

Skating

Ice skating By Emily Do

Before I went ice-skating with our school, I had tried it a few years ago in my country. At the time, I struggled with the balance and fell down a lot. But this time, it was different. Because the ice surface was slippery, when I first stepped on it, I tried to balance myself and avoided moving around too much. Then there was a staff member who came and taught me how to skate. After that, I tried step by step and slowly, how to move by balancing on the ice. In the end my legs started to feel sore and shaky but finally, I could skate properly on ice! I did fall down sometimes while I was skating. Although it was quite hard to stand up and get myself balanced again, it was fine. This event, I could get to talk to more friends, experience a new activity and I learned a lesson that it is very important to keep trying until you get it!

Ice Skating Day By Leon Zhang

On October 19, I ice skated at the Killarney Community Center Rink. Though I had already skated three times before, every time I learned something new I would want to show others. Perhaps, it all results from me not yet being a good skater. In simple parlance, I am just a beginner.

When I heard from my friend that we were going skating, I was nervous.

"I am definitely not going to

skate," I said to my friend in Chinese. "I am worried about our day skating."

"Why?" my friend asked me, puzzlingly.

"Because I have such bad skills at skating. In other words, I am not good at it," I said in whispers. The teacher in front of me would not like to hear about what I just said.

My friend replied saying "You should improve your skill. Despite that, you still should play with your friends, Leon." As a result, I went skating.

The skating rink is in the sports center. So we were able to buy some drinks and some food. "Now, get your ice skates," the teacher said.

"Let's go!" my friends said happily.

When I put on the skates, I felt

un-comfortable. Most ly I felt afraid.

Then , I tried to stand on the ice with skates. The skating rink was smooth and cold. I believed a fall would be very painful and it would be hard to stand up again. So, I skated slowly and carefully.

"Hold on to my back as we skate. Several-people skating in a line will be fun," my friend said.

"Ok, I will try it, but I might die

from this," I answered.

"Don't worry, you will die happily," my friend told me. I laughed, loudly. And I found out it was actually pretty fun. Several people skating together is a lot of fun. Eventually, I was satisfied with my skating that day although my skating skills did not improve very much (as my friend said).

However, I take it. It was totally worthwhile.

I would like to go ice skating again!

Ice-Skating By Nelson Li

I'm glad to talk about skating and to share some interesting experiences with you. I went with our whole school, so there were forty-something of us all together. It was a lot of fun.

My knees were terribly weak on that day though, so it wasn't very nice at all. I spent most of the time holding my friend's hands, and I fell over once. My friend, who is good at skating, commented on my skating saying that I was going a bit faster than last time. So that was great!

I remembered the first time I went skating; I looked down at my feet once. Every time I felt like I was going to fall and as I was close to the side boards, I held on to it. But that only happened three times I guess. I was able to save myself from falling by bending my knees and placing my hands out to gain some balance. As I progressed I was finally starting to skate a bit faster. But sometimes I still fell down. The



first two times I fell over, my friend helped me up. On the third time I fell over, I managed to get up and stand by myself. I fell on my hip one of the times, on my knees another time, and also on my butt. None of the falls hurt.

I think I'm going to get bruises on my hip and on one of my knees, but I'm kind of proud of these bruises. They show that I had the confidence to be more adventurous and not use the bruises as a crutch. They show that I'm finally getting somewhere!

Our School Trip: Ice Skating **By Quoc Nguyen**

There is not much to say about my skating experience for the first time in my life. Since the first day I was born, I wasn't able to imagine what an ice rink looks like. The weather in Vietnam is very hot and humid, even on Sapa, the coldest place in Vietnam, only has a little bit of hail. So snow is impossible in this place, which is located in the northern part of Vietnam.

When I first came here the word that describe the best experience about ice skating is "dreadful", at least for me. I, proclaimed myself as the MVF instead of MVP, which stands for Most Valuable Faller. I felt down more than 10 times, and one of them caused me severe pain in my ankle for the next couple of days. Even if it was a dreadful and painful experience for me, I already learned how to skate "safely". By the word "safely", I mean I can skate smoothly and pretty slow, and I know how to prevent major injuries to my body, while skating. It's kind of a big step for me to learn how to skate fast.



