February 12, 2016

To Whom It May Concern,

Even though we typically say there are 365 days in a year, the Earth actually takes 365.242199 days to orbit the sun. To correct this slight discrepancy, every four years we add an extra day to our calendars: February 29th, a "leap day." This is a change we probably do not perceive; at a micro level, it is just another weekday. But if we step back, it is clear that we are actually living, working or studying an extra day.

Given this fact, Despacio proposes that we treat February 29th differently from other weekdays, designating it as "Despacio Day" ("Despacio" means *slow* in Spanish). To celebrate, we suggest that companies and organizations give their employees time off to do something productive or incorporate creative activities into the workday. The idea is for participants to imagine what productive or creative endeavor they would pursue on a day off and then to work with employers to make these ideas a reality. Ideally these activities would be unrelated to participants' normal work tasks but also something other than watching TV, browsing social media, etc. Possible activities include working in a park without computers, drawing, writing or reading.

For this reason, Despacio invites you to consider this initiative and talk with your office team about the different activities you all do to celebrate Despacio Day, February 29th. The experience will provide a space to improve productivity, generate new ideas and live a generally slower day.

Despacio is a Colombian NGO which was founded in 2008 to promote quality of life in all the stages of the life cycle through applied research. A central part of its mission is to improve individual and community well-being, from the most individual and familial aspects (food, transport, child-raising, organization at home and work) to the most collective (planning and managing slow, humane and sustainable cities).

To learn more about this initiative, visit the website for **Despacio Day** at
http://despacio.org/en/despacio-day/ or write ome@despacio.org

Thanks!
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