



THE PACIFIC VOICE 2012

VFA High School Principal's Message



Dear Students,

Can you believe that the 2011/2012 year has come to an end? The time has flown quickly since that first day of school in September. You have all learned a lot in a short time. I remember the look on many of your faces when I spoke to you on the first day of school. I could tell that a lot of you could not understand all of what I was saying. Since then, you have worked hard to improve your English skills. It is always a pleasure for me to speak to you and learn a little more about you.

I know that it can be hard to be living away from home and getting used to a new city and new language. However, every day you have grown in confidence, maturity, and independence. I know you have missed your relatives and friends back home but VFA is like your family away from home. The teachers have been here to help you. You have also made good friends who have shared all your experiences.

Looking through this issue of *The Pacific Voice*, you will remember the many special activities that we have participated in since January. There were the special parties, such as Lunar New Year and Valentine's Day. Later, everyone was very impressed with your performances during the Pink Day shows and the Public Speaking Contest. It was exciting to try new sports such as skiing, curling and tennis. In April, we said goodbye and good luck to our grads. Our trip to Victoria in June was full of special moments. And of course, Sports Day rounded off the summer!

This school year has been a very special and important time in your life. For many of you, it was your first step in a new country and the beginning of a new future. I wish everyone all the best in the new school year. Do your very best and you will achieve your dreams!

Mrs. Tajiri
Principal

Acknowledgments

I would like to thank all the VFA students who contributed to this edition of *The Pacific Voice*. I would also like to thank Ms. Ryoo and the Digital Media Class for all their work on the photographs and layout.

Digital Media Class

*Nam Pham
Leila Kong
Howard Kwon
Kaixin Chen
Kevin Lin*



Graduation
May. 4. 2012



Messages from our Grads



Sean Kao

WOW! Time goes really fast, there's only a few days left of class for me now. I really enjoyed the time in VFA although I didn't stay that long in this school. I've been in this school for 1 and a half years, and there are things that I would miss and things that I might not miss that much

Things that I would miss the most would be the way of teaching here. Due to the reason that we don't have that many students, having class here is like having a tutor lesson! This is good way for me because I can discuss and ask question that I am interesting in, and I can also learn well with the teachers here. Another thing I would miss would be my classmates and my Junior Alumnus; they made my life in VFA a rich and colourful by always playing and chatting with me (I usually didn't talk and communicate that much in the past), which also changed some of my life attitude. I really learned a lot from them.

Also I want to say thank all my teachers, especially Mr. Harder, for always supporting me in my work and my emotional problems, and Mrs. Keung, who I finally realized that I am actually the same type of person as her, in other words I learned a lot about myself from her. And I will also miss the school building. It always gives me a nice condition of studying and class work. And although I think the roof of the gym must be raised, it still let me have a good time there. The thing I dislike the most would be the uniform rules. I am sorry to say that but it makes no sense to me when it talks about clothing. I think clothing for students should be freely decided and not decided by rules.

Anyway although there were some annoying rules, I still had a good time in VFA, with many friends and nice teachers around me. I wish I could have come here earlier so I could have met you guys earlier. I will miss this school a lot after I go to college! And last thing, thank you guys for letting me have a good time!



Andy Leong

I've been here at VFA high school for a long time, so I think you know a lot about me, but I think there is something else that you should know about me. I want to talk about two items that I am proud of, my Art 12 PowerPoint presentation on e-waste and my 2010 essay that I delivered in the public speaking contest here.

First, the art project: I'm proud of this assignment. This project shows two of the ideas that I'm really interested in: new technology and protecting the environment. I feel very strongly about both of these issues. I really feel passionate about new technology. It has the potential to make our lives a lot better and I would love to work in this area in my life. I want to do something to help protect the environment in my life, especially if I could somehow combine my love for

the environment with my love for new technologies. As you know, I have some difficulty doing my school work and if I'm not motivated to do it, I just can't get it done. But with this project, it was different. I was thinking about it all the time, even at night and on the weekend. I had a feeling that if I didn't do this project I would be very unhappy. So I did it. I want to thank Ms. Ryoo for encouraging me and helping me with this project. I couldn't have done it without her.

Next is my essay. I remember that in Social Studies we were talking about the fur trade in Canada. I was outraged by this practice. And I put this strong feeling into this essay. I tried to put myself into the mind of a fur-bearing animal that was being hunted. I wanted the reader to understand the terrible situation animals are in. I'd like to thank Mr. Harder for his help with this essay. It is one of my proudest accomplishments. It helped me to win the public speaking contest that year.

The road to the future is a long one. I'll have to take a lot of courses and work a lot harder at school than I have before, but I think I'm mature enough to do this now. In addition to school, I'd like to do some kinds of sales work, perhaps at an electronics store. I don't have much experience now, but I am young and I have a lot of energy to do it. If I can get a little encouragement from others and if someone can give me a chance, I think I can learn a lot and move forward with this.



Polly Yang

What does VFA mean to me? VFA means a lot to me. I have spent more than one and half years at VFA; I learned lot of things and met lot of different people here. VFA is like a big family in which the teachers are the parents and the students are the children. Everyone has been getting along with each other very well, everyone is nice and friendly and everyone helps each other to solve the problems. From my point of view, VFA is a place which is not only for studying and learning but also for the connection of the relationships between the people.

People whom I have known at VFA are all very nice to me. My classmates, Sean, Yi and Andy, helped me throughout my school works. People who are younger than me such as Taemin, Jeffrey and David Kao respect me and they like to play and talk with me. I also made many friends such as Yi, Kate, Karen, Kaixin and Howard; they are my good friends who I usually hang out with and they always help me in many ways besides the school works. Teachers who have taught me are Mr. Harder, Mr. Yee, Mrs. Tajiri, Ms. Keung, Ms. Ho and Ms. McLardy; I had a good time in their classes and I thank them for trying their best to teach us. Other teachers that I didn't have their classes are Ms. Soo and Ms. Tatham; although I didn't have their classes, I am still happy to know them because they always gave me the warmest smile when we met. I appreciate to meet anyone that I have known at VFA!

