




Language
Education
at a Distance

June 2010

The Official Newsletter of LINC Home Study

NEWSLINC



The LINC Home Study program is funded by:
 Citizenship and Immigration Canada Citoyenneté et Immigration Canada



LINC Home Study

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

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

Is there a fee for this program? No. The program is funded by Citizenship and Immigration Canada, and as such, all study materials are provided free of charge to participants. LINC Home Study students are encouraged to study independently for between 5 to 10 hours a week, and to finish homework on a regular basis. To be successful students have to study hard, and commit their time to improving their English skills. The teacher is there to guide students along on their path to significant language improvement.

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

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

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EDITOR'S NOTE

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

Our feature article details the rich history of Aboriginal people in Canada.

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

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

Enjoy!

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Program Updates

What's new? The LINC Home Study program is back on the 8th floor at 2 Robert Speck Parkway. The LINC Women classes started at 2 Robert Speck Parkway on Friday, May 28th. Similar classes will begin at the Oakville and Brampton East locations soon.

LINC Graduation: The annual Peel LINC graduation will be held at the Halton Regional Building in Oakville on June 15, 2010. There are 155 LINC Home Study students on the graduation list. Our guest speaker will be Erick Diaz Benitez and a Cogeco TV crew will cover the graduation. Some of our graduates could be interviewed.

Peel LINC Picnic: The annual Peel LINC Picnic will be held on Friday, June 18, 2010 at the Mississauga Valley Park. LINC Home Study staff and teachers are invited to attend. Currently, 5 teachers, 20 students and 36 guests are confirmed to attend. A sign-up sheet for the Pot Luck lunch is ready and staff is encouraged to list the food they would like to bring. The picnic will begin at 10:00 a.m. and end at 2:00 p.m.

Program Activity: The number of seats in the program for 2010-2011 is 1250. As of today, the program currently has 1185 students.

Drop-in Conversation Sessions: Drop-in Conversation sessions are going very well as more students sign up and continue to use this opportunity to improve their communication skills. The possibility of having the first Drop-in Conversation sessions in Toronto is being discussed. More information will be provided soon.

Additional Conversation Classes (by phone): 69 students are enrolled in 6 conversation classes and 91 are on the waitlist. The new session for additional conversation will begin on June 7 and end on August 1. Additional conversation classes are offered as 8 week sessions to interested students in the LINC Home Study program.

LINCing Seniors & LINC Youth: At present, there are 4 locations where LINC Seniors and LINC Youth have started or are starting classes in conjunction with NIC: Mississauga, Malton and Brampton East.

LINC Home Study Canada: This program (*formerly National Delivery*), spans the country from the Atlantic Provinces (NB, NS, PE and NL) to the western regions (AB and SK) of Canada. Under the capable supervision of the 10 LHS Canada TESL-certified teachers, 177 newcomers across the country are developing their English skills in listening, speaking, reading and writing from their homes.

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

Feature Article

CELEBRATE NATIONAL ABORIGINAL DAY

by Anne F.

Did you know that the names of hundreds of cities, lakes, rivers, towns, provinces, territories and even the name of our country *Canada* comes from languages spoken by Aboriginal peoples in Canada? The Iroquois in Quebec refer to their homeland as *kana:ta*. This means 'village' or 'settlement.' Over time, *kana:ta* was changed to *Canada*.

The Aboriginal inhabitants lived in every part of our country for thousands of years before the first European immigrants came about 520 years ago. Aboriginal people spoke more than 50 languages and had rich and diverse cultures. Their communities spread across Canada from the Atlantic, to the Pacific, to the Arctic Oceans.

Over time, Aboriginal people have shared their knowledge and understanding of the environment, medicine, transportation, sports, agriculture and food, and arts and crafts. Their cultures are based upon deep respect and care for the Earth and all living things. Historically, Aboriginal groups shared their food and medicines to help early European settlers survive the harsh Canadian winters. Aboriginal people taught early explorers how to move across the vast land by toboggan, sled and canoe. The French Canadians and later Scottish and British traders were then able to travel the rivers and lakes deep into the west and north lands for fur trading and settlement. In addition, Aboriginal people had played lacrosse and ice hockey long before these games became Canada's official summer and winter sports.

Today, all Canadians can continue to learn from the *First Nations*, *Inuit* and the *Metis* peoples who make up the term *Aboriginal*. These three groups are officially recognized in the Canadian Constitution as peoples with their own distinct languages, cultures, societies, homelands and traditional governing structures. The Inuit people occupy Canada's Arctic regions. In 2006, a national survey recorded 50,485 Inuit living in the area, most living in the Northwest Territories, Nunavut and in northern Labrador and Quebec.

The second group, Metis live mainly in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Ontario. Their ancestry is Ojibway or Cree mixed with French or Scottish.

Also in 2006, the Metis numbered 389,785. Finally, the largest group is called First Nations, which have 698,025 people from more than 50 distinct cultural groups. Many First Nations live in the 630 First Nation communities, also called *reserves* throughout Canada.

Today, 3.8% of Canada's population, approximately 1.2 million people are Aboriginal. Of the 1.2 million, one half is under the age of 28. In addition, about 54% of all Aboriginal peoples live in cities and towns across the country. This is a new change in recent years. Before most Aboriginal people lived in rural and remote places and would move in and out of the cities. In Toronto, for example, the urban Aboriginal community's population is estimated to be anywhere from 40,000 to 70,000.

National Aboriginal Day was proclaimed by the Governor General of Canada in 1996 who had invited all Canadians to join in events across the country celebrating Canada's first people. The anniversary is celebrated every June 21 when many Aboriginal people share their music, songs, dances, their colourful regalia, traditional foods, arts and crafts, and a rich tradition of storytelling. The 21st also kicks off a number of great festivities such as Canadian Multiculturalism Day on June 27 and Canada's 143rd birthday on July 1.

All Canadians, including newcomers to Canada are encouraged to participate in the cultural festivities of our First Nations, Inuit and Metis people. It is an experience that families and their children will always remember. For more information about Aboriginal people in Canada, visit the Government of Canada's Indian and Northern Affairs web site at www.ainc-inac.gc.ca under the 'Culture and History' section.

Anne F. is a teacher with LINC Home Study program.

