

International Student Issues

by Tammie Key International Student Advisor



Many of you are new and may not have had the chance to meet me personally.

One of my responsibilities is to insure that you maintain your F1 Student status. I encourage you to attend an Information Session to learn what you can do to keep status.

Here is some important Information:

Extension of stay – students must apply for an extension of stay if they are unable to complete their program of study by the end date listed on the

SEVIS I-20.

Students should notify the International Student Advisor as soon as they know they will need an extension but at least 30 days prior to the current end date.

Travel – Any student applying for a visa or returning to the United States must have a SEVIS issued I-20 to be admitted to the U.S. Every time you plan to travel outside of the U.S., check with the International Student Advisor at least two weeks before your departure to make sure your papers are in order.

Transfer – an F-1 immigration transfer now involves

both the current and new schools. If a student is planning to transfer to another institution, a SEVIS I-20 must be issued by the new school, which will usually require a transfer form/verification of status completed by the current school. Upon request of the student the current school will need to release the SEVIS record to the new school so a transfer I-20 can be issued.

Address changes – all students must notify the International Student Advisor of any address change within 10 days of moving. Immigration will be notified of the change of address.

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December 2005 Writing Contest Winners

Topic: How Do You Celebrate New Year's in Your Country?

1st place – Alcyone Vilela Barbosa (WR101)

Excerpt:

In my opinion, New Year's in Brazil is the most fantastic date. New Year's Eve is for all kinds of people; it's for the rich and the poor. All people renew their hopes. Most of the people like to make resolutions for the coming year and share with their friends and family. In Copacabana, Rio de Janeiro, they have a very beautiful show of fireworks. In all of the city capitals they shoot fireworks at exactly the same time, in all of the cities, from north to south. (...) This time makes us feel like we're the same human beings, with no differences. At this time of the year, we forget about war, corruption and disease; we can only remember good things and share with our loved ones. It will be my first New Year's Eve without my daughter, but I enjoy being in a different country among good friends who have become part of my family.



Second Place



Togookhu Chuluun
WR101



Third Place



Martha Herrera
(WR103)

Honorable Mentions:

Taciana Knebel,
Hae Won Han, and
Karen Roman

STUDENTS WRITING CORNER

**Explore Istanbul**

by Funda Uysal



Istanbul is an almighty city for which wars were made and millions of lives were lost through thousands of years. It is a huge metropolis connecting continents, different cultures and religions; home to 11 million people, and one of the greatest business and cultural centers of the world. Istanbul is both the nearest European city to Asia and the nearest Asian city to Europe. It is the only city in the world located on the two continents: Asia and Europe.

The Bosphorus, one of the most important water passages of the world. Every district, every region overlooking the Bosphorus bears a different beauty, a different quality. To discover these beauties, I recommend you first take a voyage or a boat trip and experience these beautiful coasts from a distance. Then you can take a closer look at them.

Any national or foreign tourist visiting Istanbul definitely must spend one day to see Sultana met. There are so many things to Sultanahmet which would justify this dedication of time. Sultanahmet is like a precise summary of thousands years of history. When you stand in Hippodrome Square, you are able to see elements of many civilizations from Byzantine to Ottoman

Taksim and Beyoglu is the cultural, art and entertainment center of Istanbul.

These two names are always pronounced together; because when a tourist goes to explore one, he/she sees another as well. In Taksim Square Ataturk Statue, Ataturk Cultural Center and a huge crowd of people welcome you. The most important of these entertainments is, without doubt, Istiklal Street. Istiklal Street extends from Taksim to Tunel. It is the best route for the journey to the very heart of Beyoglu. I recommend you make this journey by walking.

I love Istanbul, and I hope after having visited this place you will like the city as much as I do.

My New Year's Eve in Maine

by Katlin Truman



Instead of staying in a sparkling city for a New

Year's Evening, my twenty nine friends and I were welcoming the New 2006 Year at Sunday River in Maine. Going to Maine this time of the year has become a tradition. Every New Year's reunion brings us back together in a house. Our last day of the year usually starts with a breakfast we make together. And you'd better believe me, if there are 30 cooks in the kitchen there is food for every taste. After the breakfast everyone went to have a winter-fun: either skating and tubing or cross-country skiing. Since a lake nearby was frozen, I chose skating. On the first circle I was afraid that I was going to fall through the ice into the water, but when the fishermen showed me the holes they had made in the ice for ice-fishing and the thickness of the ice I felt completely safe. In fact, I found out many details about ice-fishing. The most interesting were the little heated houses on the lake where fishermen could sleep and stay warm until their next catch. I enjoyed skating all day long, traveling from one side of the lake to the other, until darkness. When I arrived everyone was back at the house with rosy cheeks and frozen toes - obviously, it was a time for a steam room. We let the heat and eucalypt steam melt us.

