

International Student Frequently Asked Questions

by Tammie Key



What should I do if my visa expires?

Currently, students are allowed to stay in the US with an

expired visa. However, if you travel outside of the US you must obtain a valid visa at the US embassy/consulate in your home country or you will be denied re-entry into the U.S. In order to obtain a new visa the following documents are needed:

- A new I-20 from the International Advisor
- A good standing letter from the International Advisor
- Letter from the school
- Evidence of financial support for one academic year

- Passport type photographs
- A non-immigrant visa application
- A non-immigrant visa application fee.

The International student advisor advises students to contact the US embassy in their home country for more details on the necessary requirements and the time frame involved. Please allow a time frame of 3-5 days for the creation of the new I-20.

What should I do if my passport expires?

Students should always have a valid passport. In the event that your passport expires, you will not be out-of-status. It can be

renewed through the mail with your embassy/consulate in the US. Please contact your respective embassies/consulates for specific information.

The process will usually take 4-6 weeks, so please do not wait until the last moment to begin the renewal procedure.

What should I do if I change my address?

Please notify the International student advisor and the student office within 10 days of the address change. Failure to notify the INS could result in serious consequences.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

International Affairs	1
Writing Contest Winners	1
Students Writing Corner	2
July is National Ice Cream Month	3
Jokes and Poems of the Month	4
July Birthdays	4
June Activities Scrapbook	5
The History of July Fourth	6
First use of Fingerprint Identification	6
Teachers' Tips of the Month	7

June 2006 Writing Contest Winners

Topic: What Do Americans Do Well?

1st Place: Barbara Bilinska (WR300)

Excerpt: Americans have the biggest achievements in creating the so-called American

Dream. For thousands of people all over the world, the States seems to be the land of milk and honey. It is a country where everybody can easily find a job, make an outstanding career, and become a millionaire. Thanks to that, Americans are able to easily attract the most talented students and professionals from all over the world.

Americans are always thought to be patriotic. They are very proud of their history. Even if one can't describe the past in bright colors, Americans are able to focus on their successes, not their failures. In addition, they truly cherish the memory of their soldiers and presidents, and they absolutely respect their national anthem and flag.

There are many democratic countries in the world, but only the United States is said to be the epitome of democracy. The biggest democracy in the world with its talented workforce and patriotic citizens is considered an ideal place to live. Even the high budget deficit, unemployment, hidden slums and homeless people are not able to darken that wonderful American Dream that many think one day will come true.



2nd Place: Vanessa Yuk Ling Ho (WR300)



3rd Place: Eriko Sawada (WR300)

Honorable Mentions:

Mauro Luiz Capelli (WR300)
Fabricio Bohrer (WR300)
Saki Fukuda (WR300)

STUDENTS WRITING CORNER

**My Family**

By Saki Fukuda (Japan)



My family consists of four. My father is a serious, smart, and stubborn person. When I was a student, he had a rule for me to come home before 9pm. One day, I broke this rule. When I came back home at midnight, my father was waiting for me. I immediately apologized but he didn't forgive me. I sat on the floor the moment he hit me. From this day, I decided to follow his rule always. I am afraid of him, but I like him because I used to go out to different places and go shopping with him on days off.

My mother is a cute, nice, and clever person. She is a good cook. All her meals are delicious. I have never said to her "This is not good". She also has many hobbies. Her hobbies are flower arrangement, gardening, dressmaking, and cooking. She used to make my clothes when I was a child. She is very good at making different things.

My sister is a clever, obliging, and patient person. She has been living in the U.S. since she was 18 years old. When she came to America, she could not speak English at all. She always studied English all day, so, she received a lot of prizes when she was a college student. She is the head nurse at the hospital now. Everyone relies on her. I was amazed by her effort, and I am proud of her very much.

This is my family. They are very important to me and I love them so much.

