

**SUMMER
2013**

VOICES



LANGUAGE AND CULTURE CENTER



Our Team

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From Our Director...

Congratulations as you complete this hot and beautiful summer of study in the Language and Culture Center! You have been engaged in an extraordinary experience as you have worked and studied and danced and laughed ... and maybe even cried ... with your friends and fellow students at the University of Houston. You will never be the same. You will go forward, and as you continue to grow and learn, you will make a real difference in the world.

In late June, I attended the EducationUSA Forum in Washington, D.C. The forum was sponsored by the U. S. State Department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs and by the Institute of International Education. The EducationUSA network is made up of hundreds of educational advising centers worldwide. These centers promote U.S. higher education to international students and encourage American students to study abroad. In her welcoming remarks to those attending Forum 2013, Ann Stock, Assistant Secretary of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs wrote, "Our communities are enriched by the presence of international students, and we know that personal experience of other cultures fosters relationships and mutual understanding between the U.S. and the world."

U. S. Secretary of State, John Kerry, addressed the group at the opening session and offered his full support as well as his appreciation of the work being done in the universities and colleges represented at this important gathering. Acknowledging the importance of international educational exchange, Secretary Kerry said, "You never forget the friendships that you build, the cultural, political, philosophical, economic, social grounding that you get from that experience and how it connects people and connects countries."

At our First Assembly, I promised you that you would learn far more than English at the Language and Culture Center. As you have worked and studied with students from all over the world in our classes, you have engaged in intercultural communication, and you have made friends. These friendships will be important to you throughout your lives. I want you to know that, as I see you in the halls of the Roy Cullen Building and walking around on our beautiful campus every day, I realize how

fortunate I am to know you and to work with you. Your teachers and I thank you for choosing to study with us and for giving us the chance to learn about you, your language, your culture, and your country. We have been enriched by your presence.

As the summer term of 2013 closes, we wish you a safe and productive academic break. Summer classes will end on graduation day, August 8. We will miss you, and we want you to know that the LCC office will remain open through August and September as we work with any continuing students who need us and with new students who will be arriving for the fall term. Online registration for the fall term will begin on September 3, 2013.

If you are leaving our program for any reason, we encourage you to stay in touch with us through email, through Facebook, or through our web site <http://lcc.uh.edu>. We are eager to hear from students who continue their studies at the University of Houston or at another school in the United States or who return to their countries to continue their journey. We invite you to join a great network of former LCC students, now living all over the world.

We congratulate you on completing your term of study in the Language and Culture Center. You have been an important part of a dynamic Intensive English Program with an excellent history and tradition of service to students. You have also been an important part of an exciting urban university, which celebrates and welcomes international students.

This summer, we have been delighted to have 364 students from 44 countries in our program. We are working hard to make sure we give you the best education possible. LCC teachers, counselors, administrators, support staff, and I hope you have had great experiences in our classes and on the University of Houston campus. We wish you the best as you complete the summer term, and we look forward to seeing many of you again as you return in September for the fall term of 2013 in the Language and Culture Center.

Joy Tesh
Director





CONGRATULATIONS!!!

Nguyen Nguyen, Moulaye Simpara, Amandine Dorelle Manfoumbi, and Carolina Pacheco Lins Receive LCC Scholarships

The Language and Culture Center awards four scholarships each term to returning students who best combine academic excellence and leadership with international awareness and cross-cultural understanding. Traditionally, one full scholarship honors Joyce Merrill Valdes, the founder and first director of the LCC. A second full scholarship honors Joseph O. Davidson, who served as director of the LCC for 23 years before retiring in 2006. These two full scholarships cover the cost of tuition, fees, and medical insurance for one term of study in the Intensive English Program. In addition, the LCC awards merit scholarships of \$1500 each for one term of study in the Intensive English Program. At the spring graduation ceremony on Thursday, April 25, 2013, the LCC awarded the Valdes scholarship to **Nguyen Nguyen**, the Davidson scholarship to **Moulaye Simpara**, and the two merit scholarships to **Amandine Dorelle Manfoumbi**, and **Carolina Pacheco Lins**.



Nguyen Nguyen was awarded the Valdes Scholarship. **Ms. Nguyen** was born in Vietnam and is studying in level six. This is her second term at the LCC. Upon completing her study of English, she will pursue a Master's degree in Applied Economics at the University of Houston. **Ms. Nguyen** said, "I would like to say thanks to the LCC for giving me this honor. Also, I want to express my gratefulness to my teachers for not only teaching me English but about American culture as well."



Moulaye Simpara was awarded the Davidson Scholarship. **Mr. Simpara** is from Mali. He is studying in level three after having skipped from level one. After completing the intensive English program, he would like to study Human Resources at the University of Houston. **Mr. Simpara** remarked that receiving the scholarship was the best and nicest moment of his life. He said, "My family and I are grateful to the LCC. The LCC has engaging, helpful, prepared, generous and active teachers serving their students, and it is very diverse with students from Asia, Africa, Australia, Europe and the Americas. I'm glad I made the decision to study here. This is the best way to learn English. The activities, such as conversation club, the LCC Singers, and tutoring helped me to improve my English."



Amandine Dorelle Manfoumbi was a recipient of a Merit Scholarship. **Ms. Dorelle Manfoumbi** is from Gabon and her native language is French. This is her fourth term at the LCC. She began in level one, skipped to level three, and is currently studying in level five. She intends to begin her degree in financial services after she completes her English studies. **Ms. Dorelle Manfoumbi** remarked, "I was surprised and pleased to receive this scholarship. I thank my God, my teachers, and the LCC administrators."

Carolina Pacheco Lins was also a recipient of a Merit Scholarship. **Ms. Pacheco Lins** is from Brazil and her native language is Portuguese. She is currently studying in level four having skipped from level two. This is her second term of study at the LCC. She plans to pursue a Master's degree in genetics at the University of Houston after completing her study of English. **Ms. Pacheco Lins** commented, "I was so glad to be chosen for the Merit Scholarship as it will contribute to my professional development. I am a biologist, and I intend to work in genetics. The best research in this field is written in English. That is why winning this scholarship is so important to me."



We congratulate **Nguyen Nguyen, Moulaye Simpara, Amandine Dorelle Manfoumbi, and Carolina Pacheco Lins** on their outstanding records in the Intensive English Program at the Language and Culture Center, and we wish them great success as they continue to study in the United States. We all look forward to learning who will be the next LCC scholarship recipients at the summer graduation ceremony.

Sandy Woodson
Associate Director



OUR WONDERFUL SUMMER 2013 STUDENTS







Ψ Ψ Ψ



My Favorite Possession

Jessica Delgado - 6A

One of my favorite possessions is my car, which I won in a raffle. I was fifteen years old when my dad bought a ticket for a raffle of cars. He told me if he won the car, he was going to give it to me. A couple of weeks later he called and asked me, "What color do you want it to be?" and started to laugh. Then I realized he was talking about the car. I was so happy because it was my first time winning something from a raffle.

My father and I picked the car up in Xalapa, which is the capital of my region, Veracruz. It was really exciting to pick up the car because just like my father and I, there were around 20 other people there who had also won a car. My red car had a really big bow on the top, and as soon as I had it, I started to practice how to drive a standard vehicle. I learned how to drive standard in four months, so by my 16th birthday, I was able to drive. Now that I am 20 years old my car is the best possession that I have because I can use it and go wherever I want, whenever I want.