Quote: "Don't be afraid of falling, because falling helps you to find your balance", written by ... me, so don't be afraid of falling. At first I was trying to practice with the "thing-that-helps-me-lean-on" while I was standing to skate, but then I noticed that if I kept using it I couldn't skate normally. Eventually I decided to skate without any

help, I guess it's the most embarrassing thing I could do on Canada. Well at least I know how to handle this, and if I had another chance, I would skate again in the future.

The Day We Went to Killarney **By Ricky Chen**

On October 19, the school took us to Killarney Community Centre to skate. It's the third time we have gone ice skating there with the school. I enjoyed the time to play with friends, but did not really get into ice skating because it hurt my foot a lot.

Before the day we went ice skating, I didn't know that we were going to skate. I found that we going ice skating in BIM class, because when I got into class, my classmates were all playing games. I was so confused. It's class time and you guys are playing games? My classmates told me we were going to the Killarney Centre in 15 minutes, but I'm not ready to skate. So I told my teacher I'm going back to my homestay to change my socks. When I went home, I think it's going to be cold when we are skating, so I also want to get a jacket. I wanted to move my wallet to the jacket pocket, but I couldn't find it. I was so nervous at

the time. I tried to find my wallet even at school, but I couldn't.

So I went back to Killarney Centre and I told my teacher I was looking for my wallet and that I couldn't find it. That was why I was so late. At the time it was already 2:40 and they were almost done with ice skating. So I just stayed outside and watched.

Our School Skating Trip **By Kelly Jurisova**

Our school went skating on Oct. 9. We left school at 1:30. 30 minutes before that in my math class we had a math quiz. We all walked to Killarney Centre. It took us about 15 minutes. The weather was bad. It was windy and rainy. I didn't have an umbrella so Trang and I walked together to share her umbrella. We arrived there at 2:00. All the students lined up to get skates and helmets. We must wear helmets, because Mr. Yee will get mad if we don't (it is for our safety). They all skated except me. I helped them by holding their phones. I was planning to run away with those iPhones. Maybe I could buy Gucci's sneakers, bags, clothes, ... with that money, but after I thought about it, maybe I shouldn't because we are bros.

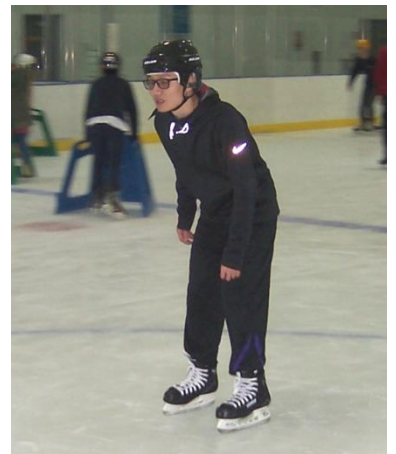


They skated for an hour and a half. Then we all walked back to school. Dan, Nhi, Tyler, Karen and I were playing at school for a while. It was really fun. We talked and did some interesting exercises. Then we all went to Metrotown for Tyler to get his hair cut and to shop around Metrotown. We had dinner at the food court. We all got home around 10:00 pm. It was a fun day.



Skating at Killarney Arena
Oct. 19 and Nov. 9





Halloween

Halloween at VFA By Tessie Nguyen

October 31st is Halloween, but our school had the party on October 27th. It was my first Halloween party in Canada. On that day, we didn't have to wear our uniforms because we were encouraged to

wear a Halloween costume. I wore a unicorn costume that day. The students and teacher started decorating the gym earlier in the morning.

After lunch, we went up to the gym and joined the Halloween party.

People wore a lot of costumes at the party. Some people wore animal costumes, some wore witch costumes, and many more. Not only did the students wear costumes, some teachers wore very funny costumes, too. Some of the students did their makeup and wore costumes in the morning, but most of the students started putting on their costumes after lunch.

We were supposed to study in the morning, but in my class, the teacher let us prepare our costumes for the party. We stayed in class from 9 am to 12 pm. After that, we had lunch. When we finished lunch, my friends and I went up to the washroom to put on our costumes.

In the afternoon, everybody stood in the gym with costumes on.

Mrs. Tajiri explained what we would do that afternoon. We first started carving pumpkins. I chose a partner and then we went together into the hallway to choose our pumpkin. When the carving was done, the teachers put a candle into each one. They turned off the light, and we could see our beautiful pumpkins lit up. After that, we played some games together.

