

Parents' Newsletter
March 15, 2021

Spring Break at last, I can imagine students thinking (as well as more than a few teachers too!). The first report cards of Semester 2 are now posted on the MyEdBC portal and we hope that the comments and advice given will act to motivate students to higher levels of achievement in the months to come.

You will notice that these reports do not have marks attached. This is because there have been insufficient assignments at this time upon which to base an accurate evaluation. However, you will see a comment on current attitude and effort. If a report includes any negative comment on attitude and effort or a warning that current indicators suggest that passing a course might be unlikely, students and parents are urged to make an appointment with our Student Advisor, Ms. Renee Huang, for help in making a remedial plan to ensure improved performance and achievement.

If you need any assistance in accessing the report on MyEdBC, please contact Ms. Renee Huang at r.huang@ciraschool.com for instructions in Mandarin or Ms. Tina Cho at t.cho@ciraschool.com for instructions in Korean.

X and Y Blocks

Each week we have an X Block for study or a Y Block for clubs and activities. We have now had two of each and students are beginning to make good use of the opportunity to catch up on assignments or to seek extra assistance from teachers in the X Blocks. One Y Block was spent as an art club activity where two of our most talented artists (Lynn and Oscar below) led art workshops for their peers.



Last week's Y Activities Block was spent on a local beach as part of the Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup community volunteering program. Our students were able to combine physical exercise (walking to and from the beach), public spiritedness, environmental science (cleaning the beach and improving awareness of environmental pollutants), and art (collecting rocks for a future art project). They also had fun in the sun with frisbees and crabs!



Student of Month

The February award for Student of the Month went to Edward Yang. He was nominated by teachers for his attitude and effort and especially for his participation in class and his dedication to improving his English skills. Well done!





How to Improve Your English Over Spring Break

We all know learning English is difficult. Even native English speakers can get confused when presented with some of the following sentences. ELL students must find it doubly challenging so give yourself a pat on the back for each of these you understand and know how to say!

ENGLISH IS HARD

1. The bandage was wound around the wound.
2. The farm was used to produce produce.
3. The dump was so full it had to refuse refuse.
4. We polish Polish furniture.
5. He could lead if he would get the lead out.
6. The man decided to desert his dessert in the desert.
7. Since there is no time like the present, he thought it was time to present the present.
8. A bass was painted on the bass drum.
9. When shot at, the dove dove into the bushes.
10. I did not object to the object.
11. The insurance for the invalid was invalid.
12. There was a row among the oarsmen about how to row.
13. They were too close to the door to close it.

You can check your level of progress in English language ability by using a useful app from Oxford University Press Bookworms' *How Good is Your English?* (available from the App Store). It has seven different levels of tests (two for each level) and chapters of many books of classic English literature to read free of charge.



You can also use any free time over the break to have some fun and improve your English at the same time by watching any of the following movies or reading any of the following books.

Movies:

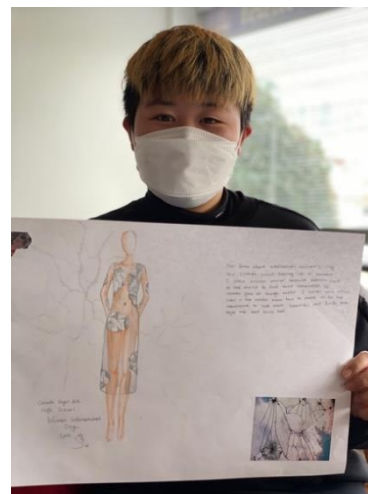
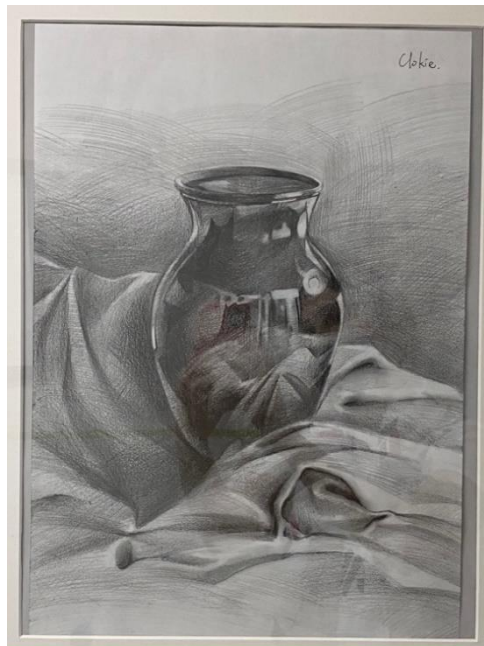
1. Harry Potter series
2. Toy Story series
3. Forrest Gump
4. Jurassic Park (1993)
5. Men in Black (1997)
6. Groundhog Day
7. Shazam!
8. Chronicles of Narnia
9. Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory is a (1971)
10. Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas
11. The Princess Bride (1987)
12. Mary Poppins
13. The Sound of Music
14. Les Miserables (musical)

