



HAMILTON-WENTWORTH

Teachers of English as a Second Language

www.teslhw.org

Annual LINC/TESL Hamilton Conference

It will take place at the Hamilton Convention Centre on March 5th and 6th. If you would like to present or suggest a presenter contact Maria Crapsi mcrapsi@sisohamilton.org Cathy Coruzzi cjcoruzzi@hotmail.com. More information will come.

Past President's Message

It's been a wonderful two years as the president of TESL Hamilton-Wentworth. Throughout my tenure I have witnessed the continual growth of our organization and seen many positive things happening here and in Toronto. Our annual Spring Conference continues to grow and improve each year, with speakers and workshops representing the different aspects of our profession. Though I know that some will say that we have lost sight of the people we represent, I say, "We have not, but rather have included groups that have been underrepresented and underappreciated."

These groups, the child-minders and the elementary or secondary ESL teachers, are as vital to our cause as our clients. They represent the children of our students and the more we know about them and their needs, the better able we will be to serve our students.

And isn't that what we all want to be known for?

Providing our students with the best possible skills, so that they can succeed as new Canadians.

On a final note I would like to thank all the members of the TESL H-W executive, without whom none of this would have been possible. They work behind the scenes (and in front) to bring you all of the wonderful conferences and general meetings. It is their tireless dedication to you and TESL that should be recognized. So I would like to take this opportunity to applaud their work and dedication and say a big thank-you for all that you do for us. You are the best.

Rick Born

Message from our incoming President

Welcome back to the 2009-2010 school year. I am honoured to have the privilege of serving as your new TESL Hamilton President! I am looking forward to working with you all.

TESL Hamilton would not exist if we did not have constant support from our community members so we thank them deeply for all their hard work, great dedication and commitment.

I wish to thank the Executive Committee for preparing and organizing these special events.

This year we are fortunate to have such a wonderful addition to our TESL Executive Team. I would like to welcome our new members: Lori Pietroniro, Lidija Biro, Rose Pye, Nancy Mascio, Eileen Booty and Enjeela Azami! In addition, we welcome others members to join our TESL Hamilton Committee. At the moment we have representatives from Elementary, Secondary, and Adult Education from all the ESL/LINC educators, childminders, and administrators throughout the city. We all bring to the table expertise in ESL and LINC. We can make a difference by putting our heads together and achieve our goals in our multicultural community.

This Year 2009 we had a great outcome in our Annual General Meeting at Olympia Banquet Centre on Friday, October 23rd, 2009. It was a night to remember all the laughs from our guest Speaker Mr. Mike Moore and our audience! Mike talked about the role of Humour in Stress Management in the workplace. We can all relate to that in our daily lives. I guess we need to smell the roses once in a while and just be!

We thank our wonderful guests: Teachers, Childminders and Administrators that participated in this special event. IT WAS A SUCCESSFUL NIGHT thanks to all!

The year 2010 brings us OUR very successful LINC/TESL Spring CONFERENCE IN MARCH 2010. Join us for the 4th Annual Conference. The theme this year is Peace & Diversity through ESL. We thank SISO especially Morteza Jafarpour and Charmaine Routery and the LINC Team and CIC for granting us this great combination of LINC and TESL. It has been very successful. All members have benefited tremendously from all this wonderful experience.

See you all at the SPRING LINC /TESL CONFERENCE on March 5 &6, 2010

Wishing our members A HAPPY & SAFE HOLIDAY SEASON

Nelia Nowakowski

Its CHRISTMAS TIME AGAIN

the season of renewal

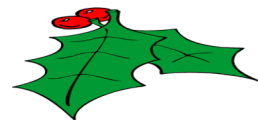
Love, faith, charity

and all that is beautiful

chimes greatly in to every heart

beating in celebrations

Of Spirit, togetherness, and affirmation.



Under the Hijab: a documentary produced by the students of the LINC for Youth Video Project at Mohawk College.

The LINC for Youth Video Project is a program for newcomers aged 18-25. Participants in the program learn English and soft skills such as group work and time management through making videos. In the first video projects, students learn basic camera and editing skills by making 3-shot stories with no dialogue and video definitions. They then build their skills through instructional videos, commercials and other meatier projects. The final documentary project is their opportunity to put all their skills to work to explore and communicate an issue of deep importance to them. Previous documentaries were "Culture Shock: Life as an Immigrant Youth," which explored the experiences of the students in adapting to life in Canada, and "Lost on a Dead-End Street: Immigrant Youth at Work," which explored the kinds of jobs that young immigrants often have and the barriers they face in moving on to better jobs. In September, the most recent group of students proudly screened their documentary "Under the Hijab". LINC for Youth graduate Yasmeen al-Gailani talks about this film.