There were a lot of fun games. We got points for playing games, and these points got us prizes. We ate

cookies made by the students in Foods class and other snacks, too. When the party was over, we started to clean up.

It was a fun party. I hope we will have a fun one next year, too!

Halloween By Jennifer Nguyen

Halloween is a traditional festival held annually on October 31st. The focus of Halloween is centered around the theme "Humor and ridicule about death". On October 27th, my school held an event for all students in school. That day was really fun. I wore a black robe and poured some fake blood on my lips to look like a witch. The others were very different.

We had class in the morning, but in my class, the teacher let us apply makeup and prepare for Hal-

loween. Before the party, we took pictures of everyone in the school. At the start the party, we had pumpkin-carving. Tracy Dinh and I were a team. After that, we had a lot of candy, cookies, chips, and many other snacks. After that, we listened to music and played games. Then, the teachers turned off the lights in the gym and since they already put a little candle inside each pumpkin, it was a very beautiful sight. When the party was over, we started cleaning up the gym.

It was so fun. I hope we will have a Halloween like that next year!

VFA Halloween By Zac Nguyen

Halloween is on October 31st, but the school wanted to celebrate it earlier for us, so they chose October 27th to have a Halloween party. On that day, we didn't have to wear our uniform, so we could wear a Halloween costume. On the day of the party, I wore an overcoat costume. The students

and the teachers designed the gym in the morning. After lunch, we went up to the gym and joined the Halloween party. Everyone wore a lot of different costumes that day. Not only did the students wear costumes, the teachers wore some funny costumes, too. In the afternoon, everybody stood in the gym and our principal hoped that we'd have fun at the Halloween party. After that, we started carving pumpkins. I chose a partner and we went to the hallway to choose a pumpkin to



carve. When we were done pumpkin-carving, the teachers turned off the lights in the gym. They had already put a candle inside each pumpkin, and we could see our beautiful pumpkins lit up. After we finished pumpkin-carving, we played some games together. There were a lot of fun games. If we won the games, we were given points and then we could trade the points for candy or Halloween stickers. Then, we ate the cookies that the Foods class made. They were really good. When the party was over, we started to clean up the gym. I hope I will have a fun Halloween party like that next year!

Halloween Party By Tony Cheng

October 27th was our school's Halloween party. The party started in the afternoon, and also on that day, we didn't need to wear our uniforms. We could wear anything that we wanted to wear, but I didn't have a Halloween costume, so I just wore a T-shirt to school.

When I arrived at school, I had my first class. The teachers and the students were excited. Some of my classmates already wore Halloween costumes. There were all sorts of clothes. We kept studying from 9 o'clock to 12 o'clock. Finally, the morning classes were over, and we could have lunch. At lunch time, a lot of the classmates were preparing for the party. I went to the washroom with my friends to put on something. I just rubbed a lot of red paint on my face and hands.

We only used about 25 minutes on costumes, and then we waited for the Halloween party to start. In the afternoon, the party finally start-



ed. It was in the gym. The Class A students were the ones who helped decorate the gym. They had their own Halloween style. They spent their morning helping the school. I was very grateful for that.

The Halloween party was really interesting. We kept playing different kinds of the games, and also, we carved pumpkins by ourselves. That was really fun. The party was interesting, and I hope the next Halloween party could be even better.

My Halloween By Sammei Chung

On the day of the Halloween party at school, I was not able to attend because I was sick that day. But on the actual day of Halloween, I went trick-or-treating with my classmates. On that day, we had a group of 6 people going trick-or-treating. We went to the houses near our school. We went to every house to get candy. People gave us each a lot of candy. I didn't bring a bag that day, so I put all the candy inside my pocket, but at the end of the day, I didn't have enough space in my pockets, so I had to run back home to put down all my candy and continue.

After trick-or-treating, we decided to go get some fireworks, because we saw people playing with them when we were walking to the next house. We didn't know where we could buy it, so we gave up. At last we went home.

It was my first Halloween in



Canada. Going trick-or-treating with classmates was really fun. Someone to talk to and to go out together at night - all this would never happen when I'm in my own country. Therefore, I think it is fun. On that day, I got a lot of candy. Still, until now, all the candy is not finished, because on that day, we visited almost all the houses in the neighbourhood. I think I should give some to my friend. While getting candy, I could talk with my friends and have fun with them. I think it was a very good experience.