A Peaceful Room

Van Vo - 6A

My bedroom is a special room where I can find peace and comfort after a long day of studying and working. Entering my bedroom, the first thing you see is a white wooden bookcase that is placed in the corner of the room. There are many shelves on the bookcase, so I can put all the things I like, including my favorite books, some small decorations, and a few beautiful pictures. Looking at the wall to the left of the bookcase, there are numerous pictures of my family, my friends, and me. On the other side of the bookcase, I put a small wooden chair where I can sit and read in my free time. Next to the chair, in the middle of my bedroom, there is a small brown wooden single bed with a pink bedcover and some small soft pillows on top. On another wall of my bedroom, there is a white plastic desk, which is under the large picture window. I also put some essential study materials on the desk, such as my laptop, an LED light, and a pen holder. On the opposite side of my bed, there is a closet where I keep my clothes and shoes. Moreover, there is a metal hook, which hangs on the door of my closet so I can keep up with my scarves and hats. Between the closet door and the room door, a black plastic laundry basket is on the floor to hold all of my dirty clothes. Although my bedroom is not a large one, it is still my favorite room because this is the place I can feel comfortable and peaceful in my life.

Treasure in my Mind

"Fred" Yen - 6A

Depending on personal experiences, the value of a thing can be analyzed in various ways. The definition of "treasure" is different from one person to another. Some people may consider treasures as pricey or noble objects whereas others might stand on the opposite side, caring more about the meaning than the monetary value. I personally am inclined to the second description due to the most valuable possession of mine being my family album. I always carry it with me. It is not expensive but is full of memories with pictures my parents, siblings, girlfriend, and me. Studying abroad, very far from my country, I feel melancholy and depressed sometimes, as I am alone. Those who always support and encourage me are in my country. I miss them not only when I am in a bad mood, but also when I want to share my happiness with them. Because of the time difference, I cannot connect with them frequently; therefore, the album has become the best way to relieve my feelings and gain comfort. A treasure doesn't have to be expensive or rare, as I mentioned previously, but it has to be meaningful.

My Heavenly Bedroom

Ngan "Vicci" Pham - 6A

My bedroom is the most wonderful and comfortable place to ease my nerves and do whatever I want without other people's interference. It is not really big but is large enough for one person. As you step into the room, you can see a wooden bed, which has been covered up with a cozy red blanket. There are also two white cotton pillows, and I always feel comfy falling to sleep on my so-called "nest." Also, many beautiful and meaningful pictures, painted by my favorite artists, are hung tidily all over the walls. Above my bed, narrow windows are opened wide so that I can enjoy either the fresh air or nice landscape outside. What's more, my furniture is next to colorful floral curtains that almost make me feel I am in an extraordinary heaven. Additionally, I have a marvelous collection of books that are arranged in order on antique wooden shelves. I put the bookshelf beside my desk, which is opposite where I sleep. I just use it to study and store all my own possessions. Beside it, a small wooden chair is attached to the desk. Another thing that will catch your eye at first sight is my messy closet. Everything in it is topsy-turvy. Regardless of its untidy look, my bedroom is still my heaven due to the fact that it frees my mind and allows me to enjoy my favorite activities.

The Internet's Impact

Anh Thu - 3F

Nowadays, the Internet has changed our lives, because it affects our lives in three ways. First, it has affected our daily activities. For example, in the past, we used to spend our free time watching TV, reading newspaper or magazines, but now we're using the Internet to do all of them. We also used to watch TV and play games when we were at home, but now we can entertain and relax by using the Internet everywhere we want to go. The second effect is that the Internet has changed the way we study. A few years ago, we only studied by reading books, finding information in books, looking up, and translating words on a thick book. It took a lot of time to do all of them. However, we do that no longer. We can use the Internet and do anything we want. For example, we can access the website to use the dictionary, search Google or Yahoo to find information and read books online. It's so great! We can study easily without bringing a lot of thick books with us. Additionally, we can update all information about our homework and class activities from a social network. The final effect is that the Internet has affected our social lives. We used to contact our friends and families by phone, but with the Internet, we can contact them through social networks, such as Facebook, Yahoo, and Skype. We use them to share information and chat with our relatives. Moreover, we meet and find a lot of our friends online and we don't feel lonely when we access the Internet. In conclusion, the Internet has had a lot of positive effects on our lives, and if we know how to avoid some bad things, the Internet will be completely helpful in our lives.

Abdulrahman Alshehri - 3F

Media communication has changed a lot from the past because of the Internet. First of all, the TV had limited channels, and the programs were short. Also, it worked only for certain hours, and after that, you couldn't watch the programs. However, these days, you can use the Internet instead of the TV to watch and listen to anything, at any time you want. Also, 50 years ago, media communication had just a few sources. People used to communicate by sending letters. However, letters took a long time to arrive, but now you can use the Internet and reach anyone you want faster. Second, the Internet has an important role in our education. For example, you can learn anything by searching the Internet. Also, you can take classes online anywhere. Finally, you can see and talk to your friends and family as if you were with them. If you have a smart phone, you can use the Internet. For all of these reasons, the Internet usage increases every day. It has a lot of significant advantages to help us in our daily, educational, and social life. It makes our lives easier to get information whenever we want.



Ahmad Alsaihati - 3F

The Internet has affected people's lives in many ways. First of all, people spend a lot of time every day on the Internet on websites, such as Facebook and Twitter, so they are writing what they feel, reading news, and chatting with friends. Also, they can call their families or friends or watch videos online at anytime and anywhere they want. Finally, they can make new friends through Facebook, Twitter and online games. In short, the Internet has changed our lives for the best.

Abdullah Bin Jumayd - 3F

The Internet is the most important invention today because people can do anything online. First, we can study very easily on the Internet. There are many schools that use the Internet to help students practice online, for example, do homework, take tests and do other activities. Students always use the Internet. For example, they can take some tests online. If they need information about anything, they can check web sites. Also, the Internet is perfect for our social lives because it helps us to talk with other people. There are many people who love to chat together on the Internet. For example, Facebook helps people to make new friends, find old friends, and sometimes, get married. The Internet helps people in many ways if they use it carefully. Sometimes, the Internet helps me to shop, so it's really a good invention. Finally, we have to say thanks to God for the Internet because it has made our lives very easy, fast, happy, and amazing.

Tahrah Al Alshaikh - 3F

These days I see many people who have an ipad, laptop and smart phone. They use it to connect with their family and friends and to work. It makes our lives easier than before. For example, many years ago, it was difficult for people who lived far away from their families to contact them easily. Also, it was too expensive. However, now it gets easier with these smart devices. If you have a smart phone, you can connect to the Internet, and you can talk to anyone for free through the Tango program. I can talk with my parents with Tango by Iphone. I can also use the video call and text. Moreover, with my laptop, I can socialize with people from other nationalities because the internet connects us to the whole world. Also, there are a lot of websites that you can study, and you can get a lot of information about anything that you want. All in all, the internet has changed our lives in many ways, and it has made our lives easier than before. Now we're connected to the world around us, and it's easy for us to know whatever that we want because it is the most important innovation in our lives. We should all be grateful to the people who invented this for us.

Fabien Lamizana - 3F

The Internet has changed our lives in several ways. First of all, Internet permits us to improve our education. For example, it gives us more information about our major; additionally, it gives us a lot of videos done by great teachers. In addition, it links you to some website such as ELT online, the TOFEL application online or other instruments to improve our skills. Second, the Internet permits us to have a better social life. For example, we can contact lot of people throughout the world. We can be connected at any time and get information from our friends. The Internet has also helped shy people to have more friends because they are not obligated to go out with people. You can stay at home and meet other people thanks to social networks such as FaceBook or Twitter. Finally, the Internet is one of the best innovations which has changed and improved our lives forever.

Influence of Technology in Lebanon

Ahmad Al-Laham - 3D

Technology has influenced all countries including my country, Lebanon. It has made our life different from how it used to be. For example, in the past people lived a simple life. They used old equipment. Also, the way they cooked was different. They ate healthy food with no chemicals. Another difference is that children in the past would show more respect to older people, and it did not matter if the older people were part of their family or not. Furthermore, neighbors would help each other more often. If they noticed something was wrong, they would immediately fix it. However, our life has totally changed nowadays. The world is like a small village now. We can see and talk to

someone in another country very easily. Science has also improved a lot. Researchers nowadays are finding all solutions to our problems, so all our needs are met. On the other hand, nowadays our food seems to be full of chemicals that will affect our body and cause new diseases. Everywhere we go, we see fast foods, and everyone seems to be eating fast food just because they are faster! In addition, the new generation doesn't respect the old generation as they should. They just do what they want. In conclusion, although technology has made our life totally different from the past, we should protect our culture and traditions because they are very valuable.