Staff Reflections

HISTORIC AND BEAUTIFUL NIAGARA

by Natasha A.

The Niagara region is unlike any other. Not only do we have the famous *Niagara Falls* and the vineyards of quaint *Niagara-On-The-Lake*, but we also have many historic sites and parks which are filled throughout the summer months with families and friends taking self-walking tours of historic areas and having picnics as well as a variety of sporting events. One park that combines history, sports, and picnickers alike is Queenston Heights. Here you can take yourself back to the time of the War of 1812 and learn about Sir Isaac Brock. A monument of Brock allows you to climb his monument and overlook a magnificent view of Lake Ontario in the north and Niagara Falls in the south. The Laura Secord Homestead is only a nature's walk away. Explore the home of a courageous woman in Canada's history who walked 32 kilometres (20 miles) to warn our troops of an American attack.

The facilities of Queenston Heights include two picnic pavilions, washrooms, children's splash pad, tennis courts, a bandshell, snack bar, children's playground and fine dining at Queenston Heights Restaurant with its award-winning VQA wine cellar. The park is also a part of the Bruce Trail which extends over several hundred kilometres to Tobermory, passing through the Niagara Escarpment. It is a place for nature lovers, hikers and picnickers who have used this park for generations.

The Brock monument is open 7 days/week, 10-5 daily from May until Labour Day weekend. Parks Canada staff at the monument can be contacted at 905 262-4759.

Niagara Parks is preparing to celebrate the War of 1812 Bi-Centennial. Plans are being made for special events beginning in 2012 - visit the official website www.Visit1812.com/ for updates on this important milestone shared by Canada and the United States of America - 200 Years of Peace.



Natasha A. is a teacher with LINC Home Study program.

LIVING A BOY'S ADVENTURE TALE By Igor R.

Everyone had childhood dreams. Whether it was something we wanted to be when we grew up, something we wanted to achieve in our lifetime or, just simply, meeting or seeing someone we respected and liked, didn't we all feel that it would be nice if some of them came true? In today's globalized world where many people live outside of their country of origin, some of these dreams can and do become true. Well, in any case, it certainly happened to me...

As a teenager, I was a huge fan of music in general and pop-rock music in particular. It is passion that I continue to nurture today, as my already large CD collection just keeps growing. I like and respect a lot of artists, but, of course, there are a few favourites who I follow very closely. One of these is the Norwegian pop group A-ha.

A-ha struck it big when their huge hit *Take on Me* and the accompanying video conquered the world in 1985-86 when they indeed were the biggest pop band in the world. As an impressionable 14-year old with an ear for good pop music, I could not escape the influence that A-ha exerted with their fabulous debut album *Hunting High and Low*. In other words, I became hooked on their music for life. Their subsequent albums were equally excellent, but maybe not as commercially successful in North America where they have not toured since 1986.

Many of my childhood pop dreams came true since I came to Canada and I have seen many of my favourite artists live in concert. But, there was one thing missing. Despite huge success in the rest of the world, North America just seemed not to care much for A-ha's brand of sweepingly epic and melodic pop music (apart from a sizeable, but dedicated fan base). Hence, A-ha never came to tour. And then, the heartbreaking news: A-ha were breaking up after 25 years to pursue solo projects. To end on a high note, they promised a farewell world tour. The fan base was filled with trepidation. Will they come to US and Canada and allow some of their fans to finally see them live?

And came they did! It was an unbelievable experience to finally get the tickets for the event I had been waiting almost 25 years for. And when the actual date came on May 10, even people around me started noticing the palpable sense of excitement that I felt. The concert was a blur really; many of their best and most famous hits played one after the other was just a part of the whole story. As they came on stage and launched into the magnificent sweep of their latest hit *Foot of the Mountain*, it was clear that for many in the audience, this indeed was a very special night. Everyone stood up and was on their feet from the beginning to the end

and greeted each song with cheer and more often than not, a massive sing along. And then, almost in a blink of an eye (or it seemed like that to me), after 21 songs, ending with, what else, *Take on Me*, it was over. I am sure that there may have been a few tears somewhere in the building...

So don't stop believing in your (pop culture) childhood dreams. Canada may just be the place where many of global pop culture dreams do come true. Below are some photos from mine.

P.S. *Living a Boy's Adventure Tale* is a title of a song from A-ha's bestselling debut album.



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

Student Reflections

“SORRY MOMMY!” by Suely R.

Father's Day is a special day to me because it reminds me of my grandfather, who lived with my family and was like a father to me.

When I was a child, I liked playing practical jokes and pranks on people. My grandfather always taught me the right way to treat people by telling me a story. This is one I have always remembered.

When my grandfather was a small child, he was a very careless boy. After each prank, he ran to his mother and said quickly, “Sorry, Mommy!” He thought that “sorry” was a magic word that would make everything fine. One day he spilled coffee on a beautiful tablecloth that was on the kitchen table. “Sorry Mommy!” he said quickly. His mother, smiling, took a towel and rolled it on his head, like a turban, and then put a stick in his hands and said, “You are now a magician. With this magic wand, close your eyes, say the magic words ‘Sorry Mommy!’ ten times, and move the wand around that spot of coffee.”

My grandfather closed his eyes and repeated the words, while his family looked at him with great seriousness. When he finished, he still had his eyes closed and was very curious. He asked his mother, “How about the spot? Has it disappeared?” “No!” she answered him.

Having failed in this, he cried with disappointment. “It will never disappear, even if I say ‘sorry’ a thousand times.” After that his mother said “That means ‘sorry’ is not a magic word that can bring solutions for all mistakes”. “Saying ‘sorry’ can't remove a spot of coffee in two minutes that someone could avoid with just two seconds of attention.”

I have never forgotten that. Now, whenever my little boy, does something wrong and says “Sorry!” I think of that image of my grandfather as a little boy with a turban and a magic wand.

Happy Father's Day to all the fathers and grandfathers that make a difference in their children's lives.

Toronto Region – Suely R. is a Level 5 student. Her teacher is Christine L.



WHAT I WANT TO SAY ON TEACHER'S DAY by Weibin S.

A poet and writer in Tang dynasty of China, Han Yu, said: "the teachers are those who transmit wisdom, impart knowledge and resolve doubts." Teachers have been playing a very important role in civilization of the society from ancient times to now. Thus, many countries celebrate the Teachers' Day to show respect to teachers.