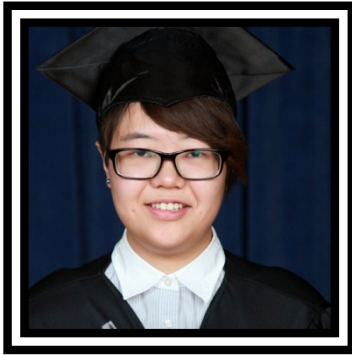
Actually it is a long way for me to get to VFA and it takes me lot of time. Every morning, I took the bus near my home to skytrain station then took skytrain to Commercial Broadway and transferred to another line to get to Joyce Station. After I got to Joyce Station, I took the bus 41 and got off at Killarney stop. That was how I got to VFA; it took me about 1 hour to go to VFA and, same, it took me about 1 hour to go home. Although I spend lot of time on transportation, it didn't seem boring to me because I talked with people on the bus and I could read some books or listened to music on the bus.

At VFA, there are many rooms and places- from room 1 to room 9, Teachers room, principal's office, secretary's office, computer lab, gym, lunch place, lockers, washrooms and library. My favourite room at the school is library; the library is like my room where it is very quiet, I can study there and take a nap there whenever I am tired. Ms. Chang is one of the nicest people I have ever met; she is very considerate, she always put a blanket on me and sometimes turned off the light when I was taking a nap. I really feel very comfortable and have a sense of security when I am staying at library. The secretary's office is the place which the students like to go to; Selena is a friendly person and every student likes talking with her. The Lunch Room is the place which just opened few months ago; we always have a good time because we sit with each other and chat with each other during lunch time. I have only been at basement once since I came to VFA; I still remember it was Ms. Soo who took me in. it seemed funny because I had an easy time when waking in basement while Ms. Soo had a difficult time because I didn't need to bend my knees. The gym is the place which people like to do some activities at, for example, playing basketball and badminton. Outside VFA, there are some places that we sometimes go, such as DQ and Chevron (which we usually call it as the "gas station").

There are some specific slips at VFA, for example, the yellow slip which is used for absence, the late slip and the blue slip which is given someone a demerit. I have sometimes had the late slip and the reasons for it were mostly oversleeping or some reasons due to the transportation. I didn't ask for the yellow slip from Ms. Chang many times before; I asked for the yellow slip was because I didn't feel good or I had some important plan such as an appointment with the doctor. I have never had the blue slip and I think it's because I am always a responsible and mature person, I don't do something bad such as bullying.

Yes, it has been almost two years that I studied at VFA. My life at VFA was wonderful; I learned a lot of things not only from the textbook but also from the experiences, for example, the experience of being a leader. Although VFA is a small school, everything here is complete and the small classes let the teachers take care of all the students, more than just their school work.

Thanks to everyone whom I have ever met here, I have enjoyed every moment that we have been with each other and I wish you all the best!



Yi Liu

It was January 23rd, after a nine hours flight. Finally, I arrived in Vancouver. My home stay guardian was waiting for me at the exit in the airport. My home stay guardian was from Hong Kong and they spoke Cantonese and English, not Mandarin Chinese which is my first language. January 24, I woke up the next day and my uncle came and took me to my new school: Vancouver Formosa Academy. The people in school were very nice. They took me to Metrotown and told me many things about Vancouver. The time in school went by very fast.

I still remember us going to Victoria, Playland and Stanley Park; we also went skiing and curling together. We went crazy at Playland, the Haunted House, the Roller Coaster, and the Flume Ride. It made us feel like we were still taking Roller Coaster when we took the bus back home. And we rode bikes together at Stanley Park, although I do not know how to ride a bike but it still a very nice time.

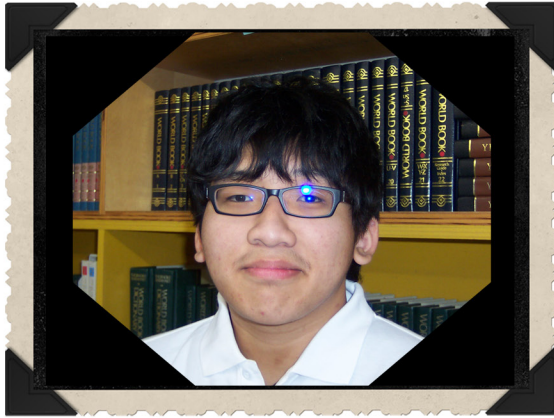
It is hard to forget my lovely friends. We always hung out together every weekend and tried every restaurant and every kind of food. The All You Can Eat Sushi is our valuable memory. Every time we finished, we promised that we would not eat there again, but after a few months we would go again. And we went movies on Tuesday because of the ticket price have 50 percent off. It seems like I am seldom home for dinner on Friday night.

There are not many teachers in our school. But they are very nice. My favourite teachers are Mr. Yee and Ms. Tatham. Mr. Yee is a smart and omnipotent teacher; I learnt Math, Biology, Physics and Social Study with him. We all know he is strict but he always play jokes on us. Ms. Tatham is amiable and enthusiastic. She really kept an eye on my ponytail and I like her science and grammar classes.

I also noticed that getting my hair cut is very expensive in Vancouver. I have short hair I need to cut it once a month. So I went to T&T bought a pair of hair scissors. I have never cut my hair by myself before. One day, I tried to cut my bangs but I kept cutting and cutting and before I knew it, my hair was shorter than I originally wanted it to be. It was ugly so I went to the salon thereafter. I had to go back and pay to get it cut after all.

I am more independent than before. I don't have as many as friends here as I do in China. But I have two friends who are like my sisters. VFA is not as big as my school in China either but VFA is like a big family. Because of this, life will become better. I am really enjoying life in Vancouver.





How VFA Has Helped Me By Eason Yao

When I came to Canada, VFA was my first school. The students here are friendly. They've helped me build good friendships. I learned basic English here. This school has helped me improve my English. I have gone from "Chingish" to English. Speaking English is really important in Canada. When I was in Taiwan, we just learned how to read and memorized vocabulary. It is different here, so this school has really helped me.



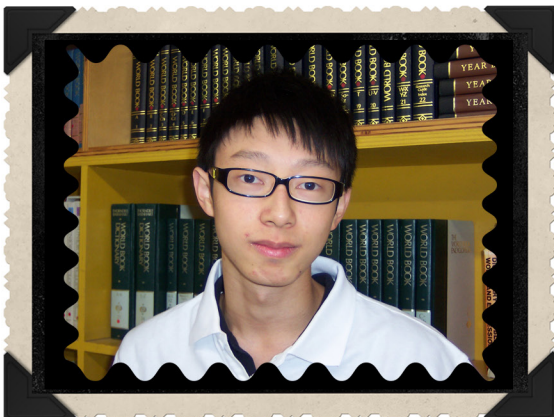
My Happiest Day at VFA By Howard Kwon

My happiest day at VFA this year was when our school went on field-trip. But I think what makes me happier is the friendly teachers and friends at school. It's great to have people to go on a trip, eat lunch and play together.



