



**KGC Newsletter**  
**Issue 9, November 2002**



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Any comments or ideas, please email  
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**KGC Newsletter team:**

**“KGC Open House”- On November 27, 2002 !!!**

By Tony & Pei

**N**ovember 27 will be KGC's Open House! “KGC's Open House” is a special day when KGC welcomes guests to visit and observe our facilities and environment. In fact, this is the first time that KGC is having this type of event, and at the same time, we are also going to celebrate the anniversary of the EPP program! On November 27, KGC will welcome students, parents, managers of colleges, agents and members of the media to visit our school. Guests can sit in on the classes and experience the EPP course in action. They will be able to observe what teachers teach and how students study in an EPP environment.. This is the first time that guests can observe the classes while classes are in progress. KGC hopes to build many new good relationships with different colleges and that many new students will learn about opportunities here.

**See You There !**

***Let's celebrate Christmas together!***

By Karen

**J**ust as spring festival is the most important holiday in China, Christmas is the most festive holiday in the Christian world. People have different ways of celebrating Christmas. They not only enjoy themselves with their family members but also give something to the poor in order to share their love. After celebrating Christmas, churches offer Christmas' donations to the poor. This is part of the spirit of Christmas.

**Do you know how people in Vancouver celebrate Christmas?**

Let me tell you: In Vancouver before Christmas comes, a lot of people like to send Christmas cards to their friends in order to say Merry Christmas. Although Vancouver doesn't have a lot of snow in December, children still hope it will snow because then they can enjoy playing outdoors and making snowmen. A lot of families decorate their houses and their Christmas trees. Also, a lot of stores sell new products in order to attract customers. On Christmas Eve, family members have a Christmas dinner, and children anxiously wait for Santa Claus to come; some people like to go to church and sing carols; some families attend Christmas Eve church services if they're religious. During the Christmas holidays, some people like to go to the beaches or parks in order to watch the Carol Ships, which are a procession of boats and ships with Christmas lights, playing Christmas music and sailing around the city.

**Do you believe Santa Claus exists?**

I think a lot of children believe Santa Claus exists because they hope to get gifts from Santa Claus, and Santa Claus always knows what they need. I remember when I was young, every Christmas I could get a lot of gifts, so I believed Santa Claus existed. I guessed that at midnight on Christmas eve, Santa Claus, who wore a red suit climbed down the chimney, put some presents in my Christmas stocking and then left. Nowadays, I also believe Santa Claus exists because I still want to receive his gifts on Christmas Eve.

**How are you going to celebrate Christmas?**

Nowadays, we are studying at KGC as international students. Although we come from different countries and don't know each other, we could celebrate Christmas together in Vancouver. It would be a new experience for most KGC students. Let's enjoy ourselves together during the Christmas holidays.

***MERRY CHRISTMAS!***



**W**hy not let your computer help you to get high marks and save money! Getting higher marks and saving money is important for every International student. There are three good computer tools that can help us to do all the things that we need. Not only can these tools help us to get higher marks, but they are already in our computers!

## The First Tool

Do you know how to produce good TV reports and oral presentations? If we can do our TV reports or presentations well, we will get higher marks. Microsoft Word is the best tool for our outlines, TV reports, and presentations. It not only can help us to do our reports but also can check our grammar and vocabulary.

An outline is the most important step for our reports or presentations. Microsoft Outline view can help us to do the outline well. It uses different levels of headings to represent different ideas. Using Outline view in Word can help teachers or students easily see the structure of their reports. To use Outline view, click on the view menu in Word and then choose Outline, and click Outline. If we want to return to the normal view, we can click the view menu in Word and then choose Normal.

When we finish our outline, the next step is writing our reports, which usually affects our marks. When we do our reports in Word, we might find some red underlines and green underlines show up. The red and green underlines indicate that our vocabulary spelling errors or grammar problems. If we want to do our reports very well, we have to correct our vocabulary and grammar mistakes. When we use Word to help us to do reports, we can use "spelling and grammar tools" to help us to check our vocabulary and grammar. To run the spelling and grammar checker automatically, we can click Tools menu in Word. On the Options, choose the "Spelling and Grammar" tab. The next step is selecting the "Check spelling as you type" and "Check grammar as you type". When we finish these steps, Word will help us to check our vocabulary and grammar.