The Language and Culture Center

Why I Chose the LCC...

Burno Capasso - 3E

There were several things that made me choose to study at UH. First of all, I decided to come to Houston because my uncle lives here, so I started to find a good school that I could improve my English while living with him. When I talked about my decision with my uncle, he immediately said: You should study English at UH because it's a famous university, and they have a big, beautiful campus. Also, there are a lot of good teachers at this school. After this conversation, I thought about that and started to search for information about UH on the Internet. After that, when I came to U.S.A., I came to UH to see how UH looked, and I got excited about studying at a good university in the U.S.A. Another reason that I decided to study at UH was the popularity of this school, because everyone that I asked knew about UH and told me good things about it. Because the reputation of a university is one of the most important reasons that students decide to study in a university in my country, it's really important for me to study at a famous university. So, I decided to study at UH because it's near my uncle's house, the buildings are beautiful, the professors are professionals, I liked the education system that UH uses to teach English in the Intensive English Program, and it has a strong reputation. In conclusion, I'm certain that I chose the best school, and I'm enjoying myself now.

Elvard Mouaba - 3E

I chose to study at the University of Houston for several reasons. The first reason is that it has a special program for learning English as a second language. For instance, it has LCC which has an intensive program of English. After that, UH also has good, professional teachers. For example, even when you don't know something about English, they have several ways to teach you. The teachers are both from the United States and also from other countries, so we don't feel like strangers at UH. It has amazing and lovely teachers. The last reason that I decided to study at UH is that I received good recommendations from people my friends and family. Finally, for me it was the best school to come for my studies.

Adel Alghamlas - 3E

Any student in the world has plans for his future and hopes to build a better one by going to an amazing university. So I chose the University of Houston to achieve my goals, and I registered at the Language and Culture Center for several reasons. The first reason is to get a good education at this institute that will improve my English language to go to the university because it has good teachers with lots of experience teaching international students. In addition, the institute has very good facilities such as the CALL lab, library, conversation club and advisers to help us. Also, the second is that the university has many facilities for students. For example, the housing, recreation center, cafeteria and student center offers services to students every semester. My third reason is the high rank that this university has which places it among the best universities in the United States. In addition, the University of Houston has won the award for offering the best business majors in Texas many times. I am happy about that because that is my future major. Finally, I wish everyone success in the future in the LCC at the University of Houston.



Busra Kevser Kale - 2B

The LCC is an English learning program. There are many tools for learning English at the LCC. Teachers who work at the LCC are kind and patient. They like students and are interested in them. There are a lot of classrooms in the LCC building. There are two classrooms for each class. They are big and bright, but also really cold.

People from different countries can come to the LCC. Students will be friends after they come to the LCC. Students must go to CALL Lab for listening and reading every Wednesday. There are many computers in the CALL Lab. Nobody can enter with a drink. Students have to buy three books for lessons. Those books are about listening, reading and grammar, but they are expensive.

As far as I can tell, all of the LCC is good for learning English.

Muath Aljuraydi - 2B

The LCC has a lot of ways to study English. I came to the LCC because I have a lot of friends. Someone in my family told me the LCC has a lot of friendly people. I like the LCC because it has a culture club, lab, singing class, and extra classes with tutors. I love my class because it's very nice. I like to go to the gym and to study in the library. If I study in the library, I'm good. There are some things I don't like at the LCC. For example, sometimes if I want to park a car, I forget to pay. Then the police gives me a ticket. The parking in the LCC is very far, so I don't like parking in the UH. All in all, I love my teacher and my classmates.

Eutteum Lee (David) - 2A

I like the LCC very much. Do you know why? First, my teachers are very kind. I want to speak English very well, but sometimes it is very difficult for me. My teacher always teaches me very benevolently. Second, my classroom is very cool! I do not like the heat. So, my classroom is a very good place to study hard. Third, my classmates are very funny and friendly. They are from different countries, such as China, Taiwan, Saudi Arabia, etc... It is interesting and funny because we have different cultures. Fourth, we have social activities. I usually go to conversation club because it is good for me and helps improve my English. Furthermore, the University of Houston students are very gracious. They always explain things to me very benevolently. So, I am happy about my life at the LCC. I like my classmates, my teachers, and my classroom, and I love everything about the LCC.

Stefany Tabora - 2A

I like the LCC. I feel good here in the class with my teachers and my classmates. The work is very interesting and I am learning a lot. I practice the little bit of English that I know, and I hope to improve it. Sometimes I don't understand, but class is awesome!

I like the LCC building because it has everything, a lot of classrooms, restrooms, labs and a nearby cafeteria. I like that the building is near my dorm, and I don't walk a lot. The books are good, and I like them. I want to learn so much. The classrooms are comfortable, but they are really cold. I feel really good.

Xu Liang (Eric) - 2B

I like the LCC very much because I like everything about it. I like my classroom because it is very big and clean. And I like my teachers because they are so kind. When I feel very confused, they always help me. I have a lot of good classmates. They are very friendly. Sometimes I go to the conversation club in the afternoon. Here, I can learn many words and sentences when I talk to another person. When I want to relax, I often go to the singing club because it has all kinds of music. So this is why I like the LCC. I like my classroom, my teachers and my classmates. I am very happy because I am studying at the LCC every day.

Jesus Hernandez - 2B

I am going to talk about the Language and Culture Center and describe the activities. The Language and Culture Center is always very interesting because it has a lot of cultures. Because of this reason, we use English to communicate. The University of Houston is very big, but the Language and Culture Center is big too. They always have the classrooms organized and clean. At the LCC, we can do many extra activities. It depends on what you want to do, such as read, sing and play sports. We can do everything on campus. I like the teachers, and the university is wonderful, I think the University of Houston is a great option for me. This is the best way to learn English. I try to learn it well and in the shortest time possible. Finally the Language and Culture Center is excellent, and they work hard for us every day.



The Language and Culture Center

Mohammed Alrassi - 2A

The LCC is the best place for everyone who wants to learn English. First of all, the LCC has a good education for everyone who wants to learn English because they have good teachers. After that, their teachers are patient with students who want to study English, and they make you feel better with yourself each day. Next, their books are difficult because they want you to be a good student in the future. In addition, their buildings are big because they want to make more classes for students. Next, their classrooms are beautiful. Each class has a big board, and it has a smart teacher. Finally, I have never seen this education, and I hope everyone can come to the LCC.

Sagad Al Marzooq - 2A

I like my school in the United States because it has a lot of things to do. I will describe what you can do in the Language and Culture Center. To study in the LCC is difficult because they want all of the students to be successful. They have a lot of great teachers because they focus on all the students. They have clean classrooms to make students and teachers feel comfortable. Also the books help you to learn fast. Finally, they have a lot of activities you can do there. For example, you can play in the gym and take a trip with your classmate. They have the CALL lab you can use a computer to connect with other people to practice your English language. Because they have a lot of things to help me learn. I like the Language and Culture Center.

Chiao- Chi Wang (Sarah) - 2A

I like the LCC. It is a good school to study English. The LCC has many good teachers. If you like English and want to learn it, the LCC is a good choice. I was very excited when I arrive at the LCC because I want to study English very well. The school is very big and beautiful. After I saw my teacher, I thought she was not married and very young. But she tells me she was married and has two wonderful babies. She is really nice and beautiful. I needed new books to study English. The books are very expensive. I need to study, so I bought them. The classroom is usually cold. I wear my jacket every day. Also, I go to the Conversation Club to make friends and practice English. I can ask other people when I do not understand a question. They are friendly and happy. They always help me to answer the question. I like to go to Conversation Club. I like English and want to learn, so I study at the LCC. There are many fun things to do and the people are very nice. I love my teachers and the LCC very much.