Warm and cozy, we decorated the house, brought out the presents and placed all the goodies in the oven. By 10:30 pm we were sitting around a beautiful dining table, each one of us remembering last year 2005. Exactly at 12:00 am, in a house full of friends, we were drinking champagne and wishing the best for the New Year. It seemed like the night was never-ending until last of us were in beds at 7:00 am.

We wish the coming New Year would be as good as our past New Year's Eve celebration in Maine.

Chess History

by Lyubomir Tsanev



Chess is one of the oldest strategic games in the world. Although there are several theories regarding its origin, it is most commonly believed that the game was invented in India in the 5th or the 6th century AD. However, there is a hypothesis that rulers of the Persian Empire had played a close version of the game, called *chatrang*, as early as the 2nd century AD. From Persia chess entered the Islamic world, where the names of its pieces largely remained in their Persian forms in early Islamic times. The entrance of chess into Europe is notably marked by a massive improvement in the powers of the queen and the replacement of its original name by versions of the Persian word *shah* = "king".

The rules of the game have undergone significant changes during the centuries. Early on, the pieces had very limited movement: bishops could only move by jumping exactly two spaces diagonally, the queen could move only one space diagonally, and there was no castling. The modern rules for the basic moves had been invented by the end of the 15th century in Italy: pawns gained the option of moving two squares, bishops acquired their modern move, and the further improvement of the queen's powers have made her the most prominent figure in chess.

In 1924 the World Chess Federation (FIDE) was founded, which has organized the World Chess Championship ever since. The world remembers many great chess champions, including Gary Kasparov, Robert Fisher, Anatoliy Karpov, and so on. The current World Champion Veselin Topalov is considered to be one of the strongest players ever, and the best successor of the old masters.



1970 – Bobby Orr and the Big, Bad Bruins

by Brian Smith

Much has been said about the recent success of the Boston Red Sox (2004 champions), but for those of you who are relatively new to the Boston area, there have been some magical moments in sports around here that I think you should know about. The following (part 2 of a series) is about the incredible 1970 Boston Bruins hockey team, and Bobby Orr, the man who electrified millions of hockey fans and inspired thousands of young hockey players in New England.

Before 1970, the Boston Bruins hadn't won the Stanley Cup (National Hockey League championship) since 1941. For 29 years the Bruins wallowed in the cellar of the league. Frustrated veterans like Ed Westfall, Ted Green, and the great Johnny Bucyk struggled to carry mediocre teams that routinely missed the playoffs during the 1960s. All of that changed with the acquisition of a few key players like Phil Esposito, Ken Hodge, and goaltender Gerry Cheevers late in the decade. But no other addition to the team was more valuable than defenseman Bobby Orr.

Bobby Orr was born in Parry Sound, Ontario, Canada in 1948, and started playing hockey at the age of five. He was so much better than the other kids his age that by the time he was 12 years old, scouts from every NHL team were ready to sign him to a professional contract. At 13 he signed a contract with the Boston Bruins' junior team and was dominating players five years his senior. In 1966 Orr entered the NHL at the tender age of 18 and won his first Norris Trophy (first of eight consecutive) for best defenseman. In a pre-season game in September of 1969, senior Bruin defenseman Ted Green suffered a skull fracture in an infamously, bloody stick fight with St. Louis' Wayne Maki. A large portion of the much-needed leadership of the high-flying, "Big Bad Bruins" was then placed squarely into the very able hands of young Bobby Orr.

The Bruins finished the 1969-70 season

with 277 goals in 76 games – the most in the league that year. They also had the most penalty minutes of any team in the league. Yes, they were a rough-and-tumble bunch that could intimidate their opponents with sheer power, and launch an offensive strike in a heartbeat. Orr won the scoring title (rare for a defenseman) setting a new record for assists with 87, he was the league's MVP, he won the Norris Trophy, and he won the NHL's Plus/Minus Award – a statistic that measures the team goal differential when a specific player is on the ice. He was the first, and still is, the only man to win four major trophies in a season.

