

Kester Grant College Newsletter

Issue 6, August 2002

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Students are encouraged to submit letters to our editors. The editors reserve the right to edit letters for publication.

Any comments or ideas, please email to newsletter@kgc.bc.ca

Big New Lunch Room

By Andy Hong



Not long ago, KGC built a new lunchroom for their students. It's double the size of the old one. KGC also put a lot of new equipment in the new lunchroom. There are three microwaves, two vending machines, one icebox, and some new chairs and tables.

I asked a KGC staff member why did KGC build this new lunchroom? He explained that KGC has had an increase in student enrollment and the old lunchroom wouldn't be able to accommodate all the students. Students believe that KGC wants to provide them with a comfortable and relaxing environment where they can eat lunch. KGC also put some magazines in the new lunchroom for students to read while taking a break. Gina, a level 6 KGC student thinks that, "it is great that KGC is considerate of students needs."

So, what do students think about this new lunchroom? Do you feel comfortable eating and relaxing in this room? Ben, who is studying in level 6 at KGC said that, "This new lunchroom is better than the old one. I really like it. The new lunch room is brighter and cleaner than the old one." Ben noted that he hoped that KGC would put a television in the new lunchroom so that student's could watch TV during lunchtime. Since the shows on TV are in English, it would be beneficial in improving student's English skills.

Regardless, most students view this new lunchroom as a good addition to KGC. Students are glad to have this new lunchroom and thankful to KGC for providing it.

"Second" Baby

By Jia Wang

For some people, animals are just like a family member. People like to have pets. Regardless of being a lovely animal or an ugly animal, there are a variety of pets available in pet stores. People choose their pet based on their own interests, needs and space constraints.

When I first came to Vancouver, I was surprised that there were many different types of pets. The main reason people like to have a pet is because people often live separate from their family. Sometimes, they feel lonely so their pet seems like their "second" babies. In Vancouver, people like to have dogs as their second baby because they think that dogs are friendlier than other animals. When I saw a big black dog in Vancouver for the first time, I believed that it was a real black bear. The dog was big!

People love their pets very much.

They provide a good home for them. Therefore today, lots of different pet food, and pet toys. Pets have their own houses, and their own bathrooms. Interestingly, some TV channels showcase pet shows. One of my friends has a dog. When she bought the dog, she needed to take the dog to the pet hospital once a month for three months so that the doctor could give the dog a shot. When considering the costs, pets must have an important purpose in owners' life --- "second" baby.

All of above discussed is what people do for their "babies". In pets' opinions, I guess who knows. Maybe they want to live in the nature; maybe they love their host as well as other people who love them. Any way, humans love animals. They love their pets so much. I hope that people can protect their babies and have a happy time with them.

SHORTCUT OF YOUR FUTURE

By Winni, Wei Dong

How to become a critical thinker? Some would like to be able to think about the facts before jumping in to something, but others prefer to do whatever they want without thinking. Even though becoming a critical thinker is difficult, there are many ways to help you to become a critical thinker, such as: saying, "I don't know" and considering the source.

Being able to say "I don't know" is difficult no matter who you are. In modern times, many people don't like to hear phrases such as: "I don't know" and "I am not sure". Although people don't understand the issues, they would rather give the wrong answer than say, "I don't know" when someone asks them a question. For example: A child learning to write numerals might insist that two and two makes 22, but a biologist might joke that two plus two

adds up to a whole lot more than four when we're talking about the reproductive life of rabbits.

Before making a decision, considering the source is necessary. Most people like to make a decision in a short time, so they usually make the wrong decision. I think that they will get more information if they seek out the source before making the decision. However, even though they know that it's wrong, they still continue doing the same thing for some reason.

Thinking critically is quite unusual for a few people, but other people still can use some ways to help them to be a critical thinker, such as learning to say "I don't know" and think deeply about the source. I think that if they can understand the methods, they will become the critical thinkers.

Funny Greeting Messages-from Internet

By Pauline Chan

(1) Hello, you've reached Jim and Sonya. We can't pick up the phone right now, because we're doing something we really enjoy. Sonya likes doing it up and down, and I like doing it left to right... Real slowly. So leave a message, and when we're done brushing our teeth we'll get back to you.

(2) Hi, this is John. If you are the Phone Company, I've already sent the money. If you are my parents, please send money. If you are my financial aid institution, you didn't lend me enough money. If you are my friends, you owe me money. If you are a female, don't worry, I have plenty of money.

(3) Hi, I'm probably home; I'm just avoiding someone I don't like. Leave me a message, and if I don't call back, it's you.

(4) Please leave a message. However, you have the right to remain silent. Everything you say will be recorded and will be used by us.

A Good Chance

By Rachel

Royal Roads university (RRU) is a public university that was established by the government of British Columbia (BC), Canada in 1995. It is located in the city of Victoria, well known for its temperate climate and beautiful West Coast setting and is the capital city of the province of BC. RRU is a good university for studying and if you plan to study there, I have some details about RRU for you.

When you graduate from BCIT, you have three alternatives if you want to study at RRU. First, you can get your diploma at BCIT, and then get your degree in a one-year program at RRU. Second, you can use BCIT part time studies towards RRU a two years degree program. Third, you can study on-line for two years at RRU. This sounds like good option because you can study anywhere and anytime. These are three options that are good for international students.