Looking back on our life, we have so many teachers in every stage of our growth. As the first teachers in our life, parents taught us to take the first step, and encouraged us to face our life bravely. From kindergarten to university, we learn a variety of knowledge, skills and experiences from teachers. Although we cannot remember all of their names any more, some teachers left such deep impressions in various stages of our life that we cannot ever forget them. And these impressions possibly influenced the trail of our whole life. Every time we think of those teachers who gave us kind encouragement and praise for the little progress we made, we feel warmth and appreciation for them. Sometimes this feeling gives us more positive attitude to our life, which makes us more active.

In different countries, we have different characters, cultures and traditions, and even different date of Teachers' Day, but we share the same appreciation for our teachers. As a student for more than twenty years in China, I am profoundly grateful for all my teachers in China; I really appreciate the education they gave me in both my daily and academic life. As a newcomer to Canada, I appreciate all the new Canadian teachers whether or not I have met them or known them. I am thankful for their kind help in my English studies and in my adaptation to life in a new country.

Best wishes and respects to the all the teachers.

Happy Teachers' Day! Be Happy Every Day!

Guelph Region – Weibin S. is a Level 6 student. His teacher is Joanne A.



Comics



Student Reflections

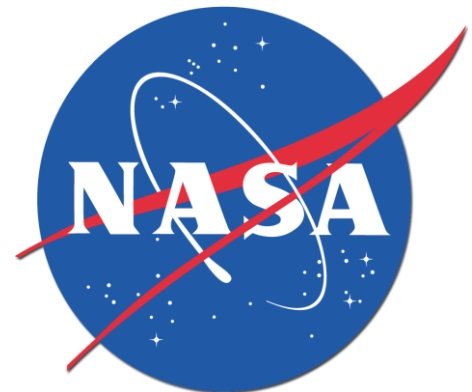
KENNEDY SPACE CENTER by Luz O.M.

Have you ever asked yourself what the world of shuttles, space missions and astronauts is like? Well, I recently had the opportunity to visit the Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral in Florida, United States. First of all, when you arrive there you are welcomed by real astronauts. The entire environment around you is about space. I couldn't believe I was there!

At the visitor complex you can experience the journey of the pioneers of space exploration. You can also learn about the technology used to take the men to the moon. It is amazing to see how everything is well organized, including taking a bus tour that will take you around NASA's launch facilities. Of course, it's not just jumping on the bus and going on the tour. The bus tours are conducted by specialists who will guide you and explain everything about the giant structures and the coastal launch pads, where hundreds of astronauts have been sent to the moon and the International Space Station. You can also watch a 3D movie about space exploration. You will see how the astronauts live in space, how they work, and the special care they need to have while walking in space. You will see the actual rockets Mercury, Gemini and Apollo. The Kennedy Space Centre is a great experience for everybody, since it offers activities and experiences for both children and adults, like flying high in the gravity chair, and the Mission Control Centre, where the success of the launch of the shuttle is in your hands, so you need to fix the parts and put them together. The most important part is that you need to work in a team along with a big group of people in order to succeed.

For me, the most exciting part was the Shuttle Launch Experience, where you get to experience what the real astronaut crew feels at the moment when a NASA Space Shuttle launches. The sights, sounds, and feelings mean you can see what they have seen, feel what they have felt, and live what they have lived. You will see space, feel yourself traveling at 17,500 mph and will be amazed at the marvels of space. Of course, before this experience you'll need to take a professional training course just like a real astronaut! It is very exciting...

Peterborough Region –Luz O.M. is a Level 6 student. Her teacher is Lesley H.



GARDENING by Soyoung C.

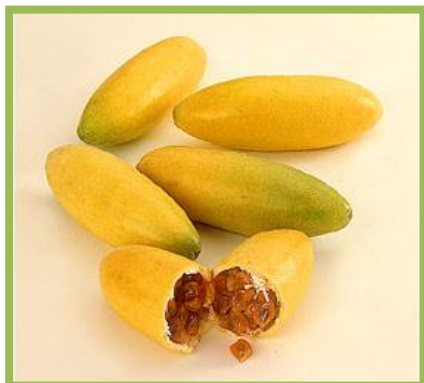
It was one of my dreams to grow vegetables for my family for a long time. So I started to grow vegetables four years ago. For the first year, I rented a small garden because I was living in an apartment. For the second and the third year, I grew vegetables with my peers in the YOGA academy. This year I didn't plan to do any gardening, though some of my Korean friends encouraged me to do some gardening on my own. One of my Korean friends bought green peppers for me, and I bought eggplants, tomatoes, strawberries, and a Jalapeno hot pepper. So far, I have 11 plants. They are all in pots because I don't want to ruin the yard.

Today I went to the Salvation Army Stores, and Thrift Stores to find big pots for the plants. But I couldn't find big enough pots, so I got some in Dollarama. They have some good bargains. I am going to move the strawberries and the green peppers from small plastic pots to big pots which I bought today with my daughter. My daughter loves to do gardening with me. I even got one small pink garden spade for her. I really hope I can spend my time gardening and sweating. I need some activities to fill my time when my kids are not around.

Kitchener Region – Soyoung C. is a Level 7 student. Her teacher is Chris S.



COLOMBIAN FOODS by Clara C



We have many kinds of foods and drinks in Colombia. Colombia is divided into by regions, and each region has your typical food. I lived in a city where each Friday the people eat red beans that are served with rice, ground beef, eggs, bacon, sausage and avocado. People from Colombia cook every day, and we have many kinds of soups, vegetables and grains; also we have a variety of fruits.

Colombian people eat 3 times a day; the breakfast is about at 8 am and it is a coffee or chocolate, eggs, bread, cereal or only a cup of coffee. The lunch is at 12 or 1 pm, and it can be soup, salad, rice, beef, natural juicy or also it can be grains like lentils, peas or beans with rice and beef, because every food is with rice.

The supper is about 6 or 7 pm, and we can eat the same as lunch or a cup of coffee with bread or arepa that is a tortilla of corn accompanied with eggs. Where the people work there are a lot of places to go for lunch.

