



Vol. 2005/2006 No.114
March 2006

MEMORANDUM

TO: Adult Education Program Staff

FROM: Hanna Cabaj, Coordinator
Shirley Hynes, Administrator
Continuing Education Department

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*EASTER IS A TIME TO WELCOME
THE BEGINNING OF SPRING.
IT IS ALSO ONE OF THE MOST HOLY DAYS
IN THE CALENDAR OF CHRISTIAN CHURCHES.
EASTER SYMBOLIZES THE LOVE OF GOD AND THE PROMISE
THAT MAN'S SOUL WILL NEVER DIE.*

*TO EVERYONE IN THE DEPARTMENT,
WE WISH YOU ALL THE JOYS OF A BEAUTIFUL EASTER!*

Important Upcoming Events

- IN-SERVICE WORKSHOP- "FROM NEEDS ASSESSMENT TO STUDENT EVALUATION: DESIGNING A CLOSELY KNIT PROGRAM" ON TUESDAY, APRIL 25, 2006 AT MARY WARD LINC & ESL CENTRE
- TESL NORTH YORK/YORK REGION SPRING CONFERENCE- SATURDAY, APRIL 29, 2006 AT THE KENTON CENTRE- see insert for details



Policies/New Information

STATISTICS CANADA FREE LEARNING RESOURCE FOR LINC/ESL INSTRUCTORS

Canada's next census will take place on Tuesday, May 16, 2006. The results of the census are used to make decisions affecting students, school funding, adult education programs, language training & job search centres. As teachers, you can communicate the importance of the census to your students, fostering a sense of civic responsibility.

Statistics Canada has developed the following free learning resources for your use:

- 2006 Census Adult Basic Education (ABE)/Literacy Kit for use in adult ESL and literacy classes across the country.
- Activities have been classroom-tested and approved by professional educators. Minimal preparation time is required.

You can download a pdf copy of the 2006 Census Teacher's Kit or place an order for the ABE kit at www.census2006.ca An order form and multilingual info sheet are attached for your convenience. Statistics Canada has also prepared census fact sheets in 44 different languages for your students. It explains what the census is, its importance and where multilingual help is offered for filling out the census. Order this in English as an educational aid or order this in your students' language to spread the census message. The fact sheets also come with posters in different languages for your classroom.

SUPPLY INSTRUCTORS

It is necessary for instructors to remember how important continuity of instruction (having as few staff changes as possible) is for the stability of attendance. Payroll records confirm that one instructor has a regular pattern of calling in her friend, who teaches part time elsewhere, to supply for her on the days when she is available, and then calls in a different supply for the remaining days of sequential absence even though the other supply is available 5 days/week. Any class having 3 different instructors within a 2 week period can not provide stable program delivery. We ask instructors to avoid such arrangements when calling in a supply instructor.

OUR BOARD WEBSITE

If you are interested in posting your **site profile** on the home page of our Board website (www.tcdsb.org/adulted), please email Ewa Juszcak at ewa.juszcak@tcdsb.org. You will need to include the following information: name of centre, address, major intersection, telephone, days & hours of operation, child-minding (if applicable), one or two paragraphs about your centre, number of years in operation, CLB level(s), program(s) offered, who can register.

Be sure to also check out the new “**events**” button on the main page of our website which will link you to a photo gallery of our main events such as our P.D. days and our open house.



Employee Related Information

NEW ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Regrettably, **Mark Malcolm**, who was replacing **Leena Hu-DiNoto** during her maternity leave, has left to pursue other career opportunities. We are very happy to announce that **Administrative Assistant Linda Anderson** has stepped in to fill this position. She can be reached at **416 222-8282 ext. 2429**. We welcome **Linda** to the Adult Education Program and wish her all the best in her new job assignment!



Professional Development

APRIL 25TH IN-SERVICE WORKSHOP

On Tuesday, April 25, 2006 Program Consultants Julia Chemali and Joanne Hincks will be presenting an in-service workshop entitled “From Needs Assessment to Student Evaluation: Designing a Closely Knit Program” at Mary Ward LINC & ESL Centre (44 Kelvin Way Drive- Finch & Pharmacy) from 4:00- 6:00 p.m.

Using the framework of the Canadian Language Benchmarks, this workshop will demonstrate how assessment/evaluation of learner competency is an ongoing activity in a comprehensive planning process. It will outline the basic elements and procedures of program design and provide participants with hands-on activities to enable them to manipulate/create program components. See enclosed flyer for complete details.