In addition, the tuition fees for international students are quite cheap. If you want to study a Bachelor of Commerce in Entrepreneurial Management, the tuition fee is \$5,800 per year, so the total is \$11,600 if you choose the two-year option. If you want to study a Master of Business Administration, the tuition fee is \$16,000 per year, so the total is \$32,000 for two years. As you see, the tuition at RRU is not expensive compared to other universities.

RRU has many different programs, such as a Master of Business Administration, Bachelor of Commerce in Entrepreneurial Management, Master of Science in Environment, Bachelor of Science in Entrepreneurial Science, Master of Arts in Leadership & Training. These are very popular programs, I am sure that if you get a degree from RRU, you will have a good job anywhere you plan to live.

All in all, RRU is a good place to study. You can finish your degree quickly, save money, and have variety of programs to choose from. I recommend that you study there, and then you will have a good future.



www.royalroads.ca



Top 10 Things To Do On The Weekend

By Daisy Xiang

What do you usually do on a weekend? Do you feel bored on the weekend? Do you enjoy living in Vancouver? There are some special places, where you and your friends can go together on a summer weekend.

PNE, Play Land is located on Hastings and Renfrew Street. You can enjoy your whole day with your family or your friends there trying all kinds of snacks from all over the world at the special annual fair. A \$20 ticket, approximately, would be worth it all.

Eileen Daily Leisure Pool, which is on Willingdon, 5-minutes from BCIT by bus, would be a great place for sports lovers. When you finish freestyle in the pool, you can also try the well-equipped gym there. The one-time drop-in fee is only \$2.40 for students and there is no time limit! For further information, you can call 604-298-7946

Roots shop is located at the corner of Boundary Road and Grandview Highway. This Roots shop is very different from others Roots shops. This Roots shop only offers on-sale clothes, which are cheaper than the regular store. There are lots of nice clothes and it's a

great place to go shopping with your friends.

Silver City cinema in Metrotown. There are a lot of new movies coming soon this summer. For example, <<XXX>> is now playing. One movie ticket costs \$10.50 on weekends.

Tea House is opposite to the Metrotown. It's open 24 hours. I think they have very nice tea and a beautiful and relaxing environment for people to enjoy chatting, reading and simply killing time on your Sunday afternoon.

Stanley Park, well known for ancient Indian totems, is a fantastic park with breathtaking views and landscapes. You can go to English Bay, which is near Stanley Park. You also can BBQ, swim in the sea and rollerblade with your friends in the park.

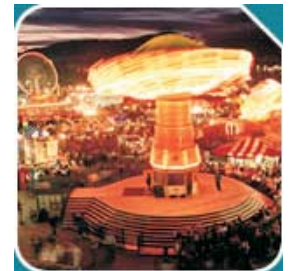
Shabusen is a very unique restaurant in downtown on Granville Street. All kinds of Chinese, Japanese and Korean foods are available there, from traditional Asian snacks to delicate dishes. \$20 per person covers the cost except tips. Personally, I think it is a very nice restaurant.

Vancouver Island is a beautiful place.

You can take a ferry there. You can either spend your whole weekend lying in the sunshine at the beach or challenge your courage in some sea sports. As well, there are wonderful museums and shops on the island.

There are night fairs at the Richmond Landsdowne Mall every weekend. Different style vendors can meet your personal taste. It is a can't-be-missed shopping paradise if you definitely love shopping and have fun in seeking for cool stuff. However, you had better be careful with your wallet and purse while you are at the night fair.

Horseshoe Bay is my highly recommended place for fishing. Because, you will be fined if you don't have a legal fishing license. You could get there via No.1 Highway west bound. Look for the signs to Horseshoe Bay, and you won't regret it!



Curing the Weekend Blahs

By Minghua Liu

I have been in Vancouver about 8 months. In my opinion, Vancouver is a beautiful city and there are a lot of places where you can visit. I have visited many places that I feel are interesting. I can introduce you to a variety of useful places to visit in Vancouver.

First, studying is the most important activity for us, so let me introduce a good place for you to learn and have fun at, Science World which is located downtown. From KGC to Science World, you can take the No.9 or No.99 bus to Broadway Station. From there, take the sky train west in the direction towards Vancouver. Get off at Main Street Station and you will see the large silver ball where Science World is located. The ticket into Science World costs you \$12. Once in

Science World, you will find a lot of interesting things, such as the formation of the tornado, the process of a snake eating a mouse and many other exciting activities. .

Second, the Vancouver Aquarium is a good place to visit. From KGC to the Aquarium, you take the No.17 bus to downtown, and then you transfer to the No.135 bus to Stanley Park. Once at Stanley Park, you will see signs that will direct you where walk to get to the Aquarium. The ticket costs you \$11.7. At the Aquarium, you can see a lot of animals that you may have never seen before, as well, you can also see many oceanic organisms.

Third, if you want to go out of Vancouver, another place to visit is Vancouver Island. From KGC, you take

No.9 or No.99 bus to Broadway Station, and then you take sky train east towards Surrey and get off at Scott Road Station. After that, you take No.604 bus to the Twawwasen Ferry. You will take a ferry to Vancouver Island. The ferry takes about 1.5 hours and the ticket costs \$9. Vancouver Island is a big island; you can go to some cites, such as Victoria or Nanaimo. When you get to there, you can see a lot of beautiful scenery, such as beaches, flowers and the ocean.

