

PTP EAST CENTRE
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PTP Advocate

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Chinese New Year
- Easter
- Events Team Update

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Student of the Month: Maleke D.R.



This edition of the PTP Advocate is pleased to announce Maleke as Student of the Month.

Here is our interview with him.

Q. How do you feel about being student of the month?

A. I feel great. It's unexpected.

Q. What is your goal after PTP?

A. My goal is to continue learning.

Q. What are your likes and dislikes about PTP?

A. I don't have any dislikes. I like the staff, I like the students, and every thing is put together.

Q. What is your background?

A. I am Jamaican.

Q. Do you have any advice for new students?

A. The advice I would give to the students is the advice I would give to any-

one else: come here and give your all and learn as much as you can, so you can accomplish your dream.

Q. What are your strengths?

A. I'm a people person. I have very good verbal skills. Those are my strengths.

Q. What obstacles do you face coming to PTP?

A. I'm in the process of planning my wedding and I'm also running a business. So I'm always trying to be on time. Those are my obstacles.

Q. Would you recommend PTP to others?

A. I would recommend PTP to everybody who needs it.

Q. How did you learn about PTP?

A. I found PTP through the internet.

Interview by Fedeline and Emma



Chinese New Year by SuSu

The world has many nationalities. All nationalities celebrate a New Year but they might not be at the same time. The Chinese New Year is not celebrated on January 1. It is also called the Lunar New Year, and it is very important.

It is based on a connection of lunar and solar movements. The lunar cycle is about 29.5 days.

Lunar means measuring by the moon's revolutions. Solar means proceeding from the sun as light or heat. The Chinese calendar consists of both Gregorian and lunar-solar calendar systems. Because the track of the new moon changes from year to year, the Chinese New Year can start anytime between late January and mid-February.

The Chinese Horoscope is made up of 12 animal signs. This year's sign is the tiger. The sign of the tiger is completely honest and charming, is a natural leader, and has a strong sense of dignity. The characteristics of tigers are courage, self-reliance, hopefulness, and vanity.

The Chinese New Year is a grand celebration. Chinese people pour out their money to buy presents, decorations, food, and clothing. Every family cleans the house to sweep away any ill-fortune in hopes to make way for good luck. Doors and windows are decorated with red coloured paper that represents a healthy, happy, and long life.

New Year's Eve dinner is a feast with families. Meals include pork,

duck, chicken, and sweet sticky rice-cakes. Children usually get money in red paper envelopes.

The Chinese New Year tradition is family unity and honors the past and present generations.

I would like to say "Gung Hay Fat Choy" to PTP teachers, staff, and students.

Black History in Canada by Emma S.

Black History refers to the stories, experiences, and accomplishments of people of African origin.

Black History Month has been celebrated by various groups in Canada since the 1950's. The awareness is celebrated in February and was proclaimed by the city of Toronto in 1979. Now it is recognized nationally.

Many Black Canadians have made lasting contributions to its history.

In 1605, the first black person to set foot on Canadian soil was Mathieu Da Costa, a free man who was hired as a translator for Samuel De Champlain's 1605 excursion.

The first named enslaved African to reside in Canada was a six year old boy, the property of Sir David Kirke. The child was sold several times, lastly to father Paul Le Pierre, and was baptized Catholic and given the name Olivier Le Jeune.

Baseball was a white man's game for 100 years. That changed forever in 1964 when the Montreal Royals signed Jackie Rob-

inson, the first professional black baseball player in the major leagues.

The right Honorable Michaëlle Jean is the 25th Governor General of Canada appointed by Queen Elizabeth the Second on August 4, 2005. A refugee from Haiti, in 1968 she arrived in Quebec where she eventually became a journalist for Radio Canada, the French wing of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. A social activist for women and children at risk, she is fluent in five different languages: English, French, Italian, Spanish, and Haitian Creole.

African Canadians continue to make strides in every field. Both men and women have made their mark in the areas of sports, pioneering, the labor movement, and politics.



**Michaëlle Jean is
Canada's Governor
General**

Olympic Report by Eslyn

As we all know the Vancouver Olympic Games were held in Vancouver, Canada. The games started on February 12nd and ended on February 28th.

Among the events of the opening ceremony were the performances by Nikki Yanofsky singing the theme song “I Believe” and k.d lang singing “Hallelujah.”

There were 91 countries participating in various sports activities. Bobsledding, Curling, Skeleton, and Ice Hockey are just a few of them.

The coverage was heard nation-wide by radio and also watched nation-wide on television.

Team Canada was a 29 member team consisting of both men and women. The medals were ranked as gold, silver, and bronze. At the end of the winter games Canada had done a spectacular job and made us all proud with a whopping 26

medals.

The highlight of the finale night was the ice hockey game between Canada and the U.S.A with Sidney Crosby scoring the winning goal beating the U.S.A team 3-2.



