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KESTER GRANT COLLEGE NEWSLETTER



We put together KGC's first newsletter as the result of an EPP6, class project. The students involved (Owen, Dean and Sam) wrote the articles and did all the photography work. "We hope that the newsletter will be informative as well as interesting for its readers." "This first issue was a lot of work to put together and we would like to thank teacher Jerry, who provided guidance for the project and Stanley who used his technological magic to assist in the design and layout. Finally we want to thank all the students, staff and teachers who became a part of the newsletter."

"We look forward to hearing from you with ideas for our next issue!"

Training today for tomorrow's technology!

Solutions for students

Owen (KGC newsletter writer) interviewed Kester Grant College Managing Director Ms. Donna Hooker. This article contains useful student information.

Q: Students would like to ask you some questions related to their studies. What's the best way for students to meet with you?

A: If students want to talk with me personally, they can come to the front desk and make appointments to see me or Divna. We have already made arrangements with BCIT's international student centre for Harb Johal to come to KGC every second Friday of the month. If students have questions, they can make appointments with Harb at KGC's front desk.

Q: If some students pass BCIT's test, but still have another month before going to their next term, what are they going to do during that time?

A: This is a difficult question to answer because there are so many factors including, what level the student is at, how well they are doing at that level and what program they will go into at BCIT. At the end of each session there is a marks review meeting. At this meeting we discuss every student's situation to make sure we are moving them to BCIT at the earliest possible date without jeopardizing their success. In some cases EPP students must continue

EPP level 6 even after meeting the minimum entrance requirements for BCIT. This is done ensure our students are meeting their Student Authorization requirements. Students should see this as an opportunity to continue to improve their English skills. Remember, being ready for BCIT is just the beginning.... Student still have lots to learn about English.

Q: Why does our school change teachers so often?

A: Our goal is to find the best teachers and keep them. We don't want to hire teachers who don't have ability to teach students.

Q: What are the school's plans for the future?

A: "Wow"! I think we will give students some surprises during the next two months. We are going to add 3 classrooms and change our lunch-room. Maybe we will introduce other programs to prepare students for different careers. Also, we'll increase our traditional ESL courses.

Q: Will our school offer some new programs in the future?

A: We are going to offer English courses for computing. Our real goals are to prepare students who are going to study computers at BCIT. That was why we upgraded our computer lab with high speed internet, and more additional software programs for students to use.



Donna Hooker,
Managing Director

Q: How can we stop students from speaking their own languages during school. I know that's a tough question.

A: "Haha"! That's really a hard challenge. I hope some students will have leadership skills to encourage other students to speak English. Maybe we can offer a room for students to speak their own languages, but I hope all the students will speak English in the common areas. It's really important, so important!

Owen: Thank you very much for answering these questions.

Donna: It was a pleasure to talk with you. I am always here to answer students' questions.

By Owen



Would you be proud of this lunch room?

Would you be proud of this lunch room?

Nowadays, many people want to show their personality types in different ways. In my view, people who put their garbage on the table are **artistic types**. Maybe you'll ask me what this means? The answer is clear. This type of person always likes to express himself or herself by **creating art**. In fact, that is not the best way to show how artistic you are.

By Owen

Everyone at KGC, let's keep our lunch room clean!

Happy New Year

Probably this is the first time for most KGC students to celebrate the lunar New Year in Vancouver. Students here celebrated New Year, but in different ways than in their own country. They did not eat a traditional dinner with their family but had dinner with their friends instead. It also was a new experience for some students. They know friends here are important and they learned how to build good relationships. They ate traditional food such as rice cake, rice balls and dumplings. They really enjoyed the celebration because they had one extra free day off school. All the KGC staff and teachers said "Happy New Year!" to all the students. They hope the students in the new year will enjoy their life in Vancouver and do well in their courses.

Written by Dean



A conversation with the teacher of the month

A summary of an interview between Sam (KGC newsletter writer) and Vesna, teacher of the month for December.

Sam: "Hi, Vesna. I'm really happy to be able to interview you."

Vesna: "Hi, Sam. Thanks."

Sam: "First of all, I want to say congratulations on the winning teacher of the month award for December."

Vesna: "Thanks, Sam."

Sam: "Let me ask you some questions. First, why did you want to be an English teacher?"

