

V.F.A. High School's



Western Vista



24th Annual Edition – December 2017

Students score highly in the core competency of enjoying school activities



It turns out the VFA administration and teaching staff misread the requirements of the new curriculum. The Ministry of Education directed the school to stop having fun and return to the traditional core competencies of reading, writing, and arithmetic. Any activity that can potentially produce smiles and laughter is strictly forbidden.

It was not a good day at VFA. The perfect storm of events was happening: zombies were descending on the school campus, rain of biblical proportions was forecast to start in the late afternoon, and a school inspector from the Ministry of Education was coming for a visit. **Mrs. Tajiri** put on her work helmet and grabbed a baseball bat. She said: "Some day a real rain will come and wash all this scum off the streets. But right now, it's up to me and my Louisville Slugger to protect my school and my students!" **Angela Tran** came in the front door and proclaimed: "SkyTrain and the busses were packed this morning! Since when did zombies know how to tap with Compass cards?" **Tessie Nguyen** and **Andy Lam** followed close behind looking a little ragged from fighting off zombies on their way to school. **Mr. Yee** saw them and said: "Hey! You two! Your uniforms look terrible! They're dirty and ripped. Pieces of your hoodie are missing. You will have a detention in Room 1 at lunchtime." Their friend **Dana Lee** tried to defend them by saying: "This isn't exactly a normal day. Can they be let off just this once?" Mr. Yee replied: "Rules are rules. Once basic law and order is overlooked, the world will descend into chaos and anarchy. You get a DT for pleading their case!" In Room 3, the morning class had been in session for a few minutes when **Jason Pham** arrived late. His face was smudged with dirt. His clothes were ripped. A trickle of blood was coming out of a cut on his forehead. He handed in his late slip to **Mr. Hundal** who read the excuse: "Reason for lateness – slept in and my bus didn't come."