My Happiest Day at VFA By Nam Pham

My happiest day at VFA this year was the skiing trip. We were snowboarding and skiing for a whole day. We took a lesson for it. I had fallen down a lot and got hurt a lot. But I felt really happy about that. I'll always remember this day.



What I Like Best About VFA By Kevin Lin

What I like the best about VFA is the feeling of living together like a family. Everyone is friendly. Although sometimes there are some fighting and arguments, they didn't break our affection. VFA is like a big family. All teachers are nice and friendly. I'm glad that I can join this VFA big family.



My Happiest Day at VFA By Richard Moon

I think my happiest day at VFA is when I went to Victoria. Because I came to this school only one month ago, I didn't know many other students well. So this time was a chance to know my friends and I saw the great environment of Canada. In addition, the day wasn't about studying. I want to study more at this school because I like the friends and teachers here. I

What I Like Best About VFA By Jeff Kang

I think the best thing at VFA is the gym. In the gym you can play many kinds of sports. My favorites are ping pong, basketball and indoor soccer. There are also other sports that you can play. For example, there is badminton, baseball, hockey, frisbee and more. The gym is very big. When we have a party or the teacher has something to announce, we always go to gym, and when the teacher says, "Go to the gym," that means we don't have classes.



My Happiest Days at VFA By Wilson Zheng

At V.F.A, there were many activities. We always went on field trips to places I had never seen. I've seen many places thanks to VFA. We went to Victoria, downtown, and Cypress Mountain. The best trip was the one to Cypress Mountain. It was my first time to go to a snow-capped mountain. I'm really glad that I was able to ski there for the first time.



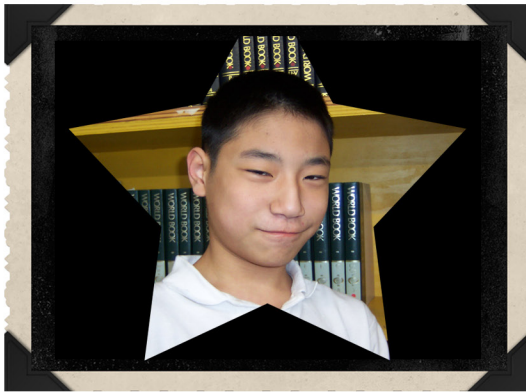
My Happiest Days at VFA By Diane Huang

This year, I had many "happiest" days at VFA. When I came here, I felt very strange with the students, but then I became familiar with some people. Although getting to know people is sometimes very difficult for me, I have gotten to know many people and now I get along very well with all the friends that I have met. Sometimes we do not get along for a long time because we all have our own ideas, but it's important to find true friends. I know that I can also get more confidence at VFA to meet



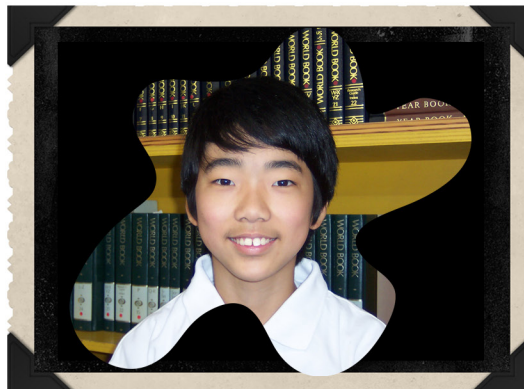
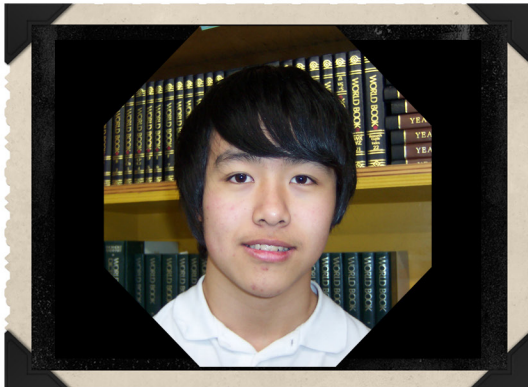
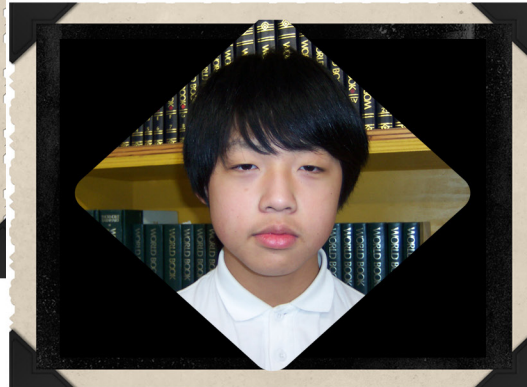
What I Like About VFA By Kenny Yang

The teachers are very good and they can help me learn English. They can help me work. The school is very good! Ms Tajiri is very good! The students are very good! My very best friend is Allen. We are best friends. We talk everyday and we have some classes together. He is in grade 10 and he teaches me many things. I'm happy I have Allen as my best friend at VFA.



How VFA Has Helped Me By Jason Zhang

My name is Jason. Before I came to VFA, I was in public school for one year. At that time, I was in grade seven. That time was terrible. Because at that time I had just come to Canada, my English was bad. Furthermore, in public school everybody spoke English so all the classes were really hard for me. One year later I came to VFA. I finally started to feel better, because everybody in this school is studying English together. So it's a good place for me to study.