Vesna: "I really don't know why? Maybe I'm a snake. I mean in the Chinese horoscope. A snake is happy if a snake is a teacher. Just kidding, when I was in elementary school, I started studying English as a foreign language. I just fell in love with English and I thought I wanted to be an English teacher."

Sam: "You came here 6 years ago, right, so how long have you taught English?"

Vesna: "Well, in Yugoslavia, I taught English for 5 years, then, I wanted to teach English in Canada, too. I've worked full-time for 3 years in Canada, and I worked as a substitute teacher for 5 years."

Sam: "Could you describe your

teaching style?"

Vesna: "Yes, I don't want students just to pretend to listen to me. I want them to do something to show me they understand and listen. The basic thing is involving students, and they will learn. If you listen, you'll forget. If you see, you'll remember a little bit. But if you do something, you will remember."

Sam: "Next question, what is the most important thing to teach students at KGC?"

Vesna: "While students are studying EPP, it's important for them to learn some skills, ask questions, and get some knowledge to learn things that they'll need later when they go to BCIT. Everything they study here they'll need when they go to BCIT. That's why they are here. That's why they'll be the best when they go there. We are teaching them things that are giving them the knowledge and the skills they'll need when they study at BCIT."

Sam: "What are the three qualities to be a good EPP teacher?"

Vesna: "That's a difficult one. I didn't study how to teach EPP when I went to VCC. EPP teachers should find a way of making topics interesting for students, and EPP teachers should be flexible."

Sam: "Flexible, what do you mean?"

Vesna: "There are so many things we have to teach in one month. Therefore this program is very intensive. Good EPP teachers have to choose what is important, and prepare students to pass quizzes to get to know the main points."

Sam: "This is the final question. What is the biggest challenge with teaching EPP?"

Vesna: "That's an excellent question. The Biggest challenge for me is to prepare interesting lessons and to teach as much as I can in the time. Also provided for the students to benefit from my class makes it a challenge for me to choose what to teach and what not to teach."

Written by EPP6 students, Sam.



Knowledge Learning

Do you know how to use a clause such as “oh, that's too bad”. Read this story, then you will know.

One day, a man who came from Germany who had only been here

for one month was drinking coffee and talking with a woman in a café. They were talking about something.

When the woman said that her husband died two week ago.

The German guy said to her: “oh, that's too bad.”

Suddenly, the woman stood up

and slapped his face, then she swore at him and left. The man was so surprised and he didn't realize that he had said anything wrong. Two days later, he told his

friend Jim about his encounter, then Jim told him: “oh, man! You said the wrong things in that situation.”

In Germany, if you used that sentence, it would have been OK. But here you shouldn't use that expression in that situation, because it meant that you didn't care about her feelings. You should say: “I'm sorry to hear that.” That's why she slapped your face.

You could use “that's too bad” in some situations such as

these: if someone missed their bus or forgot to bring their homework to school, these cases are not so important, and you can use “that's too bad!”



Think before you speak

By Owen

STUDENT OF YEAR AWARD



Congratulations Yuki

Yuki is KGC's 2001 student of the Year. She went to KGC EPP 1 in September. She just took four months to go through all four levels of EPP then directly went to BCIT. Her motivation and hard work really paid off!

By Dean

Keep up the good work!



Congratulations AVA CUI - KGC'S student of the month



EPP is a quite different course than ESL but all the students in KGC worked really hard. Especially Ava, the EPP 4 student who got the student of the month award. She came from China, Chang Chun. This is the first time she came to Canada. Ava came here to study because she likes learning. She said that Canadians are kind and friendly but she also complained that there is a lot of rain here. She likes listening to music and going shopping. Her home stay situation is quite good and she feels comfortable with it. When she goes back home, she finishes her homework first then watches TV, reads books, talks on the phone also everyday she tries to learn some new vocabulary. Here is a little tip on how she improves her English. She said she tries to speak and listen a lot and the best way to practice listening and speaking skills are to go to church.

By Dean

Just Ask Joe

By Sam and Dean

Some of you may not be aware of the fact that we have a valuable information resource right here at KGC.

Have you ever had problems about things like where to go to have fun with your girlfriend? Do you know where the best restaurants are in Vancouver? Do you have any ideas about what you should do on the weekends? Are you sometimes at a loss for ideas about what you can do in your free time?