Ms. Yeh gathered up the pink slips and noticed a lot of absences. She made her regular phone calls to find out about the missing students. Eventually, she tacked up the daily absence sheet in the teachers room that read: "**Simon Kim** – excused (turned into a zombie), **Linh Le** – excused (turned into a zombie), **Tony Cheng** – excused (turned into a zombie), **Tyler Nguyen** – (headache), **William Wang** – excused (turned into a zombie), **Eric Chen** – excused (stomach ache)." The school inspector was viewing the class in Room 4 when a zombie came crashing through the ceiling and squashed **John Tran** and **Patrick Liu**. The inspector wrote in his notebook: "Structural integrity of ceiling panels needs to be fixed. Student desks need repairs. Two replacement students are required to keep enrolment stable." In English 11, **Mr. Harder** was teaching the Kirkman and Moore comic *Walking Dead*. He thought to himself: "I don't care if this is not on any approved reading list. The students like it, it's on TV, and it's happening right outside our window!" **Jennifer Nguyen** slammed the Room 5 window shut leaving a twitching dismembered zombie arm on the floor. **Josh Zhong** and **Kim Zamri** were discussing the similarities and differences between the comics and the television series. Josh said: "Yes, the books are realistic. Beloved characters are killed off without warning." Kim looked around: "Mr. Harder? Mr. Harder? Where did Mr. Harder go?" **Steve Cheng** took a contrarian view to the proceedings in the class. He said: "I don't like the Eurocentric/American books used in this class! We need more books we can relate to." He then returned to reading *I Am a Hero* by Kengo Hanazawa. It was the calm before the storm, so Mr. Hundal took his P.E. class out for a run around the neighbourhood. He grinned as he watched **Kelly Jurisova** and **Ariana Hoang** up their pace to avoid being brain-food for the zombies roaming the streets. **Isadora Spanholi** used her dance skills to pirouette away from a former human. The rain started to fall and **Dan Nguyen** was doing some artful dodging himself. He sa-shayed around some walking dead while knocking others down with the umbrella he carried, all the while humming the song *Singing in the Rain*. **Danny Lee** didn't like musicals; he was taking care of business with the zombies while listening to K-pop tunes. **Quoc Nguyen** was a classic rock man: *The Zombies "Time of the Season"* was helping keep his mind off the gruelling run and the impending apocalypse. It was lunch-time, and **Lynn Pham** and **Viet Doan** were eagerly anticipating their banh mi sandwiches. **Ms. Lee** volunteered to go on the suicidal mission to their favourite restaurant to get the food. Ms. Lee arrived back at the school but was stopped short of the door by a hoard of zombies. About to meet her demise, she lunged up the front stairs and thrust the bag of sandwiches into **Hoang Le's** hand before she was pulled back and became lunch herself. **Trang Nguyen** saw what happened and said: "I didn't order one, but Ms. Lee will not need her banh mi anymore. Ooooh, jalapeño peppers!" In Health and Career class, **Gavin Shan**, and **Eunice Yang** were learning about promising job openings in the post-apocalyptic world: leader of small ragtag group of survivors, road warrior, time traveller who can go back in time and prevent the world from ending in the first place, leader of humanity's last stand against robots that take over the world, blade runner, and high school teacher. **Emily Do** said: "But my mom wanted me to be a doctor or lawyer!" **Ms. Smyth** taught her class how to tell the difference between a zombie and a real person. **Sammei Chung** exclaimed: "There's a zombie right there!" She pointed at **Eric Weng**. He replied sluggishly: "I am not a zombie! I am a human being!! I only look half-dead from an all-nighter studying for today's science test and playing my favourite video game, *DayZ*." **Luke Vu** was oblivious to the class because he was on his phone playing the classic *Plants vs. Zombies* game. **Chloe Dao** had her earphones on and listening to a *White Zombie* album. **Lucy Dinh** was watching the classic horror movie *Night of the Living Dead* on her phone. **Holly Vu** was watching the remake of the classic horror movie *Halloween* directed by Rob Zombie. **Judy Ly** was listening to the song "Zombie" by *The Cranberries*. In Social Studies 11 class, students were debating whether or not zombies were covered by the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. **Leon Zhang** and **David Espinosa** argued that zombies had human DNA and thus fit somewhere in the continuum of humanity. **Karen Lu** thought zombies should be stripped of their Canadian citizenship. **Nhi Nguyen** wanted the notwithstanding clause invoked so that zombies could be rounded up and put in internment camps. In Social Justice class, students were discussing what they wanted to see in the future. **Tracy Dinh** saw a future that included living in peaceful coexistence with zombies. **Emily Lam** wanted discrimination against zombies to end. **Nelson Li** envisioned a day when one's orientation towards dead or alive did not matter. The class had no teacher because Mr. Harder was written out of the story earlier on. In Economics class, the topic was zombie industries and the problems they posed to economies such as China. **Ricky Chen** and **Bill Lin** misunderstood the business term "zombie industries." Ricky thought it meant companies were somehow employing zombies as workers. Bill thought it meant companies were tailoring their products to the zombie demographic. The rehearsal for the Christmas party performance was not going so well. **Ms. Phillips** grabbed a zombie that was wandering the hallway outside her room brought it into the classroom. She told **Zac Nguyen**, "We are going with a casting change!" Aside from constantly trying to eat **Sharon Su**, the zombie out-sang everyone in the room. The bell rang to signal the end of the school day. A zombie was in the gym and **David Hsiao** was playing a game of one-on-one with it. Because the zombie had no game, David was scoring on every possession. David asked **Mr. Chueh** to take over while he got a drink of water. When he came back, he found the zombie having a meal. David thought to himself: "I admit you had some moves and a good shot, Mr. Chueh. But your speed has been gone for years." **Jenny Huh** and **Phuong Huynh** came running back from their after school trip to the 7-11. Jenny said: "We discovered the vaccine that will save the world!" Phuong said: "It's Slurpees!! You give a zombie a gulp of it and --- you guessed it! --- BRAIN FREEZE!! The zombie dies instantly!" The school inspector was impressed. He told Mrs. Tajiri: "They nailed all the core competencies. They thought about the zombie situation critically and creatively. They came up with a way to save their friends and the world. They communicated their plan clearly." Zombies eagerly took their poison. After all, who doesn't like artificially flavoured and coloured cold drinks that contain only one nutrient? Motionless zombies littered the ground. The rain started as predicted and Killarney Street became a fast flowing river. **Ms. Li** had readied herself for battle by putting camouflage paint on her face and shaving her head in a style reminiscent of Mr. T and Travis Bickle. She looked out from her office and said: "I knew Mrs. Tajiri was right, fool! A real rain has come to wash all this scum off the streets!!"