Pay Taxes and Save Money

By Yohanna Benavideo (Colombia)



All the citizens and companies in different countries around the world have a commitment for the welfare and security. Nowadays, there exist many ways of doing it. For example, sometimes people and companies can pay fixed taxes and other times they have to pay extra taxes for a short period of time.

Many times those taxes are very high, but they are necessary for citizens, companies and government.

In the same way, government has a commitment to offer a high quality of life to its

citizens, to build a country where children can play safely, where people can study, work, save money and live to an old age with dignity.

All the countries have many taxes created for this purpose. Therefore, many consulting offices in different countries invented one alternative solution called "planning tributary". It involves people and companies paying their taxes. Their taxes can be reduced if all the laws and rules in the book of taxes are followed. However, these tributary services are very expensive.

For example, in Colombia if a company has more than one disabled employee, when its income tax return is presented, it can deduct its income for tax purposes by all the expenses related to the disability allowance and health contributions.

Similarly, all citizens have benefits for planning their income tax.

They do not have to pay to do it. The only thing they have to do is read about the tributary legislation in their country and start saving the money.

So, when we comply with our government, we at the same time save our money.

Skincare During the Summer

By Marcos Araujo (Brazil)



Summer has arrived and we need to have skin care. The most important thing is to use sun protection. In the northern hemisphere we can use solar protection factor (SPF) from 8 to 30. The protection is necessary for UVA and UVB (ultra violet rays). These rays can induce skin cancer and premature aging.

We must use a sun protector every two hours at the beach and at least every three hours daily independent of the season.

Also, we need to drink a lot of liquids.

After swimming and a shower we need to dry the wrinkles of our body

very well. This will prevent ring worm. Have a good summer!

**World Cup Commentary**

By Brian Smith



For a World Cup tournament as good as this one was, the final game between Italy and France was a huge disappointment. Earlier in the tournament, the games were quick and fluid, but by the time they got to the final match, the quality of play was sluggish and defensive. I don't blame the players however, because they did the best they could under conditions they had no control over. I blame FIFA for its ridiculous rule of limiting each team to only three substitutes per game. Such a flaw in the system is impossible not to notice, so I can only conclude that FIFA is locked into tradition and is too stubborn to change this rule. In the World Cup, each team carries 23 players, and every player on a World Cup team is the cream of the crop on his own club team, but a maximum of only 14 players can actually get on the field during a game. Therefore, you've got nine world class athletes with fresh legs sitting on the bench with absolutely no chance of ever getting into the game. These "benchwarmers" would bring life back into the game and raise the possibility of more goals being scored. Instead, the players on the field resist going all out for 90-plus minutes and try to conserve their energy. But near the end of Sunday's game it was too much and many players were dead on their feet, just walking, and many times standing still. Some of the Italian and French players had no legs left, and seemed less interested in winning the game than they did surviving it. I think it's a disservice to the fans, as well as the players, to slow the game down to a virtual stand-still. Unlimited substitution should be the norm in professional soccer. I also think that players who leave the game should be allowed to go back onto the field again. But, first things first.



Email your questions or stories to:

alex@ApproachUSA.com



July is National Ice Cream Month

by Brian Smith

Who doesn't love ice cream? Ice cream is quite possibly the best loved dessert the world has ever known. As a matter of fact, it is so popular in the United States that in 1984, the Federal government designated July as National Ice Cream Month and the third Sunday of the month as National Ice Cream Day (the 16th this year). If you're an ice cream lover like me, you may enjoy this look at how ice cream has evolved over the centuries.