This food tastes the same as homemade food, and it's cheaper than in Canada. In Colombia frozen food is not common. Other options are bringing your lunch or if you can go to a house to eat lunch. Some juicy fruits are guava, pineapple, lulo (exotic fruit), curuba, mango, and passion fruit. The plantain, cassava and potato are important products in our food. Other regions like the Caribbean Region it is common to eat coconut rice and fish, and sea food. In Canada I can get a lot of Colombian products but it never will be the same.

London Region – Clara C. is a Level 3 student. Her teacher is Carla M.

Student Reflections

THE SPRING OF VITALITY

by Hai Qiong A.

Spring is here. The grass is green. The trees are green. All hibernating animals are waking up. This is a season full of life. I like spring. The spring breeze is gentle. It strokes my face, and moves my clothes back and forth. The spring drizzle falls slowly on my hair, my face, and all over my body. It looks fuzzy and makes me comfortable.

As winter is getting farther and farther away, spring is walking with slow steps. I usually stand inside my home window, just to watch what is going on in the park's trees and grassy fields. Sometimes, I wonder if spring ran to Toronto because the green world came too quickly. Toronto's spring is very beautiful. There are dandelions over hill and dale, and on both sides of the road. All my family members enjoy the season.

"Mom, do you see the blue sky, white clouds, green grass and yellow dandelions like on the T.V. program?" my daughter Kaka said on our way to school, "Let's jump in! One, two, three." Then she jumped into the grassy fields. Every day we play like that. After school, I pick up three children including Kaka from school. We always play in the park.

They are like rabbits, jumping here and there. They always pick up fresh yellow dandelions to put on their heads and white fluffy dandelions to blow. When dandelion seeds fly into the sky, they laugh and run after them. Sometimes, I bring snacks with me for when I pick up the children. Then they shout, "Yay! We'll picnic on the grassy field." I am very happy to see the children eat, play, and laugh. One day, Kaka asked me why the dandelion flowers she picks dies. I answered, "Because it left its' mom and there is no water, sunlight, and nutrients." The next day, Kaka picked a dandelion with a longer stem.

She pointed at the long stem and asked me, "Mom, is this the flower's mom?" "No, the flower's mom is the root which is under the earth." Kaka left me. She found a stick and started to dig a dandelion. I asked, "Kaka, what are you doing?" "I can't let the flower leave its' mom," Kaka said, "I want to take the flower home and let it continue to grow." With my help, Kaka dug out the flower and took it home. She put it in a pot with soil, watered it, and then sang it a song. She continued to water the flower for three days but the flower still died. Kaka was sad, "Why can't the flower live? Can it only survive outside?" Spring will be gone soon and summer will come, but the pictures I took in the spring will remind me of the wonderful season.

Toronto Region – Hai Qiong A. is a Level 3 student. Her teacher is Rose D.



I LOVE GARDENING by Samina A.

First of all, I love gardening in Canada and when spring comes I get really excited to do gardening. One of the mistakes I would like to share is that this year I planted seeds very early. I planted many fruits and vegetables such as tomatoes, strawberries, cucumbers, zucchini, honeydew melons, green chilies and some different kinds of flowers like Josephine, annuals and herbs plant.

I planted all the seeds on March 21st but this was not a good time for doing gardening in Ontario. The tomatoes and zucchini plants are growing but the green chili, strawberry and honeydew melon plants are not growing yet. The reason is that the weather is not good for planting. It is really cold, and due to that, most of the plants are not growing. I have to take care of them a lot. When it is cold I have to bring the plants inside and when it is sunny I have to take them back outside again. I worry that some of my plants will die due to the cold weather outside, but I am really happy to see some of the plants growing, as I love gardening.

I will take good care of all the plants that grow. When all the fruits and vegetable mature, I will distribute them as gifts to my neighbours and friends. I will make sure that next year I do not plant seed until it is summer so that all my plants will grow and prosper.

Halton Region –Samina A. is a Level 6 student. Her teacher is Michele C.



CANADIAN CITIZENSHIP by Mouna E.S.

Today I got my Canadian Citizenship. I wrote the test in December, 2008 and I passed it. There were about twenty questions on the test. For seventeen of the questions I could choose the answer out of three choices. For three questions I had to give an answer.

On March 21, I received a letter from Immigration Canada. They wanted a lot of information about me and my family. I sent the information to the department of Immigration.

Today I had the ceremony and received my Canadian Citizenship certificate. There were almost one hundred people there. Their families came to see them get their citizenship. Everybody got a card with a number for a seat. Then the judge came and talked about the history of Canada. He talked about the First Nations who lived in Canada. Then everybody stood up and took an oath. I repeated after him in English and French. I am very proud to be a Canadian. Now that I am Canadian and I have a passport, I can go to visit any country. I would like to visit Florida and see the beautiful beaches and go shopping. I would like to go to Buffalo first, to shop. I have some cousins in Texas that I would like to see. I have another cousin in Chicago that I have not seen for a long time. Maybe now I will visit her.

Peel Region –Mouna E.S. is a Level 2 student. Her teacher is Theresa R.



Student Reflections

MIGRATING TO CANADA by Cleofe C.

On a bright and sunny day in the month of December, 2006, when we received a notice from the Canadian Embassy regarding our immigration application, it was a day to celebrate. After waiting for a long time, this welcome news was like a Christmas gift, since it reached us on December 23, 2006. A simple letter from the Minister of HRDC inviting us to attend a Canadian Immigration Integration Project (CIIP), seminar in Manila would change our lives. A brochure was enclosed. We had been accepted as immigrants to Canada. We got ready to travel by flight to Manila for the seminar.

In January 2007, we received another e-mail from CIIP inviting us to attend a seminar scheduled during the last week of February 2007. We confirmed our attendance to the two day seminar. During the seminar, we were impressed by the visual presentations and lectures of the various resources and the persons giving the seminar. We were given advice on so many things and we were encouraged to ask questions at the end. They really focused on how we can survive in Canada. So, the pressing matter was how to land a job. They gave us many options. They provided us insights. They painted many scenarios. After the seminar, we went into counselling. We were assigned a handler. We were made to make an Individual Integration Plan (IIP). The IIP was like a handbook. It was the heart and soul. Going into battle, we were armed. It became our compass. Just follow all the bearings and you won't be lost. Upon reaching our home (a one hour plane ride), I immediately surfed the many websites in my IIP through the internet...it became my habit that whenever I checked my emails, I also surfed for jobs.