In short, there are many good places to visit in Vancouver. If you find these places interesting to you, there are many more exciting places to visit in Vancouver that will also interest you.

How to Relieve Stress

By Clark Li

As we know, most people have a lot of stress that needs to be relieved. What are some of the ways that you find the most effective in relieving stress? In my view, you need to find a way of relieving stress and get moving. Finally, if you relieve stress effectively, you will be successful in your work.

First, finding a way to relieve stress is important for your job because the stress could decrease your energy. For example, reading books, seeing movies and visiting friends. Those things are necessary to reduce stress in order to relieve it. I remember that last month I was able to finish my composition after I went to see a movie and my stress was reduced. So, finding a way to get away from stress is an effective way for relieving it.

Second, getting moving also is a useful way to relieve stress. Such as going for a walk, dancing and taking kick boxing lessons. These ways are helpful in providing an outlet for stress. I remember that one of my friends was able to solve a problem in his studies after going for a long walk. As a result, getting moving is

good way for relieving stress.

In addition, we should focus on relaxing ourselves when we feel stress. Also, knowing how to relieve stress is very important. As a result, we need to look for some ways to reduce them in order to make good efforts. For example, during work, we can not stop doing our job. Taking deep breaths to get oxygen flowing through our body will help us relieve stress allowing us to continue working.

Relieving stress is very important for a good worker. He could get away from it and get moving in order to relieve stress. Thus, problems will be smaller and solutions will be clearer. Therefore, we need to find some effective ways for relieving stress that work well for us individually.



Jokes

By Andy Hong

1. "Mom," said the little boy, in from playing, "I think the people who live next door are really, really poor."
"Why do you say that, my little boy?"
"Because you should have seen the fuss they made when their baby swallowed a dime!"
2. John: I got this great new hearing aid the other day.
Mary: Are you wearing it now?
John: Yup. Cost me twelve thousand dollars, but it's top of the line.
Mary: What kind is it?
John: Twelve-thirty.
3. One day, two children were quarreling. One said, "I will tell my Dad to beat your Dad's head!"
The other one said, "My mom said, my Dad never bring his head."
4. Son, "Mom, I am better than my teacher."
Mom, "Why do you say that?"
Son, "That's true! I understand what she wrote, but she doesn't understand what I wrote."
5. "Jenny, do you know how old is your father?" the teacher asked.
"My father is five years old." Jenny said.
"Is your father as old as you?"
"Yes, my father told me, he became a father when I was born."

The Low Down on Car Insurance

By Clark Li



As we know, if you want to drive a car on the road, you need to purchase the car insurance because this insurance could offer security for drivers. What are purposes of car insurance? Car insurance can supply some services for fixing the car, protecting people's lives and protecting the car.

In addition, car insurance is increasing now. Why is it increasing? A lot of customers complain about this. However, increases could prevent people from making the same mistakes by acting. Moreover, if your car is in an accident, your insurance will go up if the accident is your fault. For this reason, most people pay more attention when driving their cars. Finally, society benefits when they are reduced accidents. So increasing car insurance is good for customers and society.

How can we get car insurance and where can we get it? First, getting car insurance is easy, you need to buy it from a insurance company. The insurance agent will suggest what kind of insurance you need to buy. Also, he will introduce some benefits for buying car insurance. As a result, you can drive your car safely with the comfort of car insurance.

By increasing car insurance, it shows that a lot of car accident, thefts and vandalism have happened in society now. Before insurance costs went up, drivers were less focused, so sometimes they did not care about getting into an accident. Right now, society knows the real position of drivers' feeling. Therefore, ICBC decided to increase the cost of insurance as one way to deal with the problem. Finally, the problem is beginning to be solved.

As the cost for car insurance has increased, the number of complaints has increased as well. Also, we still are glad to see that people are able to drive and feel safe because other drivers are driving safely and all drivers have car insurance.



Photo by Stanley



This is a newsletter you must not miss! It is an interview with level 5 teacher Robin. From the students' point of view, she is an interesting teacher. She always seems so full of energy, vigorous and graceful. She came to KGC in March. Want to know why she drives a big car to school? Want to know how she stays in shape? Want to know more about her? Continue to read this interview for the answers.

Q: How long have you been teaching English? Why do you want to be an English teacher?

A: I have been an English teacher for about three years. At first, I taught at an elementary school. I love children very much. Because I love teaching, helping

students grasp concepts and apply new knowledge is very fulfilling.

Q: Students have noticed that you are in a very good shape. Can you tell us your secret of how you stay fit?

A: I like doing outdoor exercise very much, and I go to the gym three or four times a week. I think that exercise is the best way to stay healthy. Also, I like climbing, hiking, weight training etc. Most students notice that I drive a truck to school, and they ask me "Why do you drive a big car?" The reason is that I own a boat, and I need the truck to carry my boat.

Q: I'd heard that you are planning something for the next month. Can you tell us about it?

A: Yes, I am preparing to go back to my hometown Kitchener, Ontario for a few weeks. My younger brother will get married in September. I am going to take a three-week vacation. Also, I miss my family very much.

Q: Is there any possibility you could go to others countries to teach English?

A: Yes, if there were a chance to, I would like to live in France in future. France is the country that I dream about living in. A few years ago, I lived in England and I visited France, I loved Paris.