My Advice to Students By David Ye

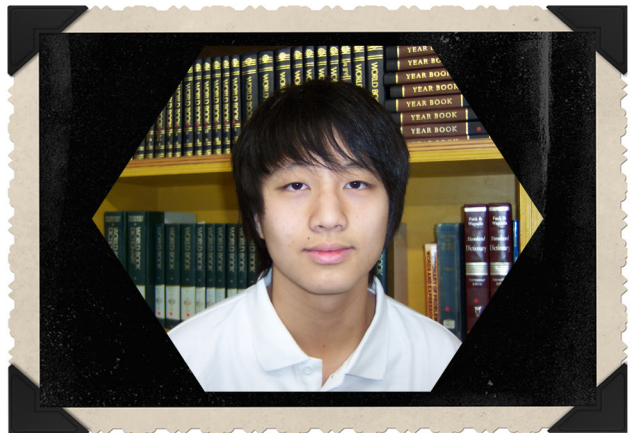
My advice to all students is that everybody's patience is limited. Don't make jokes about somebody. It kills their pride. Even though someone is your friend, you should make him/her angry and cry. It bugs somebody and does not qualify them as people. While studying at VFA, I learned that the world is made up of three days. As for yesterday; it has vanished along with all that was in it. As for tomorrow; you may never see it and as for today; it is yours, so work on it. So my advice to other students is to live each day as a good person and do what you can to make sure you value your friends.

My Happiest Days at VFA By Jeffrey Jeong

I think my happiest year at VFA was this year, which is 2012. I've had a few problems with some people, but I had huge problems with everyone when I first came here. VFA helped me a lot. I was a bit crazy and ignorant. I didn't understand other people before. When I came here, Ms. Soo changed me a lot. She understood me, found me a special teacher and talked about my problems. The best thing about VFA is the teachers. They work hard for us and they try to understand me. I advise new students to work hard and ask the teachers for help.

The School Has Helped Me Become So Happy By Allen Kao

In Taiwan, my English was not very good and I was never first in my class. Here I try to make English my best friend. The happiest times at VFA are too many to count, but one of these times is when I came in first for the Public Speaking Contest. If school did not conduct this contest, I would have never learned to speak English so well.



How has VFA helped you? By Alice Lin

At VFA, the teachers are nice and very kind to me. I appreciate that very much. That makes me want to study more. I noticed that I study even harder than before, and I learn everything with my full interest. If I have problems, I can concentrate and try to solve them by myself. Some of the attitudes in my own life seem to have changed for the better, compared to a half year ago. I don't know if VFA helps me with those things, but basically, I am learning more and more and growing stronger here at VFA.



The Happiest Day at VFA By Leila Kong

I think the happiest day for me at VFA this year was the day we went to Victoria. This was my first time going to Victoria and was also the first time I took the ferry. I was so excited that I even got to school 20 minutes earlier. Victoria was really amazing. I admired the architecture in Victoria and its surroundings. If I have a chance, I will go to Victoria again.



My Happiest Week By Kaixin Chan

My happiest week at VFA this year was the activity week. Because I passed my English 10 practice exam that Mrs. Tajiri gave me. I won't be in ESL class anymore. So, I have to study hard and improve my English level. Also, I hope on August 13th, I'll pass the Provincial Exam. I'll be ever happier if I can pass it.



Jan. 23
2012



Mr. Harder

Max

Ms. Ho

Ms. Keung

Howard

Jason

Mr. Chueh

Taemin

Mrs. Tajiri

Polly

Eason

Kate

Yi

Wilson

Leila

Sean

Ms. Chang

Selena!!

Andy

Ms. Ryoo

miss u~

Jeffrey

Nam

Shawn

Stanley



Allen

Kevin

David

Kaixin

Diane



Lunar New Year

Lunar New Year is one of the biggest festivals in Asia. How do the Chinese celebrate Lunar New Year? When the Chinese lunar festival's near, the shop windows are decorated beautifully with calligraphy. We celebrate this festival on the first of January on the lunar calendar. People stop working and go back home on Lunar New Year's Eve. We spend New Year with close relatives. The whole family sits around to eat together.

We have a big meal with family on Lunar New Year. There are some auspicious expressions to do with the dishes. We can't miss the dumplings and fish. The dumplings represent money and we eat fish so we can eat fish for whole year. The most important activity for children is getting a red envelope. We call this lucky money. It is red because red can prevent the dragon from coming. After that we go to the temple together to pray for peace.

Eason Yao



It's Lunar New Year. The moon is shining. Couples are hanging out, and children are playing with toys. Only Asian people celebrate Lunar New Year. We have a big feast of chicken chow mien. Everything is so shiny. It's the best day ever.

Everyone is so happy. They are laughing, talking, and eating. We help each other with the cooking, and the food is healthy.

It's dinner time and people come to eat. It smells good. I'm starving. My auntie puts the food on the dining table. I put my chopsticks in the chow-mien, it smells so good. It tastes like the best dish ever made in the world. There are vegetables, chicken, sauce, shrimp, noodles, and many more things. You can eat it almost at every single party. It tastes so good that I can't breathe. Finally, everyone goes home. The time is over. Lunar New Year is the best day ever.

Wilson Zheng



In Asia the Lunar New Year is very important. On this day, families get together at home or in a restaurant. This holiday is on the lunar calendar. There are twelve zodiac signs in this calendar. This year is the year of the dragon. My

zodiac sign is the mouse so I like to eat. People set off firecrackers and fireworks to drive away monsters at night. Families have a big meal and play games.



Every year my mom cooks great food for us. Everyone has fun at the table I think my mom's food is better than the restaurant food. After dinner, we play a game. Sometimes, we win or sometimes lose money. If you want to see an Asia New Year, eat good food, or to play some Chinese games come to Taiwan!

Allen Kao

This Lunar New Year party was my first time of VFA. On this day, there were many games and a lot of food. In the morning, we studied in the class. In the afternoon, we had a party. In the gym we played games and got a red envelope. Then, we eat some food. They had food from different countries. There were different people at the party. I saw the different foods and cultures. We play different games. I ate Chinese, Korean and Vietnamese food. Then some people played some foreign games. After that, we had some party gifts. I got some cards. We experienced a very different Lunar New Year this year.

Diane Huang

Korea has a lot of holidays and on January 1st all countries celebrate New Years. In Korea, we had a New Year's party. This party is different in America and in other countries. When we have a New Year's party, we play a Korean traditional game. This is "Yut-Nol-Yi". We use four pieces of wood and paper. We toss the four pieces of wood on the paper. We also eat some food. This is "Teokguk", rice cake in soup. When we eat "Tekguk", we get older, according to Korean culture. So we have an expression, "You eat one and you get one year older!" Today, Korea has a lot of holidays and a lot of traditional games but now we don't play games every year because our parents are so busy.

