

CrossTalk

CROSSROADS Language Studio's Newsletter, December 2008



Christmas



Around



The



World



It's Christmas time again, and in keeping with a tradition started two years ago, we have asked roving reporter, Nick (who is now working freelance), to send us once again his impressions of how people in various countries around the world celebrate the Christmas tradition. Nick's first report comes back to us from...

Papua New Guinea: (Nick says)



traditionally, certain tribes here have been exchanging infant sons, called a *Peace Children*, with each other to ensure that war does not break out. Each tribe must look after their adopted child very carefully for if the child dies, war will ensure. Not so long ago, some Christian missionaries visited these tribes and explained the Christian tradition that tells of God sending his child to live among men on earth as a "peace child". The tribal chiefs liked this story and incorporated it into their own tradition, thus creating a link to Christmas.

Bangladesh: Here people cut down scores of banana trees and plant them, in pairs, opposite each other, along the routes to churches. The giant leaves are then bent towards each other and joined together to make a canopy. Oil



lanterns made of bamboo are attached to these leaves to light the way to church.

In **Iran**, the first 25 days of December are a time of fasting – no meat, eggs, milk or cheese are eaten. It is a time of peace and meditation. When the fast is over, the feast begins! Christmas Eve marks the end of the fast. Most Christians take Communion before dawn on Christmas day, after which they "tuck in"!

Next, Nick took a trip all the way to Northern Europe, to **Finland**. There, he found a more traditional-type of Christmas being celebrated. People give their homes a thorough cleaning before Christmas. They then fell fir trees, tie them to sleds and cart them home where they are decorated with apples and other fruits, candies, tinsel, paper flags, cotton and candles, which are lit. The Christmas dinner usually begins after the first star appears in the sky at dusk. Some families place a pole in their garden with a sheaf of grain, nuts and seeds tied to it. They



then wait for the birds to eat from this before they start their own Christmas dinner.

Net News

NET LESSONS: Are you too busy to come to CROSSROADS?... Try our *lessons on the Internet!* It's CROSSROADS in your home or office! You get CROSSROADS' great teachers, teaching programs, even classmates, *on-line!* Call for details: **089 9217595**

NET SITE OF THE MONTH:

What's going on at Christmas time around the world? Take a look: www.the-north-pole.com/around/

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: Merry Christmas, everyone! This year's Christmas party was very enjoyable, and I want to thank all those students and staff who came along. I had a very relaxing time with you all; the conversations were interesting and the food you brought along was great too – yes, even the MacDonald's French Fries!!!

Junko Says: Have you heard the latest from Sony Co.? Their new Executive Chairman is from Wales! Yes, that's right, Mr. Howard Stringer is the new chairman of Sony. One of the reasons he got the job is that Sony wants to turn itself into a truly international company. Now everyone who wants to speak to the boss here in Japan has to use English; it's not only for overseas business trips any more. The point is that the international community is expanding and it is going to be too late if people put off learning English until the last minute before they need it!



Owen Says: It's definitely getting colder and the nights are getting darker too. At this time of year my family used to start spending more time around the fireplace, reading and talking. There's nothing quite like a quiet night by the fireside. My home is in the countryside. After walking back from school, down dark lanes and through the woods, it was so nice to warm myself in front of the fire. I don't miss chopping the logs though!

Greg Says: Last month I took my daughter to the Elleair women's golf tournament in Matsuyama. Her favorite players are Ai Miyazato and Momoko Ueda, so you can imagine how happy she was when we found out they were playing together. To cut a long story short the play was interrupted twice because of hail and lightning. During the breaks, my daughter was lucky enough to get both the players' autographs. She also spent the day hand in hand with Ai Miyazato's mother walking from hole to hole.



Emilie Dit: Je suis de retour à Paris, dans ma ville natale, pour passer les fêtes de fin d'année. La température est froide mais tout à fait supportable tant les appartements sont bien chauffés ici. Le ciel parisien arbore toujours un beau gris mélancolique, mais les décorations de Noël égayent l'ensemble. Depuis le début de l'année 2008, de nombreuses manifestations culturelles sont organisées pour célébrer le 150^{ème} Anniversaire des relations franco-japonaises, et de cette manière je ne me sens pas si loin de Matsuyama.

NOTICE BOARD

HERE ARE SOME SHOTS FROM
last month's end of term
Christmas Party.



MERRY Christmas,
Everybody!



クロスローズの好きなコースで英語を学ぶ。

"GENERAL (ジェネラル) コース

英語+実践練習

60分 x 2回 / 週:

1学期-4ヶ月毎にレベルが上がる
クロスローズのメインプログラム

90分 x 1回 / 週:

忙しい方のための週1レッスン

プライベート(個人)

月2回からレッスン回数自由選択

セミプライベート(セミ個人):

月3回からレッスン回数自由選択

クロスローズで学べるその他の外国語

フランス語 - スペイン語 - ドイツ語 - イタリア語 - ロシア語 - 中国語 - 韓国語



COSMOPOLITAN (コスモポリタン) コース

英語+実技を通じた実用練習、だから誰でも分かる、自然に上達する。

英語でギターを習う

英語で歌う

英語で料理

英語でマジック

ピアノ

英語劇

ヨガ

レッスン料 ¥4,725/月~
詳細はお問合せ下さい



NET(ネット) レッスン

グループOR プライベート

KIDS' (キッズ) クラス

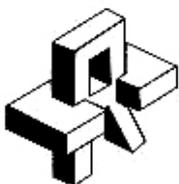
グループOR プライベート



MOTHER & CHILD

(マザー&チャイルド)

グループOR プライベート



CROSSROADS

ランゲージスタジオ
英会話スクール

〒790-0004 松山市大街道
2丁目1-3 2F, 3F



Phone: 0120-21-7594

Tel: (089) 921-7595

Fax: (089) 921-7319

E-mail: info@crossroadsco.com

Web Site: www.crossroadsco.com

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