Q: What would you like to do in the future?

A: I would like to continue teaching. I want to be able to teach adults and

children. I like children very much. I hope that KGC will open a program for children in the future.

Q: Why did you decide to go to Japan?

A: A friend of mine was teaching English in Japan and enjoyed it a lot. Many friends of mine have been invited to Japan to teach English. I thought that it is a good chance for me to live abroad.

Q: How did you feel when you taught in Japan?

A: In the first six months, I really didn't like living in Japan because I got homesick. Then, I began to feel better. In Japan, I taught English to adults and children.

Q: What do you think of KGC's students?

A: I like teaching KGC's students very much. They are funny, and creative students. I feel that teaching them English is a different experience for me. KGC's students make me feel that teaching is the best choice in my life.

I get a lot of information from Robin. From this interview, I found out that she is a really intelligent woman. She thinks about her life very clearly and intelligently. I really want to be friends with her.

KGC Hires A New Rose

By Tina Chen

1. Who is Rosa?

Rosa is our new marketing manager. Her nationality is Italian, but she was born in Canada. She graduated from BCIT with a diploma in Marketing Management and is currently studying to complete her BA.

2. What is her job?

She came to KGC on August 13, 2002. Her responsibilities are to develop and market KGC. She helps KGC increase its enrollment of students from China, Korea, Japan, Russia, Brazil and so on. Everyday she works at KGC from 8:30 to 5:30. She hopes that she can assist KGC in becoming a very successful school and help students solve his or her own questions.

3. What experience does she have?

After she got her diploma, she worked in a Promotional Relations group in the marketing department while she continued her studies for a bachelor degree. This job is her second job and she likes it. She hopes she can do this job very well and enjoys the happy time with students and other staff.

4. What are her hobbies?

She is an active person. She likes jogging and snowboarding. She also likes cooking and reading new books.

5. What words does she want to say to KGC's students?

She said, "I encourage students to keep learning and to never stop dreaming. All the skills they gain at KGC will be invaluable and contribute to their future success. Anything is possible so never give up. Best wishes and good luck."



Photo by Stanley

A movie rarely comes along, which is truly great by all means. M. Night Shyamalan's new summer hit movie 'Signs' is just that. Mel Gibson turns in a wonderful performance as Graham Hess, an ex-Catholic priest, who loses his faith after his wife dies. Now he lives with his brother Merrill (Joaquin Phoenix) on a farm in Philadelphia with his two children, Morgan (Rory Culkin) and Bo (Abigail Breslin). After finding crop circles in his cornfields, weird things start to happen all leading up to very good conclusion.

The acting in Signs itself makes it worthy of critical acclaim. Mel Gibson does possibly his best work since 'Brave Heart', and Joaquin Phoenix is excellent as a funny, but responsible brother to Graham. Rory Culkin, whose brother is Macaulay Culkin, acts well, especially in emotional scene. Abigail Breslin lights up the screen, one scene in particular with Gibson, when she asks why her father talks to her mother sometimes. Another great performance by all the actors is in one scene at dinner, in which they all have a bit of a feud. It's acting at it's best.

M. Night Shyamalan, who directed, wrote, produced, and acted in this movie is one of the best directors to emerge into the

film industry in years. What separates Shyamalan from other directors is that even if he wasn't paid, he'd still make movies, and his movie is genuine and very original. 'Signs' isn't about aliens attacking Earth, what crop circles come from or their purpose or anything you'd think. 'Signs' is about an ordinary man, who loses his faith, and then finds it again. That is what this movie is about. 'Signs' is not a horror movie about aliens attacking, or any real action scenes at all. We are presented with a man and his family, and what they would do. We don't want to see 'E.T', nor 'Independence Day', or such horror science fiction movies like 'Alien' and 'Predator'. Though most of those movies are great, we've seen it before, and that's what makes 'Signs' different from other alien films, and what makes us interested in it. 'Signs' isn't really about aliens. It's how a man finds his faith again in this situation. Shyamalan just took a subject he found interesting, popped in a family in the middle, and presented his brilliant message on screen.

The aliens, though I won't ruin anything, are done perfectly, not showing them fully on screen, until when you least expect it. One interesting part of this movie is in which a baby monitor accidentally

picks up aliens speaking in 'clicks,' which shows how we suspect they communicate between each other.

Unlike a lot of movies, 'Signs' also has an excellent ending. The message comes across, and you can easily realize that Shyamalan delivered what he wanted to be delivered. You should watch the movie, 'Signs', I promise that you will not feel down. And, it is much better not to see it alone even though it's not horror because it's going to scare you.

The History of Labour Day

By Joanna Li

Labour Day, the first Monday in September, is a creation of the labour movement and is dedicated to the social and economic achievements of North American workers. It constitutes a yearly national tribute to the contributions workers have made to the strength prosperity and well being of their country.

The first Labour Day holiday was celebrated on Tuesday, September 5, 1882 in New York City, in accordance with the plans of the Central Labour Union. The Central Labour Union held its second Labour Day holiday just a year later, on September 5, 1883, and in 1885 the Labour Day was celebrated in many industrial centers throughout many countries.

More than 100 years after, there is still some debate as to who first proposed the Labour Day for workers. Some records show that Peter J. McGuire, general secretary of the Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners and a cofounder of the American Federation of Labour, first suggested a day to celebrate labourers. However, many believe that Matthew Maguire, a machinist, found the holiday. Recent research seems to support the belief that Matthew Maguire proposed the holiday while serving as secretary of The Central Labour Union in Now York in 1882.