Bill's Halloween By Bill Lin

I got a small pumpkin about the size of my head for Halloween because I wanted to bring something for Halloween. When the school party started, we first needed to get one or two teammates to carve a pumpkin. I worked with Josh and Nelson. We first chose one pumpkin and washed it. When we finished washing the pumpkin, we used a small knife to open the pumpkin's top. We had to take out the stuff inside the pumpkin. Third, we used a marker to draw shapes on the pumpkin. We had a special knife to follow the marks. When we finished doing that, we washed the pumpkin again. We were the first group to finish pumpkin-carving.

When we finished carving our pumpkins, my friends and I just sat on the floor, listening to music, and drinking soda. Around twenty minutes after everyone finished carving their pumpkins, we started playing games. I went to find Ms. Lee first. The rule of the game was





Halloween party
October 27





to get a card and answer the question on it. I had to say 20 things that were black. My reward was a small bag of candy.

In the end, we played a group game. The rule was to wrap one teammate with tissue, and he or she needed to run around the gym. Nelson didn't want to do it, but Mr. Hundal wrapped him up. We didn't win, but it was so funny. That's all for our Halloween party.

A Different Experience By Simon Kim

Our school's Halloween party was on Friday, October 27th after lunch. My name is Simon Kim. I am from Korea. My first Halloween party was that day. Korean schools don't have Halloween parties, so it was interesting to me. First we carved a pumpkin. We cut the pumpkin and washed it. It was similar to what I saw in movies. After pumpkin-carving, we played many kinds of games. I played cards,



darts, and Twister. I also found a prize in the pumpkin guts. I ate cookies made by the Foods class. After the cards game, Ms. Lee gave us a bag of candy. All the games were very fun, but Twister was very difficult for me, so I gave up in the middle of the game because my body is not flexible. After all the games were over, the teachers gave me coupons. I received so many coupons. I was able to buy

candy using those coupons. Finally, we had a mummy race. It was an interesting game to me, too, because I was the mummy. I think I won the game, but I'm not sure.

Danny's Halloween Party By Danny Lee

On the day of the Halloween party, I brought sunglasses and a mask that looked like a skull; but there were extra masks at school

and some costumes that were much cooler than mine. My advice is that if you want to have a cool mask, don't buy it from a dollar store. Back to the Halloween party – I carved a pumpkin with Simon. When we opened the top of the pumpkin, we were shocked. It was just horrible – we only had one spoon, but we had to pull the guts out of the pumpkin.



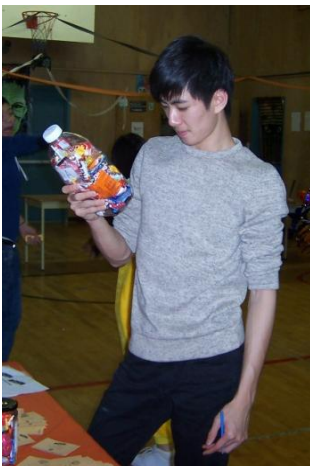
We played Rock, Scissors, Paper. Simon lost the game, so I used the spoon and Simon used his clean hands. It was very funny to me. I was shocked again after pumpkin-carving, because Mr. Yee dressed up as a girl. He looked like a teenage girl in grade 10! He was so funny. After taking some pictures, we had many events, like mummy racing, darts, Twister, and other games. I only played darts, and then I stayed with my friends and listened to music.

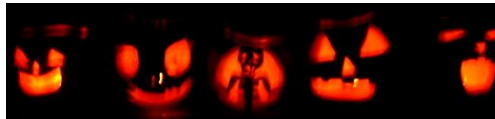


Fall Calendar of Events

September 6	First day of school for Fall Term
September 22	Victoria field trip
October 6	Thanksgiving meal at school
October 9	Thanksgiving Day (no school)
October 19	Skating at Killarney Arena
October 20	Last day of the first half of the Fall Term
October 25	Professional development day (no school)
October 27	Halloween Party at school
November 9	Skating at Killarney Arena
November 10	Remembrance Day ceremony at school
November 11	Remembrance Day (no school)
November 17	Skating at Killarney Arena
November 20	Downtown library field trip
December 1	CBC open house field trip
December 12	Inquiry based learning fair at school
December 15	Christmas party, last day of classes for the Fall Term
December 18-22	Special Activities Week
December 22	Last day of school for Fall Term