Julia Chemali and Joanne Hincks are currently Program Consultants with the Adult Education Program, TCDSB. They have many years of experience teaching English Literature, English as a Second Language and EFL from preschool to university in Canada and abroad. They are constantly involved in professional development initiatives such as TESL presentations, workshops and publications (articles published in TESL Contact by Julia Chemali: “Characteristics of an Effective ESL Teacher” and “Mutual Expectations: Instructional Supervision & Effective Teaching”)

Tips for Classroom Instructors

IMPORTANT ONTARIO IMMIGRATION WEBSITE

<http://www.ontarioimmigration.ca/index.asp> is a new initiative of the Ontario Government designed to help newcomers with settlement and integration in Ontario. On the website, newcomers can find information about housing, health care, education, how to find a job, enter a profession or trade, start a business or sign up for language classes. (Included is a link to our website and program directory.) There is also information about life in Ontario, the people, culture, history, geography, weather and places to visit. Important forms can be downloaded such as immigration forms and driver’s licence forms. There are career maps on this website. For example foreign trained teachers can find out very comprehensive information about the accreditation process in Canada.

In short, it is a wonderful resource for instructors and a mine of information for learners.

CREATING YOUR OWN WEBPAGE

**submitted by Kathleen Coleman,
Program Consultant**

Suzanna Elbert (Victoria Park LINC Centre) attended the P.D. Day workshop entitled “Creating a Webpage to Direct Student Access to Relevant Sites”, presented by Robert Walker. In 90 minutes, she created a real, functioning webpage containing her picture, course information and links to useful web ESL activities. She learned how to change and modify her links in order to update her webpage as the term progresses.

Visit our Web Site:
www.tcdsb.org/adulted

The website serves as a single instructional access point, for delivery of specific, focused learning activities to students with just a click of their mouse. Here is what Suzanna said: "I thought it might interest you (to know) how useful I found this workshop. My students visit the page and work with the games... the counter went up to 58 from 29 in one day."

Visit **Suzanna's** website and see her lovely picture and, of course, how easy it is for students to go to various sites for language practise activities: www.angelfire.com/planet/funfans.

If you would like a handout explaining how to create your own website, call **Kathy Coleman** at 416 222-8282 ext. 6518. She has extra copies of the handout.

FEATURE RESOURCES OF THE MONTH **submitted by Julia Chemali,** **Materials Consultant**

- (1) **Title: ESL CLASSICS**
SONGS FOR LEARNING ENGLISH
Author: Maureen Stewart
Publisher: Maureen Stewart
ISBN: 0-9738288-1-1 (student book)
0-9738288-3-8 (compact disc)
0-9738288-4-6 (cassette)
0-9738288-2-X (teacher's guide)

Happy, elated, ecstatic, this is the mood that **Maureen Stewart's** book puts you in. The ESL Classics is a multilevel (CLB 2 – 8) songbook that combines illustrated verses and classical music to stimulate language learning. Famous pieces of classical music by Mozart, Beethoven, Ponchielli, Strauss, Vivaldi, Bach and Mendelssohn have been brilliantly used to teach all language skills. The book is divided into nine units. Each unit deals with a specific theme and grammar structure. There are a variety of exercises that focus on reading and comprehension, vocabulary building, picture stories that stimulate speaking, and writing exercises.

Daily Activities is a very upbeat song that follows Amilcare Ponchielli's music "Dance of the Hours" and focuses on Imperative and phrasal verbs. Beethoven's symphony No. 9 "Ode to Joy" is beautifully woven with winter vocabulary and winter activities in the *Winter Fun Song* and practises the simple past tense. *Fast Food Restaurant* is sung to the music of Antonio Vivaldi's "Four Seasons" with the future tense as the main grammar point. *Food/Preparing Dinner* is sung to the music of Berwald's "Helen Gar" with a focus on the simple present tense. *The Doctor's Office* will certainly put your students in a waltzing mood as the words flow with the music of "The Blue Danube" by Johann Strauss II.

The song, *Jennifer*, is sung to the music of "Für Elise" by Beethoven and focuses on modals and past perfect tense, very appropriate when teaching love and relationships. *Growing Up* is a very touching song on parenting and children and Felix Mendelssohn's "Concerto # 30" is a perfect choice for the lyrics.

Maureen Stewart's songs will definitely take your students out of this world as they bring out feelings and emotions that will make students remember the language objectives of the songs. The associations between the vocabulary, grammar, images and tunes will be imbedded in their memory long after they have left the program.

