

# CrossWalk

CROSSROADS Language Studio's Newsletter, December 2007



## Christmas Around the World with Nick!

Last year, you will remember, we asked Nick, our roving international reporter, to cover Christmas **festivities** from around the world for our newsletter. This year we have him on the job again, and, with the help of an Associated Press photographer, here are some of the impressions he has sent back to us:

**In China**, Christian children decorate trees with colorful **ornaments**. These ornaments are made from paper in the shapes of flowers, chains and **lanterns**. They also hang muslin stockings hoping that "Dun Che Lao Ren", or "Christmas Old Man" (Santa Claus) will fill them with gifts and treats. The Chinese Christmas trees are called "Trees of Light."



A family takes a photo near a mythical lion dressed in Santa Claus!

**In Peru**, when priests first started to travel, they would carry small **altars** around with them to festivals. These alters gradually developed into **portable** boxes with saints above an altar and scenes from everyday life below it. **Now-a-days**, they are more likely to **depict** Mary, Joseph and the baby Jesus in scenes attended by local people.



Santa takes a break in a public park in Lima

**In Russian**, there are special prayers at Christmas and people **fast**, sometimes for 39 days, until their January 6th Christmas Eve. They then begin a twelve course supper in honor of each of the 12 apostles - fish, beet soup or Borsch, cabbage **stuffed** with **millet**, cooked dried fruit and much more. It is not Father Christmas, or "Dedushka Moroz" (Grandfather Christmas), who gives out presents to children, but Babushka. The legend tells us that she **declined** to go with the wise men to see Jesus because of the cold weather. However, she regretted not going and set off after them to try and catch up, filling her basket with presents. She never found Jesus, and that is why she visits each house, leaving toys for good children.



People look at a Nativity scene in Moscow

Julenissen (the Christmas **elf**), with his stocking cap and long white beard, brings presents to **Norwegian** children on Christmas Eve. Families also exchange gifts on Christmas Day. In the past, Norwegian children would dress up in costumes and go from house to house asking for treats, much as North American children do for Halloween. The leader of the group would be dressed as a bukk, or goat, and the **custom** was known as "going Julebuk" (Christmas goat)." Children in **rural** areas of Norway still go Julebuk today.



Children sing X'mas carols in church

Christmas is one of the four most important festivals in **Vietnam**; the others being the birthday of Buddha, the New Year and the mid-autumn festival. It was introduced during the period of French rule. On Christmas Eve, Vietnamese Christians attend a midnight Mass. After Church they return to their homes for a Christmas supper. The dinner usually consists of chicken soup, the more wealthy enjoying turkey and Christmas Pudding.



A vendor in a Hanoi city street selling Santa hats

Merry Xmas to all our students at Crossroads!

Colored words are in the glossary on page 2

## 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:**

You can find some of the world's Christmas traditions here: <http://www.santas.net/aroundtheworld.htm>

**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:** This year's Christmas party will be remembered mostly for the terrific performances we had from Iain, Michael and Kurt. Michael and Kurt were really "smoking" with their guitars, and Iain outdid himself with his magic this time. Everyone present was treated to really "professional-level" performances. Thanks guys! We all really appreciated you sharing your talents with us. And, everyone there had a great time. Check out P3!

**Junko Says:** After the Christmas celebrations, we are now looking forward to the New Year festivities. So, in Japan, the beautiful Christmas ornaments are quickly put away the day after Christmas day. After all, New Year events are much closer to the Japanese lifestyle. However, Christmas ornaments are usually enjoyed in Western cultures for a week or so after Christmas day.



**Michael Says:** So, I had many people tell me that Christmas isn't a large event in Japan. Well, what I found was very different: It was hard to travel because hotels were full, private hot springs were all reserved, and some of my favorite restaurants were also all reserved or only had expensive special Christmas menus. Not only that, but I saw Santa everywhere, heard Christmas music everywhere, and saw stores packed with Christmas shoppers! And then I learned I had to buy a traditional Christmas cake? I had been fooled! Christmas actually is a big deal in Japan!

**Iain Says:** Happy Holidays everyone! It has been a pretty busy time for me this winter. On Friday I went down to Okinawa. It was my first time there. Of course I got to try some Champloo and some Orion beer. I flew back to Matsuyama the next day and immediately started cooking for a Christmas party. The party was down in Usa, Kochi. We had a marvelous dinner complete with turkey and stuffing. I hope you all get a chance to try a turkey dinner. It is simply wonderful. When I see you next time tell me what you did for the holidays.



**Sheri Says:** Have you ever tried Green Tea flavoured chocolate? More than half of my students tell me they have never tried it! I am surprised, because it is so delicious. In my opinion, Japan has some of the best chocolate in the world and there are always new kinds to try in the convenience stores. Some people say Belgian chocolate is the best, but I disagree. Obviously, they haven't tried chocolate flavoured with Green Tea!

**Greg Says:** Well here I am in Sunny Australia catching up with friends and family for Christmas. Every year I experience two summers...the Japanese summer and the summer over here in Australia...needless to say, I hate winter!!!! I hope all the students and staff at Crossroads have a fun and relaxing Christmas and New Year. May all your New Years resolutions last longer than a week. I will see you all again in January. Cheers!!!!!!



## Glossary

(These words are in **color** in the story on page 1)

**festivities** 祭礼の催し事

**ornaments** 飾り

**lanterns** ちょうちん

**altars** 祭壇

**portable** 可動式の

**now-a-days** 現在では

**depict** 描写する

**fast** 断食する

**stuffed** 詰め込んだ

**millet** 雑穀

**declined** 断った

**elf** 小妖精

**custom** 風習

**rural** 地方(の)

# Notice Board

## CHRISTMAS party 16/12/07



### 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+実技を通した実用練習、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

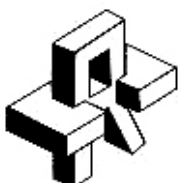
グループOR プライベート



#### MOTHER & CHILD

(マザー&チャイルド)

グループOR プライベート



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