The vital of labour added to the highest standard of living and the greatest production the world has ever known. It has brought us closer to the realization of our traditional ideas of economic and political democracy. It is appropriate, therefore, that the nation pays tribute on Labour Day to the creator of so much of the nation's strength, freedom and leadership--the North American Workers.

Canadian On Top Of Hollywood

By Jia Wang

Nowadays, watching movies has become a popular past time activity. People like to see movies during their free time. As we know, Hollywood is famous for making movies and many people think that most actors are Americans. Actually, many actors are from all over the world. For example, Canada has a famous actor, **Jim Carrey**.

Jim Carrey has become one of the most recognized faces in the world. Jim is a Canadian actor. He was born in *New Market, Ontario, Canada* on January 17, 1962. He left school in the ninth grade because his family was experiencing difficult economic times. At age 15, he began performing at *YUK YUK'S*, a famous Toronto comedy club, and continued performing in clubs all over Canada until he was 19. After that, he went to Los Angeles. When he appeared at the 20th anniversary special for *The Comedy Store*, he wore nothing but a sock on his private part.

In 1990, Jim got a role on the hip comedy show *In Living Color*; this proved to be his big break. Jim broke into feature films and into the collective unconscious of the world in one single successful year,

1994. It was the year of the funny face. First, there was *Ave Ventura: Pet Detective*, a surprise hit that displayed Carrey's new signature wacky style. Next came *The Mask*, a role that seemed tailor-made for him and was a hit with audiences. As if he had not made an impression yet, *Dumb and Dumber* was released during the holiday season and ended up on top of the box office. Jim was in the limelight now and he has not looked back since. Clearly, the fans think Jim Carrey is golden.

If Jim continues to be successful in his movies, he will have more and more devoted fans.

They love Jim's wild style of physical comedy. Canada has many actors who are famous in Hollywood; it seems that Jim Carrey is the best of comedians in Hollywood.



Photo by Amal Lubovitz
[Http://www.actorarchives.com](http://www.actorarchives.com)

Holidays in Canada

By Li Tong

Every country has its own holidays. They may be on the same date as other countries, but there should be some special reasons for celebrating on that date. As well, some countries celebrate the same holiday but the reason for celebrating the holiday may be different from each country. In Canada, there are many kinds of holidays; each of them has its own story.

Actually, most holidays began a long time ago. At that time, people hadn't mastered information in certain areas yet, for example, they wanted their crops to grow well and their lives to be prosperous, and so on, so they would have special days in order to hope and pray that their wishes would come true. People couldn't make changes to everything, but they could hold some days of celebration to hope for better. One example is the celebration to bless God and celebrate his birthday, this activity was passed from generation to generation, then it became the

nowadays holiday called Christmas Day. It is for blessing Jesus and celebrating his birth.

In Canada, there are many holidays, such as Valentine's Day, Easter, April Fool's Day, Mother's Day, Father's Day, Halloween, Christmas Day, etc. I think that four of them are very important. First, Valentine's Day is very popular here, although it is not engendered in Canada, it is still welcome and celebrated in Canada, especially by young people. Both Mother's and Father's Day are also important in Canada because Canadians appreciate that their parents gave them their lives, they remember to thank their parents for life and all that they do. Finally, as previously mentioned, Christmas is very important for many western people. It is similar and just as important as the spring festival in China.

Furthermore, the people here celebrate the holidays crazily. Especially in Christmas, Canada Day, and especially New Years Eve.

In some big holidays, the people yell and run all day, they seem like they have infinite energy. I like Valentine's Day the most, I think people here are romantic and it is a very romantic holiday. It looks like there is a lot of enjoyment here on Valentine's Day.

In summary, there are many holidays in Canada. The people have their own way to celebrate the holidays, which engendered long time ago. I think they will keep passing from generation to generation. Have fun enjoying the special holidays celebrated in Canada.



TIPS FOR A HOLIDAY IN BANFF

By Ben Wang

When you have a long vacation what do you want to do with your time? Some people study during their vacation while others relax during their holiday. For me, if I want to relax, traveling to other places is one great option. I traveled to Banff for three days during my vacation this August. Here is some advice for a vacation to Banff.

When friends first told me about Banff, I did not know where it was. We looked up Banff on the Internet and checked out the area on the map. As well, we asked some people who have gone there how they traveled to Banff. After discussions about

different ways to get to Banff (plane, train, bus or car), we chose to drive a car to Banff. This was the cheapest way to get there but we found that driving the long distance made us feel very tired. When you drive to Banff, it will take up to 8 hours because Banff is about 1000 kilometers from Vancouver. I think driving a car there is a good way because it gives you a lot of convenience to stop and visit the small towns on your way there.

