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Don't forget!

Lessons with English Matters will be suspended Dec 23 – Jan 7 inclusive.

Will you need time off from your lessons for March break? Please let your teacher, and Lorrain know at

lorrain@englishmatters.ca

We cannot cancel lessons.

If you miss a lesson, you can make it up earlier or later by arranging a new date with your teacher.

ENGLISH matters
would like to wish you and yours a very



'Wolf-Moon' Jan 1st 9:24 p.m.

Click for more info



A Journal Entry

From Mrs. E.

(An English Matters Student)

I came to Canada in May 2016. I thought Canada would be an English speaking country, with lots of nature, and not so friendly. But from the first, people were friendly.

When I went shopping the cashier said, "Hello, how are you?" My neighbour and my children's teacher, too. At that time, I was too shy. So I couldn't answer. It's difficult for me. But now I'm OK.

It's still a little bit strange because sometimes the other person might be angry or sad or feel bad. But they always answer, "I'm fine," or, "I'm good." Now, I understand this is a good custom. Everyone feels warm and a little happy.



Recently, Japanese people communicate less. So, I think Japan should introduce this custom for the Tokyo Olympics.

Thank you, Mrs. E!



Things To Do:

Winter at Ontario Place

December 8 to March 18

955 Lake Shore Blvd. West

Admission is ** Free **

(You must purchase IMAX theatre tickets) Enjoy skating, a winter light exhibit, a bonfire and more exciting family events!

Click for more information

WINTERLICIOUS

Toronto's favourite winter foodie event!

Jan 26 - Feb 8



Click to learn more

Click for info!

Toronto Tea Festival

Feb 3 & 4, 2018

10:00-5:00

Toronto Reference Library
Appel Salon, 2nd Floor

Special Dates Coming

Click each date for more information

Jan 1 - New Years' Day

Enjoy time with your family

Feb 2 - Groundhog Day

Find out if winter be 6 more weeks

Feb 15 - Flag Day

Put the maple leaf on your desk, door or lapel

Feb 16 - Chinese New Year

Visit China town and eat noodles

Feb 19 - Family Day

plan to enjoy an outing with the kids

OHIP+ begins January 1, 2018

Children age 24 and under with an OHIP card will have more than 4,400 medications paid for by OHIP. Beginning January 1st, how your prescription to the pharmacy and you will pay nothing :)

Click the icon to go to the OHIP website



Did You Know?

BEGINNER

"Sasquatch" is a hairy animal.

It walks on two legs, like a human.

Sasquatch is also called Big Foot.

(Look at his footprints in the snow!)



INTERMEDIATE

Most scientists say that Sasquatch doesn't exist. It is a myth.

However, there are people that believe Sasquatch is real. Some people claim they have seen Sasquatch in the Rocky Mountains of Western Canada.

Click Big Foot to watch a YouTube video

ADVANCED

'Sasquatch' derives from the Salishan language of B.C. Salishan legend tells of an enormous, shaggy and powerful but reclusive being, occasionally glimpsed in deeply forested regions of the Rockies.

The legend of Sasquatch is akin to that of the Abominable Snowman, or Yeti in the Himalayan Mountains. The legend has persisted for several decades, even spurring on tourism in some places.



The Nature School

at Kortright
FREE! FREE!

FREE!

Family Day
Hiking
Snowshoeing!
Snacks!
(and more!)

Bentway Skate Trail Opening
Under the Gardiner
January 6, at 11 a.m.

Activities, events
Food, drink
Curling, art
skate rentals
warming stations



More Things To Do



Prepare for Valentine's Day

When did you last let your spouse know about your love? In Canada, spouses are romantic often. But **on Valentine's Day husbands & wives make big efforts to show tender feelings** to each other & even their children! Your spouse wants to share some romance with you. Valentine's Day is your chance! Here's how to join Canadian customs:

- Wear red, pink or purple to work
- go out for dinner (it doesn't have to be V-day)
- give chocolates, flowers or lingerie
- come home from work early with a kiss
- share a dessert with only one spoon
- send a romantic card
- help small children send Valentine's to classmates

*Tell Your Spouse
You Love Them
Write it down for them!*



Jack Frost

Nymph-like Jack Frost is not as busy and mischievous as he once was in Canada. Before houses had well insulated windows, Jack Frost would steal close at night, when everyone was sleeping, and paint delicate, feathery frost patterns on the windows of our homes. Today, he sometimes carves frilly art on tree branches and our car windows.

But he is as quick as ever, and although you won't see him, he will quickly nip at your nose and other extremities when you are enjoying a winter walk.

WHAT'S HAPPENED SINCE OUR LAST NEWSLETTER?

English Matters:

- ☺ Guided English Matters children on the Santa Train



- ☺ Escorted returning students to a Good-bye Party



- ☺ Introduced a student to 'greasy spoon' restaurants



CANADIAN HISTORY & CULTURE CORNER

Canadian music is as diverse and fascinating as its' people. In fact, even those split into these four categories have influences from other cultures and styles of music. Click each name to hear some of the most prominent kinds of music:

Aboriginal

Indigenous music is comprised of tones taken from Aboriginal tradition. Each community has their own unique culture, which adds a special influence to their songs. The two artists below are fairly modern, but hold true to their cultural traditions.

[Buffy Sainte-Marie & Tanya Tagaq](#)
[A Tribe Called Red](#)

Celtic-influenced (maritime)

Otherwise known as 'Music of the Maritimes', Celtic-influenced music takes most Canadians back to their Scottish and Irish roots. The fiddle and sometimes the piano are common instruments in styles like jigs and shanties.

[Ashley MacIsaac](#)
[Spirit of the West](#)

Canadian Rock

Some of the most popular Canadian music tends to be rock. A diverse group of musicians and styles, Canada has had a huge influence on modern rock and some of the most popular rock artists are Canadian, such as the two bands below.

[The Tragically Hip](#)
[Mariana's Trench](#)

French-Canadian

Our Quebecois neighbours have their own music, mostly performed in their native French and with influences from several other genres, the French music reminds us of our bilingualism.

[Lynda Lemay](#)
[Fred Fortin](#)

Download Canadian Music today!

ENGLISH
..... matters

As always, if anyone you know could benefit from English lessons, please feel free to invite them to watch one of your lessons. If they sign up for lessons, you will receive a 25% discount off of one month of your English Matters lessons!