1-Why did we make the documentary?

We made the documentary to introduce the hijab to Canadians in a way that tells them the history of it and shows how important the hijab is for Muslim women. Moreover, we showed what happened to some Muslim women who wear the hijab because of the misunderstanding and the misrepresentation of it.

2.What is the message of the documentary?

We wanted to change stereotypes and wrong ideas about this head covering. Hijab has become a flash-point in society because the media shows Muslim women who wear the hijab as depressed, ignorant women. For instance, in what people see on the news about Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iran, they don't see Muslim women having a normal life. Besides, it is a sign of terror for many people. Due to some events like 9/11 and because of the misrepresentation of the religion, people assume that all

uslims are frightening. In addition, as a result of Aqsa Parvez's death, hijab has become a symbol of oppression for most people because they assume Muslim women cannot choose their life freely. We wanted to say that we are all human and we all deserve to have a good life no matter what we wear. Each person is responsible for his actions; we can't blame someone for other people's mistakes.

3.What did we learn from making it?

Natalia, one of my friends in the class, said, "I've learned that under the hijab there is a woman like me." Ivana said, "Before, I had a prejudice about Muslim people because of negative stereotypes in the newspapers and on TV, but from making this documentary, I've got to know more about their religion, their culture and their traditions, so those negative stereotypes are gone." Veronica said, "Before coming to Canada I misunderstood that Muslim women were forced to wear the hijab, but I came to know Muslim women feel happy to wear the hijab." I've learned that we have to respect people and the only thing that we should judge people on is their hard work not their outfit.

4. How did we make it?

Our aim was to make a documentary about an issue that affects young immigrants' lives. At the beginning there were a lot of topics that we thought of to choose from, such as fighting old battles, discrimination against homosexuals, homelessness and discrimination against Muslim women who wear the hijab. Every student had to support the topic she or he wanted with an experience. There was a debate about choosing discrimination against Muslim women who wear the hijab or against homosexuals. We voted and the one that had more votes was discrimination against Muslim women who wear the hijab.

To make the documentary, first we started interviewing students and teachers from Mohawk College, then people on the street downtown. We also

interviewed experts such as Jasmin Zine, a sociology professor from Wilfred Laurier, and people who have different positions in society, such as the lawyer Rani Khan, the police officer Sandra Wilson, the Imam of the Hamilton Downtown Mosque Sayid Tora and of course Muslim women who had experienced discrimination. We also did a lot of research about the history of the hijab and things that related to it. Second, when we finished filming, we started editing. Our teachers put us in groups and every group was responsible for a certain job. Third, we wrote the narration and filmed it, which was the most exciting part for me. Finally, we chose the music and watched it, which was the easiest part.

5. Who has seen it and what have they thought?

We showed it in Mohawk College, which encouraged Muslim women to feel powerful and tell their stories. Besides it explained to Canadians lots of things so that they would support Muslim women more. We were also invited to show it at an Eid celebration

hosted by the Muslim Women's Council. Some of the women at the celebration were wearing hijab and others weren't, but they all said the documentary was a fair and honest representation of hijab and their experience. We have also been invited to show the documentary at "Inspired and Engaged Citizens: Canadian Muslims Conference" at the Hamilton Convention Centre on November 14th, at the Circle of Friends AGM and at different schools.

For more information about "Under the Hijab" or the LINC for Youth Video Project, contact Mary Anne Peters at 905-575-1212 x3414 or mary-anne.peters@mohawkcollege.ca. To see samples of the students' videos, visit us at www.youtube.com/lincyouth. We're also on Facebook and on the web at sites.google.com/site/linc4youthvideoproject.

Childminding News

Acknowledgements:

October 21, 2009: Early Childhood Educators and Child Care Workers Appreciation Day.

October 24th, 2009: The Tesl Hamilton AGM Dinner ; it was great to see all of the LINC childminders who attended this year's event. It was a great stress reducing event.

Upcoming Events:

LINC Childminder's Conference is scheduled for December 10 & 11th. of this year.