We left on July 15, 2007 and arrived in Canada and proceeded to Mississauga via Vancouver. We were so overjoyed and thankful that finally our dreams became a reality. On July 16th, we applied for our SIN card, opened a bank account and tried to apply to OHIP, but were denied as we were not able to show proof of residency.

The following day, I bought a family medical insurance at Blue Cross. Like any newcomer, we experienced difficulty in finding places and streets. On the third day, we went to the Central Library to apply for a library card so that we could avail of its facilities like internet, etc. We visited prospective schools for our children such as University of Toronto, Mississauga and John Cabot Catholic Secondary School. The hindrance to proof of residency was overcome by getting a driver's license and opening bank accounts for the children. So, when the bank statement came, all of us proceeded to get our OHIP cards. It was very exciting.

On July 31st my mobile phone rang. It was the Controller of PRG Canada asking me about my available time as he would like to interview me. So in the afternoon, I went to the PRG Canada office for the interview. The interview went on for nearly two hours. I was asked questions regarding my qualifications and work experiences in the accounting field. I was even asked to present a work flow chart. Finally, I was told to report to work on August 1, 2007 as Accounts Payable Coordinator. I reckoned from our arrival date of July 15, 2007 till I found work in my own field was about 15 days. I wondered at first how PRG Canada got my name and how they decided to call me for an interview. So, I asked the interviewer out of curiosity. The Controller informed me that he got my resume through monster.com in the first week of July 2007. Thanks to CIIP, our transition and migration was as smooth as it could be and we did not experience much difficulty.

Peel Region –Cleofe C. is a Level 5 student. Her teacher is Jonathan B.

The Euro is now used in 16 countries and has become the world's second largest reserve currency. It started out being used in 11 countries in 1998 and 5 others have since adopted it. The idea of the Euro was to create a European economic and monetary union. Adopting a single currency is a crucial step in a member state's economy. Requirements for membership in EMU (European Monetary Union) are known as "Maastricht Criteria" and were agreed upon by the EU member states in 1991 as part of the preparations for introduction of the Euro. These criteria were intended to ensure economic union. It was hoped that with the Euro would stabilize peace and freedom in Europe

When the Euro was launched, politicians from the Euro zone predicted that it would lead to lower prices, more jobs and higher growth. In fact, there have been significant price rises, constant tensions over the stability pact and a common Euro zone interest rate has led to lower growth and rising unemployment. Bringing in the Euro was against the will of the majority of the people in Europe but the politicians did it anyway. Ten years later it seems that the majority of the population was right.

With introduction of the Euro, people and countries lost their common currencies overnight. It was very confusing to deal with the new currency, especially for the elderly. Familiar reference points were gone. The calculator became a daily tool and people compared the new Euro prices to the German Mark. Almost all prices on goods and services were rounded upwards but at the same time government statistics showed no inflation. The Euro was nicknamed the 'TEuro' which translates from German to English as expensive.

It became clear the people in Germany and likely other countries with strong economies were being cheated by the introduction of the Euro. At this time, the only chance the people had was to refuse to make any purchases until the merchants reduced the prices to the level where they should have been. There were consumer strikes in 2002 against Euro-related price increases. The newspapers printed the names of the worst merchants and how they had taken advantage of the Euro. After almost a year, things began to improve for consumers.

Time is now showing that the Euro can exist. In the financial crisis starting in 2008, the Euro was a strong bastion against economic threats. For example, it helped the economies in central Europe to stabilize during the crisis. But now it is becoming obvious that some of the EMU countries, so-called PIIGS (Portugal, Italy and Ireland, Greece, Spain), falsified economic data when they joined EMU.

During the 2008 financial crisis, PIIGS debt rose dramatically because their economies were weaker than those of the other EMU countries. To fulfill the convergence criteria of no more than 3% of the GDP debt they needed to borrow billions of Euros from the financial market to become a member of the EMU. As a result, this has brought them to the brink of bankruptcy.

Now almost 8 years later in 2010 with a new bail-out plan, people living in Euro-zone countries with strong economies just recovering from the worst financial crisis after WWII, are going to "pay" again, over 110 billion Euros to save Greece. This is against the criteria of "Maastricht" which states bailing out any member of the EMU is not allowed. Because of the PIIGS situation, the Euro-zone is now going through the worst crisis in its history. There is a strong desire to keep the Euro under all circumstances, but to do so there are decisions made by the politicians who are under a lot of pressure. The consequences of their decisions for Europe and especially for those countries with strong economies, like Germany, Austria, Switzerland and Finland are unforeseen.

Will the future bring inflation, social tension, new waves of immigrants to other countries? Who knows? I believe the people in Europe can convince the politicians to do the right thing.

Kitchener Region – Gunther S. is a Level 7 student. His teacher is Morley M.



Student Reflections

MY CULTURE

by Surina K.

I would like to introduce you to the Punjabi culture, one of the oldest and richest in the world, which is the culture of the Punjab region in India.

Bhangra (dance) is one of the many Punjabi musical art forms that is increasingly being listened to in the West and is becoming a favourite kind of Punjabi music. The Punjabi culture is reflected in its folk dance, folk songs, and arts and crafts. As in every society, the Punjabi society has its traditions to mark every stage of life from birth to death. In a Sikh wedding, the Guru explains the four stages, called lavans, for the bride to marry God (to realize him). A generation ago, the turban was the "crowning glory" of all Punjabis.

Duppata is a scarf worn by Punjabi girls which is a very important. It is said to increase intelligence and pride of the woman. This traditional fashion is decreasing in Punjab due to Western culture. Many, many years ago, married woman and unmarried girls used to wear it on their heads, but now girls/women wear it mainly around their necks.

Phulkari, a traditional embroidery art, is known for its colourful designs and vibrant colours. The dresses are made from a material called "phulkaris" and worn by Punjabi women during special occasions and ceremonies. The words "phul" means flower and "kari" means technique.