Don't worry! We have a KGC secret resource. His name is Joe! He is a current EPP 4 student who came from China; Guang Zhou.

He arrived in Toronto in 2001 and came to Vancouver one year ago. SO if you are still worried about your plans, forget about it!! JUST ASK JOE!!!



Joe

Joe's Top 5

Q: How can I get around easily in Vancouver?

A: You can read city maps, check travel brochures and read international newspapers

Q: Which restaurant has the cheapest prices for KGC students?

A: There are some restaurants on Kings way, Han's and San Po Xian.

Q: What is the most enjoyable activity in Vancouver?

A: Go to North Vancouver to catch crab and have a BBQ.

Q: What is the best place for a week long vacation?

A: Go skiing, snowboarding in Whistler

Q: Where is the reasonable furniture shop?

A: There are a couple of shops along to the Kingsway Street.

If you want know specific information, JUST ASK JOE!



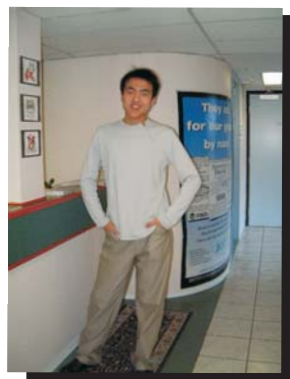
Most KGC students might not know the history of St. Valentine's Day. Let me tell you the story. Every February 14th, people start to think about love. Candy, flowers, cards, and gifts are exchanged between boyfriends and girlfriends. St. Valentine's Day reminds us to tell our lovers how much we love each other. But have you ever thought about the history of Valentine's Day? Do you know why February 14th is called St. Valentine's Day?

Today, the Catholic Church recognizes that there was a saint named Valentine. One legend tells that Valentine was a priest during the third century in Rome. An Emperor believed that single men became much better soldiers than soldiers with families. Valentine totally disagreed with the idea and he decided to invite young lovers to come to him in secret to be married. After the Emperor found out that he performed secret marriage ceremonies, he was sent to prison.

While he was in the prison, it is believed that he fell in love with a young girl who may have been his jailor's daughter. She would sometimes visit his room until the time he died. It is said that he continually sent her love letters. His appeal for love was sympathetic, romantic, and passionate. That's why St. Valentine's Day is associated with love.

We did a survey so that students could choose the most popular boy and girl at KGC. Female students elected the most popular boy at KGC. He is an EPP3 student named Geoffery. On the other hand, Male students elected the most popular girl at KGC an EPP2 student named Christina. Congratulations Geoffery and Christina for being the most popular boy and girl at KGC!

Written by EPP 6 student, Sam



Geoffery



Christina

Humor

And

Fun



Everyone realizes that “I don't know” is a baby sentence. What about “**Me don't know**”. Well, that sentence was recently used by a “critical thinker”. Can you guess why? Let me explain:

My friend knew a guy called “Peter”(not his real name) who had been in Vancouver for one year. Last month, he got in a little bit of trouble, but he used a creative way to get out of it. He had bought the

wrong bus-pass, and it was impossible for him exchange it for the correct one. When he got on the bus, the bus driver saw that he had the wrong bus-pass and asked him: “why did you buy this one”. Peter, who can speak English quite well, answered “**Me don't know**”. The bus driver asked him: “can you repeat that again?” Peter answered again louder: “**Me don't know**”. The bus driver thought that Peter couldn't

understand him. The bus driver became frustrated and told him to get on the bus. After sitting down on the bus, Peter smiled at his friend and said: “**Me know**”.

This story is not intended to show students how to cheat the public transit system, but rather to show them how important it is for students to plan their budget before they come to Canada to study.

By Owen

Message from the Academic Director



Dear Students,

Apart from our regular ESL classes, KGC introduced an English for Polytechnic Preparation Program (EPP) in September 2001. We are very pleased with the results you've accomplished so far.

I would like to congratulate all of you for your good work and positive attitude towards learning. Remember, learning a second language always takes time, and one has to study really hard!

Keep up the good work!

Divna Stakic
Academic Director



Donna, thanks the necklaces are great, but Next time take us on the cruise with you!

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