ENGLISH NEWS

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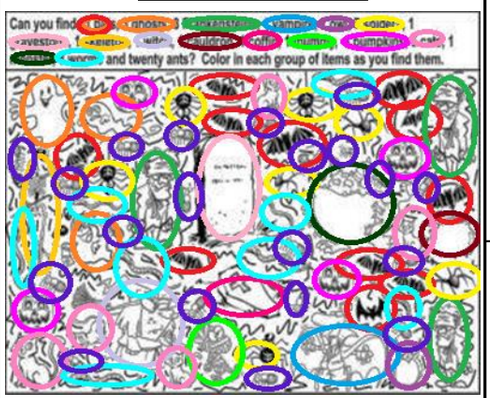
We have another three-day weekend coming up at the end of the week. It is always nice to have a day off and relax but I wonder how many of you can actually[1] relax. I know the sixth grade are working hard for their university entrance tests[2] and all the other students have started to study for the tests in December. I'm sure your parents are working hard as well, and I know all of the teachers here at school are working hard. So, can we actually relax? I really hope so. Work and study is obviously[3] important but it is not everything. We need balance[4].

Something You Didn't Know (Comets[5])

1. The word comet comes from the Latin[6] "cometa" which, in turn[7], came from the Greek[8] "κομήτης", (komeetees), which means long-haired[9] star.
2. Comets are made of rock, dust, ice and frozen gasses[10]. When they fly close to the sun the frozen gasses melt[11] and give the comet the tail[12] we can see.
3. We have identified[13] 5186 comets but there are over 1 trillion[14] in our solar system[15].
4. Comets are different to asteroids[16]. Asteroids are pieces of rock which fly until they hit something. Comets are dust and rock frozen together and they can break up when they have exhausted[17] their gasses.
5. Some comets have tails that can be over 150,000,000km long!

Last Week's Answers



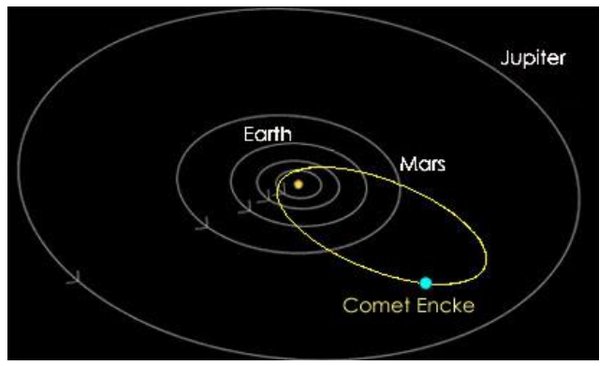
Announcements

Three teachers have demo classes on Wed so all of you (except those three classes) will go home early. The English department parents have a meeting on Thurs. The JHS have ball sports on Friday.

News

Shooting Star Display Over Sapporo

The Taurid meteor shower[18] peaked[19] last weekend with many shooting stars[20]. They were visible[21] in many parts of the world but in Japan, the sky was cloudy everywhere except[22] Sapporo. Did you get a chance to see them? I went on my balcony with my daughter. She loves anything to do with space and it was cold but fun.



The Taurid meteor shower comes every year between October and November. This year they were brighter than usual. The meteors[23] are part of the tail of the comet Encke. Encke is a ball of rock, ice and gas that is about 4.8km across. It travels around the earth and Mars on an orbit[24] that brings it close to the earth. Sometimes it comes very close.

The tail of a comet is usually millions of km long[25]. The tail is composed of[26] gas, bits of ice, small rocks and dust. The earth takes about a month to pass through[27] the tail and the rocks burn up[28] when they hit our atmosphere[29], causing the shooting stars. Sometimes big rocks burn up, creating very bright displays.

1.Actually 実際は **2.University entrance tests** 大学入試 **3.Obviously** 明らかに **4.Balance** バランス **5.Comet** 彗星 **6.Latin** ラテン語 **7.In turn** 順繰りに **8.Greek** ギリシア語 **9.Long-haired** 長い髪 **10.Frozen gas** 凍ったガス **11.Melt** 溶ける **12.Tail** 尾 **13.Identify** 確認する **14.Trillion**1 兆 **15.Solar system** 太陽系 **16.Asteroid** 小惑星 **17.Exhaust**～を使い尽くす **18.Taurid meteor shower** おうし座流星群 **19.Peak** 最大になる **20.Shooting stars** 流れ星 **21.Visible** 目に見える **22.Except** 以外 **23.Meteor** 隕石 **24.Orbit** 軌道を回る **25.Millions of km long** 数百万キロの長さがある **26.Composed of**～から成る **27.Pass through**～を通る **28.Burn up** 燃え尽きる **29.Hit the atmosphere** 大気にあたる