Celebrated on the 13th day of January, Lohari is a festival of zeal and verve and marks, the culmination of the chilly winter. On this day, children go from house to house singing songs, in return people generously give them wheat, corn, rice and money. Late in the evening, people gather around a wood fire and throw sweets, puffed rice and popcorn into it, and sing folk songs. Lohari also celebrates a newly born baby or a new bride's arrival into the family. In the evening, people eat traditional Punjabi food, which is sarson da saag (rappini), makki di roti (chappati made of corn flower) and a dessert of rau di kheer (rice pudding).

Vaisakhi is celebrated on the 14th day of April. People wake up early on that day, take a bath and pay a visit to the Temple or Gurdwara (Sikh worship place). Vaisakhi is celebrated as a Thanksgiving Day by farmers, thanking God for bountiful harvests and pray for prosperity in the future. People wear traditional clothes. Vaisakhi has special significance for Sikhs as on this day in 1699, their tenth Guru (teacher) Gobind Singh Ji, organized the order of the Sikh Khalsa (baptism).

Diwali means an array of lamps (rows of divas). Diwali is celebrated throughout India, as a family festival. It is a festival of lights, symbolizing the victory of righteousness and the lifting of spiritual darkness. It celebrates the victory of good over evil and the glory of light. Homes are decorated, sweets are distributed by everyone and thousands of lamps are lit to create a world fantasy. Diwali is a time for fun and revelry.

Halton Region – Surina K. is a Level 4 student. Her teacher is Lilian W.



Watch the video on Bhangra: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LR-vHYIU1-Q>

I will tell you a story which happened a long time ago: a story about nine very good friends. I was a regular schoolgirl in Economy technical school. There were around 26 pupils in the class, but nine of us were best friends. Since then my classmates and I have become inseparable. Together we wrote homework, studied, and went to summer camps. We were "One for All and All for One." But after four wonderful years, it was time to get separated.

We had the best teacher ever. She always supported us and gave us her advice on the spot. She was our mentor, and we were lucky that she was our teacher.

At the end of the school year when it was time for our Farewell Ball, we decided to do it in one of the most beautiful resorts on the Black Sea (about 100 km from our hometown, Shumen in Bulgaria).

As usual every one of us had bought a formal dress or suit and had prepared at least several months in advance for that event. I took my mother to Sofia, the capital of Bulgaria. We went to a dress designer and I ordered a fabulous dress. It was turquoise with embroidered Swarovski stones. My dream was to look like a princess, and it happened. When I put on my dress, my mother wept, "The ugly duckling now is a beautiful swan, which very soon will fly from the nest."

At the same time we had to prepare for the university entrance exams. In Bulgaria when you apply for a university admission, you have to take an entrance examination which is done within the university. So we waited for the heavy task to select a university.

So time passed and the last day of the school year came. Everyone took a bouquet of flowers, dressed in a formal suit, and walked in Central Street. We gathered together with our teacher and walked downtown. The people stopped to look at us, the young generation of Bulgaria. We screamed, "First, second, third."

The ceremony of handing our diplomas was magnificent. It was in the yard of the high school, where parents, teachers and school-mates could see the event. When the ceremony finished, we took pictures, laughed and wept.

After a few hours, we arrived at the Black Sea and the party began. It was in a fancy restaurant with a beautiful garden from which we could see the sea. That night we had a great dance and a lot fun. The nine friends promised each other, no matter where they will be, every five years at that time, they would gather together there.

Now we living all around the world, some of us in North America, some in Europe and Asia but every year on May 24th we called each other.

Toronto Region – Zornitsa B. is a Level 4 student. Her teacher is Babak M.



Recipes

OKROSHKA

by Svetlana K.

Ingredients

- 1 peeled potato
- 3 eggs
- 1 carrot
- ½ fresh cucumber
- ¼ cup chopped green onions
- 1 cup canned green peas
- 1 – 2 cooked sausages
- 1 bottle of kvass

Directions

Boil the potato, carrot, and eggs. Chop them into medium-sized pieces. Cook sausages and cut into pieces. Cut green onions and cucumber into pieces. Mix all the ingredients together and put in a bowl in the fridge.

Serving

Get a plate and fill it with kvass. Add ingredients from the fridge.

Enjoy!

Nova Scotia – Svetlana K. is a Level 3 student. Her teacher is Rachel B.

Okroshka is a cold Russian national soup. The name probably originates from "kroshit" which means to chop or break into small pieces. Okroshka is sometimes served in summer because the soup combines the refreshing taste of kvass and the lightness of a salad.



Ingredients

- 10 egg yolks
- 1 cup shredded coconut
- 1 cup sugar
- 200 ml coconut milk

Directions

Preheat the oven to 325 degrees F (160 degrees C) and place the rack in the center of the oven.

Grease a 9 inch-pie dish with butter, making sure the butter coats the bottom and sides of the dish. Sprinkle it with the sugar and shake it well to remove the excess.

In a bowl, pass the egg yolks through a fine strainer to get rid of the skin. Then, combine the sugar, shredded coconut and coconut milk.

Pour the mixture into the pie dish and let it rest for about 30 minutes.

Place the pie dish into a roasting pan filled with about 500ml of boiling water. Bake the pudding in this bain-marie for 50 minutes approximately or until set and the coconut looks golden brown.

Let cool at room temperature before turning out onto a serving dish so the coconut will be on the bottom of the dish. Refrigerate for a few hours before serving. Enjoy it!

**York Region – Alice F. is a Level 7 student.
Her teacher is Shurla C.F.**

Quindao is a coconut and eggs dessert that is native to the country of Brazil.



QUINDAO

by Alice F.

SOPA DE ZAPAYO

by Maria B.

Ingredients

- 1 ½ cups squash
- 1 tsp. green or red bell pepper (diced)
- 1 small potato (diced)
- 1 tbsp. chopped cilantro
- 1 whole green onion
- 1 celery stalk
- 1 cup milk
- 4 or 5 tbsp. cream
- ½ tsp. salt
- 2 cups water

Directions

Put the water in a saucepan and add all ingredients except the milk. Bring everything to a boil, and then reduce the heat to medium for 20 minutes. Pour the mixture into a blender and add the milk and cream. Blend until creamy.

Kitchener Region – Maria B. is a Level 4 student. Her teacher is Theresa R.