Richard Moon

Lunar New Year is celebrated in many Asian countries. This is the biggest holiday in Asian. It's like Christmas in Canada. On Lunar New Year, people can watch the Dragon Dance. People go in a line with a dragon costume, then they go up down to the left and to the right. They look like a dragon. That's why people call this Dragon Dace. People set off fireworks on Lunar New Year.



On Lunar New Year people have a big feast. All parents and children come and eat this. The food at Lunar New Year is great. We eat Chinese dumplings, but one dumpling is special. One person puts a coin in this special dumpling. The person

who eats the special dumpling will be lucky in next year.

On Lunar New Year, people also can get lucky money. Parents put money in red envelopes. We call this lucky money. After you get it, you can't use it. You need to put it under your pillow when you sleep at night. The next day you can use it.

On Lunar New year, we have a lot of things to do. My favorites are eating the big feast and get lucky money.

David Ye

Lunar New Year is celebrated in many Asian countries. This is the biggest holiday in Asian. It's like Christmas in Canada. On Lunar New Year, people can watch the Dragon Dance. People go in a line with a dragon costume, then they go up down to the left and to the right. They look like a dragon. That's why people call this Dragon Dace. People set off fireworks on Lunar New Year.

On Lunar New Year people have a big feast. All parents and children come and eat this. The food at Lunar New Year is great. We eat Chinese dumplings, but one dumpling is special. One person puts a coin in this special dumpling. The person who eats the special dumpling will be lucky in next year.

On Lunar New Year, people also can get lucky money. Parents put money in a red envelope. We call this lucky money after you get it. You can't use it. You need to put it under your pillow when you sleep at night. The next day you can use it.

On Lunar New year, we have a lot of things to do. My favorites are eating the big feast and get lucky money.

Jason Zheng

Lunar New Year is in January or February. This holiday is based on



the lunar calendar. In my hometown, people put red lanterns in the house. We usually set off fireworks at night. We visit friends and relatives. Lunar New Year is an important festival in China. We have dinner, buy new clothes and give children money.

On Lunar New Year, we have dinner time. When the Lunar New Year dinner, we eat dumpling, this is you must eat food in New Year, this custom has been maintained for a long time. It can be said family's union, we say something good to hope others all the best when we drink. For dinner is a most intimate moment.

Buy new clothes for New Year. Before New Year parents buy new clothes for their children and themselves. Some nice parents might give children money to do what you want to. Traditionally, in China, everyone liked to wear red clothes. This habit may still be popular in villages. Now most urban people buy new clothes don't required to be red, any color that you want. Wearing new clothes on New Year symbolizes the beginning of the year.

The last important tradition is to get money. Parents gives children money put in red packet it's called "Lucky Money". In general, only young people receive red envelopes. If you still get lucky money, that shows you are still a child. Fortunately, on this day children can do what they want to do.

Those are the important Chinese traditional customs. In China, this is known as the "Spring Festival". It is a traditional holiday for family to gather together. It only happens once a year, but this is one thing worth looking forward to. Even now.



VFA
Trip to Cypress
Feb. 8th. 2012

Pink Day is anti-bullying day. As a school, we watched a movie about anti-bullying, and we got into groups and created skits about anti-bullying. I felt happy about it because I learned about not bullying other people and to respect all people.



Pink Day is important because it teaches us the need to respect all people. As a school, we went to the school gym and talked about bullying. We also watched some videos about it. I felt lucky because I realized that I have never been bullied.

Pink Day is anti-bullying day. As a school, we got together in the gym. We watched a video and we created skits in small groups. I felt great about it because we learned how to defend ourselves from bullies.



STOP BULLYING



Valentine's Day

Valentine's Day is the best day ever for couples. They have so much fun. They have dinner, hang out, and do many more activities. On Valentine's Day, the boyfriend always buys chocolates and roses for his girlfriend.

On Valentine's Day, you don't have to have a girlfriend. You can give a present to a relative or friend. Some people send cards. Others give chocolates and hugs or go out for dinner. Couples have dinners in very romantic places with champagne, candles, roses, decorations, and chocolate. The dinner is beautiful, and they have an amazing dessert.

Valentine's Day is a day for love. It's a day to think about your friends and your family. In school we had a party and a lot of games: in one you have to shoot an arrow to a heart. In one you have to choose your love and look at your future love. We also had many snacks, drinks, and games. We have a lot of fun.

When I sleep on Valentine's Day, I always have dreams. Some of them are about my future girlfriend. I always dream that my girlfriend will have blond hair but I don't believe that. My love is waiting out there for me and some day I will meet her.

Wilson Zheng

Valentine's Day is on February 14th. Valentine's Day is for couples who fall in love. On this day, each couple goes out together to celebrate. Chocolate and rose are two of the best gifts on this day. There was a party in our school. At the school party, all of us just played together and ate some chips. This was the first time to celebrate this day with lots of people all of whom were friendly.

When we talk about the flower on this day, we must talk in a whisper. A bouquet of roses means you are my only one. Three bouquets of roses means, "I love you." Ninety-nine bouquets of roses means, "I want to be with you for ever."

In Taiwan, this day is the most important date to go out with your girlfriend for a romantic dinner. This is the key point of all. Valentine's Day is also a day for guys to get some chocolate from girls. I really want to get this feeling

Love is really a big problem for everyone. If couples love each other very much, they will be very happy.

Eason Yao



Behind my back, there is a lovely heart-shaped box of sweet chocolate. I'm in front of my girlfriend. I'm very nervous. In my other hand, I have a lovely red rose. Also, I have a ticket for a romantic dinner for two in my pocket. It is Valentine's Day and I'm ready to say "I love you." It is February 14th. It is the most romantic day of the year. We give chocolate to show your love. We give roses. The colour of the rose has meaning. A red rose with white rose mean you want to be a couple. A single red rose means "I love you." Two roses entwined means "I want to marry you." After I give a gift, we have a romantic dinner. At the dinner, there are can-

dles in the shape of a heart on the floor. Let me tell you some interesting facts. When girls are in love, they don't eat much. But when the girls are not interested in you, they eat a lot. So when a girl eats every thing that is served, just give up. And another fact is, if a girl goes to the washroom and fixes her make up, that means she likes you. So when Valentine's Day comes, just remember 5 things; roses, chocolate, a romantic dinner, and the two facts.