Remembrance Day

Emily Lam

Remembrance Day is on November 11. It is a serious day. We should remember and thank the soldiers who fight for us. They fight for the peace of the world and they also die for it. How can we thank them? We can write and send them letters about how thankful we are. On November 10, we had an assembly at school. It started from 11 am to 12 pm. We sat in the gym and saw some pictures about the soldiers in the war. Then some of the students read out some poems to remember the soldiers who were killed in the war. The most important part is to pray. We prayed for 2 minutes with some sad music in the background at the end of the assembly. It is important to pray because we should all remember the people and soldiers who died for us. The things that we are having right now it's all because of the peace in the world. And the peace is from the soldiers who are still fighting and who were killed in the war.

David Espinosa

A day to not forget all the people who give their lives fighting for their countries, people usually feel sad for the families that lose their husbands, sons, and dear ones. But, we must feel happy, there's no more war anymore.

It's a day when we must feel proud about all the good things that this country did to protect their ide-

alism. We must feel proud for all the brave men and women that fought there. They were brave knowing that in any moment they could lose their lives.

All across Canada they celebrate this day in the morning on November 11 at 11:00 A.M. In all parks they have a Cenotaph, a grave in honor for all the soldiers that die.

But this one is a grave without bodies.

On Remembrance Day, I went to Memorial South Park to the ceremony and for me it was something

wonderful; there were police officers and there was also a group of all people playing instruments. Young recruits said some words that were inspirational. After that they have a wreath and they were saying the names of some soldiers that died recently and they were putting poppies in there and it was something beautiful.

For me the Remembrance Day is something that should be done in all countries in the world. We must remember all the people that fought for a reason or a belief.

David Hsiao

This is my third Remembrance Day in Canada. I didn't know what Remembrance Day was before coming here. But I then related this to the Armed Forces Day (September

3rd) back in Taiwan. This day is to remember the soldiers that fought in the wars. After I came to Canada I then noticed that other countries also have similar holiday to remember veterans and soldiers that fought in the wars, and Remembrance Day is the holiday. But what does Remembrance Day mean to a student like me? Probably not very much. But there are some echoes from my life experience. I've actually been in many battles. Yes. Like many people, I play first person shooting games like Counterstrike, Battlegrounds or something simple like bow master. But in reality, I make no connection between this stupid play killing and the suffering people have experienced in real life. I feel nothing because I'm not mature. I don't know the feeling to stand in the frontline and protect my country; the bravery to face death and gunshots, and the pain to suffer. I have to grow up a little. And now, for one of the first times in my life, I'm starting to think about something like Remembrance Day.

Next year, in 2018, I'll have to serve a few months in the Taiwanese army. I will have to play a role as a soldier. And Remembrance Day or Armed Forces Day in Taiwan will at last be something more meaningful to me when I become an adult, when I do my service.

Josh Zhong

Last Friday we had a Remembrance Day Ceremony in our school. It went well as it should always be. We watched the videos,



lighted the candles, all the stuff that people think could make themselves look more “remembering” about the dead soldiers. As a foreigner attending it for four years, I sometimes asked myself, is this really necessary?

In Canada and United States, Remembrance Day is a big deal. At its beginning people make this day a day for the veteran's families to do something for the soldiers. It eventually became a war preventing tool for some countries to remind people how hard the war can damage the society. Back in China, we do have our “Remembrance Day,” but it only lasted one to two years after the event. In most situations, only the veteran's families would really “remember” them; there is no point to let students take it even more seriously than those who lost their relatives.

Kim Zamri

On November 11th 1918, at 11 in the morning: this is where the First World War ended. We celebrate Remembrance Day every year on that date. We had an assembly on the 10th; there were slideshows, poems read by the students, etc. We were gathered in the school gym at 10:30 in the morning. This is my second time celebrating Remembrance Day in Canada. I've never really been involved in this type of ceremony back in my country. The assembly started with our national anthem known as "O Canada." Then, the assembly continued with Mrs. Tajiri talking about her experience that she had an uncle who served Canada. Mr. Yee showed us pictures back during the First World War and the Second World War. There were pic-



tures of graves for Canadian soldiers all over the world like Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, and Japan. The class from Social Justice recited a poem called "Women and War." The poem tells us that most of the soldiers were very young and their lives were taken away; they never had a chance to know how it feels to be an adult and that scares me. The assembly ended at 12 in the afternoon.

