

December 10th, 2007

NEWSLETTER



United World College Costa Rica



End of the Year

Dear UWCCR community,

Welcome to the semester-end edition of our newsletter!

After a busy semester, it is time to relax, rest, and charge ourselves with positive energy.

The beginning of this second year has been very active. There might still be a lot of work to do at UWCCR, but there are definitely many members in the community who are making things happen.

This semester, the Student Council, for instance, has worked very hard to achieve clear goals through its committees for example making it possible for students to stay on campus during Christmas. Furthermore, other students have planned many different kinds of activities: Thursday Presents, Focus Weeks, international celebrations, cultural presentations, among others.

The teaching staff has also developed interesting initiatives, for example, the recycling program, which has been a start to take actions to protect the environment and become an example to Santa Ana. Some other initiatives include the fundraising project for Caro and Yanik, Pizza fundraising for calcu-

lators and the clothes drive for La Promesa. The Peace Pillar has been strengthened through the Mediation Program, and the notes from Yaya regarding the meaning of the word PEACE.

The administration has looked for solutions to many of the needs of the school; for instance, the improvements at the teachers room, the new photocopy machines, and the new maintenance company.

It is hard to include here all the list of all the improvements and achievements from the different members of the community. It is also clear that there are still improvements to be made, but we hope that through hard work we will be able to achieve all our goals and to contribute to the UWC ideals in one way or another.

On behalf of everyone here at UWCCR, we send our wishes for great things in the New Year. Best wishes for you and your families!

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Peace within a Community

Meaning of the final E in Peace

It is the end of first semester and, peacefully, we are closing our scrutiny of the word PEACE with its last letter.

In deciding to scrutinize the word peace, the actual intention is not a matter of playing with the word itself. The idea derives from the observation that most humans are getting more and more convinced that the attainment of peace is the ultimate human goal and that peace comes from social harmony and equilibrium. You may well agree with me or not, it is not exaggeration to claim that peace may be (with happiness) the most longed-for human condition today. In every community, the continuum violent/non-violent individual behaviours exist and they constantly fluctuate. However, it is necessary to emphasize here that our community, as well as any other, can strive to build

enduring peace. We can truly choose to develop new avenues for everlasting mutual understanding and cooperation. We can choose to grow; we can consciously choose to change; we can decide to transform our community. The last letter in peace is inviting us to such shift. **E** stands for **Evovement** and means a commitment to growth where change and transformation are conscious and deliberate. As each member of our community decides to live with **Praxis, Empowerment, Awareness, Cooperation, and Evovement**, as you experience processes of **PEACE**, you are changed; the group or community in which you live changes as circumstances shift; as individuals move in and out or become more or less involved; and as purposes or activities change. In such community, growth and transformation are valued and celebrated by everyone. Each member creates their realities as they live

them, and there is less chance for harms and mistakes, but more opportunities for re-creation. All members live and experience peaceful interdependent relations.

The answer to the following question of the week might help you know whether you already contribute to building a peaceful community at UWCCR: **Do I welcome practices that encourage growth and changes for others, my community, and myself? (Evovement).**

Remember that world peace begins at home and feel free to go back to previous self-examination questions and help friends and parents during holidays to examine themselves and contribute to world peace.

Nice holidays to all and see you next year in PEACE.

Yaya



More News

La Promesa Fair

On Friday, November 30th, the second handcraft fair “La Promesa” took place next to the Library. The ladies were very happy after meeting so many people. They were also satisfied because people liked what they brought. Thanks to those who participated in the activity with the children and to those who bought the products. There

will soon be a third fair.

Takk skal du ha

César and Paula

Maintenance

A new maintenance company has been hired. Mr. Carlos Rojas is the person in charge and he is developing a plan to keep the infrastructure in best conditions. The schedule is from Monday to Saturday

from 7:00 AM to 10:00 PM.

Health Care

Two bilingual doctors are working for the College. They come on Tuesday and Thursday from 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM. If you feel sick, please contact Maritza, she is the person in charge of coordinating the appointments. The doctors can be contacted 24 hours a day by Maritza or by the residence coordinators in the evening.

Gentle reminders from the library

Please remember to bring your books back to the library before leaving.

Please, when using the equipment (computers, video beam, etc.) bring it back to library on time because other people might be waiting for it.

Happy holidays! May the

end of the semester be very successful!

Ligia and Lizzie

Transportation Schedule

Dec 13th and 14th: Departure to the airport at 5:00 AM, 8:30 AM, 12:00 PM, 3:00 PM.

Dec 15th and 16th: Please send your itinerary to Marlene before the 13th in

order to arrange transportation needs.

Students traveling by bus, please contact Marlene to organize your shuttle before Dec. 13th.

Back to school

Transportation will be provided **only** on January 5th and 6th. Send your itinerary before December 21st to organize the shuttles.



Guardian Angels

Christmas cards for Caro and Yanik are here. Look for Paula or Rita to buy them. The money will be sent to both families.

\$5 each or €2.500

To our students

Best wishes for Gretty in her future!

Our thoughts to Carl and his family. Do send a smile to him over the Christmas!

Last activities

Tico dinner and Creativity CAS presentations: Tuesday

Christmas dinner: Wednesday

Global Day of Action Against Climate Change

December 8th was the Global Day of Action Against Climate Change. In the morning on December 8th a group of 20 UWCCR students boarded a bus with a group of 10 elementary school students and their mothers from Santa Ana. They walked from La Sabana to the private home of the President of Costa Rica, Oscar Arias, and delivered over forty hand written letters from four different elementary schools in Santa Ana. They also delivered a letter

signed by over 70 students from the college expressing their concerns about climate change. Students then returned to Santa Ana and were joined by another 20 students and faculty members from the college. They participated in a Climate Change Walk through Santa Ana, complete with banners, a tremendous percussion group, and inspiring chants. The favorite chant of the day was “Se nota, se siente, el futuro está caliente” .

As they walked students distributed informative brochures about climate change to members of the Santa Ana community. In the evening on December 8th a film, *The Day After Tomorrow*, was projected in front of the municipality. It was deemed a success with nearly 30 members of the Santa Ana community stopping by to watch for at least a few minutes.

Keally



And Saint Nicholas came to UWCCR!

Teaching and Non-Teaching Staff Meeting

The teachers and the administration had a chance to relax last Friday. They all enjoyed dinner and had a great time! Thanks to the organizers: Paula, Juan Diego and Cesar Rodriguez