This squash soup is perfect for the cold winter or just a rainy day, it could also be called a squash and tomato soup, the tomatoes neutralize the sweetness of the squash. This sopa de zapallo is very easy to make and uses a few simple ingredients: onions, garlic, cumin, tomatoes, and chicken stock (use vegetable stock for a vegetarian option), I like to serve it with feta or goat cheese and chives sprinkled on top.

Zapallo is pronounced zapayo in Spanish!



Ingredients

- ½ lb. tamarind (seeded)
- ½ lb. jaggery
- 2 cups water
- 1 ½ tbsp. roasted ground cumin seeds
- 1 tsp. salt
- ¼ red chilli powder
- Pinch of black pepper
- ½ tsp. ginger powder
- A few drops of oil

Directions

Break the tamarind into small pieces and soak in hot boiling water for one hour.

Mash it into a pulp and press the tamarind into strainer so that all pulp comes out. Add pressed jaggery to the pulp and mix well.

Put a pan on the stove on medium heat. Drop a few drops of it for sizzling cumin seeds, salt, red chilli powder, black pepper and ginger powder.

At the end, add the pulp and let it boil. Stir it for 1-2 minutes and let it cool down.

This food can be kept for one to two weeks in the refrigerator. It is delicious with samosas and pakoras. It is also a delicious sauce for French fries and crackers.

**Peel Region – Priyanka S. is a Level 5 student.
His teacher is Babak M.**

This is a dish that is native to the Indian subcontinent. The word 'chutney' comes from original Hindi/Urdu word 'chatni' and means 'a tangy and spicy sauce'. Once made, it can last in the fridge for a good few months and freezes well. It can be served with various savoury snacks.



TAMARIND CHUTNEY

by Priyanka S.

Activity Central

Games and Puzzles

Word Search

Find the following words within the puzzle below.

Atlantic Ocean

Pacific Ocean

Arctic Ocean

Rocky Mountains

Prairies

Great Lakes

Hudson Bay

Ottawa

parliament

provinces

prime minister

French

English

maple leaf

Beaver

hockey





1

Bananas

6



Mangoes



2

Pineapple

7



Tomatoes



3

Cucumbers

8



Corn



4

Broccoli

9



Strawberries



5

Carrots

10



Peppers

Activity Central

Answers

Word Search



Matching – Farmer's market

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------|
| 6. CORN | 1. BROCCOLI |
| 7. CARROTS | 2. PEPPERS |
| 8. TOMATOES | 3. BANANAS |
| 9. STRAWBERRIES | 4. PINEAPPLE |
| 10. MANGOES | 5. CUCUMBERS |

If you would like to participate

in the Student Corner,

please contact us at:
help@linchomestudy.ca

Student Corner

Doaa R.

After finishing my high school studies and university degree in Mansoura I studied dentistry in the University of Mansoura, in Egypt. I am a dentist and I worked in Egypt as a dentist for Mansoura.. I have two sons, Omar and Ali. My husband and I migrated to Canada three and a half years ago. My husband completed his studies in the University of Mansoura. He holds a doctorate degree in Electrical Engineering from the University of Mansoura.

My brothers and sister all live in Egypt with my parents, in the city of Mansoura . Mansoura is a very old city and was established in 1219. Mansoura is famous for its architectural style, especially the Shinnawi Palace named after Mohamed Bek El-Shinnawi. The mosque of El-Saleh Ayoub El-Kebir is one of the most important in Mansoura. The University of Mansoura was founded in 1962, initially as a branch of Cairo University The Ghoneim Urology and Nephrology center of Mansoura University is considered to be the best kidney center in the Middle East and Africa. Mansoura has a sports stadium (Mansoura Stadium) which is home to its football team. The city's economy depends on trade, agriculture and the recently discovered natural gas.

I liked Mansoura which was my home when I grew up. Now, after migrating to Canada and staying in Kingston for three years, I like Kingston, which is my new home. Just like Mansoura which is close to Cairo, the capital city of Egypt, Kingston is also a small town quite close to Toronto, which is the capital city of Ontario. However, Mansoura is more crowded and noisier than Kingston which is very quiet and peaceful. As I continue to improve my English I have hopes of finding a job. To improve my English I have enrolled in the LINC Home Study program and I can study at home. Once a week I have a class with my teacher who sometimes gives me homework to write essays, letters and other grammar exercises. I find it is difficult for me to attend English classes in a school, everyday, because my little son doesn't go to daycare. With the LINC Home Study course I can study from the comfort of my home and at the same time be with my children all the time.

This is the main reason why I prefer to study at home. Actually, I find studying from home is also too hard with cleaning, grocery shopping, cooking, and looking after the family. I need to arrange my time well to continue studying from home and at the same time doing all the other household chores.

Kingston Region – Doaa R. is a Level 4 student. Her teacher is Jonathan B.

Fania J.

My name is Fania J. I am married and have three cute kids. My daughter Leen is the oldest one. She is my best friend. Ahmad is my middle child. He is a good quiet boy who would never give me a hard time. He has a speech delay, so he always needs a lot of help in terms of learning and studying. Zeyad is my youngest son. He is a very sociable and talkative kid. He has a lot of friends in daycare. I'm a physician. I finished medical school in my home country Syria, and then I worked for nearly twelve years. Then my family and I moved to Canada two and a half years ago. I'm preparing to go back to work by taking some medical and English language exams, so that I can have a medical license that allows me to work in Newfoundland, Canada as a physician. I like to play piano in my spare time. I also enjoy teaching Leen how to play piano. I like to watch movies, especially the kinds that are based on a real story. I also like to travel all around the world and learn about different cultures and different people.

Newfoundland and Labrador – Fania J. is a Level 6 student. Her teacher is Rachel B.

Student Corner

Bertha D.M.

My name is Bertha D.M. I am married and mother of two beautiful kids, a 5 year- old girl, Suyani and a 2 year-old boy, Bradley. I'm originally from Cusco-Peru. I got married to a Canadian man in 2003; I met my husband in Peru. In spite of the age, culture and language differences, I hit it off with him right away. After dating him for 6 months we decided to get married and start a life together. As soon as I got married I started with the process of my papers for my Visa to go to Canada. It was a long process, but it was worth it to do everything right. Once my Canadian Visa was ready I headed to my new country. I came to Canada in 2004.

