

The high school festival was last week. The Performance Shows on Thursday were wonderful. I'm always amazed at how well some of you can edit¹ movies. The dances were incredible as well. I enjoyed looking at the displays in all of your classrooms. Some of them were very imaginative² and well-made. Good-job. I learned a lot. I wonder if next year's festival will be a "normal" one again. It is nice when we only have our students, but I know that you all want more people to come. The junior high school festival will be happening soon and I know that the students are working hard to get ready for it. Each class is working on a play.



10 differences

Here are last week's answers. There were 10 differences.



Something you didn't know about plastic trash:

1. Plastic was invented in 1907. It takes about 1000 years for plastic to biodegrade³, so every piece of plastic ever made still exists⁴.
2. About 20% of household waste⁵ is plastic trash.
3. 30% of plastics used are for packaging⁶.
4. Every day, about 8 million pieces of plastic get into the oceans.
5. 1 in 3 fish that are caught have plastic in their stomachs.
6. Plastic bottles can only be recycled three times.
7. There was 2.1 million tons of plastic trash in 1950 and 406 million in 2015.

Edible Spoons

A convenience store in Japan has started using edible⁷ spoons with its ice cream instead of plastic spoon. Ministop, is a convenience store chain with 5,343 stores. They are owned by the Aeon group. There aren't any Ministops in Hokkaido, so you'll have to travel south if you want to try these new edible spoons. The convenience store chain calculated⁸ that they sell 47 tons of plastic ice cream spoons with their ice cream every year. They tried to think of a way to cut down this number. Their solution was to make edible spoons. The spoons are made from ice cream cone and you can eat it after you finish the ice cream. Even if you don't want to eat it and throw it away, the spoon is biodegradable and is less harmful to the environment⁹. This is a great idea.

Some other countries also make edible cutlery¹⁰. In America, the Ben & Jerry's ice cream chain sells a line of edible cutlery. There is also a website called Spootainable (a mix of spoon and sustainable). It is a German company.



They make a whole series of edible spoons. They have edible spoons, stirrers, straws, and many other things. I think this is a great idea and it is going to cut down on the amount of plastic that shops give out every year. I wonder if other items could be made edible. An edible bento box? An edible drink bottle? It is good to see companies trying to cut down on the amount of plastic they use. There are fewer plastic bags being used and now the amount of plastic cutlery will be reduced. It is a step in the right direction¹¹.

1.edit 編集する 2.imaginative 想像力が高い 3.biodegrade 生物分解する 4.exist 存在する
 5.household waste 家庭ごみ 6.packaging 梱包材料 7.edible 食べられる 8.calculated 計算された
 9.environment 環境 10.cutlery 食卓食器類 11.a step in the right direction 正しい方向に足を踏み出す



World record

Here are some school world records. The largest school is in City Montessori School, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, India. How many students do you think they have? For comparison¹, we have about 800 students. Any ideas? They have 52,000 students!! That is more people than the entire² city of Noboribetsu! The school has 1,050 classrooms and the average number of students in a class is 45! The school is extremely³ popular and parents try to get their children enrolled. They want the school to add more classrooms and put more students in each class, but the school is full to bursting⁴. Despite⁵ its size, the school has very impressive⁶ results. 40% of the school scores higher than 90% of state tests. The teachers are paid a little more than teachers in other schools.

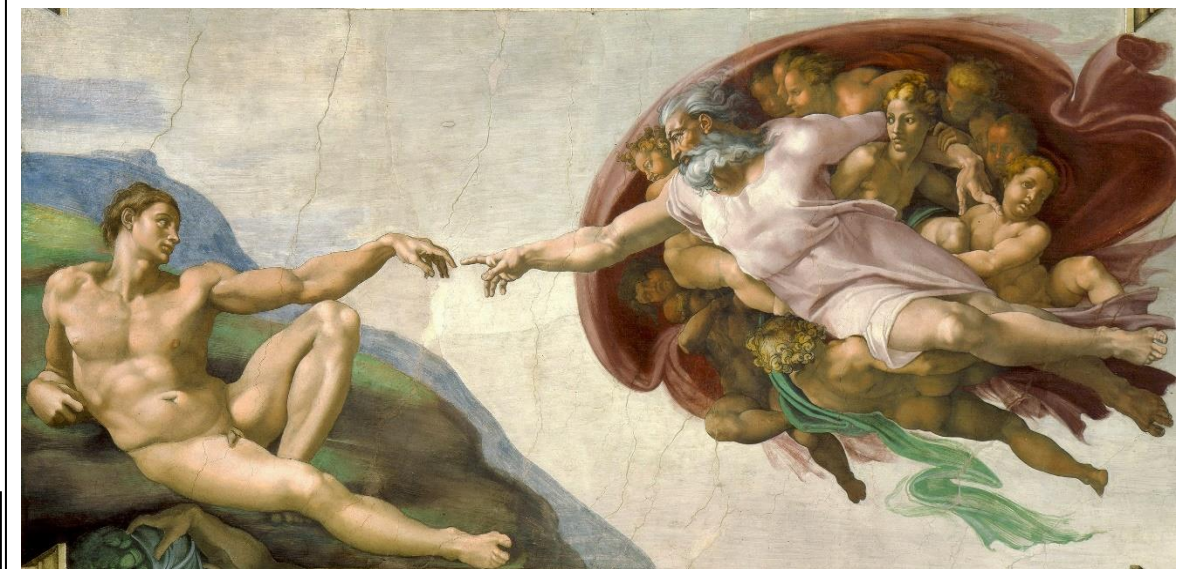
The school started in 1959 with 5 students and it grows every year. I'm not sure I would want to work in a school with so many students. You would never be able to remember students' names and faces.



I walk slowly, but I never walk backward.
Abraham Lincoln.

A building

This week is not just a building, but something inside the building. Have you ever heard of the ceiling in the Sistine Chapel? The Sistine Chapel is a church that was built in the Vatican City in 1477. The inside of the whole building was painted by many famous artists. Botticelli painted one of the walls, Raphael created a large set of tapestries⁷, and Michelangelo painted the ceiling. You probably haven't seen the building, but you will most probably have seen the images that Michelangelo painted. If you ever get the chance, I really recommend you go and see it. The buildings in the Vatican City are absolutely incredible. The ceiling of the Sistine Chapel was already painted before Michelangelo did his famous painting. It had stars on a blue background, but it was damaged and had to be taken down. Pope Julius II paid Michelangelo about \$600,000 (in today's money) to paint it. Michelangelo refused⁸ at first because he was a sculptor⁹ and not a painter. (David, is his most famous sculpture.) He started painting in 1508 and finished the whole ceiling in 1512. He had to paint it lying on his back on scaffolding¹⁰. Amazing! After Michelangelo finished the painting, he became the most famous artist in the world and was commissioned¹¹ to paint and sculpt many more things. He was 33 when he started painting. He also painted the altar¹² wall in the chapel. He lived for 55 years after this and died in 1564 at 88.



1.for comparisson 比べるため 2.entire すべて 3.extremely 非常に 4.fit to bursting 割れる 5.despite なのに 6.impressive 印象的な 7.tapestry ゴブラン織り 8.refuse 断る 9.sculptor 彫刻家 0.scaffolding 足場 11.commission 依頼する 12.altar 供物台