History books credit Roman emperor Nero (A.D. 54 – 86) with first popularizing ice cream. Nero had his slaves carry snow down from the mountains to his palace so he could enjoy eating it with fruit, wine, or honey. But, wait! Snow with flavoring is not ice cream. Ice cream is a dairy product, and the most important ice cream ingredients come from milk. What Nero was eating was more like a Snow Cone or a Slurpee from 7-11. We're going to have to do better than Nero. Well then, what about Marco Polo? Marco Polo, in 1295, is known to have brought back to Italy from China a recipe for a frozen, fruit-flavored ice cream. But once again, this "ice cream" was missing its most essential ingredient – milk. The origin of ice cream as we know it wasn't created until the Renaissance in Italy. Noblewoman Catherine de Medici was married off at the age of 14 to French king, Henry II and brought the recipe, which had been a secret, with her to France. From there it was smuggled into England where King Charles I made it his own exclusive dessert. When Charles died, his chef sold the recipe to a group of wealthy merchants. Thereafter, ice cream flourished among the rich all over Europe. The making of ice cream was an expensive and time-consuming undertaking and until the technology to produce it improved, ice cream remained, for the next couple of hundred years, a special treat only for the wealthy.

In 17th Century England and in the American colonies, it was called "iced cream" the way "iced tea" and "iced coffee" are currently written. Presidents Washington, Jefferson, and Madison are reported to have been ice cream aficiona-

dos, each spending vast amounts of money on their favorite dessert.

In 1843, American Nancy Johnson invented a hand-cranked ice cream freezer, which made making ice cream much easier. Previously, one had to pour a pail of cream into a bucket of ice, and for the next few hours, stir the cream and shake the ice simultaneously.

In the 1850s in Baltimore, Maryland, Jacob Fussell opened the first wholesale ice cream business, charging less than half of what other ice cream dealers were charging. And because of his low prices, the popularity of ice cream exploded across the country. Now, finally, everyone could afford ice cream.

In the ice cream world, there is a great and bitter debate over who invented the ice cream cone. Some say it was Italo Marchiony, an immigrant from Italy who sold ice cream from a pushcart in the streets of New York City. In 1903 he had gotten tired of customers stealing or breaking the glass bowls in which he served his ice cream, so he came up with the idea of an edible cone. Others say the cone was invented by American ice cream man, Charles Menches, and Syrian waffle maker, Ernest Hamwi when the two met at the 1904 World's Fair in St. Louis. They had stalls next to each other, and when Menches ran out of dishes in which to serve his ice cream, he asked Hamwi for one of his waffles. The waffle was rolled into the shape of a cone and a scoop of ice cream was plopped into it. So began the happy marriage between cone and scoop.

During Prohibition in the 1920s when the sale of alcohol was made illegal in the United States, and bars were forced to close, a record number of ice cream parlors opened up all over America. These ice cream parlors enjoyed tremendous popularity until the 1970s when prepackaged ice cream in supermarkets became increasingly popular. But in recent years, ice cream parlors and gourmet ice cream shops have surged in popularity.

The Story of Haagen-Dazs – When he was a teenager in the 1920s, Reuben Mattus sold his family's ice cream from a

horse-drawn wagon in The Bronx, New York. As the business grew, he started selling his ice cream to the ever-present mom & pop stores throughout the city. But as the family markets faded away and were replaced by supermarkets, Mattus realized that his small operation couldn't compete with the commercial ice cream giants that were supplying the supermarkets – even though he knew he had a superior product. But in 1961, he decided to start a new company and sell his gourmet ice cream on a large scale. He could have skimped on quality like the commercial brands of the day, but he continued to make it the same way he always did, with high butterfat content and reduced air filler. To convey an aura of old-world craftsmanship, he invented the fictitious, Danish sounding name – Haagen Dazs.

The Story of Dairy Queen – Ice cream man J.F. McCullough and his son Alex felt that the frigid temperature of ice cream froze people's taste buds which minimized the pleasurable sensation of eating it. They wanted to serve a soft, flavorful ice cream at a lower temperature, so in 1938 in a small town in Minnesota, they invented a machine that would dispense soft-serve ice cream. You'll be happy to know that soft-serve ice cream is 95% fat free.

Some of the better ice cream parlors in Greater Boston – Ben & Jerry's, Brigham's, Christina's, Emack & Bolio's, Herrells' (right down the street), JP Licks, Steve's, and Toscanini's.