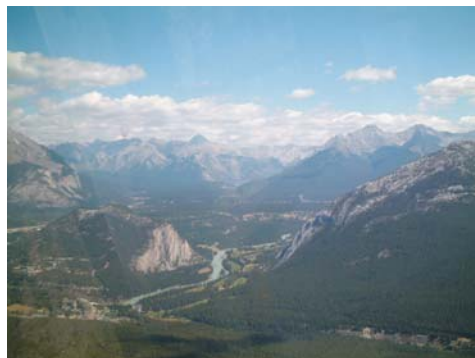
Banff is a small town. When I heard some friends say that it's beautiful there, I really wanted to know what the scenery was like that attracted them there. The first day that we arrived in Banff, we went to the south mountain. My friends wanted to climb to the top of mountain but it's so high and the day was too hot, so we took a cable car to the top of the mountain. It's so beautiful and the air is very fresh and clean there. We took some pictures of the mountain. Other beautiful scenery is Lake Louise. The lake is long and the water is green. You can rent a small boat and go boating on the lake. After a long day, you can go take a shower in the hot spring. The hot spring is a good way to relax your body because the water is



nature's warm water.

Most people want to have a cheap yet high quality vacation. So when choosing accommodations, cost is important to consider. In Banff there are so many hotels, inns and motels. We found a motel that was a good option for us because we could buy some food and cook it ourselves at the motel. Some motels are cheaper than the hotels in Banff but are still a good quality.

In conclusion, my own experience traveling to Banff was a very positive one. If you want to travel to Banff take advantage of these tips that I have offered you, as I think you will find them helpful.



A Beautiful Voice in the World

By Daisy Xiang

Do you know who has the most beautiful voice in the world? Yes, of course every one knows that famous singer star Celine Dion has the most beautiful voice in the world.

Celine became famous at her hometown, Charlemagne located in the province of Quebec, Canada. She started performing in front of an audience when she was only five years old. By the age of twelve, she composed a French song with her brother and mother, which forever changed the course of her life. In January 1981, Rene Angelil (her current husband) heard the song and saw a bright future for the young singer. He was really impressed by Celine's voice. He decided to mortgage his house to finance her debut album.

Celine started to receive a lot of awards and rake-in many platinum albums. When she recorded the title track for the sound track to the animated Disney movie *Beauty and the Beast*, she broke into the huge American market. People everywhere throughout the world began to recognize the name Celine Dion.

In the mean time, Celine became extremely popular in the UK with the new song *Think Twice*, which remained number one on the British charts for five

consecutive weeks. However, her success story doesn't stop there, it was released on the soundtrack of the motion picture *Titanic*, which was an unprecedented success. The most popular song was *My Heart Will Go On*. This soundtrack sold over 27 million copies worldwide and became the best selling orchestral soundtrack in recording history. These songs struck gold once again and Celine has been called the premier contemporary POP vocalist of the nineties and earned her the status of international superstar.

Recently, Celine and her husband had a new baby girl. Now she is living in Las Vegas. She has decided to take a year off to spend some time with her family.



Tips for Studying English

By Andrew Park

Many international students come to Vancouver every year in order to study English. Yet, they sometimes get into trouble because of English, even though, the reason why they come to Vancouver is for learning English. Therefore, they need to improve their English ability.

In order to improve your English ability, watching TV in English is one of the best solutions. While you are watching TV, you can improve your English listening skills, learn about the North American culture, and have a fun watching TV. As you know, it is very easy to watch TV. If you simply sit in front of the TV and turn it on, you are all ready to improve your English ability. If you constantly watch TV, it is going to be your first step to developing your English, and your English ability will remarkably get better and better.

In order to improve the English ability, you can also apply for various volunteer-work in Vancouver. It is not only helpful for you and the place where you volunteer, but also very easy to find. First of all, you can make Canadian friends

naturally while you are doing volunteer work because you should co-work with them. It goes without saying that most Canadians can be good English teacher and good friends. While you are working with them, you can talk to them in English, and learn English pronunciation and English idiomatic expression. If you are really eager to learn survival English such as slang, idiom, and so on, just try to find some volunteer work around you. In order to improve your English ability, it is also very helpful to write something in English and read some English materials such as books, newspapers, and magazine everyday. If so, it improves reading fluency and grammar usage.

There are many different ways to study English, such as, watching TV, applying volunteer work, and writing something in English everyday. Just try to make it fun for your self to study English. I think it is good for ESL students to think that English is very interesting in order to study English successfully.

The Advantages of Studying in Vancouver

By Jack Zhang



Nowadays, as the economy develops, lots of families can afford to send their children to study in a foreign country. As a matter of fact, the question of which place to go is becoming a problem for students. In my opinion, there are lots of advantages of studying and living in Vancouver.

One essential advantage of studying in Vancouver is that you have lots of good colleges and universities to choose from. If you want to learn some practical skills you can go to study in a college such as BCIT. However, if you want to be professional in some specific areas you can choose to study in a university such as UBC or SFU.

Another advantage of studying in Vancouver is that you get the opportunity to learn different cultures. Vancouver is the second biggest city in Canada and it is also a very famous touring city in the world. Every year there are thousands of tourists and students come to tour and study in Vancouver. So if you study here, you get lots of chances to meet and make friends with the people who come from all over the world. Through this you can learn their languages, traditions and the information about their country.

The third advantage of studying in Vancouver is its great living environment. Vancouver is one of the most beautiful cities in the world; it lies beside the South Pacific. Because of this it does not get very cold during winters and also not very hot during summers. Because there are not many factories around Vancouver so the quality of air in Vancouver is much better than the other big cities.

Studying in Vancouver has several important advantages. First, you get the opportunity to learn different cultures. In addition, there are lots of colleges and universities to choose from. Finally, Vancouver has a wonderful living environment.