Iurii Afonin - 2B

When I was a kid, I had a big dream. I wanted to speak English, because my relatives, friend and classmates spoke English. After forty years, now I am an adult. I attend the University of Houston because the Language and Cultural Center is excellent. I read about the Language and Culture Center on the Internet, and I heard about it from my friends. When I came in Houston, I saw a beautiful building named Roy Cullen. When I started learning English, I met my teachers. They are very intelligent, pretty, and they dress fashionably. Their lessons are very interesting and helpful. My teachers are friendly and energetic. So, my mood is excellent every day. The Language and Culture Center is also very convenient and comfortable, because I have an apartment on campus, a dining hall near here and a cafeteria. But, my housing is expensive, and I need a lot of money for my education. After my class where I study English, I go to the conversation club. In the conversation club, I practice my English and find new American friends. Then, I go to the Call lab three times every week. Next, I like sports, and I want to play soccer on the LCC team. I have made great progress. I can speak English, and I realized my dream. So, I am happy.

Mukhlef Alshammari - 2B

Today I am going to talk about my beautiful school. First, it is the Language and Culture Center, the LCC. Second, it is a great school to learn English. Next, there are a lot of classrooms, and the classrooms are big and have computers. Also, the books are helpful. They give you advice, but they are expensive. The teachers are great. They always help us. They often give us homework and tests because they want us to learn, and go to next level. At the LCC, there are many students from different countries, and some of them are from my country. All in all, I will study in the LCC until level 6 because it has a lot of great activities to get you ready for the university.

Haiku



4C

Ngoc Nguyen

*Life is not easy
You should not give up your
dream
Success will come soon*

Rana Alsulaiman

*Welcome to summer
I smell a red rose flower
Amazing weather*

Eunji Seo

*The night summer beach
Underneath glittering star
Let's listen to waves*

Mi Pham

*The rain is coming
The wind is tearing down leaves
Where is my summer*

Khalid Alsuhaibi

*A bird flies sweetly
on paper wings telling all
of my love for you*

Abdullah Majed Alanazi

*Summer here again
music plays sweetly, drifting
and life is renewed*

Adriana Rodriguez

*Snow is falling down
Falling to the cold white
ground
Lovely brand new snow*

Abdullah Aldhafeeri

*The wonderful sun
shining on the entire world makes
the people warmer*

Happy 4th of July !!!

Writings by: 4E



Joanna Estrano

This is my first 4th of July since I came here, and I am not very acquainted with this celebration. I plan to stay home during the day because I have some work to do for my clients in Venezuela. While I work on my computer, I will be doing some chores. Once I finish with my work, I will be organizing my plans for my wedding, because I am very close to 'the date' and I need to be ready as soon as I can. Maybe by the end of the afternoon I will go running with my fiancé. My boyfriend wants to take me to some place where we can watch fireworks this evening. I think it is perfect to close the day with this activity, because it could give a perspective of the usual things that people do for this important day for America.



I hope you enjoy it too.



Manal Aldhalaan

My 4th of July plans are very interesting, at least for me. While some people like to travel, others stay home. I plan on getting up early, eating breakfast, and dressing up in American festive clothes, such as jeans, a t-shirt with the American flag, and a USA cap. I plan on having a picnic with my friends, so I will pack things such as beverages, meat for the grill, and then I'll go to the park to celebrate our holiday and watch fireworks with other people. In conclusion, I will enjoy celebrating my holiday in America, and I hope you enjoy it too.



**Se Huyn
Kwon**

Independence Day is one of the biggest holidays in the United States.

Everyone here celebrates this holiday and enjoys their time with family or friends. My plan is to wake up late and enjoy my morning peace. Unlike a normal weekday, I can spend my morning time sleeping in. After waking up, I am going to go to brunch at a restaurant and to pretend to be a New Yorker. I think that pancakes and coffee will be perfect for my brunch. After eating brunch, my sister and I are going to shop at the Galleria because there is a huge sale, and we love shopping and hanging out together. Finally, we will watch fireworks at night. This is going to be a fun and joyful experience for both of us. As you can see, my 4th of July plans are great, and I want to spend a nice holiday. I wish the same for everyone.

Khaled Awad

While the year has many holidays, one that I can't forget is the 4th of July. First, my friends and I decided that we wanted to have fun, so we want to meet people from different cultures and share different opinions and ideas. We plan on camping or spending the day in the forest, preparing some delicious BBQ, swimming, playing cards, and perhaps hunting some animals if allowed. We really are going to have fun if all things go according to plan. Finally, when we return, we are going to the street and put some special songs for this day. We'll also share some drinks together and decorate the car with the American flag. In conclusion, this is a celebration that must be honored because it happens once a year.



Kha Mi Bui

Since I will be off from school, I'm going to go out with my friends. First of all, I have to clean my car. It's so dirty. I also want to go shopping this day because there are lots of sales. After shopping, we plan to go to the cinema. Next, we will go to eat crawfish. I love crawfish. I know a good crawfish restaurant, so I want to show my friends. Finally, I will drop my friends at their house and go home by myself.

JiaWei Chan

Independence Day will be a wonderful day because I won't have classes. It is very hard for me and many others to wake up so early to attend school. However, that day I can sleep in! I will then go to the restaurant in China Town to enjoy some great cuisine. Since I live on campus, I need to choose places that are not too far away from here. I also plan on doing some shopping while I am there and then return to my dorm. I want to watch a movie titled Hachi. This movie is about a puppy found by a professor at a train station and the relationship that develops between them. This movie is very emotional because it discusses unconditional love from pets to their owners. As you can see, while I do not have plans to go out, BBQ, and watch fireworks, I will enjoy a day by myself. Maybe next year you want to invite me to your party?



Our Country...



Ethnic Identity of Venezuelan Population

Nimsi Chavez - 5C

Venezuela is a country located in the northern part of South America. The current population is approximately 26 million people. That population is the result of the "Mestizaje," which is a term that means "mixing races" in the Latin American colonial time. People in Venezuela have three characteristics that distinguish their ethnicity: friendship, happiness and wisdom.

First, the Venezuela people are friendly with others. They are usually kind and generous. People who live in regions like Los Andes, Zulia, and the East Coast like to invite people to eat at their homes and express courtesy to their guests. Venezuelans like to have many friends and keep in touch with them. They always call, text, and visit friends and family. Those are common practices everywhere. They do not make discrimination for races and religion; they accept all

the communities that live in the country.

The second characteristic is their happiness. Venezuela people smile easily. People are happy and like making jokes about their problems. I think one of the most interesting ethnic characteristics is their ability to laugh about themselves. In general, they love parties and they always find reasons to celebrate. For them, each moment is an occasion to celebrate and have a good time. The spirit of celebration is common in countries near the Caribbean Sea.

Third, they are smart and sharp. They have the skill to solve problems, and they keep optimism in the face of obstacles. Therefore, they use a metaphoric language in their colloquial communication. Finally, the Venezuela population has been characterized for having faith in the future and forgetting past times during its history as country.

In conclusion, the ethnic identity of Venezuelan people is a product of its history and location, and it has three important characteristics.



The Geography of the Democratic Republic of Congo

Joyce Llunga - 5C

My home country, the Democratic Republic of Congo, located right in center of Africa, has great advantages related to the position. It is a very large and spacious country about two million three hundred and forty five thousand square kilometers. All this space is why the country has a lot of resources and richness. The situation of the country has three important economic aspects.

One aspect is the fact that in the west part of the country, we have access to the ocean. Therefore, some harbors have been built to allow the country to communicate with foreign countries. That has really developed the trade and brought more money because people are able to import and export easily, without having to pass through another country. This opening is not very large, so there is only one really big harbor. The others are small and do not bring a lot of money. Only a few countries have this opening to the ocean. As a result, it is a really useful advantage in order to increase the finances of the nation.