## The Second Tool

Managing our money is very important for International students. Does everyone know how to save money? Some people might say that they can buy something cheaper. In fact, this is not effective to save money, and the effect of saving money is to record money in books. Fortunately, we can use our computer to help us to save money. We can use Microsoft Excel to help us to save our money. If we can use Excel very well, we can write a program in Excel to help us to

save money; however, if we cannot write programs, we also can download a budget program form Microsoft website (<http://officeupdate.microsoft.com/TemplateGallery/redir.asp?TID=1136>), and click the "Edit in Microsoft Excel". This program executes in Excel. We just enter money and expenditure to this program, and it will count how much money we have and expenditure.

## The Third Tool

Now that we know how to use Word to help us to do good reports, the next step is finding information. The Internet is the best

The image shows a spreadsheet titled 'Personal Budget' with columns for months (Jan to Sept) and rows for various budget categories. The categories are grouped into Income, Expenses, Home, Daily living, and Transportation. Each cell contains numerical values representing budget amounts.

http://www.microsoft.com

place that we can find a lot of information. We can use some search engines to help us to find the information that we need. "Google" (<http://www.google.com/>) is the best search

engine in the Internet. There are some tips can help everyone to find information quickly.

"+" Searches - We can use "+" to join our phrases, such as KGC+language school.  
 "-" Searches We can use "-" to exclude our phrases, such as KGC-language school.  
 "OR" Searches We can use capital "OR" to include either phrase A or phrase B, such as KGC OR language school.

If you use "Google" to find some information, you might find some interesting things. If you find information that is more than one page, you will find that the middle of "Google" becomes longer. In addition, on Google's homepage, you might discover things different from other websites. Because November 11 is Canada's "Remembrance Day", the website of Google (<http://www.google.ca>) is different from before. In this website, you will find a poppy in the homepage of Google Canada.

In summary, these computer tools can help us to do our reports well. In fact, computer tools, such as Word, Excel, and Internet Explorer are already in our computers. If we can use these tools well, and add to our ideas, we will get higher marks and save a lot of money. Actually, Getting High Marks and Saving Money can be a piece of cake.

## Say what you mean - Mean what you say!

By MingMing

I would like to tell you two funny stories about learning a foreign language. After reading them, I hope you can figure out what the implied meanings of the stories are.

### A Clever Interpreter

A university invited a famous writer who was visiting Japan, and he was going to give a lecture for a large group of students. As most of the students could not understand spoken English, he had to have an interpreter.

During his lecture, he told a funny story which went on for a rather long time. At last, he stopped to allow the interpreter to translate it into Japanese. He was very surprised, because the interpreter translated it in a few seconds and all the students laughed loudly.

After the lecture, the writer thanked the interpreter for his good work and then he said to the interpreter, "Now please tell me how you translated that long story into such a short one."

"I didn't tell the story at all," the interpreter answered with a smile. "I just said, "The

honorable lecturer told a funny story. You should all laugh, please."

### Two Foreign Travelers

Two Americans were traveling in Spain. One morning, they went into a little restaurant for lunch. They did not know Spanish, and the waiter did not know English. They wanted the waiter to understand that they wanted some milk and sandwiches.

At first, they pronounced the word "milk" many times. Then they spelled it. But the waiter could not understand them.

At last, one of them took a piece of paper and began to draw a cow. When the waiter looked at the picture, he ran out of the restaurant. "Do you see," said one of the travelers, "how useful a pencil is in a foreign country?"

The waiter was back again in a few minutes, but he didn't bring any milk. Instead, he gave the two bullfight tickets to the travelers.

I believe these stories show us that learning a foreign language has become more necessary and useful for people living and working abroad.

## A Cruel Game: Battle Royale



In 2001, Kinji Fuukasaku, who is a 70-year-old amiable director, brought us a movie named Battle Royale. Although this movie has a lot of violence, and the Japanese government had to restrict adolescents from watching this movie, personally, I thought this fantastic story was really worth reviewing.

The story of Battle Royale tells us about an Asian country that falls into a depression, and millions of people lose their jobs. School violence is out of control, and Students even attack teachers. Consequently, the government has to formulate cruel laws that create a system where the government randomly chooses a class of students from each school every year, and the students in this class must go to an island and kill each other until only one is left.

