

# 1000 Paper Cranes for World Peace Day!

Sadako Sasaki was two years old when the atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima in Japanin 1945. She survived the bomb but was diagnosed with leukemia when she was 12 years old and told that she had less than a year to live.

One day when her best friend came to visit her in hospital she brought a square, golden piece of paper and folded a paper crane from it. This paper crane referred to the ancient Japanese legend that promises anyone who folds a thousand paper cranes that ... ...

#### "their heart's desire will come true".



From then on Sadako spend a lot of time in hospital folding paper cranes, often using medicine wrappings and gift wrappings

from other patient's get-well presents because she dit not have anything else. Her wish was to get well and that there would be peace in the world. Sadako died a few months later having folded only 644 cranes. Her friends completed the 1,000 cranes and buried them all with her.



After Sadako's death, her friends and schoolmates raised funds to build a memorial to her and the other children in Japan who had died due to the effects of the atom bomb.

The Statue of the A-Bomb Children in the Hiroshima

Peace Memorial Park shows Sadako with a golden crane in her hands. The plaque on the memorial states:

"This is our cry. This is our prayer. Peace in the world."

(Photos from: Wikipedia and historylink.org)

Anyone who folds one thousand paper cranes will have their heart's desire come true.

Ancient Japanese Legend

### Origami

Origami is the traditional Japanese art of paper folding; the word is derived from ori meaning 'folding', and kami/gami meaning 'paper'. Origami is not only fun but has been proven to develop skills such as precision, planning, visualisation and how to follow instructions. It has strong links to mathematics and the arts.

#### 1000 Paper Cranes at Sci-Enza

To celebrate world peace day on 21 September this year we want to hang 1000 paper cranes from the ceiling at Sci-Enza and we **need your help**.

Learn how to fold paper cranes and bring us your pieces of art. Please use any recycled paper (old magazines are perfect) and use **paper sizes** of about **20 x 20cm**. Attach a **piece of string** to the middle of the back of the crane. If you have problems following the instructions, attend one of the 'crane folding workshops' at Sci-Enza and then ... ... ...

#### 1000 Paper Cranes Artwork.

... .... watch the exhibit space at Sci-Enza. The art and design students will be creating a unique artwork from the **1000 paper cranes** for **21 September 2011**!

## The Blue Crane – our National Bird!



"The **Blue Crane** (*Anthropoides paradiseus*) is also known as the **Stanley Crane** or the **Paradise Crane**. It is a tall (100–120 cm), ground-dwelling bird weighing from 4 to 6.2 kg. This crane is pale blue-gray in colour with a white crown, a pink bill, and long, dark gray wingtip feathers which trail to the ground." (*Wikipedia*)

### Did you know?

- The blue crane it almost endemic to South Africa (there is a small population of 50-80 in Namibia).
- It the only crane in the world with no red on it anywhere.
- To ward off predators it puffs up its smooth grey-blue head like a cobra and hisses, dancing aggressively towards its predators.
- You need a permit to own cranes or trade with them.

"Blue cranes are under threat in South Africa. There are only around 25 000 blue cranes left in the country and of the remaining population, almost half are found in the Overberg in the Western Cape. As a result, South Africa's national bird is listed as vulnerable on the International Union for Conservation of Nature's Red Data List of Threatened Species. Threats to the survival of blue cranes include illegal trade, power-line collisions, poisonings and habitat loss." (*The Overberg Crane Group*)

"The Blue Crane is a bird very special to the

**amaXhosa**, who call it *indwe*. When a man distinguished himself by deeds of valour, or any form of meritorious conduct, he was often decorated by a chief by being presented with the feathers of this bird. Men so honoured – they wore the feathers sticking out of their hair – were known as men of *ugaba* (trouble) - the implication being that if trouble arose, these men would reinstate **peace and order**. " (*Wikipedia*)