Books:

1. The Little Prince
2. The Giver
3. The Wind in the Willows
4. The Old Man and the Sea
5. Animal Farm
6. A Wrinkle in Time
7. Harry Potter series
8. Wings of Fire series
9. Charlie and the Chocolate Factory
10. The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe
11. Twilight series
12. The Hunger Games trilogy
13. Wonder

Student Art

This month has been a good one for new student art. Below are pieces by Fiona (aka Clokie), Mandy, and Sumin.



Students have also been active in the performing arts as can be seen in the silent movie assignments for Mr. Woloshyn's Film & TV course. This one was produced by Jeeun and Edward.

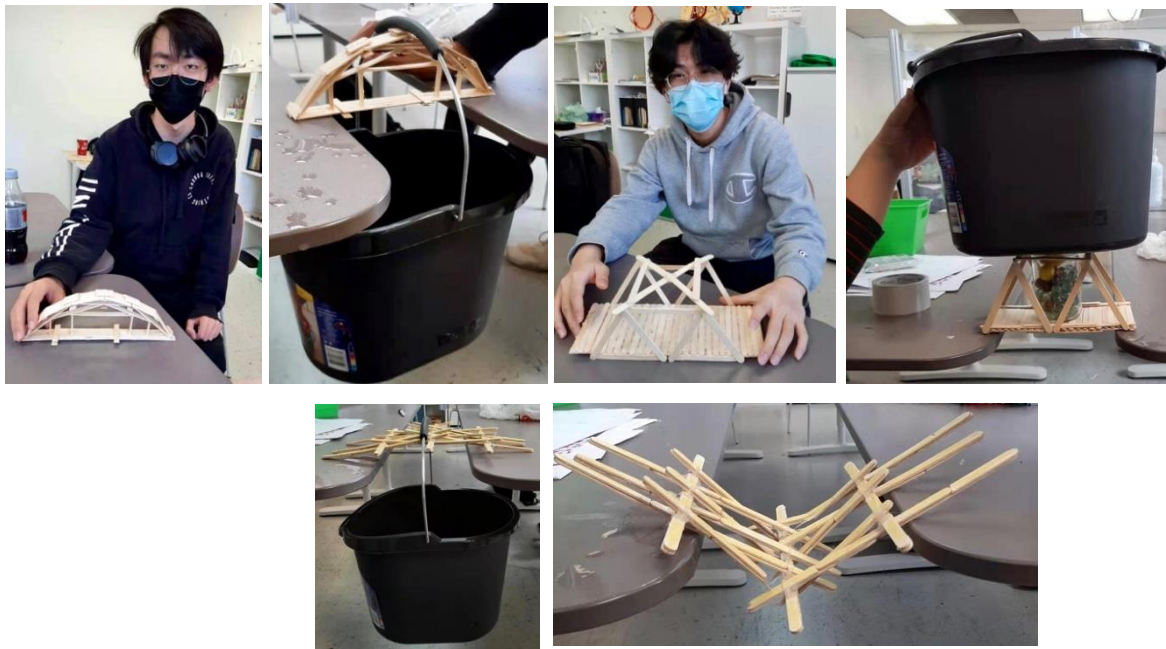


Other student activities

Not to be outdone on the creativity front, Ms. Lal's Social Studies students made a model of trenches during the First World War unit.



Meanwhile, although we like to think of ourselves at CIRA as being good at building bridges, Mr. Roy's Physics students showed that they also enjoy breaking them! The object of the exercise was to see which popsicle stick design would support the greatest weight (evidently not the last one!).



Ministry of Education inspection

You might not know but the School recently underwent a two-day Ministry of Education inspection as all schools do. The good news is that the School found out last week that it not only succeeded in passing the inspection but, in the words of the chief inspector, that it passed with flying colours. Our teachers were rated as excellent in their professionalism, their course planning documentation, and their marking standards. I trust this continues to assure parents that their children's education is in extremely good hands here at CIRA!

Planning ahead

School will **resume on Monday, March 28.**

School will be **closed on Friday, April 2 and Monday, April 5** for the Easter public holidays

School will be **closed on Monday, April 19 for Pro-D**

Best wishes to all for an enjoyable and restful Spring Break!

David Darling

PS for the mathematicians among you, I hope you enjoyed International Pi Day at the weekend.