There are many international students that come to Canada in order to study. In North American society, international students could learn not only English but also about other cultures customs, greeting, special events and so on. Especially, volunteer work is common in the North American society. Volunteer work is a legal work that everybody can participate in, including international students. If international students have a chance to participate in volunteer work, they will get many benefits such as meeting many people, gaining experience, and improving English skills.

There are many places that hire volunteers such as the public health center, festival events, hospitals, working with childcare staff in programs for preschool, helping out in the office and so on. When international students go to the library, they can find some catalogs for volunteer works, therefore, finding a volunteer work is not so difficult. When international students work as

volunteers, they will meet not only Canadians but also people from different countries. International students will learn about the Canadian culture from people who they are working with, and they can teach other people about their own culture. Therefore, international students could learn to understand different cultures and have a chance to establish close friendships with other people. Also, international students can make a difference in people's lives and have fun by volunteering.

Moreover, international students would have a chance to gain workplace experience and add to their resume. As you know, many experiences are helpful for students when students get a job. Most companies prefer to hire people who have many different experiences and previous work experience. By volunteer working, international students can develop their skills such as leadership skills, communication skills, practice their skills on the jobs under the supervision of trained and supportive

staff. Also, students gain practice sharing their time so that they can learn how to manage between free and work time.

At last, volunteering working is the best way to improve English skills for international students. Although, international students are not fluent English speakers, they will have many chances to practice speaking English. Though working, they can learn about not only spoken English but also about different areas of English skills. Learning different language is always the hardest, but international students can improve their English abilities while they work as volunteers.

As I mentioned there are many benefits for international students working as volunteers such as meeting many new people, gaining workplace experience, adding to their resume and improving their English skills. Therefore, a volunteer position is useful for international students. In addition, students could try to work as volunteers so that they could have fun and enjoy their life in Vancouver.

Part Time Job: Benefits for International Students

By Joanna Li

Nowadays, the percentage of the students who have a part time job is steadily rising in Canada.

However, international students can not get a job. I am an international student, I believe that there are many benefits to allowing international students to have a part-time job while they study in Canada.

First, the social aspects of allowing international students to have a part-time job are multitude. As we know, a part-time job increases personal responsibility. It would be good for international students because international students live without their parents; a part-time job gives students the opportunity to behave responsibly. Also, students acquire more developed social skills after they have a job, such as, they get along better with people from other countries or it is easier to begin life in a new city.

Next, there are economical benefits for international students who have a part-time job. Everyone knows international students that parents support. If they have

a job that they can support themselves and buy things that they want, such as, clothes and other amenities, their parents won't have to support them. So, working students exhibit increased earning power and therefore increased spending power.

Finally, there are academic advantages that working students have over non-working students. As we know, students gain work experience or practical knowledge from working. Also, those students who have a part-time job will be more confident in their ability to find a job after graduation.

In short, as we can see, there are positive results in regards to social, economic and academic aspects for allowing international students to have a part-time job. In addition, working can help international students find their identity in a new city and gives them additional support while going through this difficult time of adjustment. Therefore, international students should be allowed to have part-time jobs.

A Delicate Physique is Easy

By Winni, Wei Dong

Having a charming stature is every female's dream. They think about a lot of ways to keep their shape, such as going on a diet, exercising, eating special pills and so on. However, it is not useful. Even though the special pills can reduce their weight, it will increase when you stop taking them. I have a simple way to help someone who wants to lose weight. Did you know that eating an apple a day not only improves your looks but also removes unnecessary fat? Some people who get fat easily in the winter can lose weight by eating apples. The way of losing weight by eating apples is very simple. If you are sure that you can eat apples over three continuous days per month, you will succeed. By eating apples, it can stimulate your blood circulation, help you to get rid of the toxins from your body and is pivotal for cell growth. Although it may seem difficult, you should have more determination and stamina if you follow my method.

How to survive at BCIT

By Ann Lee

There are a few percentages of international students who go to BCIT. While attending school, BCIT prefers to have students who work hard on their studies in order to be successful. However, as international students are not fluent English speakers, they have to focus on not only their studies but also on their English skills. As we know, learning two things at the same time is difficult. I would like to suggest international students some ways for effective time management. Juggling your time with activities such as a working with classmates, having free time, study time is difficult but can be done.

First of all, International students should master English before entering a program so that they do not have to study harder than local students. Most international students get the same problems when they are studying at BCIT because of language barrier. If students go to BCIT, they will not only meet Canadians but also people from different countries. From my point of view, the best way to meet many people is joining some activities. International students would learn about the Canadian culture and they will teach other people about their own culture. As international students understand Canadian culture, Canadian students may appreciate their effort to learn their culture. In addition, as international students join some activities, their English skills will be improved.



[Http://www.sa.bcit.ca/map_1.html](http://www.sa.bcit.ca/map_1.html)

Moreover; for example, if you are an international student, you will have a workshop with your classmates. As we know, two people are better than one person for studying and learning together. There are many assignments in each courses at BCIT. It will be difficult to get things done alone. Therefore, having a workshop, study group will be helpful for students. If you have a workshop with your classmates, you could solve the difficult problems quickly and think as many general ideas as you can. Also it is the best time to get close to your classmates.

At last, there are some free

facilities for international students at BCIT such as a gym, library and so on if international students have their students' cards.