In the first round of the playoffs, the Bruins faced the highly skilled New York Rangers led by future Hall-of-Famers Jean Ratelle and Rod Gilbert, and it took six (out of seven) games to beat them. In the semi-finals, they cruised easily past the Chicago Black Hawks in four straight games with Orr playing superbly on offense and defense. Chicago's goaltender, by the way, was none other than Phil Esposito's brother, Tony, who won the Vezina Trophy that year for best goaltender and the Calder Trophy for Rookie of the Year.

In the finals, the Bruins took the first two games against the Blues in St. Louis by scores of 6-1 and 6-2. Game three back in Boston was a harder fought battle, but the Bruins prevailed 4-1. Now everyone was expecting a Boston victory in game four for a second consecutive sweep, but the Blues wouldn't go away quietly and forced the game into sudden-death overtime after a 3-3 tie in regulation. In "Sudden Death" whoever scores first in the extra time is the winner.

With only 30 seconds into overtime, Bobby Orr stole the puck in the St. Louis zone and passed it to teammate Derek Sanderson in the corner and raced toward the net. Sanderson perfectly completed the *give-and-go* back to Orr who one-

timed the puck between the legs of goaltender Glenn Hall giving the Boston Bruins their first Stanley Cup in 29 years. As Orr jumped into the air in jubilation, he was tripped up by St. Louis defenseman Noel Picard whose stick lifted Orr's ankle and helped propel the Bruin defenseman horizontally through the air. This image was frozen in time by photographer Ray Lussier and is considered one of the best photographs in sports history. Orr was later named MVP of the playoffs.

Knee injuries cut short the brilliant career of Bobby Orr who played only nine full seasons of professional hockey. His scoring statistics will stand the test of time and, therefore, Orr will always be considered one of the greatest, if not the greatest, hockey player who ever lived. At the time of his retirement, he was the leading defenseman in goals, assists and points. In the history of the NHL, only Wayne Gretzky, Mario Lemieux, and Mike Bossy have more points per game – and they all played at the forward position. But to have seen him play, as I have, is the only sure way to appreciate his greatness. He was a remarkable defensive defenseman - as his Norris trophies prove. He had a great instinct for the game – always seemed to know where the puck would be before it got there. He had tremendous speed - there was no player who could out-skate him. And he was tough - never backing down from a fight. Every time Bobby Orr stepped onto the ice, you knew the Bruins had a chance to win. Every time the puck touched his stick, you knew something exciting was going to happen.

*The Ray Lussier photo of Orr can be seen in my classroom on the south wall above the whiteboard.

Boston Bruins Boston Bruins Boston Bruins Boston Bruins Boston Bruins



Culture Match

by Caroline Senkal

Every country has a special holiday, a day when the whole nation stops to celebrate. Here are some of the most celebrated dates around the world:

In the **USA** the most celebrated holiday is Independence Day, the 4th of July, when Americans have outdoor activities such as barbecues, concerts, and fireworks.

In **Brazil** people celebrate Carnival, and the country stops for about four days. People go out in the streets wearing costumes and sing traditional songs.

In **Japan** New Year's Day is the most celebrated holiday.

In **Switzerland** the 1st of August is considered a National Day, and they celebrate the foundation of their country.

In **Belarus** the biggest celebration is also the New Year.

In **China** they celebrate the Chinese New Year. It varies every year according to the Old Chinese calendar.

In **Korea** they celebrate the New Year according to the Chinese calendar.

In **Venezuela** Independence Day is the most celebrated date.

In **Colombia** the most celebrated date is also Independence Day.

In **Finland** they celebrate Mid-Summer. It happens usually at the end of June, and the reason for that is because the day doesn't end. That is, it does not get dark, so people go to the countryside to enjoy the long day.

In **Thailand** they commemorate Sang Kan Day, which begins their New Year. It happens in April.

In **Turkey** they celebrate the Cumhuriyet Bayrami, which is their Independence day.

In **Russia** people celebrate March 8, International Women's Day, and May 1.

In **Italy** the Labor Day is the holiday where everyone stops and just enjoys the day.



January Frost

Secret Staff Member

The month of January arrives,
There are so many worries
Snow on the streets
Flakes on everyone you meet
But don't be too concerned
You live in Boston and so you've learned
To be patient until spring
And the warm weather it brings
SO enjoy the cold, the snow,
The wind and the ice
We are men and women, not mice
We are bold, courageous and kind
And some blustery weather
We do not mind
Just because the air is cold
Does not mean we should not be bold
And say 'Hello' to our neighbors
In the sleet and snow
Resolutions are made
And resolutions are broken
Let's make one that will never be broken

Poem of the Month

Be happy, be cheerful, be loving
Bake some cookies in the oven
Share them with your friends
Don't be afraid to lend
Give unto others
And make peace wherever you go
Life is short,
It doesn't last forever, you know.
So the month of January is not so bad
As it might seem
Especially when people make an effort
Not to be mean
When the next Nor'easter
Comes our way
Rent a movie,
Ride a sleigh
Be late for work
So what if your boss gets irked?
But some wine
Go out and dine,
After all, January is actually just fine.



