

CrossTalk

CROSSROADS Language Studio's Newsletter October, 2013

In celebration of the avocado pear

The Autumn Harvest is celebrated in many countries around the world at this time of the year. Thanks-giving (October in Canada, November in the US), the Chinese Autumn Moon Festival and, of course, Halloween at the end of this month, are just a few. Matsuyama's Autumn Festival is also held this month and the participants here are just as energetic and enthusiastic as any in the world when it comes to celebrating the autumn season.

Harvest celebrations go back in antiquity thousands of years but some newer, and often off-beat, festivals have been introduced over time in celebration of special crops. One example is the Avocado Festival held this month in Santa Barbara County, California.

The first Santa Barbara Avocado Festival dates from 1987, and is held to commemorate an event that happened in 1519. History buffs say that was the year the Aztec ruler, Montezuma, presented the Spanish explorer, Cortez, with gifts of gold, silver and priceless gems, including avocados! The Spanish conquistadors loved the fruit, and the rest, as they say, is history. Last year, the Santa Barbara Avocado Festival attracted 12,000 people and the organizers used 2,000 avocados to feed them – all for free!



Net News

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

SITE OF THE MONTH:

Here are details on the Avocado Festival along with photos and the AVOCADO SONG video: <http://avofest.com/>

Avocado is one of the healthiest foods you can eat. Zero cholesterol, full of vitamins and minerals and, some scientists think, it may even ward off certain cancers.



Another attraction is that they make great house-plants. If you'd like to add some greenery in your home, just go to your local supermarket and purchase a couple of avocados. Enjoy the fruit, but save the large seed inside. Now, stab the seed with three or four toothpicks! Insert these about a third of the way up. Next, fill a glass with water and balance your seed, with the toothpicks protruding out to the sides, on top of the glass. Keep topping up the water so that it always covers the bottom of the seed and wait about 4 to 6 weeks. Your seed should first sprout roots down into the water and, a little later, it should send out a shoot from the top which will then branch and form leaves. You can keep your plant in the glass, but be sure to keep topping up the water, or transfer it to a pot with soil. As your plant grows, you'll need to re-pot it, and be sure to water it every couple of days.

After surviving for thousands of years, along side humans, is it any wonder that such a hardy, health-giving and useful plant now has a festival held in its honour?



Some Thoughts for the Month



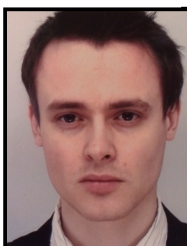
Joshua Says: This is the most humid October I can remember! The summer was hotter than usual too, and I can remember when snow blanketed the ground here in Matsuyama during winter. I think it's obvious that "Global Warming" is a reality. The only question that can be debated is whether or not we humans are responsible, or to what extent should we be held responsible?

Junko Says: I've noticed that airline ticket prices for flights from Matsuyama have been reduced to even more destinations thanks to the new, cheaper airlines that have come on the scene recently. You can now get a budget flight to Osaka for only around 3,000 yen one way. This is good news for our students wishing travel overseas, as it will help reduce the overall cost of your trip.



Kenneth Says: Alas, the summer heat has subsided and now we can enjoy a little more comfort in the outdoors. We plan to do some hiking en famille, ideally when the fall colors are happening at higher elevations. Plus, I've always wanted to return to Cape Ashizuri, the southernmost point of the island of Shikoku. The coastline here is very rugged with 80-m high cliffs, and there are some splendid hiking trails in the area.

Adrienne Says: I recently read a very good book entitled, "How to Improve Your Marriage Without Talking About It". The author is a family and marriage psychologist whose name is Dr. Patricia Love. I am not making up her name. She explains all the ways that men and women typically destroy their "emotional connections", and explains how to repair the damage and how to prevent emotional disconnection. I highly recommend it.



Cyril Dit: *Durant ma semaine à Tokyo, j'ai découvert quel était le vrai sport national japonais: c'est la file d'attente! Où qu'on regarde, il y a des barrières, des poteaux, des lignes au sol et même des fonctionnaires en uniforme armés de petits panneaux afin d'organiser, orienter et acheminer le badot! Et quelle discipline, à la limite de l'apathie... personne n'a essayé de me doubler!*

NOTICE BOARD

A report from our ex-Chinese student, Ren in Beijing – Pt. 2

... CONTINUED FROM LAST MONTH....

... I went to Nanluoguxiang first. This is a typical tourist spot. It had small, pretty shops and a big lake a little far from the main street. There were many people both shopping and walking around the lake. I rented a bicycle and rode around the lake. It was very beautiful and I took many pictures.

Secondly, I went to Tiananmen. It is a very famous place, as you know. I also went to another famous spot, "Xidan". This place is like "Ginza" in Tokyo. To be honest, these places were not exciting for me, because Tiananmen is too famous and Xidan is too close to Japan's Tokyo. But, I visited these two places in a very short time because I was tied from moving around in Nanluoguxiang. So, I think they are worth a second visit in the future.

This day was a long day for me, but I learnt many easy, but essential, things like how to catch a bus or train. I think I need to continue this kind of travel experience to get accustomed to China!



Tiananmen



Xitan's big department store



Chinese Draemon?



Starbucks in Nanluoguxiang – very different style

Pet's Corner *This is how to bond with your pet!* Everyone likes a good hug now and then with their best pal. Such moments are precious and help us get over the stress of everyday life. These two know exactly what it means to be best pals.



Everyone likes a good hug now and then with their best pal. Such moments are precious and help us get over the stress of everyday life. These two know exactly what it means to be best pals.

A Brain Teaser

You saw a shirt for \$97.

You didn't have the cash, so you borrowed \$50 from your Mom, and \$50 from your Dad.

$$\boxed{\$50 + \$50 = \$100}$$

You bought the shirt, and had \$3 change.

You gave your Dad \$1 and your Mom \$1 and kept the other \$1 for yourself. Now you owe your Mom \$49 and your Dad \$49.

$$\$49 + \$49 + \text{your } \$1 = \$99.$$

Where is the missing \$1?



Don't forget... **Our SPECIAL 1+1 Campaign offer! Up to 50% off!!**

See our notice board, or ask Junko in our office, for the details.