Jeffrey Jeong

On Valentine's Day we had a party in the gym. There were some games and food. I liked the shooting game, because if you shoot the "Love boy" in the heart you get some chocolate and candy. Ms. Tajiri had a game. You needed to choose a card and the card had instructions. I choose a card. It said to tell five people "you break my heart". There were some snacks. When Eason finished his snack his mouth was red. It was so funny. In the end, everyone choose a slip of paper. There was one girl or boy's profile. I remember Jason choose "Hello Kitty" and someone choose Lady Gaga. I forgot who I choose but I remember she was Asian. I got a lot of candy and chocolate and Jason said "give me give me. We are friends you need to share"!

Jeff Kang

Valentine's Day is on February 14th. It's a day for couples. We had a party on Valentine's Day. We played games and ate food. First the teacher let us see some profiles. I chose a beautiful girl but she didn't have lots of money. Lots of people said she was such a nice girl. If you liked

someone's profile you wrote your name under the person profile, the teacher let us see the picture of the person. My picture was Hello Kitty. In The profile she was a tiny girl and lots of people said she was cute. The other thing I did was use a bow to shoot at the black board. If the arrow stuck on the black board, I could get a candy. I got a lot of candy from this. I ate so much chocolate at the party.

Jason Zhang

Valentine's Day was started in Rome and Japan. The origin of Valentine's Day was when Emperor Claudius II wanted more soldiers. There was a rule at that time that soldiers couldn't get married! They had to fight the enemy for us!"so soldiers But Bishop Valentine ignored the rule and let the soldiers get married. Emperor Claudius II got angry because he heard about a man breaking the rule. So he caught him, and killed him. Later a chocolate company in Japan heard about this story and made the holiday of Valentine's Day. So Valentine's Day started in Japan. East Asian people give chocolate to their girlfriend or

boyfriend. Some people say Valentine's Day is so commercial because it is not related to Bishop Valentine or chocolate. Still today, we give chocolate to our lover. I think it is chance for people to say, "I love you."

Richard Moon

When people talk about "Valentine's Day", to whom has a valentine, they'll often start to prepare the surprise for their lovers, to people who just lost their valentines or don't have one, it may just be a holiday to celebrate with chocolate or other sweets. Before Valentine's day, the stores and vendors are all selling things like chocolates, love card and the like. Everything is about this romantic holiday and it's quite funny to see lots of things on sale just for this particular day. To all the Valentines in the world and those who don't have one – enjoy and happy Valentine's day!

Alice Lin

February 14th? Oh, it is Valentine's Day! It's a romantic holiday all over the world.

This year we had a party on Valentine's Day at VFA. We ate snacks and played games in the gym. We chose a description of the ideal lover without seeing a photo of who he/she was. Finally, we uncovered the photo and saw who it was. Luckily, I got a girl who looked pretty good.

Though Valentine's Day is romantic and sweet, I don't like it. I won't love it until I get my ideal girlfriend.

Kevin

At VFA, Valentine's Day was fun. We had a noon hour celebration where we played with cross bows and we had to shoot their heads onto the blackboard! We also played a game of pictures by looking who would be your future love. We have Valentine's day because St. Valentine was one of the many Saints observed by the Catholic Church.

Wilson Zhang

Do you know what day it is on





PUBLIC

**S
P
E
A
K
I
N
G**

BEST SPEECH

7/8: Jeffrey Jeong

9/11: Allen Kao

10/11: Leila Kong



Transitions

Presentations

2
0
1
2

VFA CURLING 2012



HAIKUS



Summer

By Jeff Kang

It's such a hot day.
Oh my gosh, I need water!
Let's go swimming – Yeah!



Killer

By David Ye

I am a mammal.
I don't try to kill people.
I live in the sea.



Phone

By Diane Huang

I am an Apple.
Many people play with me.
I'm so popular.



The Blue Whale

By Jason Zhang

I am very large.
My heart is like a car's size.
I live in the sea.



My Watch

By David Ye

Look at me to check.
Three hands moving all the time.
Do you think you're late?



Winter

By Jeffrey Jeong

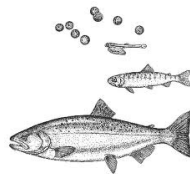
Brr. It's cold outside.
When I come I make some
snow.
Bundle up and play.



The Worm

By Allen Kao

I live in the soil.
I work hard in your garden.
Invertebrates rule!



Salmon

By Taemin Lee

Force pushes it back.
Tries its best to go back home.
Its last day at home.



The Missing Boat

By Eason Yao

A Terrible Day.
The tall waves hit the old ship.
The crushed ship is sunk.



The Dragon's Breath

By Kaixin Chen

After the rain falls.
Dragon takes a long deep breath.
There is so much mist.



Cherry Blossom

By Kate Zhu

Looking so pretty.
Pink skirt dances in the wind.
Smiles at me.



A Gigantic Rock

By Wilson Zhang

What touches the sky?
White in winter, green in spring.
All around the world.

Creative Pottery Day

This year, students tried expressing their artistic sides by completing pottery projects. Each student selected and painted a piece to paint. After, they chose their colours and spent hours painting their work, they were left at U-Paint, I-Fire to be glazed and then put into a kiln for firing. Students ended up with beautiful pieces of pottery that they were able to take home and keep as souvenirs of their hard work and creativity.

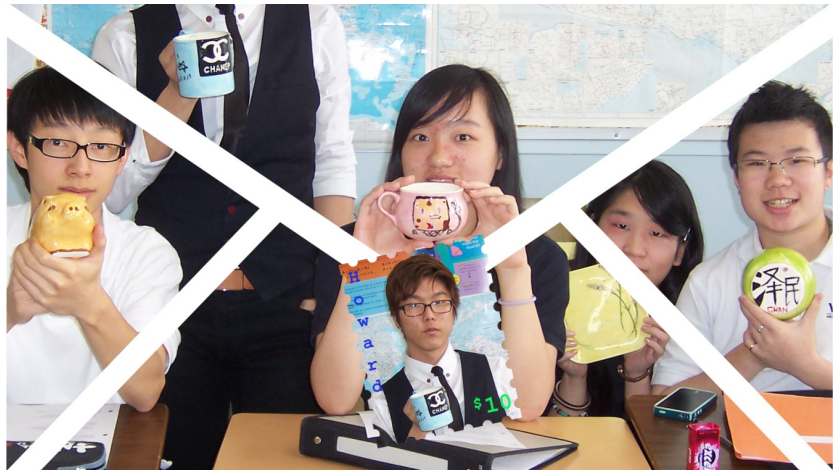


From left to right:

Jeffrey painted a really cute cat while David completed a mug with a design resembling a pair of blue jeans. Kenny worked really hard on his brown puppy mug and Jeff painted a similar mug in blue – a colour that he preferred over the traditional black or brown. Allen expressed his creativity on a square-shaped plate and Diane was successful in making a container which she can use at home that was shaped like a yummy strawberry cupcake.