January Birthdays

- 1 Jin Wan Park
- 2 Carlos Cruz
- 2 Woon Hong Park
- 4 Jose Mauricio Prado
- 6 Antonio Marcos Silva
- 6 Taciana Knebel
- 13 Jedeon Cardoso
- 23 Anusorn Rattanativakorn
- 23 Milena Santos
- 27 Esther Dias
- 29 Itona Fontana

December Activities Scrapbook



Lyulbomir is in fine form during the ping-pong competition. Here, he takes a moment to pose for the camera, confident a win is at hand.



Rafael and Luciana enjoy an intense game of Uno during International lunch. Luciana is a fierce competitor, and on occasion, has even been known to cheat if the odds are not in her favor.



Togookhuu wins a hat for her essay in the writing contest, just one of the fabulous prizes Approach offers to winners of the contest!



Luciana and Yoko are karaoke fanatics! Yoko is a classically trained pianist and singer, and Luciana a fine accompaniment.



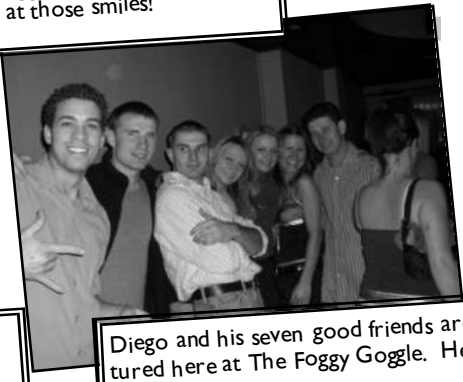
Alcyone takes home first prize in the writing contest, a 100% cashmere sweater, and Approach money, which can be used against tuition. Congratulations!



Francisco, Vanessa, Taciana and Rodolpho pose for the camera during Approach's New Year's Party at the Foggy Goggle. Everyone had a good time, just look at those smiles!



The country of Turkey was well represented at the New Year's party with Emre, Ori, Sermin, ad Funda. Rounding out the international experience is Jungmin from Korea.



Diego and his seven good friends are pictured here at The Foggy Goggle. He is such a popular guy!

January is also a great time to have fun. Look at the Activities Calendar for more things to do. At Approach, students learn while enjoying



“Email your questions or stories to:

*News@Approach
USA.com*

Students' Questions for Mr. Approachable

Dear Mr. Approachable,

I cannot understand women. They change their minds all the time, and I never know what to expect. My girlfriend and I have lots of arguments. She usually suggests she wants something from me, but when I do that something to please her, I find out I was wrong: She wanted something else! Does she do that to tease me? Is she crazy? What's going on? – Mr. Lost

Dear Mr. Lost,

You don't have to be so lost! Men and women communicate in different ways, even if they speak the same language. Because of this communication difference, it's very easy for a couple to misunderstand each other and end up having arguments. Think of your girlfriend and yourself? Maybe she can't express what she wants very clearly? Maybe you don't understand what she wants? Making assumptions isn't good in a relationship. The best thing to do is to ask her, "What do you mean?" every time you're not

sure about what she wants. If you have an open conversation, you'll understand each other better -- You'll learn how to communicate to each other! Now, if you try to avoid arguments but you don't succeed, it may be that you are not right for each other. Remember, couples shouldn't argue all the time. Good luck!



Interesting Facts About English

by Alex Paulikovich

There are 300 million people who use English as a second language. A further 100 million people speak it fluently as a foreign language. In general, there are about 6000 languages in the world. According to statistics from Geographic.org the following are the 5 most spoken languages:

- Chinese, Mandarin (Brunei, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, etc.) 885 million people;
- Spanish (Algeria, Andorra, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Spain, United States, Peru, Venezuela, etc.) 332 million;
- English (Australia, Brunei, New Zealand, Ireland, Singapore, Switzerland, U.K., U.S, and many Caribbean states) 322 million people;
- Arabic (Egypt, Sudan, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Iraq, Lebanon, etc.) 235 million people;
- Bengali (Bangladesh, India, and Singapore) 189 million people.



