

Oct 2010

The Official Newsletter of LINC Home Study

NEWSLINC



LINC Home Study

LINC Home Study is an English language program for newcomers to Canada who wish to improve their listening, speaking, reading and writing skills. This program provides students with the opportunity to learn English in the comfort of their homes and is open to immigrants who have permanent resident status and convention refugees 18 years or older.

Classes are taught by certified TESL instructors, who contact students every week to review homework, practice speaking and answer questions. Students have a choice of using their computer to study English or having a traditional textbook. All the study materials are based on the Canadian Language Benchmarks standards.

How much does the program cost? Nothing. The program is funded by Citizenship and Immigration Canada, and as such, all study materials are provided free of charge to participants. LINC Home Study students are encouraged to study independently for between 5 to 10 hours a week, and to finish homework on a regular basis. To be successful students have to study hard, and commit their time to improving their English skills. The teacher is there to guide students along on their path to significant language improvement.

The LINC Home Study program offers many other study options, including **drop-in conversation classes**, **additional phone conversation classes**, **curriculum for seniors and women** and instruction for **deaf and blind** clients.

We encourage all LINC Home Study students to take advantage of the options available to them, to participate in the online LINC Home Study **forum**, to contribute to our monthly newsletters, and to their journey in learning English.

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Welcome to the October issue of the LINC Home Study newsletter.

Our feature article focuses on the seasonal celebration of Thanksgiving.

As usual, we have some great submissions from students in the program, including a couple of fantastic recipes to tickle your taste buds.

We would like to say thank you to all those who submitted articles in September. Please continue to send us your articles, feedback and comments every month. Readers whose comments on the featured articles are published in future newsletters may be awarded a prize!

Enjoy!

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Program Updates

Program Activity: The number of seats in the LINC Home Study program for 2010-2011 is 1250. The program currently has 1,125 students enrolled, with space available for 125 more students.

Drop-in Conversation Sessions: The LINC Home Study Drop-in Conversation sessions that is currently offered to LINC Home Study students as a two-hour session on Saturdays will end at the end of October and may resume in the Spring of 2011.

Additional Conversation Classes (by phone):

Classes resumed September 13th and will continue through to November 7th. Students who were previously enrolled in the program can re-enroll.

Additional conversation classes are offered as 8 week sessions to interested students in the LINC Home Study program. Students are encouraged to speak with their teachers if they are interested in participating in these sessions.

LHS I Seniors & LHS I Women:

These Discussion Groups are delivered in partnership with NIC at their locations in Malton and Oakville.

LINC Seniors: Oakville - Tuesdays 10:00 a.m.

Malton - Wednesdays 10:00 a.m.

LINC Women: Malton - Wednesdays 12:30 – 2:30 p.m.

Oakville - Saturdays 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

LHS I Canada:

This program (*formerly National Delivery*), spans the country from the Atlantic Provinces (NB, NS, PE and NL) to the western regions (AB and SK) of Canada. Under the capable supervision of the 10 LHS Canada TESL-certified teachers, 194 newcomers across the country are developing their English skills in listening, speaking, reading and writing from their homes.

For more information on any of these programs, please email the LINC Home Study office at help@linchomestudy.ca or LINCNDhelp@linchomestudy.ca OR visit the website:

<http://www.tcet.com/linchomestudy/>

Feature Article

DINNER FOR A PRINCE

by Martin C.

The last couple of weekends I have been working at my new job, which is in the kitchen at Lakefield College School. It has been a strange but great experience, because I am just making Saturday dinner and Sunday brunch. Maybe it doesn't sound like an interesting thing, but the catch is that there are 360 students plus 100 staff members at the school, and all of them are allowed to come to the dining hall.

Also, last Saturday the dinner was a special event because the entire former student body was invited to come to visit the school. I was asked to do a special menu, which was pork tenderloin stuffed with an apple stuffing and glazed with a cranberry sauce, and breaded tilapia with a mango salsa. I was happy to do it, but the interesting part was when the manager just took off and never gave me any kind of recipes to work with. I did the best I could and the dinner was served on time.

At the end of the dinner, I was working on my cleaning duties when a guy in a very expensive suit came to me and told me, "The Prince said the dinner was great."

I didn't even care to ask who he was talking about. The next morning someone asked me if I was proud of being able to cook for the Prince. When I asked who they were talking about, I finally I discovered that the Prince was Prince Felipe of Spain. I was shocked that no one ever told me he was going to be here, so it was a very strange surprise!

***Peterborough Region –Martin C. is a Level 7 student.
His teacher is Lesley H.***



Staff Reflections

FAMILY REUNION by Edgar D.

A family reunion is a much anticipated and joyous occasion. Having come to Canada over 10 years ago, I was looking forward to my first visit back to India. It was an exciting time planning for the trip. I realized that I had not seen some of my relatives for close to 20 years! For me, it would be like meeting many of them for the first time. I did not know what to expect but I imagined many fun situations, conversations and memories.

The journey was a long one which took almost an entire day. The flight was comfortable but I was glad to be off the plane once we landed at the airport. The weather in Mumbai was very hot and humid. The city was experiencing the tail end of the monsoon season and there were periodic bouts of heavy rain showers.

The first day was a blur as I succumbed to the effects of jet lag as well as the excitement of the family introductions. I saw many changed faces as a lot of my younger cousins were now grown teenagers or adults. We shared many stories and memories of when we had last seen each other.

The main reason for the reunion was my grandmother's 80th birthday. Everyone came together to plan a great surprise for her. First, we held a small family dinner at a nice seafood restaurant. Everyone was in a happy celebratory mood as we ate the meal. Family had come from many different countries and it was nice to have everyone at the same table after such a long time.

The next day, we organized a huge party at a hotel. People that had known my grandmother over the course of her entire life attended. There were a lot of laughs and fun party games. My cousin had created a custom cake in the shape of a sewing machine. This was something that fit my grandmother perfectly because sewing was her favourite pastime. Everyone enjoyed tasty food and the night ended with a hearty dance session.

The rest of my vacation was spent visiting various family members' homes and relaxing. I visited my aunt and her family for a week. I explored the city and took in the many quirky sights and sounds. In the evenings, we would go out to different restaurants to enjoy different cuisines.

