



# NEWSLETTER

Issue No.4, December 2005

## Global Connections and Exchange Program for Tajikistan



Global Connections and Exchange Program for Tajikistan has established 24 Internet Learning Centers (ILCs) in secondary schools across Tajikistan. The program's main goal is to increase global dialogue and educational opportunities by installing modern computer equipment with Internet access in schools, and developing training and learning projects for teachers and students.

### **Tajikistan Global Connections and Exchange Program activities include:**

- \* Teacher training on using computers and the Internet in classroom teaching;
- \* U.S. school partnerships on civic education projects, teacher and student exchanges;
- \* Public access and programs for community members and disadvantaged groups;
- \* Development of sustainable practices for schools and communities.

## C O N T E N T

**Page 1** Happy Birthday, Internet Learning Centers!

**Page 2** World AIDS Day in Our ILCs

**Page 3** Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

**Page 4** Regional English Language Officer Visits ILCs



Internet Learning Center in Vahdat

### **Happy Birthday, Internet Learning Centers!**

Two years ago in December 2003 Relief International – Schools Online opened its first Internet Learning Centers in Dushanbe School No. 10, Vahdat School No. 139, Gissar School No. 2, Rudaki Russian-Tajik Lyceum, Kulob lyceum No. 1, Chorboogh School No. 40, Kurgan-Tyube School No. 12, Gulyakandoz School No. 16, Khujand gymnasium No. 4 and Chkalovsk School No. 4. And, of course, our students, volunteers, teachers and ILC managers could not forget about this important event and celebrated the birthdays of their ILCs with invited guests from neighboring ILCs and office staff.

We want to congratulate our Internet Learning Centers on this occasion and wish a long life to them as our ILCs help everybody to improve their education, enlarge their world vision, see the world and be seen by the world.

## World AIDS Day in Our ILCs

HIV is one of the biggest social, economic and health challenges in the world today. It is a global emergency claiming over 8,000 lives every day. Although difficult to believe, 5 people die of AIDS every minute. To raise needed attention of the whole world to this problem, the 1<sup>st</sup> of December was declared International Day of Action on HIV and AIDS at the 1988 World Summit of Ministers of Health on Programs for AIDS Prevention. Since then, it has been taken up by governments, international organizations and charities around the world.



Doctor answers students' questions from Sarband ILC



Opening a box with students' answers to the question "Are you afraid of AIDS?"

On this day, students of the ILCs took an active part in different activities and learned valuable information about this health and social risk. Given that not only young students but also some of their parents and other community members do not know about this disease, students decided to make presentations about HIV/AIDS. By researching this issue through the Internet, students learned the history of this disease, when it was discovered and when World AIDS Day was marked for the first time, and about the Red Ribbon which people wear on this day as a sign of support for people living with HIV and as a symbol of hope for the future.

In other ILCs students had meetings with doctors and other specialists whom they could ask questions about this disease.

For example, in Chkalovsk ILC students participated in a seminar conducted by Population Services International (PSI) representatives. To better understand and remember ways of self protection and avoid the risk of being infected, students participated in activities that forced them to think and make wise decisions in order to protect themselves from this disease. Students conducted different performances to show the community a clear vision of this problem. Youth Leaders have recognized that these lessons and activities are crucial in helping to raise the awareness of different diseases among people living in their community and how to prevent and understand these health risks.

<http://www.worldaidsday.org/about.asp>



Students learn about case studies

## Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

December is a month of interesting and exciting holidays: first comes Christmas - a holiday observed in much of the world on the 25<sup>th</sup> of December or on the 7<sup>th</sup> of January in most Eastern Orthodox Churches. Christmas is celebrated by most Christians to mark the birth of Jesus, and many people celebrate it as a time to spend with family and friends. The second holiday is the New Year celebration, one of the oldest of all holidays. It was first observed in ancient Babylon about 4000 years ago. Both holidays are known all over the world but there is variety in ways of celebration. Besides these two major holidays, there are other holidays that people across the world celebrate in the course of wintertime. To learn about and honor these holidays, students participated in a short activity that allowed them to present winter holidays celebrated in their country and learn about the holidays of other countries of the world.

This activity about winter holidays introduced a new U.S. partner school to our program – College Preparatory School from California. Students had a lot of fun while doing this activity as Christmas and New Year are both holidays which bring presents and make the most dearest wishes come true.

Students from Khujand, Kayrakkum and Chkalovsk had a chance to have a joint activity about New Years that included dances, singing songs, congratulations and many other entertainments.

You can view these winter holiday presentations at [www.connect.tj/en/newyear.html](http://www.connect.tj/en/newyear.html)



New Year Celebrations in Kanibadam

Many New Year activities were also held by Youth Leaders. The Youth Leadership Committees (YLCs) of each center were encouraged to visit local orphanages and make a New Year performance for the orphans. For those who didn't have an orphanage in their region, performances were given in their own schools for disadvantaged children. YLC members also gathered money to buy presents for the participants of the New Year's show. Also, YLCs helped teachers to decorate the classrooms and prepare different activities for the New Year for and with the students of middle school. Teachers were grateful for the help and students and teachers worked together for the start of a new, great year.

*The Tajikistan Global Connections and Exchange Program for Central Asia is a project of Relief International - Schools Online's Global Citizenship & Youth Philanthropy Program and has been made possible with major funding from the United States State Department Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, and the Global Catalyst Foundation*

## Regional English Language Officer Visits ILCs



David Fay with English Teachers in Kulob



David Fay, Zebo Murodova and Maya Vakhobova in Sarband ILC

Mr. David Fay – Regional English Language Officer, and guest of the U.S. Embassy in Tajikistan, visited two of our southern ILCs, School No.1 in Sarband and Lyceum No.1 in Kulob. ILC Managers of both centers are participants of English Language Programs Office of the U.S. Department of State “E-Teacher” Program, and Mr. Fay congratulated Zebo Murodova and Abdulhamid Sharipov on their successful study and completion of the online courses for English Language Teachers. Mr. Fay and our ILC Managers discussed the benefits and use of this course and the participants added that they would share the skills and knowledge they obtained during this course with other English teachers and students.

At the end of his meeting Mr. David Fay generously presented to our ILCs different books and magazines in English about the life of American Muslims in the U.S., encouraging students and teachers to practice their English while learning interesting facts and concepts about our interrelated world.

Relief International - Schools Online  
6 Pavlova Street, Dushanbe,  
Tajikistan 734003  
Tel: (992372) 24-23-17  
Fax: (992372) 24-39-08  
email: [taj\\_office@schoolsonline.org](mailto:taj_office@schoolsonline.org)  
<http://www.connect-tajikistan.org>