Best Commercial Brands – Breyers, Turkey Hill (Philadelphia Style), and Haagen-Dazs.

Your homework for the month – Identify the following ice cream terms: Banana Split, Black & White, Chocolate Covered, Chocolate Malt, Egg Cream, Eskimo Pie, Float, Frappe, Frozen Custard, Frozen Yogurt, Gelato, Hot Fudge Sundae, Ice Cream Sandwich, Ice Milk, Jimmies, Milk Shake, Popsicle, Sherbet, Side Car, Sorbet, Sugar Cone.





Jokes

by Nadia

From www.hicards.com

After spending nearly half a day enduring the long lines, surly clerks and insane regulations at the department of motor vehicles, a lady stops at a toy store to pick up a baseball bat as a gift for her son.

"Cash or charge," the clerk asks.

"Cash," she snaps. Then, apologizing for her rudeness, she explains, "I've spent the afternoon at the motor-vehicle bureau. I am way past sane."

"Shall I gift-wrap the bat?" the clerk asks sweetly, "or are you going back there?"

Man: "Just look at that young person with the short hair and blue jeans. Is it a boy or a girl?"

Bystander: "It's a girl. She's my daughter."

Man: "Oh, please forgive me, sir. I had no idea you were her father."

Bystander: "I'm not. I'm her mother."



A man always carried an umbrella. One by one, he broke each one he owned until six useless ones were in his umbrella stand.

One morning, he took the umbrellas into the city and left them at a repair shop. On the bus going home, out of pure habit, he picked up the umbrella that belonged to the woman sitting next to him.

She yelled, "Stop, thief!" and he gave her the umbrella very embarrassed.

The next week, he picked up the umbrellas at the repair shop. When he got on the bus with them, he happened to sit next to the same woman. He didn't recognize her, but she recognized him.

Giving him an icy stare, she said, "Had a good day, huh?"

AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL

O beautiful for spacious skies,
For amber waves of grain
For purple mountain majesties
Above the fruited plain
America! America!
God shed your grace on thee,
And crown thy good with brotherhood
From sea to shining sea.
O beautiful for patriot dream
That sees beyond the years
Thine alabaster cities gleam
Undimmed by human tears
America! America!
God shed your grace on thee
And crown thy good with brotherhood
From sea to shining sea.

(Author Unknown)



Poem of the Month



AMERICA (MY COUNTRY 'TIS OF THEE)

My country 'tis of thee,
Sweet land of liberty,
Of thee I sing,
Land where my fathers died,
Land of the Pilgrim's pride
From ev'ry mountain side,
Let freedom ring.
Our fathers God to thee,
Author of liberty,
To Thee we sing
Long may our land be
bright with freedom's
holy light
Protect us by Thy might.



(Author Unknown)

July Birthdays

- 5 Angel Chapanov
- 7 Michele Junqueira
- 13 Eriko Sawada
- 13 Mariela Trauco
- 14 Hyea Jim Eom
- 14 Manuel Dias
- 14 Vanessa Artero
- 15 Mildred Hernandez
- 16 Euzimar Andrade
- 17 Ubolrut Wongbenjaphol
- 19 Julio Florez-Realpe
- 20 Anna Chmielewska
- 21 Ahmet Burak Dogru
- 25 Pantipa Witsawawatin
- 27 RangsiyaManeekan
- 28 Dawidson Luis Lopes
- 28 Maciej Patelka
- 30 Mana Sombutrarakul
- 30 Ullisses Capistano

June Activities Scrapbook



Ana and Saki enjoy themselves during International Lunch.



Insook looks serious as she competes in Omok competition during International Lunch.



Hyeajin and Hyunjoo pose for the camera.



The Omok winners showing off their prizes!



A camera interrupts Camilla and Diego's conversation. Camilla does not look happy about it.



Fabrizio is one of the finalists in the ping-pong competition.



Lyulbimir shows off the vase received for winning the ping-pong competition.



The Russians are in the house. Darya, Dmitri, and Helen share a moment together.