Director Fuukasaku attempts to express the importance of trust. At the beginning of the story, the students who join this cruel game appear united, because they have studied together for three years, and some of them have become good friends. However, when the game begins and two strange and dangerous students take part in the game, the trust is broken. Since some students expect to survive, they begin to murder each other. Others choose to kill themselves because they cannot trust each other. However, the power of only one person is limited and is not enough to allow a person to survive. Even if he or she can murder several people, a person who is stronger will kill him or her eventually. Consequently, all students who cannot trust each other are killed at the end of the story. For instance, a group of girls who stay at a lighthouse trust each other at the beginning, and even attempt to escape off this island. However, when one of these girls is poisoned, the trust crumbles. These girls who look graceful and beautiful become insane and cruel. Within only five minutes, all these girls are killed. Throughout this cruel story, the



(Pictures from: <http://www.battleroyalethemovie.com>)

director criticizes adolescents for their selfish behaviour and dishonesty..

Fuukasaku also criticizes Japanese education system. Because of the economic depression, thousands of parents are unemployed, so they have to pay more attention to finding jobs rather than on how to educate their children. On the other hand, adolescents think that society ignores them, and their parents don't care for them. So some of them suffer from autism, and some of them become violent and selfish. However, schools also ignore the students' situation, and they only focus on how to allow students to enter universities rather than on how to live in the competitive society. Consequently, the students become more violent and cruel, and they even attack teachers. Some students consider that they are better and smarter than their teachers, and they even refuse to attend to school. Fuukasaku hopes that they must learn to respect their parents and teachers, or they will be forsaken.

Acknowledgment by Quentin Tarantino and John Woo who are famous directors is a key influence on the style of the movies. Fuukasaku decided to shoot a movie for adolescents, so Battle Roayle was generated. Although this movie is violent, personally, I think that Battle Royale is still a great movie.

## Memorial Day

By Haley Yanfei Xie

Recently, I found many people are wearing small red flowers on their coats. Why are these people wearing flowers? My teacher Jerry told me something about them. November 11th is Memorial Day, and that small red flower is called a poppy. It is a symbol used to commemorate the soldiers who died in the war. Let me tell you a short story about Memorial Day and the poppy. During the First World War and the Second World War, Lots of Canadian soldiers joined the war; unfortunately, A lot of Canadian soldiers died in these wars, and many of them died in a place that had a lot of red poppies. This is a sad story, so most Canadians wear a poppy on November 11 to commemorate the people who died in the war. People can get a poppy anywhere; you just put some money in a donation box, and you can get a poppy. In my view, that small poppy is not only to commemorate the soldiers, but it also means we need more peace in the world. The government of Canada collects the money and distributes it to soldiers' dependents. Therefore, from my point of view, this is a benefit for society. Today we have a safe environment, we can walk on the street freely, and we can sit in our living rooms freely. Because millions of soldiers gave their life and provided a free life for us, We should treasure our happiness, peace and safe environment.

# “CHECK OUT! INFORMATION IN YOUR HAND!”

Nowadays, many people come to English speaking countries to learn English and to study. I have been here about two months. During these two months, I have used the Internet to search for useful information. I think international students should surf these 10 web sites in order to get higher marks. After all, who would not like to have great marks!



One great web site is KGC's web site - <http://www.kgc.bc.ca/>. It provides a lot of great information for international student. For example, if you don't know where to live, you can find a homestay service on this web site, and you also can find some other information that is helpful for students to improve their English ability . For example, our newsletter which was easy to read was written by KGC's students, and they wrote many interesting things designed to assist students.

Another useful web site is BCIT's web site - <http://www.bcit.ca/>.



Most students who study English at KGC are planning to study at BCIT and have a BCIT's student card, so students can surf this web site to find useful information. You can find many details about programs, news and information sources. For example, if you have many assignments, you can surf BCIT's library web site to find information.



Canada immigration's web site also provides information for international students - <http://www.cic.gc.ca/> or <http://www.can-am.gc.ca/seattle>. All international students had to apply for a student permit and visa in order to study here, so when the date of their immigration documents is going to expire, students can download the application form and detail policy and can use email to contact people who work for immigration.

I think students will benefit from



information on the Canadian government web site - <http://canadainternational.gc.ca/>. This web site was designed for non-Canadians to surf. If you just came here, and don't know about Canada, you could surf this web site because it provides much information, such as information on student permit and student visa application forms, the weather, maps and a currency converter.



Students use search engine like yahoo Canada's web site - <http://www.yahoo.ca/>. Each country has a yahoo web site in its language, but I think international students should use the English web site instead because they are here to learn English. When you use the yahoo Canada web site, it also can help you to find a lot of information and improve your English skills.



Another useful web site is google Canada's web site - <http://www.google.ca/>. I think this is the most useful web site that I have used. You can search many kinds of information, such as other web sites, images, groups, directories and news. Students can use key words to search, and google will find many web sites that relate to their key words.