Sharing Ideas: Please submit any great activities for the next newsletter.

Good Morning!

How are you? _____.

What is today?

Today is _____.

What was yesterday?

Yesterday was _____.

What will tomorrow be?

Tomorrow will be _____.

The weather is _____.

What did you do last night?

Last night I _____

REVIEW:

Personal Pronouns – *I, You, He, She, It, We, You, They*

Singular Plural

“To Be” (Verb)

The Journey of an ESL Student Teacher

When I first thought about ESL student teaching, I went through many emotions. It started with excitement because this was going to be my first experience in the ESL environment. I have been to teacher's college before and did student teaching previously, but at the elementary level which is quite different. Even with this experience, I still had so many questions running through my mind. What will my mentors be like? What will the students be like? Will my mentors, other teachers and the students accept me? What was I going to do if I was not able to be the kind of teacher I had hoped I would be? Would I even like it?

When the time came for me to begin my student teaching, all I could do was hope and pray that things would go well. I soon found out that any worries I had were no longer an issue. I had the opportunity to be placed at two different St. Charles Centres, one placement during the day and one at night (I wanted to see if there was a difference and also to get more experience). I was lucky enough to have two mentors who were caring and supportive people. If I had a question, they had an answer. Even the other teachers at the centres made me feel comfortable, respected and I felt like I was part of their team.

I was lucky enough to have two different leveled classes which were Level 5/6 and Level 2/3, but all the students had many things in common. They were very

intelligent, funny, warm, accepting, respectful, and they were there because they wanted to learn. I found these students very inspiring. Both my mentors had things in common as well which were that they were passionate about teaching; they were supportive, kind and open with their students. Both of my mentors were the type of teachers I looked upon when I was younger and I would say to myself "when I grow up, I want to be a teacher".

Throughout my student teaching experience, I learned things about myself that allowed me to be a more successful teacher. Self-confidence is the area where I had the greatest gain. I knew I was capable of becoming a great teacher, but part of me was not sure other people would see me in the same light. Because of my wonderful mentors, I now know for a fact I will be a fantastic teacher. I learned so much about ESL teaching and also about myself! My teaching experience at St. Charles could not have gone any better.

Teaching is unlike any other profession. Teachers are constantly learning how to improve on their skills. For every student or teacher you encounter, you will learn something from them. It could be a new teaching strategy or a life lesson, as a teacher, you never stop learning. I am more excited about teaching than ever and I owe this all to my fabulous experience at St. Charles. Thank you!

Susan Littman

New CLEO Resources

Dear colleagues,

CLEO is pleased to announce that our English as a Second Language Resources are now available, free of charge, to be downloaded, printed and used in Adult ESL and LINC classes.

CLEO is a community legal clinic that specializes in providing clear language legal information to low-income and disadvantaged communities, including people with literacy barriers. These English as a Second Language Resources have been developed to help newcomers learn more about their legal rights and responsibilities in Canada, as well as to provide information about where and how to access legal help in their community, as they develop their language skills.

The English as a Second Language Resources were developed using Canadian Language Benchmarks and are intended for learners at levels ranging from CLB 1 to 6+. The activities cover topics based on CLEO publications in the tenant and workers' rights series. These correspond to themes and topics in the Adult ESL and LINC curriculum guidelines.

Each English as a Second Language activity kit contains a full set of teaching materials, including:

- introductory notes for teachers with context and CLB outcomes, a list of the activities in the kit, information about the CLEO publication on which the activities are based, and important preparatory information

- activities for learners covering a range of skill areas
- teaching notes with connections to the LINC and Adult ESL curriculum guidelines, suggestions for using the activities, and answer keys.

You'll find everything you need at <<http://www.cleo.on.ca/english/projects/eslindex.htm>>.

If you have any questions, or if you'd like to let us know about others you think would be interested in learning about this resource, please feel free to contact us at <cleo@cleo.on.ca>.

Sincerely,

Carol Olson, ESL Project Coordinator, and
Julie Mathews, Executive Director

Community Legal Education Ontario/
Éducation juridique communautaire Ontario
119 Spadina Avenue, Suite 600

Call for submissions for the next newsletter

Some ideas: Workshop and conference reviews, sharing ideas, ESL Week photos and comments, book and website reviews, work/travel experience etc..

Send submissions to jennifer@teslhw.org

AGM 2009 Photos