Table of Contents

Page for holiday messages.....	p.4
Victoria Trip.....	p.5
Reasons For Being Late.....	p.6
Thanksgiving Day.....	p.11
Skating.....	p.15
Halloween.....	p.19
Fall Calendar of Events.....	p.24
Remembrance Day.....	p.27
The Last Word.....	p.32





**Holiday messages
from friends**

Victoria Trip

Our Victoria Trip By Linh Le

We went to Victoria on September 22, 2017. We got there by bus and ferry. We left the school at 7:10 am.

We ate lunch, played games, slept; saw a mammoth statue, an old town, and a ship in the museum. We learned about the government of BC. Victoria looks very beautiful. It has many flowers, and old buildings. I like the museum because it is very interesting, useful and beautiful. I love Victoria. It is an ideal place for us. I learned many new things from this trip. This trip helped me develop new knowledge. It was a memorable trip.

Victoria By Chloe Dao

We went to Victoria on Friday, September 22. We left school at 7:00 a.m. We went by bus and ferry to Victoria city. On the ferry, we ate lunch, played games, slept and bought things.

When we arrived in Victoria, we visited the Royal B.C. Museum and walked around Victoria waterfront. In the Parliament Buildings, we learned about the government of B.C.

Victoria looks beautiful has many flowers and old buildings. There is music and there is a harbour with boats.

I liked the Royal B.C. Museum the best because it has so many beautiful and old things and help us understand more about history.

Later, we met in front of the Clock Tower and took the 7:00 p.m

ferry back to Tsawwassen. That day was very happy and rewarding for us.

Victoria By Lucy Dinh

We went to Victoria on Friday, September 22. We came to school at 7.10 a.m. After taking the bus, we went by ferry.

I ate my lunch on the ferry, we played games, slept, and bought things. In the museum we saw Terry Fox pictures, animals, a mammoth, an old town, and a ship of B.C.

Victoria is a big city. I liked the museum. Victoria looks beautiful. It has many flowers and old buildings. There

is music. There is a harbour with boats. I had a good time.

Victoria Field Trip By Luke Vu

We went to Victoria on Friday, Sept. 22, 2017 by ferry. Victoria is a city on Vancouver Island, British Columbia. It is an island about 100 km from Vancouver. It was the Queen's Colony and Victoria is named after her.

On the Ferry I had lunch and some snacks. I bought some snacks and breakfast.

When we were in Victoria, we went to the Royal B.C. museum and saw Terry Fox. Then I saw histori-

cal works. When we were done we went to the parliament building of Victoria.

After the tour, we had two hours to go around the downtown of Victoria. I went to eat

some lunch. After the tour we went back to the ferry and went to Vancouver. We had a nice trip.

Victoria By Dana Lee

We went to Victoria. I took the bus first, and I waited for a while and got on the ferry. It was a lot of fun on the ferry. I had the most fun in the arcade room.

When we arrived in Victoria, I went to the museum first. In the museum I also saw gold in the water and learned about Canadian history. I had lunch after finishing the museum visit. I ate all the food.

Later, the teacher explained about Victoria, and introduced the Victoria buildings. It was a bit hard, but it was fun.

Victoria By Jenny Huh

Last Friday, we went to Victoria. We took a bus and a ferry. We left at 7:10 am. We ate lunch, played games, slept and shopped in the ferry.