Easter

by Fedeline

Easter is the most important annual religious celebration in the Christian liturgical year.

According to the Christian scriptures, Jesus was resurrected from death on the third day after his crucifixion.

Traditionally, the Easter season lasted for forty days between Easter Day and Ascension Day.

The first week of the Easter season is known as Easter week or Octave of Easter. Easter also marks the end of Lent, a season of fasting, prayer, and penance. It is linked to the Jewish Passover not only for its symbolism but also for its position in the calendar. It is celebrated by many Christians and non-Christian alike. There are also some Christian denominations who do not celebrate Easter.

Some countries celebrate Easter on the same date and others do not. For some people, it is a very important time of sacrifices and prayer, or reconciliation with others, and penance.

Easter reminds people that the resurrection established Jesus as the powerful son of God who will judge the world in righteousness. It is also a reminder that God has given Christians a new birth and a hope of life through death. One emphasis of the Gospel of John is that Jesus as the Passover lamb was crucified at about the same time as the Passover lambs were usually slain in the temple, on the afternoon of Nisan.

In conclusion, Easter is the best time for Christians to contemplate the sacrifice that God has made for them; a good Christian is supposed to be glad and rejoice on this day.



Easter is the best time for Christians to contemplate

Toronto Municipal Election by Maria P.



Toronto Mayoral Candidates George Smitherman (top) and Rocco Rossi (bottom)

The 2010 Toronto municipal election will be held on October 25, 2010 to elect a mayor and 44 city councilors in Toronto, Ontario. In addition, school trustees will be elected to the Toronto District School Board and the Toronto Catholic District School Board.

The Mayor's seat will be open for the first time since the 2003 Toronto election. Toronto Municipal elections run every 4 years. Mayor David Miller has announced that he will not seek a third term in office.

With David Miller as mayor, Toronto has been reinvesting in the city's neighbourhoods through initiatives like the Community Initiative, and rejuvenation of parks and public spaces through ongoing revitalization of the waterfront.

One of our Toronto municipal candidates is George Smitherman. He was a member of Provincial Parliament for Toronto Centre from 1999 to January

4, 2010. He is a Liberal Party member and the Province's first openly gay cabinet member. George Smitherman was Minister of Energy and Infrastructure from June 20, 2000 to November 8, 2009 and he was a Deputy Premier of Ontario for 3 years. If elected as Mayor, he promises to build a strong economy, create more jobs, increase investments, and expand rapid transit lines. He is considering toll roads to raise revenue, and reduction or elimination of the city's \$60 motor registration fee.

Another candidate is Rocco Rossi. He is 47 years old and a Liberal Party member. He was a Liberal Party organizer and senior advisor to Michael Ignatieff. Rocco Rossi promises to reduce and freeze the mayor's salary. He wants to sell off Toronto Hydro and other city assets, remove bike lanes from major streets, freeze construction of rapid transit lines, and replace the Toronto Transit Commission's board with private sector experts.

It will be interesting to watch how the candidates run the election and to look forward to electing a new mayor.

May the best man win!

Events Team: Volunteer Work



On Monday, December 14, 2009, students of the Events team went to the Neighbourhood Centre on Barrington Avenue.

For two hours, they wrapped presents for Christmas hampers to be distributed in the local community.

The students felt gratified by the experience of volunteering. PTP Events hopes to continue to volunteer in 2010.

PTP Events Group wants to thank everyone who donated to Haitian earthquake relief. We would especially like to thank PTP's Coffee Club who donated their January earnings and the Nutrition Group for their lunch earnings. We were able to donate \$206 on behalf of PTP students and staff; the amount will be matched by the Canadian government.

Events Team: More Volunteering

PTP Events team had a very good experience volunteering with the Yonge Street Mission's annual Towers clothing drive on Monday, January 25, 2010.

The team operated two tables located in Scotiabank Plaza and Dundee Tower.

They collected the donations and provided information to the public. Our team will continue to look for more opportunities to help in the community.



Events Team Book Swap

On January 27, 2010, the Events Team organized a Family Literacy Day Book Swap at PTP.

Literacy Day is about the many ways that you can sharpen your literacy skills such as reading, writing, playing games or even singing a song.

We found that the outcome was a **SUCCESS.**

Thanks to all the students and staff for their generous donation of books. As a result the book swap lasted two days and catered to five groups at PTP.

Therefore our events team would like to thank you for your generosity and support. We hope that this can be an annual event at PTP.



Carnival

by Cordella

What is carnival?

It is an annual celebration of life found in many countries of the world.

Carnival as it is known all around the world began in the 1890's and was celebrated the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday. It was a time when religious people said farewell to sins and begin the period of fasting called Lent in which people refrained from excessive behavior.

Where did the word carnival come from? Hundreds and hundreds of years ago, the followers of the Catholic religion in Italy started the tradition of holding a wild costume festival right before the first day of Lent. Because Catholics are not supposed to eat meat during Lent, they called their festival Carnevale- which means to refrain from eating meat.