On the 11th, David Espinosa and I went to 41st and Windsor Street to attend the Remembrance Day ceremony. There were a lot of people; it was amazing to see people gathered around to remember our soldiers who served Canada. There were three horses near the ceremony and all three of them were different colors. At 11 in the morning, we stood still for a few minutes. It's called the "Moment of Silence." The ceremony continued with the honors to the families who served Canada. The ceremony ended with them marching out from the park. It was an honor to celebrate Remembrance Day in Canada.

Tracy Dinh

We had a Remembrance Day assembly early on November 10th. It happened at 11 00 o'clock in the morning but it is supposed to be on the November 11 at 11 o'clock in the morning. Why did it happen at that time? It is because World War 1 ended at that time. On that day for our assembly, we wrote some letters to say thanks for what veterans did for us in the past. We watched a

video that told us about how difficult it was. They had to get over it. Lots of soldiers ended their life in their early 20s. They died in different countries around the world; they

did not even get a chance to meet their parents for the last time. I'm from Vietnam. My parents didn't tell me anything about the war in Vietnam because

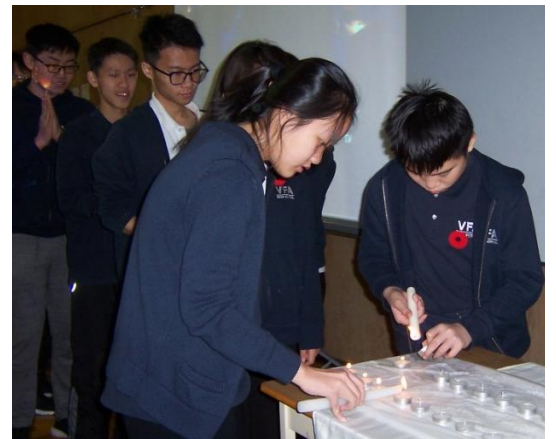
they weren't in the war, so I had no idea what war should mean to me. What I did on that day was to give some time to think about the soldiers who passed away and to thank them for what they did. I read some poems in the assembly and other students gave some really nice speeches. I really appreciate it and I'm thankful for their hard work.

Trang Nguyen

On the 11th of November 2017, my school had a ceremony for Remembrance Day. After all the students were settled down, Mrs. Tajiri started the ceremony; she had some speech in front of the school. Then four students who'd gained the First Class Honor Roll had a chance to light four candles representing: World War I, World War II, the Korean War, and other wars. Around those tall candles representing the wars were small candles. Mrs. Tajiri also explained why we need to light the candles on Remembrance Day; she said candles are the symbol of the light. The light comes and makes the darkness disappear. After that we watched a short slide presentation that showed where the graves of Canadians soldiers are and where they died in other countries like Hong Kong, France, Korea. They did not at least have a chance to die on their country land. Following tradition, the soldiers



**Remembrance Day ceremony
November 10**





will be buried in the country they die. So now we have several Cenotaph-graves without dead bodies. I am in Social Justice class so me, Tracy, Nelson, Emily read a poem about women and war in front of the school. Tyler, Steve and Tony also read a poem but that poem is famous.

Steve Cheng

That was the third time I attended such a "strange" assembly. I had never joined that kind of assembly before when I was in Taiwan, so to be honest (and ashamed), I could not understand the meaning and didn't know how significantly it actually related to us.

I am so glad that I study hard in the Social Studies 11 course and now truly understand how ignorant I was. I think I am the type of person that has "enough" perception in many things. I rarely have that kind of feeling from being incompetent because I knew nothing. In another way to describe, as if I feel nothing

my parents send me to study in Canada, turn a blind eye and disregard what they have gave to me.

I cannot understand why there is not something like Remembrance Day in Taiwan, or perhaps it has, but everyone is not treating it as serious as the people in Canada. The Second World War directly infected the Taiwanese or the Republic of China government; there were enormous quantity of people who died during the war, and many people in Taiwan feel nothing, the same as I used to do. I don't think that is an appropriate education.