After we arrived, we went to the museum. We saw Terry Fox's picture, a big ship, animals, First People's exhibits and a pit house. My favorite section is old town. I like



old culture.

After we finished looking around the museum, we went to the food court to eat lunch. I ate curry with mango and pineapple juice. It was tasty!

Victoria's streets were very beautiful. Victoria has many flowers, trees, a wide ocean, many boats, and beautiful buildings. Victoria looks beautiful and is by the ocean.

Next we went to the Parliament

buildings. We learned about the government of B.C. Finally I liked being around the ocean view, because I like the ocean. Next time, I want to go again.

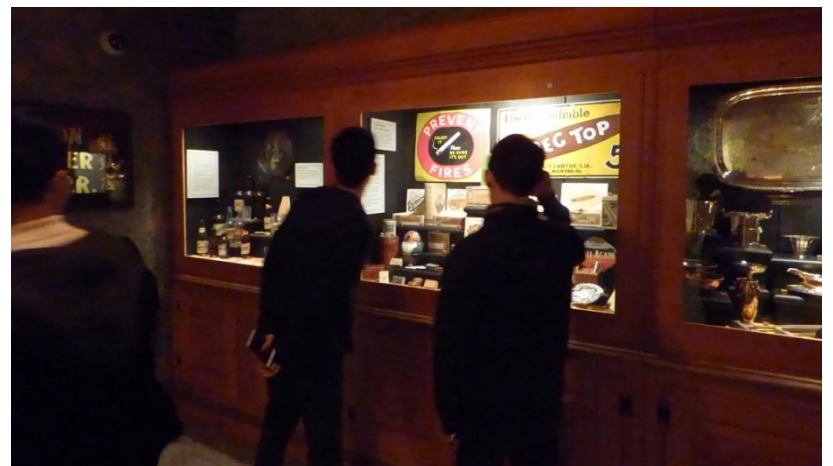
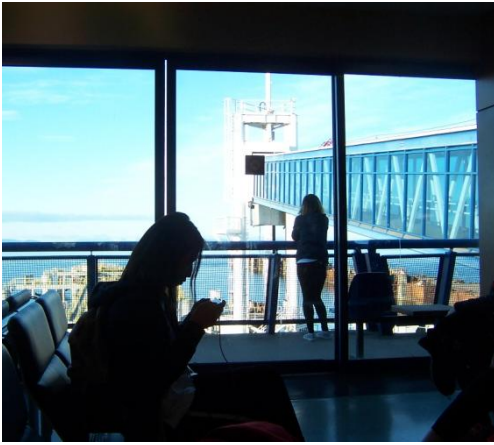
Fall 2017 Reasons for Being Late