Another aspect is that we are crossed by a river. It covers almost all the extreme provinces of the country. It makes communication inside the country easier by boat, but only in certain places, because not all the parts are navigable. You can travel by boat from one city to another. Mostly businessmen or women do this. Airplanes are not the only way to import or export. It is easier and cheaper by boat. The river also makes the ground really fertile so we never need chemical fertilizers. It also allows us to build a lot of hydro dams to produce electric energy. We have more than ten dams which allows us to sell the electricity to some other countries too.

The final aspect is that because of the huge area and the fact we are crossed by the equator line, the climate varies. We have some cool parts, warm ones, really hot ones and rainy ones too. That helps us to grow different foods and plants in each province with different climates. This is the reason why we produce a wide range of products that we can sell mostly inside the country only. Our economy is really poor, so not every product can be exported to foreign countries.

In conclusion, my home country, the Democratic Republic of Congo, has a really good geographic position in the continent that helps very much. It is really advantageous for us in comparison to some other countries. We have more ways to make our country really rich by using those aspects to make more money.

To Be a Taiwanese

Jenny Li - 5E



Who am I? I am not Cinderella, who has to do her odious household chores every day, and I am also not a princess who lives in a elegant castle and has every servant waiting on her. I am a common Asian girl who was born in a delightful family in Taiwan. I have lived in a lovely city, Tainan, for nineteen years. The most significant change in my life has been studying abroad. These are some parts of who I am.

I was born in Tainan, which is a city in southern Taiwan. Taiwan is a graceful island which is known as Formosa. Tainan is a pleasant city whose climate is always nice and warm, and the residents are optimistic. The weather is always warm and does not vary much throughout the year. For this reason, there are a lot of different kinds of delicious, juicy fruits produced in Tainan. The most delicious fruit that I have ever eaten in my life are from Taiwan. Also, Tainan is the most ancient city of Taiwan, and it has some historic places and heritage that we must take care to preserve. On the other hand, it is an urban city. Although Tainan is not a capital, it has the longest and most cultural history. In addition, the traffic here is convenient, and the cost of living is not expensive; as a result, it is an incredible city where people can have an amazing choice to live for their lives.

I am Taiwanese. My first language is Chinese, but I can also speak Taiwanese. Taiwanese is a language that people use to communicate. However, it is hard to write, so Taiwanese is used for speaking, not for writing. Furthermore, speaking English fluently nowadays is very important in my country; therefore, I have to study hard to improve my English. In my culture, our parents focus on our studies and grades. They pay close attention to our learning and want their children to be the best student.

There are a lot of changes in my life, but the greatest change is studying in the U.S.A. Studying abroad is a huge challenge for me. I have to face a lot of situations which I have never confronted before. I have a completely new life in the U.S.A. I have been in the U.S.A. since last September. I have made a lot of friends from different countries and learned a lot about different cultures. I have been improving my English skills step by step. However, I have a hard time now improving my English more; nevertheless, I will try my best to break this deadlock. I will study harder. I am looking forward to my successful future.

Everything in my life has been so wonderful that I will never forget it, and at the present time, I am enjoying every second of my life. At the same time, I look forward to my future, which I believe will be bright and successful.

A Comparison of Two Cities

Muteb Alanazi - 5E

I have visited two cities in the same region of the Arabian Gulf. Dubai is in the United Arab Emirates, and Salalah is in Oman. Both of these cities are attractive to tourists in different ways. The main differences are tourist sites, food, and clothes.

First of all, Dubai and Salalah have their unique tourist sites. In Dubai, the people like visiting this city to go shopping at its world famous malls and to see the huge skyscrapers and towers. For example, it has the Burj Khalifa, which is the tallest building in the world, and the Dubai Mall, which hosts the famous Dubai shopping festival each year. In addition, there is a long, beautiful, clean beach. On the other hand, Salalah attracts people because of its natural beauty. When I visited this city, I was amazed by the huge green mountains and the gorgeous lakes.

Second, Dubai is similar to European cities because it is an international city with people from coun-

tries all over the globe, so its cuisine is totally different from Salalah. In Dubai, tourists can find international fare, such as Italian, Indian, or Arabic food. Such restaurants are scattered all throughout the city. In contrast, Salalah offers mostly traditional, regional food.

Finally, because Dubai has so many international visitors, the residents tend to wear more fashionable clothing than you see in Salalah. In fact, it's difficult to find people wearing traditional clothing in Dubai. Instead, most people wear pants and shirts. In Salalah, however, the local residents always wear their traditional clothes, so it's easy to spot the locals. They usually wear a small hat and a thobe, which is the traditional long, white gown worn by men in many Arab countries.

In conclusion, these two cities are very close in proximity, yet they have several differences. If you have an opportunity to travel to that part of the world, you should think about which city you want to visit.

Marriage Customs in Kazakhstan and the USA

Alina Zhumakhmetova - 5E

All marriage customs in the world are unique. When a couple gets married, they should celebrate this special day. There are many similarities between the customs of my country, Kazakhstan, and the United States.

In both Kazakhstan and the United States, weddings usually begin with a religious ceremony and end with a reception party. In the United States, weddings are typically held in a church, while in Kazakhstan the main religion is Islam. So weddings usually take place in a mosque, where there will be an Imam, which is like a priest or minister in the U.S. He gives the couple some wishes and asks questions as to whether they are ready to be married or not. Afterwards, the couple exchanges rings. Friends and close relatives participate in that ceremony in the mosque, just as they do in the church in an American wedding. Following the ceremony, in both countries, there is usually a reception party at a restaurant where the wedding continues.

The second similarity is the people. In the U.S., I noticed the bride and groom have their best friends with them during the wedding ceremony as wedding attendants. In Kazakhstan, we do the same thing. In both countries, friends and relatives are included in the wedding.

The last similarity is the practice of carrying on old wedding traditions. Both in America and Kazakhstan the bride wears a long white dress with a veil, and she does not show her face to others until the minister or Imam finishes his sermon.

In conclusion, marriage customs between Kazakhstan and the United States are almost the same. Those similarities show you that the two countries are not as different as you may think.

Beijing and Shanghai

Ju Ma (Amy) - 5E

I have lived in Beijing for more than fifteen years, so I am very familiar with this city. Beijing is the capital of China, so it is obviously an important city. However, Shanghai is also a very important city in China. There are big differences between Beijing and Shanghai, including their economy, tourist attractions, and food.

Although Beijing is the capital of China, Shanghai is actually the economic center. You'll find prices in Shanghai are much more expensive than Beijing. When I have a meal in a Beijing restaurant, it costs about \$3, but in Shanghai the same meal may cost more than \$5. In addition, lots of international companies were built in Shanghai rather than Beijing, so there are more opportunities for jobs. In general, Shanghai has a more developed economy than Beijing.

There are numerous tourist attractions in Beijing. The Imperial Palace, the Temple of Heaven, the Summer Palace, and the Great Wall are famous ancient works of architecture that are open to visitors. Tiananmen Square is a more modern architectural site that is important to China. The Water Cube and the National Physical Stadium were built for the 2008 Olympics in Beijing. Shanghai also has some ancient architectural sites, like the Temple of Chenghuang, but it does not have as many places as Beijing. Another famous tourist attraction in Shanghai is a shopping street called ChengGongMiao.

Another noticeable difference between the two cities is the food. Beijing has a lot of local snacks, such as TangHuLu, LuDaGun and FoutiaoQiang. Those are special to the Beijing region, and they are so delicious. For actual meals, the food in Beijing has been influenced by other cities. I do not like the food in Shanghai because I consider it to be too sweet. I prefer Beijing's spicy dishes to Shanghai's sugary food.

All these factors make Beijing and Shanghai distinct cities, but both of them are well worth a visit.





Learning Styles...