From left to right:

Kevin is showing off his golden piggy bank. We know that he will be going home to save lots of money in it. Howard showed off his interpretation of a designer label with his stylish mug. Leila painted a beautiful mug while Alice showed great artistic ability in her square plate. Kai Xin did a great job on her bowl.



From left to right:

Eason is showing us his cute pink piggy bank. It will hold a lot of money. Kate showed her skill while painting this green alligator mug. It turned out great and we can see that she's proud of it.

Our Trip to Science World

Science World By Allen Kao

On February 14th, we spent to Valentine's Day at Science World. We took the 41st bus to Joyce station and then took the sky train to Main Street Station. After, we walked for two minutes and saw a round building. It was Science World. First we went in the door and saw a dinosaur, but it was fake and mechanical. The guide said at Science World we would learn a lot of information about science. I saw many exhibits that I learned about from my science class. It was interesting. Before we just listened to the teacher but now we can see it by ourselves. I most liked the deep intellectual games. They were so hard. I never saw everyone so absorbed in them. We went the IMAX movie and we watch a movie about dinosaurs. It was uncomfortable, because we had to look up to watch. By the way, we walked about ten minutes to get to the IMAX movie. It was a round path what was a ramp. A ramp is a simple machine. We learned about it in Science class. It's used to make work easier.



Science World By Diane Huang

That day, we took the 41st bus to Joyce Station and then took the skytrain to Main street Station. We went to there for the second time. When I went there, there were many games and dinosaurs. I saw some introductions about dinosaurs. After, we went to watch an IMAX movie. This movie concerned dinosaurs. It was very uncomfortable because we had to look up to watch, but it was interesting to see where dinosaur fossils were found.

I think some children like to go to Science World because there are many games for children to play with. I think it was very interesting. I had never seen

some of the exhibits and displays before.

On Valentine's Day By David Ye

On Valentine's Day my teacher took us to SCIENCE WORLD! That was a nice day, wasn't it? That was sunny day! We left the school!



We went to the bus stop, nearby the school. We took the No.41 bus to Joyce Station to and took the skytrain toward downtown. It took us 30 minutes to get to Science World! There were dinosaurs moving when we got into the building.

It took us 5mins to listen to the Science Worker's talk about Science World! This was a big building! Lot of machines were in the building! For example there were gravity experiments, acceleration due to gravity experiments, magnetic effects, current magnetic fields...so much! After we enjoyed the machines, we went to the cinema to watch an IMAX movie. The movie was about the dinosaur's history! Oh my! I almost forgot to tell you about our lunch time! I had the most delicious burger. That was a nice time! We ate lunch in Science World and it was great!

Science World By Jason Zhang

On February 14th we went to Science World. It was a happy day. Science World is near the Main Street Skytrain Station. First we took a bus to the skytrain station. Then we took the skytrain to Main Street Skytrain Station. Then we walked there. It was a big building that looked like a big ball. Then we went in to Science World. First a girl gave everybody a stamp. Then we went in. There were many interesting things at Science World. My favorite was a machine that we could ski on. It was very fun. I played on this machine for about 10 minutes. Then I went upstairs. I remember there were a lot of children with their



parents there. I almost didn't do anything upstairs. Then it was 12:00. We ate lunch at the restaurant. After lunch we went to watch a movie. It was a boring movie and almost everybody was sleeping, but that's just my opinion. Before we watched the movie, Ms. Soo went to find Jeffrey. She found him and we watched the movie together. It was a fun day!

Our Trip to Science World **By Jeff Kang**

On February 14th we went to Science World. We went to Science World and I was so excited because this was my first time going to Science World. We went to Science World by bus and sky train. When we arrived at Science World I was so surprised because Science World looked like a ball. It was so cool! At Science World there were lots of games. Some were intellect games. There were also dinosaurs, animal specimens and real animals too. My favorite was the intellectual games part, because I could play them while I learned new knowledge. Finally we went to watch a movie. That movie was an IMAX movie that talked about dinosaur fossils, but I watched it before so it was kind of boring to me. In the afternoon we went outside to take a big group photo and we got on the skytrain and went back to school.



Science World on Valentine's Day **By Jeffrey Jeong**

On Valentines Day, we went to Science World. took the skytrain and to get there. When we got there, we got a stamp on our hands so that could come back in if we went out. After, we went to the first floor. There were a lot of things to play with. There was skiing, wheelchair racing, and some puzzles. The puzzles were really hard. On the second floor, there were lots and lots of games to play! There were games that used electricity, games that used water, games that used air, and there were more puzzles, and displays about the body systems too. There



were live animals like bees, frogs, snakes, and others. At lunch time, I ate Chinese rice. My homestay mom made it for me. In the top part of the building, we watched a movie about dinosaurs, the dinosaurs' life cycle, what they looked like, and what dinosaur descendants are still alive. We had a great time at Science World.

Science World **By Diane Huang**

That day, we took the 41st bus to Joyce Station and then took the skytrain to Main street Station. We went there for the second time. When I went there, there were many games and dinosaurs. I saw some introductions about dinosaurs. After, we went to watch an IMAX movie. This movie concerned dinosaurs. It was very uncomfortable because we had to look up to watch, but it was interesting to see where dinosaur fossils were found.