Too Little Too Late

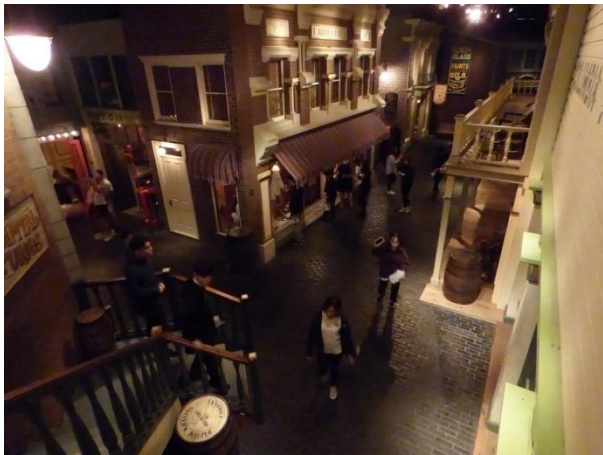
By The Students of Room 5

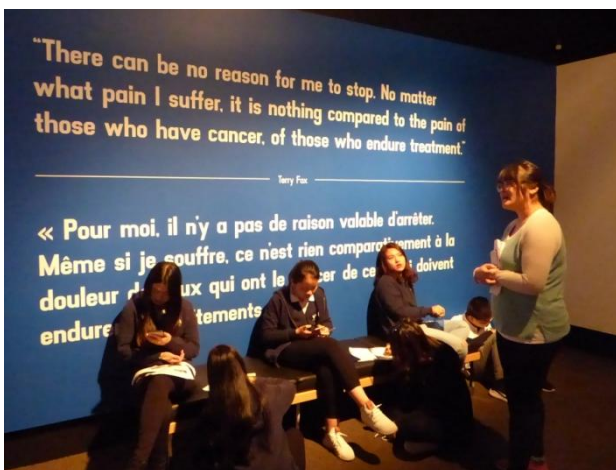
1. I have a stomach ache.
2. I missed the bus.
3. I woke up late, and it was raining.
4. The bus was late.
5. I overslept.
6. I was looking for my umbrella, but still I couldn't find it.
7. I didn't want to run to the bus stop.
8. The bed makes me late.
9. There was a traffic jam.
10. The bus was full.
11. I forgot to unfreeze food yesterday and I took too long to cook it.
12. There was a SkyTrain delay.
13. I walked too slowly.
14. I took too long to eat breakfast.
15. The bus was delayed.
16. I was taking a shower.
17. I was sick.
18. I was hibernating.
19. I had to go back home for a poster.
20. I spent a long time to pack my lunch.
21. I couldn't sleep that much.
22. I woke up quite early, but I turned off my alarm clock and went back to sleep.
23. I should have woken up earlier.
24. I went for a coffee: I needed more energy.
25. I ate too slowly.
26. I'm late because of the bed, again.
27. I missed the bus and had to run from Joyce Stn. to school.
28. I met a classmate on the street and talked to him.
29. You saw what my classmate wrote—I was on the same bus with her.
30. I told you earlier—the bus!
31. I didn't pay attention to the stop.
32. I fell asleep on the bus.
33. I overslept (just a little bit).
34. I thought I was on time. However, I am late.
35. I was feeling sick and took too much time trying to throw up.
36. I was supposed to wake up at 7:00, but I woke up at 7:54.
37. I'm not late; I'm early for tomorrow.
38. I forgot to set an alarm.
39. I missed one bus, and then the next bus was late.
40. I wasn't late.





Victoria field trip
November 7







Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving By Angela Tran

This year, I have taken part in many meaningful days at VFA high school. But the day to me that is the most impressive is Thanksgiving Day.

I'm a student in Foods 12 class so I had a lot of work to prepare for that day. First, my class studied the meaning of that day. It began as a day of giving thanks for the blessing of the harvest of the preceding year. Precisely because of this my school cooked the traditional dishes of this day such as: turkey, gravy, stuffing, yams, ham, potatoes, cranberry sauce and bread pudding. We studied how to make the dishes for 3 weeks. First, we studied all of the recipes. Then we went to the market and shopped for ingredients. Next, we cooked each dish because we only had one lesson a day. When the day came, my class decorated the gym to help people have a most comfortable meal. After that, each student in the Foods 12 class had to study and recommend a dish and my dish was yams. All of my school had our lunch and it was not bad. Instead of having to clean the table and chairs, I elected to wash things in a bowl in the kitchen to help clean up. My school did quite a big job but my home was more simple. People had 3 dishes to remember that day. There were turkey, ham, and stuffing.

Generally if you're in Canada

or a one-time visitor, you should experience this day because it will leave you many memories.

Thanksgiving 2017 By Tyler Nguyen

Thanksgiving is a special occasion for North American people. That's the time when family and friends gather around to be grateful

for what we have. Thanksgiving's traditional meal includes turkey mashed potatoes, stuffing, cranberry sauce. I haven't eaten any Thanksgiving meals before.