As my suggestions have shown, there are several ways to have effective time management. You could joining some activities, having a workshop with classmates and control your free time and study time. I hope that international students could use my suggestions so that they will be satisfied with studying at BCIT.

The Secondhand Shop

By Rachel Yao

There are many secondhand shops in Canada where used furniture, clothes, electrical equipment, and so on are sold. Things in a secondhand shop are quite cheap and some of them look nice. If you want to move into a new house, you can go to some secondhand shop to look for some things that you need. In my opinion, having the secondhand shop in a city has many advantages.

First, people who buy secondhand things save a lot of money. Because the secondhand shop sells used things, things are very cheap. For example, if you want

to buy a computer table, you will pay more than one hundred in a regular shop; however if you buy it in secondhand, you may pay just forty dollars. Although the item is not as good as new, it is still very useful. Especially, for international students here with limited resources, buying some secondhand furniture is a good option.

Second, things in secondhand shop that can be used again, we call it recycled. This is good for society. Some of the used things are still very good. Some families want to buy some new furniture, so they sell the

old furniture. I have been to some secondhand shops in order to buy some furniture. I found some of them look very nice, if we throw them away, we will waste their value.

From my point of view, buying some furniture in secondhand shops is a good chance to receive a good value. You not only save your money, but you also find good furniture. Remember, whatever you want to buy, value is the first thing to consider.

An Adventure Dream

By Jack Zhang

I don't dream very often, but when I do, I always have unusual dreams. As a matter of fact, I had an extraordinary dream last night.

It was a very beautiful day and I was on a ship. The sea was calm and quiet, the sky was blue and clear and the sun was warm and bright. Suddenly, the sky was covered with heavy clouds. The sun disappeared, the wind began to blow, and the sea turned to gray. It was such a fierce storm that the ship almost sank. At that moment another ship appeared from out of the dense fog. It appeared to be a pirate ship. The pirate ship had a black flag and a crew of armed pirates. The pirates jumped onto our ship and the battle began. Three pirates attacked me at once. One had a long beard, the other had a thick moustache,

and the third had a wooden leg. I had a sword in my hand and I fought bravely. All around me a violent battle raged. Soon I was wounded and lay bleeding on the deck. Then, all at once, a very beautiful girl appeared on the other end of the ship. She gave some sharp commands and all of the pirates quickly disappeared. Their ship vanished too. It seemed to have been gulped down by some unknown force. Immediately the storm stopped and the sun came out again. I was dazzled by the sparkle dancing upon the water. Just then I awoke to find myself in my own bed. The sun was shining and there was a ray of light on my face. Perhaps it was that sunbeam that changed my nightmare into a dream.

KGC's Special Restaurant

By Benjamin Lin

As a KGC student, most of you should know the famous restaurant "Golden Train Express" located on Broadway street and Cambie street. Today, I will introduce this Cambodian food restaurant to those of you who don't know about this restaurant.

Cambodia is an Asian country near China. The full name of Cambodia is Cambodia Kingdom. And Cambodia food is a little bit different from Chinese food.

This restaurant "Golden Train Express" started two years ago. In Vancouver, there are three chain stores of "Golden Train Express", in my opinion, I like the style of the Broadway store, and the price is not high.

The most popular food at the "Golden Train Express" is beef noodle. This kind of beef noodle is so delicious. The waitress told me that their boss has a special skill to cook this beef noodle, but it is a secret, so everyday they have a lot of guests. I think they are very successful in their business.

If you have free time, I suggest you go to the restaurant to try this kind of beef noodle. And the price is not expensive for you either so you get a good deal when you go to the "Golden Train Express".

A GOOD RESTAURANT FOR YOU

By Ben Wang

After a day of work and study, everyone wants to have a nice dinner. It is at that time that choosing a good restaurant is very important for you. There are three important elements you should think about when choosing a restaurant: price, quality/quantity and service.

When people choose a restaurant, most will consider price first. I have lived in Vancouver for about one year. The cheapest option is pizza, each piece costs about \$1.50 at a walk-in pizza shop. Comparatively, food from other countries is expensive. Chinese food is the most expensive food, I guess that some Canadians really enjoy Chinese food so the owners have increased the cost of the food. I have tried many kinds of food here while in Vancouver. In my opinion, Chinese food is expensive but it tastes so good. If you have a lot of money you can choose Chinese food anytime you want to.

The second important point for choosing a restaurant is the quality and quantity of a meal. A good restaurant should have special food in order to attract customers, or the restaurant should have a large variety of different foods. I think Chinese food not only tastes good but also has a large variety of different kinds of foods. As well, a restaurant's location is very important, a good restaurant should be located in the center of a city or in an area where many people gather. This will let people get to the restaurant easily.

The last important point to consider when choosing a restaurant is service. Good service can make a customer happy and they may come back for dinner in the future. I think service includes many areas, for example, the speediness of serving your meal to you, warmhearted service for you, and a smile. Another idea includes allowing smokers sometimes to smoke in a restaurant and other periods of

time where the restaurant is non-smoking. I think that if some restaurants change their no smoking policy, I will choose it first.

In conclusion, if you want to have a good dinner, choosing a good restaurant is the first step. If you take some points from me and consider the price, quality/quantity and service of a restaurant, I think that you will find the tips helpful for you and you will have an enjoyable experience.