August is also a great time to have fun. Look at the Activities Calendar for more things to do. At Approach, students learn while enjoying every minute of it!!!

The History of July 4th: America's Birthday

by Debbie Billmers



Summertime: the smell of the barbecue, the roar of holiday crowds at events throughout the land, family, picnics and the beach. It's America's annual birthday party and everyone is invited.

Schoolchildren in America learn the basic history of the events surrounding the Fourth of July, but the details of this monumental occasion in American history somehow fall through the cracks.

Although July 4th is celebrated as America's official split from Britain's rule and the beginning of the American Revolution, the actual series of events show that the process took far longer than a single day.

The original resolution was introduced by Richard Henry Lee of Virginia on June 7, 1776, and called for the Continental Congress to declare the United States free from British rule. Three days later a committee headed by Thomas Jefferson was appointed to prepare an appropriate writing for the occasion.

The document that we know as the Declaration of Independence was adopted by Congress on July 4th, although the resolution that led to the writing of the Declaration was actually approved two days earlier.

All of this had occurred with some of the delegates to the Congress not even present. New York, for example, didn't vote on the resolution until July 9th.

Even more interesting is the fact that not a single signature was appended to the Declaration on July 4th. While most of the fifty-six names were in place by early August, one signer, Thomas McKean, didn't actually sign the Declaration until 1781.



Nevertheless, July 4th was the day singled out to mark the event of the United States establishing itself as a nation.

Article from <http://www.fourth-of-july-celebrations.com/html/history-of-july-4th.html>



July 27, 1958: First Use of Fingerprint Identification

by Luciana Sarra



For over 100 years, police agencies have had a powerful tool in combating crime. The use of fingerprinting allows crime fighters an extremely accurate means of identification. Other means of

identification (such as hair color or style, weight, or eye color) may change, but fingerprints do not.

In earlier civilizations, branding, tattooing, or even maiming was used to mark and identify criminals. Although man had been aware of the fact that each person possessed a unique set of ridges on the fingers and hands, the use of these prints for criminal identification was not accepted until the early 1900s. The FBI Identification Division was born in 1924, with the receipt of 810,188 fingerprint files, mostly from the Leavenworth Penitentiary. This collection became increasingly important due to the emergence of criminals who regularly crossed state lines.

Currently, the FBI possesses over 250 million sets of fingerprint records. This

enormous collection is composed of both criminal and civil prints. The civil file includes the prints of both government employees and applicants for federal jobs.

All standard fingerprint cards are eight-inch square pieces of paper, with a thickness much like that of thin cardboard. At the present time, the FBI receives over 34,000 fingerprint cards each work day. The photograph to the right is an example of a standard FBI fingerprint card. If all of the fingerprint cards on file with the FBI were piled on top of each other, they would equal one hundred and thirty-three stacks the size of the Empire State Building!

Fingerprints differ from person to person based upon distinctive patterns of ridges. There are seven different fingerprint patterns used for identification purposes. Any fingerprint left at a crime scene (as opposed to one which is on a fingerprint card) is known as a latent fingerprint. Latent fingerprints may be left on almost all surfaces, sometimes even on human skin. Latent fingerprints are difficult to see but can be made visible for examination.

Numerous techniques are used to make latent prints visible, such as lasers, pow-

ders, alternate light sources, and a process known as "glue fuming".

The West Case

For many years, scientists did not use fingerprinting as a serious tool for identifying criminals. Instead, they used a system which recorded the dimensions of certain skeletal body parts, known as the Bertillon System. But in 1903, Leavenworth Federal Penitentiary received a prisoner by the name of Will West.

Shockingly, Will had almost the same Bertillon measurements (as well as appearance) as another prisoner currently serving a life sentence for murder. But even though the two unrelated criminals looked identical, and had similar names, their fingerprints were, of course, different.

Thanks to this remarkable case, fingerprinting became the standard for personal identification. The two inmates are pictured above. Would you have determined the difference?