Helton Souza - 3B



I would identify myself as a visual learner because I always have the need to create an image for the piece of information before memorizing it. I normally look at the person's face when she is explaining something. That is how I give attention to the person to whom I am talking and this helps me better understand what she is saying. Moreover, I love drawing pictures on the margins of my note pages because I can make connections between the subjects being taught with the pictures. Even though I consider myself a visual learner, very often I remember something well if I hear it clearly. It helps me recall the information when it is connected with the sounds I heard before. To sum up, I think it is important for everyone to identify one's own learning style to make their learning more effective.

Ming Jing - 3B



In my opinion, learning English visually and auditorily are good ways to improve my skills, and I always use both of them in my English learning routine. As a visual learner, it is very important for me to have a quiet place to get my work done. There must not be noise, except the noise from my computer when I am using it to watch English movies or run my English study programs. Secondly, I have a habit of writing down the directions for all the language tasks that I do instead of just taking them verbally. I do this especially frequently with my vocabulary learning because I think it is essential to expand my vocabulary if I want to improve my English skills. Furthermore, writing has always been difficult for me so I think this method helps. As an auditory learner, I learn English reading and listening through watching movies and studying DVDs with subtitles. This particularly helps me with grammar and American forms of speaking and writing. It can also help me learn more vocabulary especially when I'm not very good at interpreting body language. In short, I've kept these ways of studying English up to this point. I hope they can help better my English in the future.

Manuel Donati - 3A



I think I am a visual learner, but I also learn by doing things. For me, looking at the person when they are talking helps to keep me focused. For example, when the teacher is explaining something new, I will always look at the teacher and when the teacher finishes, I write all my notes in my notebook. I will remember information in a paragraph better if I write key information down on a piece of paper. For example, when I am reading a book, I write down sentences that summarize the paragraphs I read. Also, I prefer first to see something done and then do it myself. When I was in high school, I always watched how the teacher would solve a math problem in the book before starting to solve similar puzzles myself. I usually take study breaks when I am studying for a long time. In short, I am a visual and kinesthetic learner, but I think my learning style is more to the visual side than to the kinesthetic side.

Thuy Nguyen - 3A



I think I am a visual learner for the following reasons. The first reason is I need a quiet place to get my work done. I can't concentrate if I work in a noisy place. I would get distracted by the noise, so I always want to look for a quiet place in the library to study or I usually stay up until midnight when it's quiet to study. The second reason is I would remember information better if I write it down. For example, when I study new English vocabulary, I have to write the words down many times to remember them. If I do not do that, I will forget those new words the next day. I can't remember new words if I just hear someone speak them without knowing how they are written. The third reason is I draw diagrams or pictures of the information I learn on the margins of my notebook pages. When I draw diagrams of the lectures, I can remember them longer. I always draw diagrams in my notebook after each lesson I study. Therefore, I can review my lessons quickly when I have a test. I realize that being a visual learner has helped me quite a lot to learn.





Pichayaporn Methaiwala
-3A

I believe I am a visual learner because I can remember new information better if I write it down. I like to take short notes of the new information as that helps me to remember it better, and I do it with lectures in class. If I just listen to the lecture without taking notes, I may forget the information as soon as the class finishes. When I learn new words, I write them down many times because that helps me remember them better. Sometimes I have to write a word many times if it is very hard to remember.

Secondly, I react very strongly to colors. I have many different colored pens in my pencil box and I use them to highlight important pieces of information. I can spot and memorize the new information better this way. Lastly, before taking the test, I have my textbook in my hand. I always make short notes of the lessons in the textbook that I need to review for the test. This really helps me recall the information because I note it in my style. These visual techniques that I've used to learn have so far proved effective for my learning.



Zhengyang Lu - 3B

Every person has his own method of learning. I am the same way, and I think I am a visual learner. First of all, writing new information down is the most effective way for me to remember something because I can read it again and again. It also helps me keep record of what I want to remember. Secondly, looking at the person when she is talking helps me stay focused. According to experts, an adult can concentrate on something for two hours at most and this has been true for me. I find it important for me to direct my eyes to the teacher for this two hours when she is lecturing. Last but not least, I need a quiet place to get my work done. I can't concentrate on my study if somebody sings a song around me.



Important People in Our Lives



My Grandfather - Mohammadou Sissoko - 3D

My grandfather's name is Moussa. He was one of the most successful people I have ever known in my life. He was strong, ambitious, and smart. Although he never had a chance to go to school, he was able to learn English and French from his friends and coworkers. He also sent all his children to school. He helped the people in his community in Mali with his financial support and gave them valuable advice. My grandfather was the first person in his neighborhood to build a two-story building and the first person to buy a car. Unfortunately, I just lived with him for a short time. To remember him, my parents named their sons after him. I miss him so much. He passed away in Mali when I was in France.

My Aunt

Mei-Fang Sung (Cindy) - 3D

My aunt is my role model because she is a strong woman who has never given up in her life. When I was a baby, I lived with my aunt until I was nine years old. I remember that her husband got cancer. In his life, he was close to death four times, but he never gave up because my aunt was always supporting him. She has helped my uncle live until now. Since they are not rich, they have had to borrow a lot of money to pay for hospital expenses, so my aunt has to work hard every day. After she finishes work, she goes to the hospital to take care of my uncle. So, when my uncle is very sick, she doesn't have any free time for herself. Actually, she has three children, but they are younger than me. For this reason, my aunt needs to keep working hard to take care of them too. To me, my aunt is a successful woman. In her life, she has encountered a lot of problems, but she has never given up. She has made me understand that even if I have big problems in my life, I can't give up and run away. I must be strong.



A Stronger Man Ada Espinoza - 4D



There are many things that I appreciate about my dad, but the most important things that I really admire from him are his determination to make his dreams come true and his enormous faith. My dad served in the Venezuela Military Army for 23 years. In 2007, he had to emigrate from Venezuela for political issues, and he chose the U.S.A. His life started from the beginning when he came here. Everything that he had achieved in the past was left in the past. Starting a new life in a new country, with a new culture and language is not easy at all. In addition, if you have a family everything is more complicated because you have heavy responsibilities. The way hasn't been easy for them. He has faced judgments looking for political asylum from 2007 to 2012. However, my dad never lost his faith when a judge said "Your political asylum is denied" because he always knew that he had the reasons to achieve it. During those times he had to learn how the life in this country was. He worked hard to be responsible with his obligations including the legal process. Also, he had to learn English, and it has been difficult for him because he has been speaking Spanish for more than 40 years. He had to go without seeing me and all his relatives for a long time because we were in Venezuela while he was doing this process here. He can't return there, so this situation was hardest for him. Furthermore, a soldier is used to commanding many people, and he used to be a powerful man in my country. Here he was another man with dreams, hope and faith. Unfortunately, the situation in Venezuela is getting worse, and he faced all these challenges for us. He wants to give us the opportunity to learn a new language and to study in this country to build a good destiny. In conclusion, I'm proud of him because he doesn't surrender easily, and he always has a smile to give us. All these circumstances have made him a better man, stronger and courageous. He has the conviction to say: "The sky is the limit" and "Everything will be better", even when everything looks bad.

When I Remember my Father....

Moulaya Simpara - 3C

When I remember my father, I feel very sad. Why did he leave me when I was a child? My father was the kind of person I will never see again. He was so nice, generous, and helpful in our community. When I was eight years old, I didn't know many things about life, but I will never forget that day. It was September 6, 1996. A car stopped at our house at about 5 P.M. when I was playing soccer with my friend, Amidou. My mother and some members of my family were in this car. I was surprised because my mother never cried. She was always happy and smiling. But she was crying that day. Everybody was crying too, and no one told me what had happened because I was just a child. Then all the people in our community came to our house. I was very surprised, and I didn't realize what was happening. I continued playing with my friend. But after two days, I began to ask my mother where my father was because I hadn't seen him for two days. My mother, however, didn't tell me anything. I remember something else that day. My mother was wearing blue clothes, meaning she had lost her spouse. Little by little, I learned that I would never see my best friend again. I still don't know many things about this wonderful man, but I keep asking him, "Why did you leave your children when they were so young? They needed your love, help and advice." One day I realized that I was an orphan because I had lost my father. I realized I would never be like other children who enjoy their father's love. I was jealous, and I felt so lonely in my life. I still dream of the day when he drove me to school. I'm grown-up now, but I still feel that I need my father.