I live in Nova Scotia, Canada. I have a nice house outside of the city with a beautiful water view. I like to watch the sunset from my living-room window. My house is also surrounded by patches of wild blueberries.

When I got pregnant with my first child, I had a stressful pregnancy because it was hard for me to get used to the weather, food, language and culture. I also missed my family and friends a lot in Peru. My family in- laws helped as much as they could with my settlement.

After my daughter was born, I decided to learn how to drive a car because I realized that without a driver's license you cannot enjoy life. So after a lot of practice and persistence I finally got my driver license. I'm so glad I did it because now I can go shopping, visit friends, do community activities, and drive my kids around. Moreover, I can take my kids to the doctor.

Three years later, my husband and I decided to have another child. We wanted to have a boy. We were so lucky that God sent us a healthy boy. This time my pregnancy was easier than the first one because it was my second baby and I knew almost everything about it. Besides, I was used to a Canadian life.

In the summer I like to go swimming, picking blueberries, and building sand castles. In the winter I like to go skating, sledding, or just building a snowman. In the fall and spring I like to go biking, walking, gardening, etc. My daughter has just started kindergarten, so I have more time to spend with my son. I take him every Monday to a playgroup in town. It is also a good way for me to socialize with other mothers and share our experiences.

Last year, after my husband ended up in the hospital, I realized that I need to find a job. I'm a Zoo technician. I studied animal science in Peru, but it was complicated to obtain an accreditation in Canada. I think placing a high value on education is very important so I deserve to have a new career here. I have always been interested on taking courses in health program but the language stood in my way. Now I'm improving my English skills so I'll be ready to head for college next year. I've been thinking of enrolling in the continuing care assistant program. It is hard to make ends meet when only one of the spouses is working.

I am really lucky to have healthy kids, a wonderful husband and live in a beautiful country. And I hope someday I will be working as a continuing care assistant in one of the nursing homes here in Canada.

Nova Scotia – Bertha D.M. is a Level 6 student. Her teacher is Tanja B.

Student Feedback

In the April newsletter of the LINC Home Study Program, Alla K. wrote an article entitled “ME” TIME. She talked about a housekeeper, her daily routine and the unappreciated feeling; compared to women who work outside the home and who have lots of admiration and delight.

I agree with her that after a long day of working at home, women deserve some time out. However, I think by making a schedule to go out 2 to 3 times a week and having fun with the whole family is much better and it will be appreciated and relaxing for everyone. That’s what we did last week, we went to the park as a family, my husband and my kids played soccer with their friends and I enjoyed a beautiful conversation with my friends. I also agree with her that fathers should stay with their kids sometimes when the mothers need to go out to shop or do other things. But I believe activities should be done as a family.

Maybe you can earn money by playing the lottery, but to have success and happiness in your family you have to work hard to get it. I believe that a married couple will have a stronger relationship by spending meaningful time together, and finding the right activities that involve the whole family.

Ottawa Region – Nada K. is a Level 7 student. Her teacher is Terese C.

I have read the article “On my way to success” by Miriam T., a level 4 student of the Linc Home Study Program that was published in the April 2010 edition of the newsletter. Miriam wrote about her experience in Canada as a new immigrant in getting a job.

I really liked this article. Since I’m an immigrant to Canada as Miriam is, I have had similar experiences and feelings. In my opinion, she has given a very good explanation of how we feel when trying to get a job without Canadian experience and good English. A positive attitude is really important and Miriam shows that she has that.

She made good sense about improving her English and having a volunteer job. The language will give her more self-confidence and the volunteer job will give her experience and the possibility of having a network to use later to get a good job. I am trying to do the same as Miriam, and have taken some training for a volunteer job. I am also working hard at the Linc Home Study program.

I just needed to read the article to be sure that she has really improved her English. Being a level 4 student, she has written as a higher level student. I just want to say congratulations and good luck getting that dream job.

Kitchener Region – Libia O. is a Level 6 student. Her teacher is Terese C.

Glossary

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

Toboggan (pg.7)
Impressionable (pg.9)
Exert (pg.9)
Subsequent (pg.9)
Sizeable (pg.9)
Trepidation (pg.9)
Turban (pg.10)
Transmit (pg.11)
Coastal (pg.12)
Ruin (p.13)
Plantain (p.13)
Hibernating (p.14)
Compass (p.16)
Crucial (p.17)
Pact (p.17)
Inflation (p.17)
Bastion (p.17)
Brink (p.17)
Criteria (p.17)
Bail Out (p.17)
Unforeseen (p.17)
Zeal (p.18)
Verve (p.18)
Culmination (p.18)
Inseparable (p.19)
Bouquet (p.19)

-energy, excitement, or great pleasure.

-fairly large.

-cannot be separated or cannot be considered separately.

-a formal agreement between two groups, countries, or people, especially to help each other or to stop fighting.

-a light wooden board with a curved front, used for sliding down hills covered in snow.

-sleeping for the whole winter.

-a situation is one that you did not expect to happen.

-eagerness to do something.

-a standard that you use to judge something or make a decision about something.

-an arrangement of flowers, especially one that you give to someone.

-to do something to help someone out of trouble, especially financial problems.

-someone who is impressionable is easily influenced, especially because they are young.

-to send or pass something from one person, place or thing to another.

-a situation when you are almost in a new situation, usually a bad one.

-to spoil or destroy something completely.

-a feeling of anxiety or fear about something that is going to happen.

-something that is crucial is extremely important, because everything else depends on it.

-something, especially something important, that happens at the end of a long period of effort or development.

-in the sea or on the land near the coast.

-A long piece of cloth that you wind tightly round your head, worn by men in parts of North Africa and Southern Asia and sometimes by women as a fashion.

-continuing increase in prices, or the rate at which prices increase.

-to use your power, influence etc in order to make something happen.

-an instrument that shows directions and has a needle that always points north.

-something that protects a way of life, principle etc that seems likely to change or end completely.

-a kind of banana that is cooked before it is eaten, or the plant on which it grows.

-happening or coming after something else.

LINC mailbag



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

Let's hear from you.

e-mail us: help@linchomestudy.ca

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

Have fun!

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

submissions

Please e-mail your submissions for the newsletter by Wednesday June 30th

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

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

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

help@linchomestudy.ca

Brought to you by the LINC Home Study team.

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