When the time came to return to Canada, I was sad but also looked forward to returning to more familiar territory. The flight back was a quiet one. I spent much of the time reflecting on the vacation and what memories I would carry with me. As I look through the many pictures that were taken, I relive the events, and smile. I look forward to my next visit, which I hope will happen much sooner than later.



Edgar D. is a Graphic Illustrator with LINC Home Study program.

This year's 35th edition of the Toronto International Film Festival was the opportunity for the festival to open its new headquarters at Bell Lightbox, the unique multi-media centre with 5 cinemas, cinematheque, film library and lots of exhibition space that will be showing films almost 365 days a year.

However, this year's edition was not only about new beginnings and looking to the future. Many filmmakers from around the world also looked at events from the past and allowed audiences to see history with new eyes.

Out of many films that dealt with past and its consequences, two fascinating documentary films from two veteran filmmakers had the biggest impact on me in different ways. Famous German director Werner Herzog can always be trusted to add some degree of existential angst to any film he makes. In *Cave of Forgotten Dreams*, he travels back to the beginnings of time when he visits the famous Chauvet-Pont-d'Arc caves in France. Discovered in 1994, they contain the oldest and best kept cave paintings in the world, with some dating back to over 30,000 years ago. The Caves are completely closed for the public in order to protect the precious paintings, and scientists are allowed in for research for only a few months every year. Herzog is the only filmmaker who got the permission to shoot inside the caves with special equipment using cold lights, as any heat would damage the paintings. He does not only provide the whole world with a view to this fascinating place, he also does it in 3D! It all functions perfectly, as rocks and paintings in the cave almost come alive, and it does seem at moments as we have indeed travelled back in time. Herzog also offers many of his typical dry and witty comments on humankind and its history through his voiceover and interviews with scientists and archaeologists. *Cave of Forgotten Dreams* is a visual masterpiece, but it also invites viewer to some serious thinking after the film.

The same happens in Patricio Guzman's excellent *Nostalgia for the Light*. Chile's Atacama Desert is the driest place in the world, and as such, exceptionally well suited to look into space and research stars. It contains the world's largest and most powerful telescopes, and scientists from around the world travel there to search for the answers to the mysteries of the universe. Due to the dry weather, archaeologists are also able to find perfectly kept mummies from pre-Columbus days and look at the past that way too. However, Atacama was also the place where Augusto Pinochet had a camp for political prisoners in the 1970's, many of whom were killed and buried at

unknown places in the desert. Mothers and family members are still wandering the desert in search of the remains of their loved ones, often in the shadows of the massive telescopes. Guzman creates a fascinating trip into deep mysteries of cosmos, as he, simultaneously, anchors the film in the painful recent history of Chile.

These two films alone were enough for one to have a very thoughtful and rewarding experience at the festival. There were many more worthwhile films shown, so just go to the festival's website at www.tiff.net, research on your own and catch some of these films when they hopefully show up in your local cinema.



Igor R. is a Coordinator with LINC Home Study program.

Student Reflections

TEACHER'S DAY

by Manju J

Teacher's Day is observed as a mark of appreciation of teachers. It is also known as Teacher's Appreciation Day or National Teacher's Day. Every year on October 5th Teacher's Day is celebrated across the world. It is celebrated on different dates in different countries. Celebrations to honor the teachers for their special contributions to society at large are held in every corner of the world.

The concept of celebrating Teacher's Day originated in India. There, it is celebrated on September 5th on the birthday of great philosopher and educationalist Dr. Radha Krishnan, who was also the second president of India. He was a great scholar who believed that teachers should be the best minds of the country. He had great love for the teaching profession.

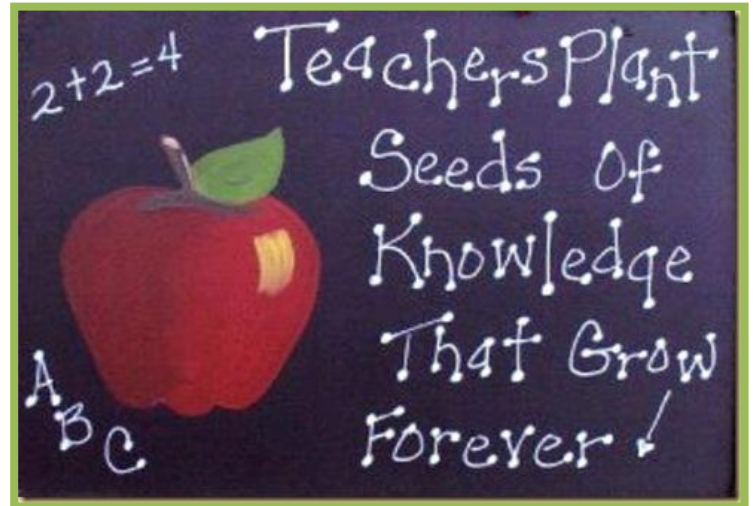
Teachers should become role models. They mold the lives and have great influence on their students which lasts a lifetime. They are like beacons of light, guiding us. They shape our future. Teachers lay the foundation for creating enlightened citizens for the nation. Schools should have the best of teachers who have the ability to teach, love teaching and build moral qualities.

Teachers should always be respected and honored for their noble work. To show our appreciation and gratitude for them, Teacher's Day is celebrated with great enthusiasm.

Teachers receive flowers, cards and gifts from their students. On this day, we thank our teachers for providing us with their invaluable guidance. We recognize their efforts. Many cultural programs are held which include singing competitions, dance and play performances.

God Bless our Teachers!

York Region –Manju J. is a Level 7 student. Her teacher is Fiona E.



FALL by Rachida L.

I want to express my feelings on how I feel every time fall arrives. Just last fall when I saw children go to school I got the same feeling of when I was a child and my parents used to buy me new clothes. I used to put on my pink overcoat and run to school every morning and run back home every afternoon. All of that gives me a sense of excitement for fall times.

Halton Region– Rachida L. is a Level 2 student. Her teacher is Deborah K.



FALL by Xiao Mei D.