Retrieved from:

www.hcso.tampa.fl.us/SOD/fingerprintid.htm

Tips of the Month from Our Teachers

Reading Recommendation

by Alison MacAdams



The Pinball Effect: How Renaissance Gardens Made the Carburator Possible - and Other Journeys by James Burke

One of the scenarios presented in conversations on Chaos Theory is that of a butterfly's flapping wings in one half of the world causing a hurricane in the other. While this scenario may appear to be an exaggeration, Burke works hard in this book to show how discoveries and inventions are often connected. He maps this process in the shape of a great web, in which one event triggers or leads to the next in the most incredible ways (an example: how cotton fields are responsible for the creation of Thomas Edison's first electric power station). Burke unravels fascinating connections in a book that can be read in many different ways. An entertaining and informative read for those interested in history and science!

Movie Recommendation

by Brian Smith



Just Like Heaven (2005)

Starring: Reece Witherspoon & Mark Ruffalo

Elizabeth is a doctor whose whole life revolves around her work. She practically lives at the hospital, and has no social life. Her sister tries to set her up on a blind date, but Elizabeth is involved in a tragic accident on the way. David, who's trying to get over a personal tragedy of his own, and whose social life has all but evaporated, tries to get Elizabeth back to where she belongs. As he helps her, she opens the door to a new life for him. Fantasy or Romantic Comedy? Either way, just sit back and enjoy.

Idioms

by Debbie Billmers



Now that the sun is finally here, we should talk about it as much as possible! The following are some idioms that talk about the sun: "To have a place in the sun," is to be in a situation that makes you happy (think of a cat lying in the sun). For example, if you work hard at your job and finally get a promotion, you have earned your "place in the sun."

We can also talk about everything "under the sun" and mean absolutely everything! For example, "When I saw my best friend after she was away for ten years, we talked about everything under the sun."

Common Mistake

by Luciana Sarra



"Altogether" is an adverb meaning "completely," "entirely." For example: "When he first saw the examination questions, he was altogether baffled." "All together," in contrast, is a phrase meaning "in a group." For example: "The wedding guests were gathered all together in the garden." Undressed people are said in informal speech to be "in the altogether" (perhaps a shortening of the phrase "altogether naked").

Retrieved from: www.wsu.edu/~brians/errors/altogether.html



Activity Tips

by Andrew Haynes



Magnificent and Modest: Beacon Hill Walking Tour

Historic Beacon Hill was developed in a burst of prosperity following the American Revolution. In the elegantly furnished rooms of the Otis House Museum, witness the fashionable lifestyles of the wealthy, c.1800. After touring the house, visit Beacon Hill's historic tree-lined streets, Louisburg Square with its elegant, Federal-era mansions, as well as the narrow alleys and humbler dwellings on the North Slope.

Location: Otis House Museum

141 Cambridge St., Boston, MA 02114

Nearest T Station: Government Center or Charles/MGH

Time: 11:00 AM-1:00 PM

Date: Every Saturday from 5/6 to 10/28/2006

Whale Watch

New England Aquarium's high speed catamaran takes visitors 30 miles east of Boston Harbor to glimpse at the largest animals living on Earth.

Reservation needed 617.973.5281

Location: Boston Harbor

Date: Every day from 6/1 to 10/1/2006

Contemporary Art Exhibition- Forest Hills Cemetery

From sunflower houses to sound collages, 15 contemporary artists respond to the cemetery's Victorian origins as the ultimate domestic space, and to "dwelling" as a process of lingering reflection.

Info: 617.524.0128 or

http://www.foresthillstrust.org/dwelling/dwelling_intro.html

Location: Historic Forest Hills Cemetery
95 Forest Hills Av, Jamaica Plain, MA, 02130

Nearest T Station: Orange Line - Forest Hills Station

Time: 8:00 AM-7:00 PM

Date: Every day from 6/24 to 10/31/2006

Retrieved from www.searchboston.com/happenings.html

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