A Successful Person

Cosly Kahozi - 3D

My father is the most successful person I've known in my life. He has a good personality. He always knows what he wants and when he should act. He is smart, kind, and polite. He is tall and heavy and has a dark complexion like me. In fact, we look alike! His parents didn't have the financial means when he was a child, and they both died when he was so young. Then his aunt took care of him. He wasn't able to have whatever he wanted at that time, so he decided to study hard to reach his goals. He told us that when he was studying and dreaming about having a great job after finishing his studies and a good and beautiful family like ours. He knew that he would be able to reach his goals. He always does his best to keep peace and love in our family. Now, he works hard for us because he wants us to have all the things he never had when he was a child. As you see, my father is a successful person for all he has done. I admire him for his personality, and I'd love to be like him some day.



My Grandfather

Nirintr Apiwantanakorn - 1D

My grandfather is the most important person in my life. My mother told me about him. He was born in China. He was strict, but he was very kind. He took care of me when I was very young. He was more than just my grandfather. He was warm, loving, firm and straightforward. He had short brown hair and brown eyes. When I was very young, my grandfather loved me so much. Although I can't remember my grandfather, I love him so much.

An Important Person in my Life

Abdulmajid Alhazmi - 1D

I have one brother, and his name is Khalid. He is 27 years old. He is a teacher at a school, and he is married. His hobbies are reading and horseback riding. He always helps me when I need help. My brother and all my family are my whole world.



Likes & Dislikes



1B



Ahmed Al Hurifi

I like the beach in this city, but I don't like the weather.

I like the cinema halls, but I don't like the traffic.

I like the big airport, but I don't like the big campus.

July Buitrago

I like the restaurants in this city, but I don't like the long distances.

I like my classes of English, but I don't like that they start very early.

I like the University of Houston, but I don't like the metro in this city.

Ahmed Aldaloy

I like the city because it is big, but I don't like the traffic.

I like the transportation system, but I don't like it when I don't have a car.



Inoussa Tiendrebeogo

I like the grocery stores.

I like that you can't drink until you are 21 years old.

I like people in this city because they smile all the time.

Jose Nguema Bibing

I like the zoo, but I don't like the metro bus service.

I like the university, but I don't like the restaurants.

I like the animals, but I don't like that it is obligatory to pay tip.

Ivandrio Burity

I like my class, but I don't like waking up early.

I like the way my teacher teaches, but I don't like when my classmates play.

I like to work hard, but I don't like jokes.

Mamadu Traore

I like the University of Houston, but I don't like the bus. I like the English program at this university.

I like my teachers because they teach me well.

Mohammed Al Abdullatif

I like this city, but I don't like the weather in this city.

I like the people in this city, but I don't like the homeless.

I like my class, but I don't like that it is in the morning.

Ahmed Al Jandal

I like the university, but I don't like the size of the campus.

I like the gym, but I don't like the parking.

I like the parking, but I don't like that it closes early.

Mohammed Alshehri

I like Webster City, but I don't like Galveston.

I like Houston because it has more towers.

I like Houston because it has many Arabic markets.

Munirah Alwaili

I like my city, but I don't like the weather in my city.

I like the malls in my city, but I don't like to go to the mall with my family.

Ayidh Alshahrani - 1C

In winter, the weather is wonderful, especially at night. My friends and I usually go to the desert. We cook dinner on the fire. Then they ask me to make tea. I have a good way to do it. First, I put some water in a pot, and I put the pot on the fire. I leave it on the fire for ten minutes. Then I add some sugar. After five minutes, I move the pot near the fire again and put in some tea leaves and mint. We wait another five minutes before we drink the tea.

Nice Times...



Fact or Fiction?

The students of 5A and 5B were asked to write a short story, in 45 minutes, fact or fiction, utilizing the same opening and closing sentences. These are some of the results.

Leo Seo - 5B

One day, while I was waiting for the bus, somebody tapped me on the shoulder. I turned around, and guess who was there? It was Mr. Spock! He told me that he needed my help to find Charles Manson and kill him. I asked him why he had to find Manson and murder him. He said "If I don't kill him now, the Family, who are Manson's crazy followers, will take over the government, the world, and finally the universe." What he told me freaked me out. I literally had goose bumps on my arms thinking about the world and the universe being taken over by a bunch of crazy hippies. So, I set my mind to helping him save the universe. Since I didn't know where Manson was, I googled him. What I found when I researched him gave me goose bumps again, but I held on and found out what prison he was in.

Then, Mr. Spock and I took a bus to the prison. As Mr. Spock came from the future, he didn't have money for the bus. I lent him some money, and we finally got to the prison. While we were heading to the prison, I wondered how Spock could get past the security guards, but my worry was groundless. As you know, he is a Vulcan, who can use the Vulcan mind trick! Thus, it was not difficult at all to fool the security guards and get to Manson's cell. I got goose bumps on my arms again and almost threw up when I saw Manson. He was so disgusting. Mr. Spock set his phaser to kill and shot Manson. With a sharp scream, Manson was turned to a handful of ash by a laser beam from the phaser. Mr. Spock and I gave high-fives to each other and walked out of the prison. Mr. Spock said "The universe could have been a disaster, if I hadn't met you. You saved the universe!" He thanked me, and walked away.

Yunis Abdelsalam - 5A

One day, while I was waiting for the bus, someone tapped me on the shoulder. I turned to my right. There was nobody. Then I turned to my left. "Hi Mike" he said. I looked at him strangely. "You do not recognize me" he said. The voice was familiar. "It is me---Sam, man!" he said.

Sam was my old best friend. We had studied together for six years in the same classes. "What is up with you? You look old." I said. Then he told me his whole story behind his being in glasses and having white hair.

Andreina Alvarado - 5A

One day, while I was waiting for the bus, somebody tapped me on the shoulder. I turned around, and an elderly woman was behind me with an old, dirty, pink dress and a sweater with holes in it. Her face showed the lines of experience. Her short snow-white hair made her adorable and the ideal grandmother image. I was confused at first; however, when she smiled, my mind cleared. I asked her if she needed my help.

She answered me. She was lost, so I asked her about her family, where she lived, and what she was looking for. She said, "I am looking for happiness." I told her that I did not know where it was, but I could take her to the police station because they would help her to find her family. Then she started to laugh so hard, and with her shiny eyes told me "You know exactly where it is." I was nervous and confused. I was thinking what she was talking about.

A few minutes later, she started to talk about our environment: what was around us, Mother Nature, and time. Then she asked me: "Are you in a hurry? Can you find your happiness?" My bus was late; as a result, I felt anxious, and I started to complain to her. Nevertheless, she took my hand and talked to me about meditation. She invited me to close my eyes and look for my happy place, surrounding it with the people I love. Then she whispered in my ear "Let yourself hear your heartbeat and listen to how it is in harmony with the wind; likewise, you will find your peace". I did it and my face changed to a happy one.

Finally, my soul spoke, and I felt balance and peace at that moment. She was so happy, and she whispered, "Now, I found my place." She thanked me, and walked away.

After high school, we never met because we went to different colleges. I went to study geology, and he decided to study engineering. However, just a year after he had begun his study, his father passed away. Sam had had to handle both studying and dealing with his father's illness. I felt so sorry for him, and his story was emotional.

Unfortunately, time went by so quickly and my bus arrived. We exchanged phone numbers so that we could keep in touch. He thanked me and walked away.

Irma Sifontes - 5B

One day, while I was waiting for the bus, somebody tapped me on the shoulder. I turned around and at that moment I got scared because of the appearance of the man who was behind me. I stepped back, looking at him with alarm in my eyes.