Fall isn't my favourite season, but I really love it still, especially Canada's fall. Canada's fall is more beautiful than any other season. There are different colours on the trees. The maple leaves are the most beautiful part of it. I feel very good when the leaves are falling down from the trees. Sometimes fall's wind is a little cold. That tells us winter is coming. Fall is harvest time. Farmers are very busy during the harvest. Although they feel busy and tired, they also feel happy. They will get what they should get, a good harvest. Fall is one of the most amazing things about Canada.

Toronto Region– Xiao Mei D. is a Level 3 student. Her teacher is Deborah K.



Comics



Student Reflections

FISHING IN CANADA by Xuan Z.

I like fishing. I have fished in China, as well as in America. I never fished in Canada until recently. My friend Bill asked me if I would like to go fishing with him. I told him I would like to go fishing, but I didn't have a fishing license. He said I could go fishing without a fishing license in two days when no one had to have a license. I was excited. I said I'd like to go.

We set out for Witchekean Lake early in the morning. We spent almost three hours on the road and finally arrived at Witchekean Lake. Wow, that was a beautiful place. There were many big, tall and old trees around the Lake. The water was clear and green.

We registered first and then drove Bill's boat into the center of the lake. We stopped and threw the anchor overboard. We took out our fishing rods, put the bait on the hook, and began fishing. Bill set up two fishing rods. I had one. The bait looked good for the fish. I sat down and waited for the fish to eat the bait. I waited for ten minutes but there was no reaction. I knew that fishing required a lot of patience. So I enjoyed the beautiful place and fresh air while fishing. I did not know how long it would take.

I held the fishing rod tightly and moved slowly while the fish was moving. I pulled the fishing line slowly. I saw the fish rising while making his fifth circle. It was a salmon that was almost 5 pounds. The salmon was moving quickly, and then slowly. I knew the salmon was tired. I pulled the salmon to the side of the boat. Bill helped me and caught it with a fishnet. I felt it was heavy. We were very happy. Bill almost dropped his fishing rod into the lake. We went on fishing. I was watching the float, so that I forgot to enjoy the scenery.

We were on the lake until 5 o'clock in the afternoon. I had six salmon, and two catfish. Bill had eight salmon. But the game warden only allowed us to take six fish. So we kept the big salmon and the two catfish because I liked them. I put the smaller salmon back into the lake. Now I have had a fishing experience in Canada.

Saskatchewan –Xuan Z. is a Level 4 student. His teacher is Samuel M.



THANKSGIVING DAY IN CANADA

by Patrice S.

As our summer is passing and the long winter is coming, the people of Canada will celebrate Thanksgiving Day. It is celebrated to thank the Lord for all the blessings.

The farmers pray to God for their produce, such as tomatoes, potatoes, pumpkins, and peaches. Some people save their vegetables for the long winter. Families get together to celebrate Thanksgiving day. They cook a special Thanksgiving meal like turkey. They also share their gifts, love, and happiness with each other.

The main idea behind the celebration is to be thankful for the past given blessings and praying for the coming year.

Hamilton Region – Patrice S. is a Level 3 student. Her teacher is Natasha A.



INTERNATIONAL DAY OF OLDER PERSONS

by Ke Y.



The United Nations' International Day of Older Persons, which was established on December 14th, 1990, is annually celebrated on October 1st. It is a special day for elderly all over the world. On this day, there are politicians' speeches, media's interviews, and many displays around schools and public libraries to recognize senior citizens' achievements and their issues. Older people will be the majority of the world's population in the near future. Healthy older persons are the new power of our development, they are resources for our families and society and their life experiences and wisdom benefit the next generations. Therefore, to be healthy, both mentally and physically, is important while aging. Daily exercise, healthy diet, and social activities are necessities for older persons. To stay active is the main key to keep the elderly healthy.

At the mean time, older persons are vulnerable to diseases, poverty, even abuse. Both, society and family members should pay more attention to elderly care and support. This year's International Day of Older Persons is around the corner and while we appreciate the contributions that the elderly have made for our families and society, shouldn't we think more about how to treat them better?

Peel Region – Ke Y. is a Level 7 student. Her teacher is Alena S.



Student Reflections

HALLOWEEN by Maria K.

In Canada people celebrate Halloween on 31st of October. Halloween had developed from the celebration of New Year and the celebration in honour of dead people. The Christian church had established the celebration on November 1, which was named "All Saints day". The day before "All Saints day" was called "All Souls Day" and also Halloween. People had believed that on this day spirits of dead people came back to earth. In order that these wandering spirits would be kind to people, they had to bring some food and sweets for them and place it near their homes.

Some traditions have continued to this day. People decorate their homes with special Halloween decorations and hang lamps. Lamps on Halloween day are made out of pumpkins. The pumpkin is hollowed out and is empty inside. Then it is carved with a cute face on one side. A burning candle is placed inside the pumpkin. This carved out lamp made out of a pumpkin shell is called "jack-'o' lantern". Irish legend speaks about the man named Jack. Jack couldn't be in paradise because he was a miser. Similarly he couldn't be in hell because he played bad jokes on the devil. As a result Jack had to walk on earth with his lamp until Judgment Day.

Children love Halloween. The main entertainment for children during the Halloween is 'trick-or-treat'. The children dress and masquerade in costumes and wear masks. Children walk from home to home and yell "trick-or-treat" and neighbours give sweets, fruits or small change.

First time my family celebrated Halloween was last year. This celebration was new for us, therefore all preparations were new. My daughter had dressed up as a witch. When it got dark outside, my daughter with her friends went trick-or-treat. In some houses sweets were distributed and there were many children on the street. My daughter was happy! "The little witch" collected a full bag of sweets. Then she sorted them out and valued them the whole evening. That brought her tremendous satisfaction. We also got a lot of satisfaction looking at her.

Earlier people had believed that on earth there were a lot of witches. The people thought that witches met each other at the end of October in order to worship the devil. Today people don't believe in ghosts and witches but they love this funny tradition. My daughter is waiting for Halloween this year. She's thinking about a new costume to wear and is looking forward to taste new sweets which she'll collect during Halloween night. A word of caution and that is to select costumes that are bright and can be easily seen by the motorists or put reflection tape on their shoes. Tell your children to walk and not run from house to house and not to cross the road in the middle of the street. Tell your children not to eat any sweets unless you have checked them. Tell your children not to enter any cars or vehicles. Better still, you can follow them from a distance to ensure they are safe.

