILD

(マザー&チャイルド)

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25th Anniversary 2008