Luckily, I was in Food class which was responsible for cooking a big meal for all students in the school. I not only have the chance to taste the foods, but also experienced the process of making them. We had been working so hard and the result was meritorious. Six beautiful dishes were served neatly on the table and ready to be eaten. In turn, each student took their own plates to the table where we placed the



food. Our one last job, was putting the food on other students' plates. Everybody loved it. The foods were

perfectly cooked to the moderated temperature. Other students also contributed by carrying the tables and decorating the room. After the meal, we carried the tables back and Mr. Harder had to wash all the dishes by himself. It was a great day.

My Thanksgiving By Karen Luu

My experience about my first Thanksgiving in Canada was king of great. I was in Food and Nutrition class; therefore, we had a chance to prepare the lunch for the whole school. We cooked some

must-have dishes on this Thanksgiving Eve like turkey, gravy, yams, mashed potatoes, stuffing, ham and cranberry sauce.



Our class went to Safeway to pick up some stuff and we had three days to make a delightful lunch. Our teacher was nervous about this. He was afraid that there was too much going on, hence, at first, we did not have dessert on the menu. I suppose a meal without dessert was never a complete meal. Thus, I and a friend of mine suggested making bread pudding for lunch. We had a lot of fun doing this together, I think. We even thought that the idea of making the pudding was risky and unlikely to be successful. It was not we did not try hard, but that was the first time ever either of us had made this pudding. Things could go wrong easily

and nobody wanted that to happen. However, gladly nothing seemed to go wrong when the Thanksgiving lunch came. Each person in the class presented one dish and then we started the lunch. Stuffing was surprisingly the star of the lunch. Just like the name of the dish – stuffing – it did not have a five-star- restaurant-dish look, but it did not take long for everybody to finish it completely. We also received some compliments about the bread pudding and those compliments just made my day. It was funny that we finished the whole thing, except for the turkey. We had a wonderful meal at school that day. We did enjoy it and we cleaned up everything after that. I think I do like Thanksgiving Eve somehow.

Thanksgiving By Sharon Su

We prepared for Thanksgiving for a very long time. I'm in the Foods 12 class so all of the food is to be prepared by our classmates and teacher. We prepared for a week. We went to the market to buy a lot of food and



cooked it in the class. We hoped our school students would like our food so we prepared really hard. On Thanksgiving Day we prepared some food and decorated the gym. We prepared for almost one class.

At noon every student came to the gym. I was so excited because this was my first term having Foods class and first time I cooked in school. I hoped everyone would like our food. We had prepared

some turkey, gravy, ham, potatoes and some sauces and some vegetables. I think those food tasted really good. When all the students came to the gym I introduced our food classmates and foods. I

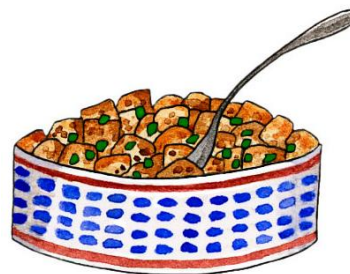
smiled to introduce it. We helped them put some food on their plates and made sure everyone got the some amount because our foods was not enough to let everyone get full. The evaluations were not that bad. Most students liked it. This was the first Thanksgiving for some of our students so I hope our Foods class gave them a good impression. This was a really

interesting Thanksgiving for me.

Thanksgiving Memories By Eric Chen

I am in the Foods class this term. We learned a lot of food-saving techniques and cooked some simple foods, too. In the past, I have had two Thanksgiving meals already, but I had never thought about why we eat these foods or who set these tables.

This time we thought about the Thanksgiving meal two weeks before Thanksgiving and we started to prepare the meal one week ahead.



I cooked a dish Canadians call stuffing. It looked not really delicious but it tasted totally different than the students imagined. For me, it was really deli-

cious and amazing.

A lot of people skipped my dish at the Thanksgiving lunch and I felt bad, because I knew they only looked at it outwardly, they didn't even want to try it. They missed out on something delicious.

Although the thing just happened, I was still thankful for the people who tried my stuffing, and I think we should be thankful every day, not only on Thanksgiving.





Thanksgiving party
October 7