(2) TORONTO POLICE SERVICE **NEWCOMER OUTREACH PROGRAM**

The Toronto Police Service has launched the **Newcomer Outreach Service** to provide new immigrants with information on police services in Toronto, how to access those services, and to explain some of their rights and responsibilities under Canadian Law. A number of resources have been created for individuals and groups to provide more information about those services. They include:

- ⇒ Newcomer Outreach Website
- ⇒ "Guide to Police Services in Toronto" Pamphlet – available in other languages too
- ⇒ "Guide to Police Services in Toronto" DVD
- ⇒ Lesson Plans
- ⇒ Translated Pamphlet List
- ⇒ Interpreter Services Information

Teachers can access this information by visiting www.torontopolice.on.ca and click on the "Newcomer Outreach" link. These resources can be downloaded or ordered free of charge.

The "Guide to Police Services in Toronto" pamphlet and DVD covers topics such as: contacting the police in emergency and non-emergency situations, what to do when an officer comes to your home and when an officer stops you when you are driving, your rights when you are arrested, dealing with the police when you don't speak English and many more. Teachers can request additional copies of the DVD to use in a computer lab.

UPDATED WEBSITE **submitted by Eileen Paulsen,** **Program Consultant**

Settlement.org has recently updated its website. It continues to be a fountain of information for both learners/instructors. It is [≤www.settlement.org/site/celebrate/esl.asp>](http://www.settlement.org/site/celebrate/esl.asp). A website definitely worth visiting on a regular basis!

① AE Nursery Program

EMOTIONAL CONNECTIONS

submitted by **Elsa Parra, Nursery Instructor-in-Charge, COSTI Corvetti Center**

Early child educators usually deal with children that have normal behaviours. It is very important to increase our knowledge of special need behaviours in order to help families that have children with disabilities and disorders. The article "Emotional Connections" by David Fuller talks about York University's Professor Stuart Shanker who is helping to pioneer a groundbreaking method of treating children with developmental disorders.

Professor Stuart Shanker is the director of an early childhood development research facility. He is an Oxford graduate with five degrees and a distinguished research professor of philosophy and psychology at York's Atkinson Faculty of Liberal & Professional Studies. He was demonstrating a fundamentally important interaction between children and caregivers and an intervention technique for helping children learn, especially kids with disabilities such as autism or attention deficit hyperactive disorder. It is a direct response to what he calls the "old genetic determinist idea" that some children are born with a mental health disorder and there is not a lot you can do about it. "In fact it's not like that," he says. "The child may be born with significant biological challenges which, in a certain environment, will lead to these disorders, but that doesn't mean that we can't figure out ways of intervening to try to prevent this from happening." By interacting emotionally with the children, Shanker was demonstrating the pioneer clinical technique that promises to make York a world-leading center in evidence-based research on the early identification and treatment of children with developmental and other sort of disorders. It is based on the idea that emotions conveyed by parents or caregivers when they interact with a child spark the development of complex connections in the brain without which the child cannot develop language and other skills. Using this technique, Shanker says parents and therapists can re-establish a child on his or her trajectory of emotional development, even in severe cases where traditional therapies have failed.

For further information about the development of this technique consult the book *The First Idea* (Da Capo Press, 2004) by Greenspan and Shanker.

Inserts included in this memo March 2006

- TESL North York
- In Service Workshop
- Supply List
- Volunteer Opportunity
- Census Forms (2)

😊 On a Lighter Note

WHY MEN ARE HAPPIER.....

Men are just happier people. What do you expect? Your last name stays put. The garage is all yours. Wedding plans take care of themselves. Chocolate is just another snack.

You can be President. You can never be pregnant. You can wear a white T-shirt to a water park. You can wear NO shirt to a water park.

Car mechanics tell you the truth. You never have to drive to another gas station restroom because the one you are at is too icky. You don't have to stop and think of which way to turn a nut on a bolt. Same work, more pay.

Wrinkles add character. Wedding dress \$5000. Tux rental- \$100.

The occasional well-rendered belch is practically expected. New shoes don't cut, blister or mangle your feet. One mood all the time. Phone conversations are over in 30 seconds flat.

A five-day vacation requires only one suitcase. You can open all your own jars. You get extra credit for the slightest act of thoughtfulness. If someone forgets to invite you, he or she can still be your friend.



Three pairs of shoes are more than enough. You are unable to see wrinkles in your clothes. Everything on your face stays its original colour. The same hairstyle for years, maybe decades.

You only have to shave your face and neck.

You can wear shorts no matter how your legs look. You can 'do' your nails with a pocket knife. You have freedom of choice concerning growing a moustache.

You can do Christmas shopping for 25 relatives on December 24 in 25 minutes.

No wonder men are happier!

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