Toronto Region – Maria K. is a Level 5 student. Her teacher is Jonathan B.



KOREAN THANKSGIVING DAY

by Sunnam H.

Mother Nature is very important to an agricultural society as my country used to be. In the fall, people would give thanks for sunshine, rain, breezes, everything from nature that contributed to the harvest that year. Korean Thanksgiving Day called Chosoek means the “Autumn Moon Night.” It is August 15th according to the lunar calendar. It would be late September or early October in the calendar here. People prepare a variety food for the ancestors and their family using the year's harvest and enjoy a less busy time of the year with an abundance of food.

Nowadays, Chosoek is one of big holidays with New Year day in Korea. Families get together and give thanks for the year, and an important part is eating food together; usually we eat too much food on that day. My favorite food of Chosoek is songpyun which is a rice cake with sesame seeds or beans inside. Every food is absolutely delicious, because they are made with the new harvest. In the night, my parents order me and my sibling to wish to the moon. The moon looks the biggest and closest on this day; therefore' something might happen to us.

Today, we don't play traditional games like the old generation in the agricultural society but I wish for better weather and more harvest next year as my parents did.

New Brunswick –Sunnam H. is a Level 6 student. Her teacher is Rachel B.



FALL by Karen G.

Fall is also known as Autumn, which is Otoño in Spanish. It is one of the seasons, after summer, before winter. In the South hemisphere, fall begins in March. Over here, in Canada or in the North hemisphere, it begins in September. Fall and other seasons feel better in countries which are further south or further north. The Central countries don't feel fall or other seasons the same way.

I like this season. After a hot summer, I think, it is the time which we need while we are waiting for winter. It is a good preparation for a new beginning. In Buenos Aires, Argentina's capital, usually we have a hot summer and a cold winter too, but no snow. There is snow in cities that are further south. We have also Antarctica with a low temperature, like the Arctic.

In the fall you can go to a park, lakes and sometimes you can still go camping. It is cold, but not so much as winter. There is no snow. Fall is an excellent time for new hobbies or entertainment. You can begin a collection of leaves from different trees, for example. You can put them away for their size, their colour, and for the kind of leaves they are. Anyway, if you like, it will always be a great activity for all the family.

My children get much enjoyment when they step down on the fall leaves. This fall we hope to enjoy ourselves with new costumes and learn more about them.

Nova Scotia –Karen G. is a Level 4 student. Her teacher is Samuel M.



Student Reflections

RETURNING TO SCHOOL

by Bob G.

As of the day I go to my community college to take plumbing program, there is just left no more than two weeks. For now, I am excited to look forward to the day to return to school. Meanwhile I have a little bit of concern to the class.

Three years ago, I moved to Canada with my family from China. I guess my situation was similar with a lot of immigrants--- facing language problems and what kind of job would I like to choose. I had to go back to a language school to improve my English at first. I also did some survival jobs for my living. Last year, I took part in a Newcomer Employment Workshop training. I think that is very useful for me. It helped me to determine what kind of job I am interested in and eventually I chose plumbing job as my career in the new country.

After almost one year preparation, my application to take plumbing courses in the local community college was accepted. I am excited to the school I will take. I think this is a great opportunity for me to further improve my English and skills. I have some experiences in plumbing job in my native country. But I do not think they are the same with the job in Canada. Studying from the base and owning a steady foundation should be better for me to make my career successful.

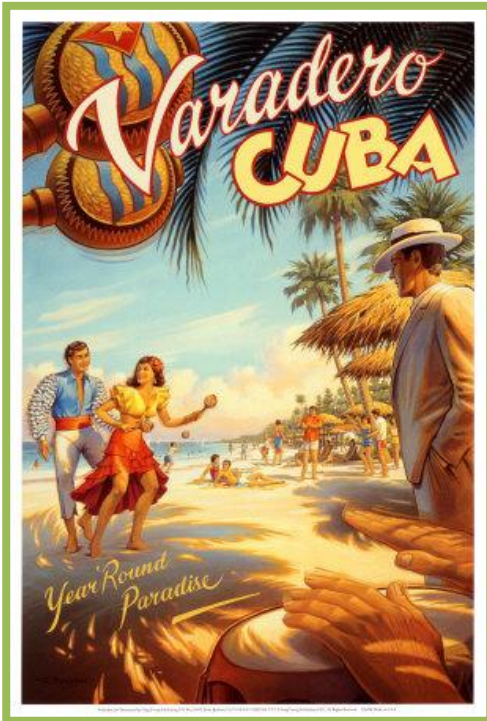
Although my future looks bright since I can get job training and start my career from plumbing, I still have some worries with my courses at school. How to take my program effectively is my concerns for now. After all, English is not my native language. Probably language will be my biggest challenge at school. Meantime, different teachers have different styles to teach. I am not sure the style will fits me. So I am trying to make some provision for my coming school before hand. I read some plumbing books and materials. I hope that is helpful for my program later.

All in all, choosing a new career using a new language in a new country could not very easy. What I can do just try my best. I believe I can make it finally as long as I try hard at school. "Never lose hope" was my motto at university

twenty years ago. It will follow me again.

Prince Edward Island –Bob G. is a Level 7 student. His teacher is Paul H.





This was my first visit to Cuba, and it reminded me of things in China years ago. It was also the first vacation for me and my wife without our children since they were born. No doubt the trip will leave us many unforgettable memories. We travelled with friends, and we enjoyed ourselves very much.

We booked an all-inclusive resort stay at Varadero, which is about a two-hour drive west of Havana, the capital city. The package included two-way air tickets, accommodation, meals and beverages (24-hour supply) and transportation to/from airport/hotel; it was only CAD850 per person for a seven-night stay at a 3-star hotel. The price varied in accordance to the hotel selection. My wife was a bit upset with the hotel we picked for most of the public areas were not air-conditioned and the room was not properly equipped. There was not even an alarm clock or a mini bar in our room.