Some people are curious about how many words are in the English language. There is no definite answer. Although, some say: "About 800,000." Nevertheless, it is hard to estimate even approximate number of words since there different approaches to the meaning of "word." If you allow for all of scientific nomenclature, this could easily double the figure. For example, there are apparently some one million insects already described, with several million more awaiting description. An educated person has a vocabulary of about 20,000 words and uses about 2,000 in a week's conversation.

Finally, why did we choose English as a world language? As languages go, English is somewhat less complex in its basics than many other languages. John McWhorter, associate professor of linguistics at UC Berkeley in his interview "Interesting Facts about the Languages" (2003) says: "That's because English is one of many languages where at one point in its history, more people were using it as a second language than as a first. There are some people that think this happened after the Vikings came."

To top it off, English is used as an official or semi-official language in over 60 countries, over two thirds of the world's scientists write in English, over 80% of all the information stored electronically around the world is in English, English radio programmes are received by over 150 million people in 120 countries (http://www.teachenglish.co.uk/facts_and_figures_about_english.htm). Now if you are able to read all of these you have become a member of four English society. Good luck!! And DO NOT stop on the level you have already reached!!!

Tips of the Month from Our Teachers

Reading Recommendation

by Alison MacAdams



The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe

by C.S. Lewis

This novel is one of seven books from **The Chronicles of Narnia**. Perhaps you had a chance to see the popular film called "Narnia" currently playing in theaters, but reading the book is a better way to discover the richness of C.S. Lewis' magical realm. In this story four children, Peter, Susan, Edmund, and Lucy Pevensie, find their way into Narnia through a portal in their closet. Once in Narnia they help Aslan, a powerful lion, fight against an evil witch. It sounds simple, but it's a story filled with adventure, friendship and hope. It's the type of story that people of all ages can enjoy and read again and again!



Common Mistake

by Luciana Sarra



What's the difference between "which" and "witch"? Even though those words seem to be similar, their spelling and meaning are very different: "The old hat, which is old and filthy, belongs to a witch." WHICH is a relative pronoun. WITCH is a woman who practices magic -- like the old green lady so popular in Halloween. Ask me for a handout with exercises to practice.

Expression of the Month

by Jennifer Lebedev



Spring weather will fill us with smiles and laughter. Here are some expressions to go along with the season's fun-filled days:

- The movie was so funny. I **laughed my head off**.
- Mitchell proposed to his girlfriend Sue yesterday and she said yes. Today he's walking around, **grinning from ear to ear**. Sue is **all smiles**, too, with a diamond ring on her finger.
- My name is Paige. It sounds just like "page." When my older brother told me that I was named after a piece of paper, I just **laughed it off**, but truthfully I was kind of insulted. I like my name very much, and actually I was named after our aunt.

My friends have been teasing me about my bad haircut. I've decided to **grin and bear it**. What else can I do? As they say: **Laugh and the world laughs with you.**

Test Preparation Recommendations

by Peter Keshavan



If you are planning on taking the GMAT or the GRE, recognize that practice materials for one of those exams can be perfectly useful for the other. While not identical on both exams, the reading passages are very similar in subject matter, organization, syntactic complexity, and vocabulary. And although each exam had distinctive formats in the math sections, the concepts tested are very similar.

If you have worked with GRE or GMAT reading passages, you will also find that the TOEFL reading materials become much easier by comparison.

Activity Tips

by Andrew Haynes



There are a variety of activities in Boston to meet all tastes. If you ever want to know what is happening in the city, I suggest you read *The Boston Phoenix*. This is a free weekly newspaper that comes out every Thursday. In it, you'll find Boston's best guide to entertainment, restaurants, movies, plays, music, art, history, architecture, and tours. There is also an online version of this magazine at www.bostonphoenix.com. If you don't have a lot of money, that's okay. The Boston Phoenix lists numerous free events throughout the greater Boston area. There is always something new and engaging happening in the city, so get out and enjoy Boston.

If you ever have any questions about what to do in Boston, or any suggestions, feel free to contact me, Andrew Haynes, here at school or by email: ahaynes@approachus.com.

Movie Recommendation

by Brian Smith



The Stranger
(1946 - Black & White)
Starring: Orson Welles,
Edward G. Robinson,
Loretta Young

A small, college town in Connecticut is visited by an escaped Nazi war criminal whose presence exposes the identity of his former boss who is now a professor at the college. Professor Rankin's beautiful young wife defends him when a Nazi hunter suggests her husband is guilty of war crimes. Excellent acting and story line. This movie was an Oscar nominee for best picture.

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