Carnival represents an amusement park. Within the Caribbean however, carnival is a carnival of colors, which is transformed into costumes (masks which are short for masquerades), calypso,

steel band music, dance, and arrays of different ethnic food and Caribbean art which attracts millions of people from around the globe.

Carnival has become a year-round business entity in America that provides the following:

- A year-round business that provides enjoyment to millions of people
- Increases tourism and generates revenue for different city governments
- Provides employment and social stability
- Pays tribute to an form in cities where carnival is kept

Carnival traditions also borrow from the African tradition of putting together natural objects (bones, grasses, beads, shell, and fabric) to create a piece of sculpture, a mask, or costume-with each object or combination of objects representing a certain idea or spiritual force.

In conclusion carnival is fun and enjoyable for everyone to love!



“.. an annual celebration of life found in many countries of the world”

How I Came to Canada by Devagi P.

My name is Devagi. I am from Malaysia. I came to Canada in 2002. I never thought that I would come to Canada until I got married. I was working in Singapore for almost 10 years. There I met my wonderful husband. He is from Sri Lanka. We got married in Singapore. My daughter was born there too.

After my child was born, the Singapore government didn't issue her a birth certificate. According to Singapore law, if you are not a Singapore

citizen, they do not consider that your baby is Singaporean.

Although they recognized that our baby was born in Singapore, both of us were there under a work permit. That is also why Singapore didn't issue my daughter a birth certificate. So I could not keep my child in Singapore for long.

My husband and I had to make a decision where to go- either to Malaysia or Canada.

My husband had the

idea to come to Canada, not me. However, I didn't have any other choice. We had to make a quick decision because we only had a short period of time to live in Singapore.

First, my husband applied for a Malaysian citizenship, but unfortunately they rejected him 3 times. So my husband lost his hope to become a Malaysian citizen. At the same time, he applied to Canada. After a few months, we received a letter from the Canadian Embassy. The letter mentioned that we were eligible.. After that we packed a few things, and then we came to Canada.

The Building of Heroes by Maleke

We all wake up in the morning, and we all travel to this building. When you look at it, it looks like all the others around it but don't let it fool you.

On the inside, there is a special team of heroes assembled who fight against one of the most evil villains around - Lack of Knowledge. LOK's plan is to rid the world of knowledge, but our heroes

will do their best to not let that happen. Our heroes gain strength every time someone gains knowledge in the building of heroes.

So help our heroes by learning as much as you can, so they can obtain their full strength and finally beat their arch nemesis: Lack of Knowledge.





Time for a Snack by Leyla

You may have not ever heard how bad snacks could compromise our health, and how on the other hand healthy snacks can improve our diet, keep us energized, and provide important nutrients.

Here are very easy ways to make wise choices in snacks.

First, always include nutritious snacks when planning your meals and add them to your grocery list. What you keep in your cupboards is what you'll snack on!

Second, take nutritious snacks from home to eat at school, at work, or to eat on the go. This helps reduce your temptation to buy snacks that are less healthy.

More importantly, avoid snacks that may be high in calories, fat, sugar or salt (sodium).

This includes buttered popcorn, cakes, candies, chips, chocolate, cookies, doughnuts, French fries, granola bars, ice cream, pastries and sugary beverages such as fruit flavored drinks, soft drinks, sports drinks and energy drinks.

These foods can add extra calories to your daily intake.

Some healthy snack suggestions are:

Fresh fruit or individually packed containers of cut-up fruit.

Raw vegetables including carrots, peppers, zucchini, cherry or grape tomatoes.

Baby carrots and whole wheat pita triangles with hummus.

Pumpernickel bagel with peanut butter and banana.

Fresh, frozen or canned fruit with low fat yogurt or in a smoothie.

Sweet red, yellow or green peppers and bread sticks with salad dressing or low fat dip.

Whole wheat tortilla wrap made with salmon or tuna and salad dressing, onions, celery and green peppers.

English muffin with melted cheese and apple slices.

Dry mixed cereal and a container of milk.

Dark green leafy salad with orange sections and almonds.

Nuts, pumpkin, or sunflower seeds.

Plain popcorn.

Popsicles made with 100% fruit juice or yogurt.

Water, milk, fortified soy beverage or 100% fruit juice.

Yummmmm!



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PTP
'Pathway to Possibilities'
Adult Learning & Employment
Programs

Vision

Empowering adults to learn and find work they value.

Mission

To provide **basic skills education**, upgrading, job search, and related services to adults preparing for training or employment.

The PTP Advocate is published on a best-efforts basis by PTP East Centre's Newsletter Team



City Hall Trip



Here are some shots of our trip to City Hall. Thanks to Kat and the Events Group for arranging a great day. Also, a big Thank You to the folks at City Hall!!!