In addition, news web site is also useful - <http://www.cnn.com/>. Why do I think this web site is useful? Because most students rely on computers and the internet more than newspapers now, so I think students could read news on the internet in order to build their vocabulary and improve their

reading skill.



The transportation web site is good for international students - <http://www.translink.bc.ca/> because their main transportation is the skytrains and buses. A lot of students use them to get to school. In this web site, you can see the routes of local skytrains and buses. When I came here, I didn't know how to get to KGC, so I found the map on this web site and chose the best way to school.



If you need information about business, check out business web site - <http://www.businessweek.com/>. A lot of students are planning to study BMS at BCIT, so I think this web site could help them to find useful information. This web site will have the newest event or information, so students can use this useful information to finish their assignments.

The last web site that I would like to recommend is a computer web site - <http://www.computerworld.com/>. Many students are planning to study CST at BCIT. I think this web site could help them, because technology is changing all the time. Then, students can easily find a lot of beneficial new technical information on this web site.



Although there are thousands of web sites that are useful, I think these 10 web sites are the most useful for international students when they live in Canada because these web sites can help students to find information and improve their skills.

# Oriental handcraft art

By Gary



About 2000 years ago, people would put snuff into beautifully painted bottles, but over time, the use of snuff became unpopular. After that time, a lot of people started to draw pictures inside the bottles, and the bottles were painted and used as artwork. Nowadays, drawing inside porcelain bottles has become an important part of Chinese culture.

Inside-drawing usually consists of two materials: glass and crystal. The painter draws the picture inside the bottle using wood, willows and brushes. The painting will appear on the front inside part of the bottles. The painter sketches out lines thinner than hairs. The inside drawing artist draws the pictures with a kind of special thin-brush. Artists can draw the pictures inside the bottle wall through the Small mouth. Inside drawing art is now viewed as a very special art throughout the world.

The art on the bottles includes: flowers, birds, insects, fish, human beings, landscapes etc. The pictures look like they are painted on the outside, but they actually were painted inside the bottles.

If you want to buy inside drawing snuff



bottles, you can go to a Chinese shop at Metrotown. The name of the shop is Oriental Touch. The price of a snuff bottle is \$20--\$50, and the cost of a whole set of snuff bottles is \$200--\$300. As we know, inside drawing is the epitome of a splendid culture and the pride of our Chinese nation. From this art, we can see and learn about a very simple but colorful world. Personally, I have seen these beautiful bottles, and I believe they would make great gifts for any occasion.



([Http://www.cnsnuffbottle.com](http://www.cnsnuffbottle.com))

Sources from <http://www.ay-snuffbottleclub.com/>

## Deep Cove - Best choice for photography lovers

By Haley Yanfei Xie

I am the kind of person who likes photography because photography is my pleasure. I usually go to downtown Vancouver, UBC and North Vancouver to take pictures. I have been to UBC campus many times. Putting some good feeling in my picture is my dream, but I always fail. Last month, my roommate gave me a good suggestion. He said "you should go to Deep Cove, and maybe you'll have a good time there."

Because I never heard of Deep Cove before, I did not know where it was. My roommate showed me a map, and he also told me how I could get there. Going to Deep Cove sounded like a good idea, so I went there last month with my friend Ryan. Deep Cove is located in North Vancouver BC. It is a waterfront place located where the sea surrounds the Seymour Mountain range. It is a really special place.

When I arrived at Deep Cove, I saw a lot of boats docked in the port, and they were very enchanting. We arrived there around 2:30. At that time, the sunshine was quite strong and made the water's surface gold in color. The water's surface is always very quite because there are no large waves. I think the water's surface is really like a big mirror, and the mountain range is the mirror's frame. I could see the stones under the water because the water was clear and clean. Some people rent kayaks. Even though I have never tried to kayak, I think it must be interesting. Maybe next time I will try to it. Everything was very quiet; no wind, no waves, and not too many people, I could feel my breath and enjoy the fresh air. My heart was like a leaf; flying in the sky. Nature's feeling makes me feel very cozy. Deep Cove is a small place that is surrounded by pine trees, and it is very



beautiful. There are some small shops on Deep Cove Avenue, I like Deep Cove ice cream shop's food. I ate some special flavor pies, cakes and ice creams. Finally, I found some special pictures on the avenue, such as pictures of people's footprints and animal's footprints. They were very cute. I also took a lot of pictures of scenery at Deep Cove. I want to suggest that students go to Deep Cove for a visit because this place will give them nice memories