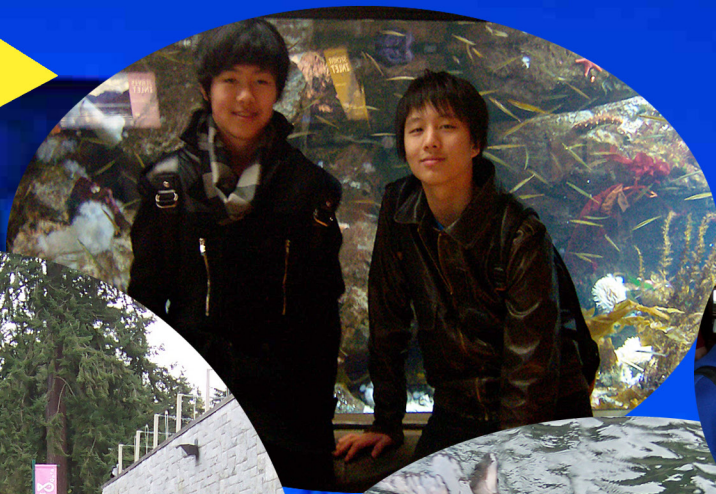
I think some children like to go to Science World because there are many games for children to play with. I think it was very interesting. I had never seen some of the exhibits and displays before.



MOA UBC
April 16, 2012



April 19th Vancouver Aquarium



our world





Victoria Trip
May.31 2012



Victoria Trip

By Jeff Kang

In the morning, I woke up at 5:30. It was too early, so during all of the Victoria field trip, I was very sleepy. We went to Victoria by bus and ferry. The ferry is so big inside and has restaurants, a game room, elevators, a souvenir store...etc. When we arrived in Victoria, we saw a bus that was called, "Wilson's Bus." It was so funny. First, we went to the Royal B.C. Museum to do some work, and we watched an IMAX movie about tornados. It was so boring and I was so tired. So I almost slept the whole time. Then we went to a mall to eat lunch, and after finishing that, we went to the B.C. government building. On the top of the building there is George Vancouver's statue. At the end, we went back to Vancouver by ferry. We are very lucky that we saw killer whales, and the killer whales jumped out of the water! When we arrived at school it was almost ten, so I just went home. When I arrived home I didn't know why I was so hungry, so I ate a cup of noodles.

By Diane Huang

Last Tuesday, we went to Victoria. It was my first time to go there. We needed to go to school at 7:15. It was so early. We took the school bus, and after that we took the ferry. It was very big. It took almost two hour to get there. We took the school bus to go to the Royal Museum. There were many different dinosaurs and we went to watch an IMAX movie.

The movie was about tornadoes. Then we went to the Legislative Assembly of BC. We saw people say something. We went to visit the inside. After that, we went back to Vancouver. That day was so tiring because we needed to walk a lot.

By Allen Kao

On Wednesday May 30th: This Thursday, we are going to go to Vancouver Island. We will visit the Royal B.C. Museum and see an imax movie. We are also going to the B.C legislature building to look at the government, but I am excited about taking the ferry. On Thursday May 31st: This morning was rainy, so everyone was unhappy, but when we got to Victoria it was sunny I think God knew we were coming today. I liked the ferry a lot. It was really big and cool. The B.C museum is one of the world's top ten museums, so it was good, but everything was in English, so I didn't understand every single thing. The government building looked very expensive, and we were lucky, because we saw that they were meeting at that time. It was interesting to see the politicians working. We just watched them for about ten minutes. They used their hands to hit the table. Maybe they were voting to have a new holiday next year!

By Jason Zhang

The Victoria field trip was fun.

Victoria is far so we needed to arrive at school early. I went to school at seven. At that time Richard, David and Jeff were already there. David went to school at five. We played basketball for about 20 minutes. At about seven thirty we took the bus and went to the ferry. At eleven fifteen, we arrived in downtown Victoria. We visited The Royal BC Museum at eleven thirty and watched an IMAX movie at one. At two fifteen we had lunch. At three forty-five we went to the BC Legislative Building. At five fifteen we met the bus in front of the Royal BC Museum. At seven we took the ferry back to Tsawwassen. At about nine thirty, we arrived back at VFA. That was a very fun day.

By Richard Moon

On Thursday, May 31st, I went to Victoria with my friends and teachers, but some students didn't come to Victoria. So I was sad because if we missed some of them. Without everyone, I thought it might not have been as exciting and fun. Anyway, first we took the school bus to go to Victoria. It took 30 minutes to get to the ferry terminal by school bus. After, I was on the bus, I realized I forgot to bring my cell phone and my money -- 25 dollars. So I had only 10 dollars and I couldn't listen to music. I was very bored. After 30 minutes we arrived at the port. We took the ferry to get to Victoria. The ferry was so big and there were a lot of stores like Starbucks, a cafeteria and restaurant. How-

I didn't have any money to buy anything. The 10 dollars was for lunch in Victoria. So my friends bought some food and I just watched them eat. I went outside of the ferry with my friends. I saw a wonderful thing. The fog surrounded the mountains. And after around 2 hours, we arrived in Victoria. Victoria was so beautiful. It was like England but I have never been to England. It just felt like it. First we went to the Royal BC Museum. There were things about dinosaurs, sea animals, the Old Town and mammoths etc... It was exciting there. We went to the IMAX theatre and we watched a movie about tornados. Next we went to a store to eat lunch. I ate a Korean hamburger. The only difference was the meat thing is only meat. It was Korean meat, Bulgogi. Next we went to the

government building and we saw some things and watched a meeting. It was a little boring. Finally we took the bus and the ferry back to our school. I was very tired, but the trip was very good. The trip was better because I was together with my friends even though some of my classmates didn't come. If I can go to Victoria again, I will go to there again.

By David Ye

Oh! Today is not sunny. It's windy. I don't have an umbrella. Nevermind, today we are going to Victoria. I have to be happy! "Hey, man! How are you doin'?" "What?" Wilson was coming. "Do you understand the words that are coming out of my mouth?" We are going to Victoria

by bus and taking the ferry. It takes us 150 minute to get to the IMAX movie building to watch the IMAX movie and we learned some knowledge inside the museum. The museum was built inside the IMAX building. That's cool. We enjoy it very much. However, the masks are so ugly and there are a lot of ugly dance videos. Nevermind. I don't like it, but I enjoy it because I am not good at Canadian history. So I need to know something that is knowledge about Canadian history. After that we have lunch time. That is not a very long time, just only an hour for lunch. After lunch time, we visit the government buildings. I don't think that is an interesting place. At the end, I'm tired, very very tired but that's good for us because it means that we enjoy this field trip very much!





♥ Tennis ♥



BC SPORTS HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM

HONOURING THE PAST. INSPIRING THE FUTURE





Burnaby Village Museum
June 29th

Sports Day-July 25, 2012



Autographs