That day, I had arrived early at the bus stop, and I was alone with a man that was sweating, wearing dirty clothes and looking anxious. So, I thought I should immediately leave the area, preventing a bad reaction from that stranger.

Carefully I started to leave the bus stop when the man said: "Please, I need your help. I just need to make a phone call." When the man told me that, I just thought he was a thief that wanted to steal my cell-phone.

The thing is, I don't know why, but I stayed there instead of walking away as soon as I could. Then, I listened to the reasons why he needed to make an urgent phone call.

He told me that he had been kidnapped two days earlier, and a few minutes earlier, he just escaped from his kidnapper, so he wanted to call the police and his family to notify them what had happened and that he was OK.

When I looked into his eyes, I felt he was telling the truth, and I decided to give him my cell phone to make all the calls he needed.

He just made one call home to explain what had happened, that he was fine, and he was going to arrive home as soon as he could find a way to do that.

Then, I felt terrible about judging a person because of his appearance and decided to give him all the money I had in my purse for transportation, food and other things so that he could arrive safely home.

The man was very pleased about the help I gave him, asked my name, told me that he was going to pay me back soon, and also told me that God was going to do the same.

In the end, he just thanked me, and walked away.

One Day on the Bus Rayniero Rivas - 5B

One day, while I was waiting for the bus, somebody tapped me on the shoulder. I turned around, and it was someone that I supposed that I hadn't seen in a while. He looked happy. The first thing I heard was "Do you remember me?" I really wasn't sure about it, but I did not want to sound impolite, so I answered: "Yes. Man! You have changed a lot" and then, I said: "Do you still live with your mom?" After a couple of seconds of silence, he answered: "Are you sure you remember me?" I tried to keep my composure, and I said "Yes, of course" (in a really loud voice). Then, my unknown friend told me that his mom had passed away seven years earlier, and after I heard that, I felt really bad because he knew that I was lying all the time; however, I reacted fast and said "Oh yeah, I just remembered. Forgive me." I kept the conversation going and I started asking questions to get information about his life and see if I could remember him during the time we were there. Despite my previous mistakes, I started with a simple question.

Ray: – What have you done all these years?

Unknown: – Well, I have been living in the same place that you visited once when we were on the soccer team.

Ray: – Oh yes! Where is it located? My memory is playing tricks on me nowadays.

Unknown: - Near your place, a couple of blocks down Woodland Street. Actually, it is next to your ex-girlfriend, Katy.

Ray: - Oh my God! JASON! When can we see each other again? My stop is the next one? (Finally, I realized who this unknown friend was)

Jason: - It is my stop too. I think this July 4th, I will be in Central Park So, I'll see you there?

Ray: - Of course!

Jason: - Can I ask you a favor?

Ray: - All right. Tell me what you need.

Jason: - Can you lend me \$20, and I will pay you when I see you. (Probably never)

Ray – Ok, take it right now because I am in a hurry. See you then.

He thanked me, and walked away.

Wonderful Gifts



My Parents

Phuttinan Niemkon - 4D

I appreciate my parents because they gave me education and life skills that make me ready to get a good job and the best future. First, they gave me the best education, and they worked very hard to give me the best future. They never said "I'm tired." My parents tried to do everything they could for me. Second, they didn't just give me education, but they gave me life skills to guide me. They taught me how to use the time of my life correctly. They are more than a father and mother. These reasons make me know how much my parents love me. I want to return this love to them.

The Wonderful Gifts

Nicole Yang Li - 4D

If someone asked me, "What do I think is the best gift from my parents?" I will answer them that there are two important gifts from my parents, love and support. They love me so much that they also teach me how to love others. And no matter how far away from home, the warmth they give is around me. In addition, they are the best supporters who always help me. They will give all the help I need, no matter what I want to do. I am so happy that I have such good parents who give me these important gifts and make me a good person.



I Love You, Mom

Tran Thi Thao Phuong - 4D

Mom is the most precious gift from God in my life. She sacrificed her life when I came into the world. She gave up her ego; instead, she took care of her children. She spent her time, and her own money to meet for childrens' needs. Housework, raising children and providing spent her energy. Her wrinkles show her love. Although she is busy, she always takes a break to tell her children how to be a good person. Furthermore, her love is the most important characteristic I appreciate. She loves her children more than anything, but she didn't want her children to know that. If we did something without thinking, I always worried I would make her angry. However, she didn't respond like that. Her eyes showed forgiveness. She didn't teach us in anger. No words can say all of the things she does for her children. I just say thanks for her bringing me into the world and being my mother. In conclusion, her love and sacrifice make me love and want to show my appreciation.



My Gift from God

Sultan Almowallad - 4D

If you live on this planet, there are three permanent things which you won't be able to lose from your parents: confidence, safety, and love. These things you won't find it in anyone or even deserve from anyone in this life except your parents. As a matter of fact, if you have a best friend who sometimes damages the friendship or brotherhood by stealing or lying, you won't trust him anymore. One the other hand, imagine if you do the same things that your friend does to you, your parents will forgive you, and not only forgive, but also, give you a lot of opportunities to demonstrate that they trust and believe you the length of your life. The real meaning of safety that you always need is to be able to sit on your mother's lap crying and complaining to her about your problems, issues, and troubles. There is no doubt love can come from anyone, but the love your parents give exceeds all kind of love in life. Love comes from both genders that have the same feeling and affection, at the same time, as one heart. All in all, parents are a precious gift, which our God gave us to make this life more magnificent.

Norah Alshahrani - 1C

I was happy to go to the museum, especially with the group of students and my teachers. I enjoyed the tour of the exhibits very much. I saw many dinosaurs, rocks, metals, shells, animal models and types of fish. I liked seeing how they extract oil. The exhibits were well organized, and it was easy to move between sections. In addition, the idea of combining learning and play was wonderful. I specialized in nutrition, so I really enjoyed the chemistry hall. It was a good idea to choose the Houston Museum of Natural Science for our class field trip.

Message From Brad



Student Activities

The LCC went to Houston City Hall and explored the downtown tunnels during Check-In Week to allow new and continuing students to meet and mingle with teachers while touring one of the major business districts in the Houston area. Many students took the opportunity to go to the observation floor of Chase Tower, which provides a scenic view of downtown Houston.

At the time of this writing, we are preparing for the final field trip of the term to Six Flags Fiesta Texas in San Antonio, where we will watch interesting shows, play games, and ride roller coasters. I believe this will be the most fun trip of the term, and I hope that everyone enjoys it. After the field trip, we will have our graduation ceremony and reception.

LCC Singers

I would also like to recognize the LCC Singers. They have worked very hard this term to learn many different songs. The student and teacher members of the LCC Singers should be proud of their accomplishments.

Immigration Update

Students in F-1 status need to make sure they maintain their student status. If you are planning to travel during the break, please see a student counselor so we can update your travel plans in our system. If you are traveling outside the U.S., you must bring your I-20 to a student counselor for travel authorization and permission to return to the U.S.

If you plan to study in the LCC for the fall term (September – December), you must register online. If you do not register on time, you cannot attend class! Go to the LCC website for more information.

The LCC has three terms throughout the year: spring, summer and fall. As an F-1 student, you are required to study in every term unless you are given permission to take a vacation term. If you want to take a vacation in the summer, you must first ask for permission. To ask for permission, please go to the LCC website. Log into the LCC Student System with your student ID and password. Then click on the vacation button. The LCC will verify your vacation eligibility and email you the results of your vacation request.

If you plan to transfer to a new school please see a student counselor in room 118 or 120 for more information. You have 60 days from graduation to complete your transfer to a new school.

If you have any doubts or question, please see a LCC student counselor. It is very important that you maintain your student status. It is not easy to get your student status back if you lose it.

Enjoy the break. We look forward to seeing you in the fall!





UNIVERSITY of **HOUSTON**

Editors: Jana Munoz & Alida Nakic

**Thank you to all the
LCC teachers and students for
your contributions!**



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