We started our journey from home at two o'clock in the morning, and we tried the Park & Fly for the first time in Mississauga. It cost only CAD52 for 8 days per vehicle parked in a spot about 5km from Pearson Airport. Our plane took off around 6:30am and arrived at Varadero before 10am. After we checked in, we had a buffet lunch in one of their five restaurants serving various cuisines, ranging from international fare to local Cuban lobster dinners.

Cuba is the only remaining communist country in Central and Latin America, and it has a rather messy history. Before Cuba became independent from the U.S. in May 1902, it was under Spanish colonial rule for over 400 years. After its independence, it went through different civil and revolutionary wars. I am not clear about the founding of Cuba and how it transformed to a communist country practicing a socialist planned economy. Almost all companies in all business sectors there are state-owned, and foreign investments are severely restricted.

Today, Cuba has a population of about 12 million, and Español, or Spanish, is the national language. There are two different types of currency: Peso, for the locals, and CUC (Cuban Convertible Currency), for tourists, at an unreasonable exchange rate of CAD1 = CUC0.83. Local shopping is not as cheap as one might think; a 250ml bottle of drinking water costs CAD1.20. We spent one night in Havana in a better hotel in exchange for our own hotel, which was obviously over-booked. The offer included a hotel room for one night, land transfers, meals and a local tour, through which we visited the old and new Havanas, taking in the many museums, monuments and other buildings.

We spent most of our time either in the pools or beaches during this tour, and we were fed with plenty of food and drinks. We also tried a sailing tour and snorkeling trip across the beach with many fishes swimming beside us. This was an awesome vacation that we will never forget. We hope to visit Cuba again if she adopts a greater open-door policy like China.

York Region –Michael C. is a Level 7 student. His teacher is Joseph N.

Student Reflections

HALLOWEEN IN PHILIPPINES AND CANADA

by Lorna M.

Filipinos observe Halloween by spending time at the grave sites of loved ones. It is a time of solemn remembrance and meditation. Usually they gather around the graves with friends and family of the deceased. Halloween celebration is a great date for Filipinos, they normally called it All Saints / Souls Day. Nov. 1st they call it All Saints Day and Nov. 2nd is the All Souls Day.

There are great preparations that they will do for that occasion, A great holiday for all to visit friends and relatives in their graves. People from the cities and other places in Philippines start going back to their home town (what we call the province) to visit their loved ones. On Oct. 31st, most schools will declare no classes and no office for other establishments. During these days the airplane/airports buses and ships are packed at the height of this "travel season".

People in same date Oct. 31st, will visit the cemetery or memorial park to clean the graves of their loved ones, clearing the area, for they will stay there for a couple of days. On the same day, they would be busy buying food grocery items, candles, flowers etc. for the celebration.

The cemeteries and memorial Parks are overflowing with people during this day. Traffic going in and out of cemetery and memorial parks and on the nearby street is pretty tight. Policemen and other law enforcement agencies are on heightened alert during this time to ensure that the activities are peaceful and are done in an orderly fashion.

Spending Halloween in the cemetery is a fun event to all Filipinos. It's like a mini reunion for families and friends, a chance to have fellowship with those people that they see once a year (Halloween). Tents, chairs and tables are set up in front of the grave site, to provide a place where the family and their visitors can stay and talk

Radios, players, games playing cards are present. Best of all, foods and drinks are overflowing during this time with baskets of foods to share with other members of their families and friends.

This is how the Filipinos celebrate their Halloween. We don't celebrate it with pumpkins or trick or treats (although this western tradition is sometimes practiced in some family /subdivisions). We celebrate it through candles, flowers, prayers and visit the cemetery.

Now that I'm here in Canada, at first, I also expected that Canadians would also celebrate their Halloween in the same way, but I was wrong. It is different to what we did in Philippines. I observed that here in Canada in the weeks leading up to Oct. 31st, many people decorate their homes with pumpkins, pumpkin lights and scary hangings on wall and doors.

I also observed that on Oct. 31st everybody dresses up and takes their children out to "Trick and Treat. I was informed that this is what they do here. So on our second time around on Halloween my children enjoyed going out on to the streets to go door to door for candies.

I observed that Elementary schools in Canada have parties for children in the days before Halloween. Parents make sure that the kids are dressed in their costumes before they leave for schools, and often parents send Halloween cookies and candy for the children to share with their class-mates.

This is how we celebrate Halloween since we moved here to Canada.

Niagara Region – Lorna M. is a Level 6 student. Her teacher is Marilyn K.



As an immigrant, I have lived through many different experiences since we arrived in Canada three and a half years ago, but nothing can compare with having a baby. Many people that I talk to, most of them immigrants criticize the Canadian Health Care System, sometimes without any basis. In my personal experience, the system was great. In addition, I can say that we received incredible attention during the entire process of having our baby. We had many options of medical care to choose from, even where we would prefer to deliver our baby.

First of all, when your wife is pregnant, she can choose among three specialists who are ready and willing to take care of her. They could be: your family doctor, a midwife or an obstetrician /gynecologist. We decided on the obstetrician /gynecologist because it had been our previous experience in our country (Chile) to use them. The specialist checked my wife and the baby every two weeks at the beginning and when the due date was closer, he booked her appointments once a week. Everything was covered by wonderful OHIP (health care), including all of the exams.

Because of the fact that our doctor actually works in the hospital in Georgetown, a city twenty minutes away from the city of Brampton where we live, we decided to have our baby there. The hospital was really small. However, it fit our needs perfectly. We visited the hospital prior to the birth to get to know their facilities. Nurses and the rest of the staff were very kind. They showed us everything in detail and answered all of our questions and clarified our concerns about having a baby with them. We really received a lot of support from them and always felt we were in the company of professionals.