Dan Nguyen

Remembrance Day is the day for everybody to commemorate the Canadian heroic veterans in the war. In the morning, my school had an assembly for this day. First, we sang Canada's national anthem and we watched a short video about Remembrance Day. After that, some students from class read a popular poem about the veterans during the

war; it was so emotional. We read the poem one more time and moved to the next activity. The lights were off; we started to light the candles one by one. Then, we put our letters to the mail box to send them to the old veteran's center. One more time, the light was off; we quietly stood for two minutes to reminisce about the soldiers. At the end, Mr. Yee showed us some pictures of what people do on Remembrance Day in British Columbia. For me, this day is meaningful because we can not have this good life without the veterans who made sacrifices in the war.



The Last Word

The Fall Term started as always in the warmth of summer and ends in the short, cold (and often wet!) final days of autumn. The weeks and months seemed to go by so quickly. It's an old adage that time flies when you are having fun. And, we certainly had lots of fun this term! (I am sure students will argue, perhaps, that time actually flowed fast because they were so busy with school work and other tasks. The supporting evidence for or against that argument is in their binders and report cards.)

Our big field trip this term was to Victoria. It was a long day with lots to do. The day involved getting up early, a pleasant ride on a ferry across Georgia Strait, a bus ride into Victoria, tours of a museum and the provincial legislature, free time walking around the harbour, and returning home late at night. Students learned about B.C. history, First Nations history and culture, Canadian hero Terry Fox, and B.C.'s system of government.

Thanksgiving was celebrated with the traditional meal prepared by the Foods and Nutrition class and supervised by Mr. Harder. The gym was nicely decorated and tables were brought in for the sit-down meal. The food was delicious! Many students tried for the first time turkey, stuffing, squash, cranberry sauce, bread pudding, and pumpkin pie. As always, my stomach is thankful for Mr. Harder and his students!

The wackiest day of the year is certainly our Halloween Party. Pumpkins were carved into jack-o'-lanterns, students put on zany costumes and put on make-up, funny games were played, and lots of candy was given out and eaten. Even the teachers dressed in costume and had fun. I enjoyed Ms. Lee's very creative personification of Google Map!

We tried a very Canadian activity: ice skating! For quite a few students, it

was their first time ever on the ice. There were lots of falls. There were maybe some bruises. More importantly, there was a lot of fun happening! Students were helping one another skate. They were enjoying the balance the training sleds provided. They screamed and laughed as they held on to each other and skated in lines of four, five or six people.

The Remembrance Day observance in the gym was the one serious and solemn activity we did. We remembered the soldiers who went to war and never came back home. We lit candles, heard speeches and poetry readings, and wrote post-cards to veterans thanking them for their service. We saw pictures of soldiers and war and thought about the peace we have today.

Several classes went to the downtown branch of the Vancouver Public Library. They learned about the different kinds of books the library has. Many students like the foreign language section. Others enjoyed the graphic novel and comic book section. Librarians also showed our students the studios where they can make and record music. I think libraries are one of the best things in our city – and they're free!

Senior students went to the CBC open house. There, our students saw the behind-the-scenes workings of a television and radio station. Many had never been inside a television/radio station before and found it very interesting. Perhaps there are one or two future broadcasters in our group?

By the time this issue of the Western Vista is read for the first time, the Christmas Party will have happened. I am sure it will be a success because of all the hard work teachers and students have put in the past many weeks rehearsing their singing, dancing, and acting.

Many events are planned for the

Winter Term in 2018. One of these is skiing, snowboarding, and snowshoeing on Grouse Mountain. The mountains already have a lot of snow, so conditions will be very good for our snow activities. We haven't had a snowfall in the city yet this December, but maybe we will get some snow early in the new year. Another big event is the celebration for the Lunar New Year. We will have lots of food representing the different countries our students are from. Some fun and games will be in the mix too!

Thank you to the students of VFA for contributing the writing found in the Western Vista. The student body is the life and soul of any school and we have a great one this year. Thank you to my colleagues for your hard work with our students and for helping me put together this issue of the WV. The biggest kudos is for Mrs. Tajiri. Our principal cares so much about our school and its students. She works tirelessly and almost lives at the school to finish all the work that needs to be done!

Whether you are staying in Vancouver, or going home, or going elsewhere during the break, I wish you a safe and enjoyable holiday season. For those not returning to VFA in January, it was a pleasure to have had you in our school.



Mr. K. Yee
Editor of *Western Vista*

Western Vista



December 15, 2017