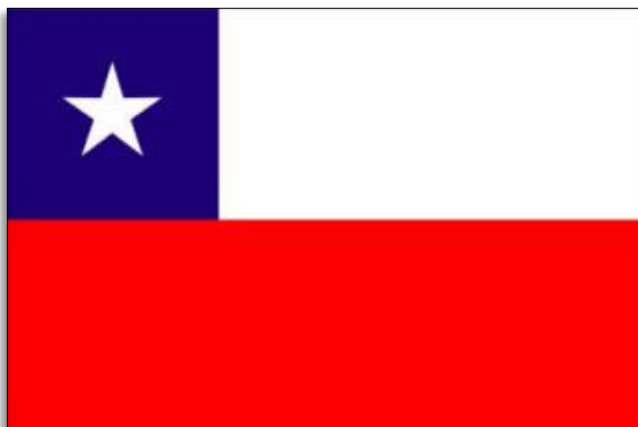
Three weeks before the delivery, my wife started to have contractions. We called the hospital and went to Emergency. When we got there, they started checking my wife and the baby. Next, they connected my wife to electrical monitors until the obstetrician arrived at the



hospital. After the check up to make sure everything was fine, my wife was sent back home because it was a false alarm. But, three weeks later my wife started with regular contractions. We went back to the hospital and the doctor told us that my wife was in labor. I was beside her, holding her hand and recording everything. After the birth, I cut the umbilical cord of our baby girl Gabriella. I joined the nurse responsible for taking care of us and I brought back our little baby to my wife's room. That night, my wife was the only one that had a baby in the hospital, so the whole pediatric department was working exclusively for us.

Finally, we left the hospital 24 hours after the delivery with many instructions, appointments and guides. There was a whole support system for my baby girl and my wife. The Canadian Health Care System worked efficient for us. Having a baby in Canada has been one of the most wonderful experiences that I have ever had.

Peel Region – Nils P. is a Level 7 student. His teacher is Brenda V.



Recipes

PANCIT

by Frankie O.

Ingredients

- 4 cloves garlic (chopped finely)
- 4 shallots (chopped finely)
- 1 large carrot (cut into strips)
- ¼ medium size cabbage (shredded)
- 1 cup shrimp (peeled and deveined)
- 2 cups chicken meat (shredded)
- ½ cup soy sauce
- 2 tbsp. cooking oil
- 2-3 tsp. chicken powder
- 2-3 tsp. pepper powder
- 1 lb Alminac Special Bihon (thin rice noodles)

Directions

Prepare (wash, clean, cut, shred) all the ingredients and set aside.

Boil 2 cups of water into the wok (at least 14 inches in diameter) Put 1/2 cup of soy sauce, ground pepper and chicken powder as soon as the liquid comes to a boil.

Put the Special Bihon (thin rice noodles) stir. Cook to soften until it gets dry.

Serve hot.

Enjoy.

**Durham Region – Frankie O is a Level 5 student.
His teacher is Jonathan B.**

***Pancit** or **pansit** is the term for noodles in Filipino cuisine. Noodles were introduced into the Philippines by the Chinese and have since been adopted into local cuisine. The term pancit is derived from the Chinese “pian i sit” which means “something conveniently cooked fast.”*



Ingredients

- 1 lb. ground beef
- 2 medium onions (grated)
- 1 garlic clove (smashed)
- 3 tbsp. bread crumbs
- 1 egg
- 1 tsp. black pepper
- 1 tsp. salt
- 4 medium sized potatoes
- 100 ml milk
- 1 tbsp butter
- 5 tbsp crushed tomato (mixed with 1 cup water)
- 2-3 tbsp. mozzarella cheese (grated)

Directions

Smash boiled potato in a pot. Add milk, Butter and salt and then stir the mixture.

Knead all meatball ingredients and make 12 circular shaped meat balls.

Make a hole in the each meatball with your thumb. Fill it mash potato using a teaspoon.

Put them in a large dish. Cook for about 30 minutes (200 C)

Take the dish out. Put the mozzarella cheese on each meatball and put 2tbsp sauce on each meatball. Put back in the oven for 10 minutes.

Guelph Region – Duygu G. is a Level 4 student. Her teacher is Jonathan B.

These are the well-known Turkish Kofta, delicious little meat balls or patties. They can make them with beef, but lamb is traditional and makes them very special.



TURKISH MEATBALLS

by Duygu G.

Recipes

PUMPKIN SOUP

by Justyna K.

Ingredients

- 1 lb. pumpkin (fresh or frozen)
- 1 onion
- 2 carrots
- 3 1/3 cup vegetable broth
- Juice from 1 orange
- 1 tbsp. butter
- ½ can unsweetened coconut milk
- 2 tbsp. vegetable oil
- Ginger
- Coriander
- Salt and pepper

Directions

Preheat oil. Add onion, pumpkin, butter, carrot, a little bit of ginger and juice from 1/2 orange.

Cook everything for about 5 min.

Add vegetable broth and boil for another 15 min. Add the rest of the ingredients. Mix it all with a hand blender until smooth and cook for another 4 min.

Sprinkle on some coriander, and add salt and pepper to taste.

Hamilton Region – Justyna K. is a Level 7 student. Her teacher is Joseph N.

*In Ontario, from September to November, you can find pumpkins in almost every store. Pumpkins come in different shapes and are used as fall decorations, as ingredients for many seasonal recipes and, of course, as jack-o'-lanterns for Halloween. This **Pumpkin Soup** recipe is delicious and will warm you up on a cold autumn day.*



FISH CUTLETS

by Nirosha G.

Ingredients

- 1 can Tuna or Salmon
- 250 g potatoes
- 100 g onions (finely chopped)
- 2-3 green chilies (finely chopped)
- 1 egg
- 2-3 curry leaves (finely chopped)
- 1-2 garlic (finely chopped)
- Bread crumbs

Directions

First, boil the potatoes; peel off the skins and mash. Set aside. Drain water from tuna and break the fish into small pieces. Then, mix in with potatoes.

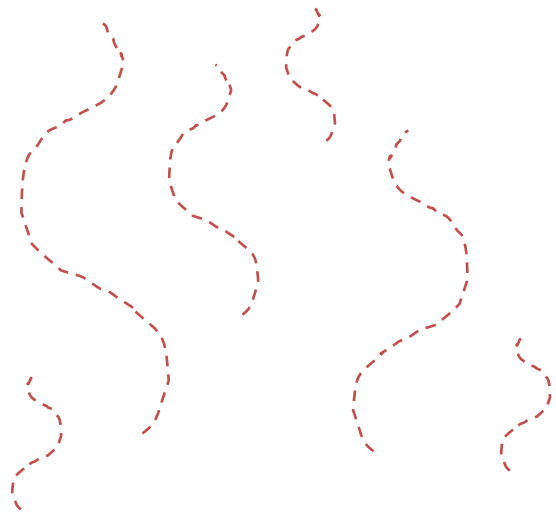
Heat 2 tablespoons of oil in a pan over medium heat. When oil is hot add onion, garlic, green chilies and curry leaves and fry for about two or three minutes. Mix into the potato and tuna mixture and allow to cool for about two to three minutes. Add salt and pepper to your taste.

Once the mixture is cool, form it into small balls and set aside. Next, beat the egg in a bowl and put the bread crumbs on a flat dish. Soak the balls in the egg and then coat them with bread crumbs. Put them on a separate plate.

Heat the remaining oil in a fry pan. When oil is hot, add the coated fish balls and fry until golden brown. Finally, remove from pan, cool, and enjoy!

Peel Region – Nirosha G. is a Level 5 student. Her teacher is Andrea R.

Fish Cutlet is a very common dish in Sri Lanka. It is easy to make and can be served as an appetizer, snack or a side dish. They are tasty with sandwiches (especially plain butter) or when eaten on their own.



Activity Central

Games and Puzzles

Matching

Match-up the compound words

1.	back	a. man
2.	hot	b. bird
3.	ham	c. cut
4.	sun	d. burger
5.	pop	e. out
6.	air	f. plane
7.	ear	g. ground
8.	fire	h. sick
9.	hair	i. corn
10.	foot	j. cycle
11.	hang	k. ball
12.	home	l. flower
13.	lady	m. wax
14.	love	n. dog
15.	motor	o. bug

How many words can you make out of *AUTUMN LEAVES*?

A U T U M N L E A V E S

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Activity Central

Answers

Matching

1. G - Background
2. N - Hotdog
3. D - Hamburger
4. L - Sunflower
5. I - Popcorn
6. F - Airplane
7. M - Earwax
8. A - Fireman
9. C - Haircut
10. K - Football
11. E - Hangout
12. H - Homesick
13. O - Ladybug
14. B - Lovebird
15. J - Motorcycle

Create Words

- | | |
|----------|-----------|
| 1. Tea | 11. Meat |
| 2. Seven | 12. Veal |
| 3. Eat | 13. Team |
| 4. Ate | 14. Leave |
| 5. Lent | 15. Seat |
| 6. Meal | 16. Nut |
| 7. Melt | 17. Mat |
| 8. Earn | 18. Tame |
| 9. Steal | 19. Lease |
| 10. Seal | 20. Ale |

If you would like to participate

in the Student Corner,

please contact us at:
help@linchomestudy.ca

Student Corner

Xuan Z.

I grew up with four brothers and three sisters. So my family was big. When I was young, our life was hard. My parents were both farmers. They had a little field to plant grain. So it was difficult to make money. The grain was not enough for my family. My parents and my brothers produced rope for sale and made a little money.

In 1978, Deng Xiaoping became the Chinese leader. He began economic reform. Farmers started to have better lives. Now the children of farmers could enter university by passing an exam. I took the exam in 1980, but I failed. I tried the exam in 1981, but I failed again. I thought I would try one more time, and if I failed again, I would go home and become a farmer. I once again took the exam in 1982, and I was finally successful.

I attended the veterinary medicine department at Nanjing Agriculture University in China. I spent five years, finished all courses and graduated. My university sent me to work at Lin Hai Farm as a veterinarian. My duties were to prevent disease, and help farmers develop live animal farming. I worked at Lin Hai Farm for eighteen years where I owned and operated a veterinary clinic. I accumulated lots of experience about animals.

In 1993 I was in the States for one year on a student exchange. I studied at a family pig farm in America. I was interested in everything while in America. Most people drove to work, while people in my hometown just rode bikes to work. Farmers in America planted crops with big agricultural equipment, whereas farmers in China planted crops by hand or small equipment. Highways in America went almost everywhere, but most roads in China were just gravel roads. People in America had better lives. I went back to China in 1994. I got married, built a new house, bought a new vehicle and I started my own business. My life was getting better and better. But I had often dreamed about going abroad once again.

In 2003, one of my friends told me a company in Nanjing was sending workers to work on pig farms in Canada. I thought I could qualify as a candidate. I came to the place of my dreams, Canada, on March 16, 2005. It would be a big change in my life. Everything was new for me. I had to do many things by myself. For example, I had to open an account, go shopping, see a doctor, and make a phone call and so on. But I was happy to do them. I was able to improve my English skills by doing something.

My first employer was Stomp Pork Farm in Canada. I started to work there in March, 2005. I worked in the furrowing section, and then I transferred to the breeding section. I worked hard. I adjusted to working in the barn quickly. The pork industry in Canada is different from China's. In order to know the Canadian pork industry better, I found another job as a breeding technician in Hypor in 2007. This is genetics nucleus barn. It is world famous. I learned something about genetic breeding. I was happy to work at Hypor. But one day in January, 2009, my barn burned down. We were unable to save anything. I had to look for a job. I sent my resume to five companies. Finally Big Sky Farms Inc hired me in February, 2009. This is the biggest pork producer in Saskatchewan. I still work in the breeding section. I enjoy working there because it is close to my house, and close to the city. My oldest daughter is ready to go to the University of Toronto. My youngest daughter is growing up. She gives us a lot of fun. My life is really getting better and better.

Saskatchewan – Xuan Z. is a Level 4 student. His teacher is Samuel M.

Student Corner

Yulia K.

I came to Canada from Russia. I have been living in Canada for 3 years and 8 months now. Living in Canada absolutely changed my life. I have to speak another language other than Russian. It is English. This is the most difficult challenge for me. When I came to Canada I decided to go to school because I had to study English. My husband showed me two schools in our city. I chose the school near my house. I studied English in my country but it was British English. I made a lot of mistakes. I was so confused. I met many students from other countries and I could hear many different languages. I asked them about their country, culture, customs and climate. It was very interesting. I spent almost 2 years studying English at the school in Canada and it wasn't easy. I had great difficulties learning the English language.

I first studied English six years ago in Russia. I had never studied English before. I know for some there is no problem studying other languages but that is not the case with me. It was the most difficult time in my life studying this language. To be successful learning a new language you must have a good memory. This is my problem and I know about it. The most difficult part of English is speaking because when you speak you need to memorize and use words the right away. Sometimes I can't translate the word when I hear it and I use my dictionary to translate it. Honestly, I can't remember the word and even though I look for it in the dictionary many times I still can't remember it. I know why. The reason is that I don't use some words in my conversations so I can't remember the meaning of them. I am so happy that I have a helper in my life. It is my husband. He is Canadian and he helps me a lot in my English studies. He complements me all the time and gives me the strength to continue studying.

When I found a full time job I had to leave my school. I felt that my English was not good enough and that I had to continue studying. I began to study with LINC Home Study 1 year and 8 months ago. I heard about this program from my friend and she recommended that I take this course. My first teacher was Carla. She was an excellent teacher. She helped me a lot with my English studying.

I find LINC Home Study very useful for me. First, I can study English at home. Second, I can choose the day and time for studying. Third, it doesn't cost any money. Fourth, I like to study English by internet and I can do it any time. I like all of the exercises on the website and it is not too difficult to understand. Also, I like the design of the website. I can open any of the pages and find a lot of information about grammar, reading or listening. Is it great? Absolutely! Currently I am in level 6 and I don't give up. I am glad to continue studying English with this program and I am so happy that you support me in learning English.

Niagara Region – Yulia K. is a Level 6 student. Her teacher is Brenda V.

Student Feedback

In the August newsletter, my favourite article is “A CANADIAN VILLAGE” by Sandra H.Z.

I went to St. Jacobs last summer; it is a beautiful and peaceful town. I can understand her feelings of the town. She lives there because her husband grew up in the village. For people who used to live in a big city, St. Jacobs might be too small and quite a boring place. However, it has a special harmony and beautiful scenery. At the Farmers’ Market, which is favourite place, I can buy very fresh and juicy fruits and vegetables. A lot of Mennonite people sell their products there. I really enjoy spending all day long to see something different from a big city. Downtown of St. Jacobs is very beautiful, too. There are many lovely stores on the main street. Whenever someone asks me to suggest some place for visiting, I always tell them to go to St. Jacobs.

Toronto Region – Su Ling C. is a Level 6 student. Her teacher is Alena S.

In the April edition of NEWSLINC, Miriam T, a student of the LINC Home Study Program wrote an article entitled “On my way to success” . She provided readers with her experience in Canada since her arrival; the difficulties she had faced and how she overcame them. The writer’s experience is the experience of the majority of newcomers in Canada. Learning English, finding a job and getting used to the Canadian way of doing things are challenges almost all immigrants have to face. It can last one year, two or even more years to adapt and be integrated in our new country.

When they arrive in Canada, people who move from Africa, South America and east Europe say that Canadians are cold, but it is because they are homesick and they are missing their friends and family. Moreover, in their country, people seem to be warmer; that makes things even worse for them. On the other hand, it is difficult to find a job because employers ask for Canadian experience. When your communication skills are not good enough, you can’t be convincing at any interview.

Although the writer gave us some good ideas, she forgot to talk about the good aspects of her experience. To that end, as a new immigrant, I can say that people are not always that cold. Many times, I meet people who are amazingly warm and kind. One of advantages of being in Canada is the bilingualism. You have the choice to live in an English or a French area. Personally, I find it exciting to learn a new language and grateful that it’s free.

As far as I am concern, the writer of the article should change her dream into a goal and set objectives to achieve her aim. For example, after three years in Canada, she is at level 4 in English; I think she would have been better to study English full-time to improve her English as fast as possible to increase her chances to find a job. She didn’t have to work for more than four hours per week as a volunteer, especially when she is looking for a job. I suppose that, like everybody, she needs money to solve her financial issues. So, in my opinion, she ought to devote her time to job research and English courses.

In the end, I will say that I appreciated reading about her experience as it reminded me of mine. I learned that I am not alone in facing barriers to my integration into Canada. My situation even seems to be better after two years. Although I find the idea of working like a volunteer good, I wouldn’t have accepted spending many hours by working without being paid. I would have preferred spending two or four hours as a volunteer, applying for jobs and studying English as a full-time student to improve my communication skills as fast as possible to increase my chances of finding a job in my field.

Peterborough Region – Nathalie M. is a Level 6 student. Her teacher is Terese C.

Glossary

Here is some vocabulary from this month's newsletter. Do you know what the words mean? Match the definitions below with the correct word on the left.

Brunch (pg.7)

someone who is not generous and does not like spending money

Bout (pg.8)

extremely useful

Hearty (pg.8)

a person, idea etc that guides or encourages you

Quirky (pg.8)

food used to attract fish, animals, or birds so that you can catch them

Beacon (pg.10)

someone who has died, especially recently

Invaluable (pg.10)

a large quantity of something

Bait (pg.12)

unusual, especially in an interesting way

Vulnerable (p.13)

a meal eaten in the late morning, as a combination of breakfast and lunch

Miser (pg.14)

a short period of time during which you suffer from an illness

Masquerade (pg.14)

can be easily harmed or hurt

Abundance (pg.15)

happy and friendly and usually loud

Deceased (pg.18)

to pretend to be something or someone different

LINC mailbag



What are your thoughts or comments on the articles printed in this month's newsletter? Do you have suggestions for articles or sections you would like to see?

Let's hear from you.

e-mail us: help@linchomestudy.ca

LINC Home Study Forum users! Remember, you can interact with other students in the LINC Home Study program and discuss topics such as Family, Fun, Health & Travel, Job Search & Networking and more! Please go to the following website and log in from Quick Login.

Have fun!

<http://www.linchomestudy.ca/online/forum/>

submissions

Please e-mail your submissions for the newsletter by Wednesday October 20th

NOTE: Articles should not exceed 500 words. Articles that exceed 500 words may be subject to editing for inclusion in the newsletter.

If you would like to submit your biography for the "Student Corner", please **DO NOT** include information on your birthday or age.

For any questions regarding submissions and guidelines please e-mail us:

help@linchomestudy.ca

Brought to you by the LINC Home Study team.

A special thank you to all the students and staff who submitted their stories, recipes and activities for this issue.

