

TLA TIMES



Bulletin for Traditional Learning Academy Distributed Learning and Homeschool Families

June 2016

by Gabe Linder, TLA Principal

June is generally a joyous time for students in all educational settings, TLA included. Students look forward to more freedom during the summer months, and usually seek outdoor activities in the warmer weather and sunshine. Others may look forward to the general freedom to focus more on specific interests, things like music, reading, starting a small business, drawing, computer programming, cooking, blogging, designing clothes, video games, carpentry, gardening, sports, working with children in youth groups or summer camps...well, the list goes on and on. One phrase that no parent wants to hear their children utter is "I'm bored". There is however great value in learning how to deal with the vague concept of "boredom", and in simply slowing down, relaxing, taking time to lie down in the back yard and look at the clouds, and not expecting life to be a continual series of roller coaster rides.

One of my hopes for the coming school year is that the changes in B.C.'s curriculum will encourage students more than ever to bring the excitement of summer learning into the regular school year. Whatever your passions or interests are, there should be a way to bring them into your learning program this coming year. I urge parents as the primary educators of your children to keep watching for those sparks of excitement this summer and be thinking creatively about how to carry that energy forward into September, so that school isn't seen as an end to the freedom of focusing on areas of interest, but rather an opportunity to delve deeper, make new connections, and become more of an expert.

June is an excellent time for families to look back at where their children were in September, and to recognize and celebrate the progress and growth that has occurred. We do this as teachers and as a school as well, but it's also a time of looking ahead to next year and putting plans in place to provide TLA families with the best service and support that we can offer you. To this end, I'm excited to announce a school-wide initiative to encourage and help facilitate involvement in the Destination Imagination program. We will provide more details in September as to how we can help to support and promote this program in the various areas of our school, but in the meantime I'd encourage you to visit destinationimagination.org or destinationimagination.ca to get a sense of what the program is about.

From their website:

"The Destination Imagination program is a fun, hands-on system of learning that fosters students' creativity, courage and curiosity through open-ended academic challenges in the fields of STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics), fine arts and service learning. Our participants learn patience, flexibility, persistence, ethics, respect for others and their ideas, and the collaborative problem solving process. Teams may showcase their solutions at a tournament." I'm hoping that we can encourage as many students as possible next year to participate in this program and that it will help to foster a spirit of innovation, collaboration, and creativity in all who get involved.

I hope and pray for a safe and joy-filled summer for the whole TLA community. Thank you parents for continuing to provide us with the honour of partnering with you in the education of your children.

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DEVELOPING SELF-ASSESSMENT

BY STEVE BORLEY, VP HOME

Dear Parents,

Writing a little 'tongue-in-cheek' at this time, I note that I'm sure uppermost in your mind and in your children's mind at this time is assessment and report cards. What could be more important to the educational process than report cards?

In our adult world, what form of assessment do we undergo? Who assesses our work, for what purpose and to what effect? I suspect most of you that take the time to think about this come to the answer that our boss assesses our work, our customers assess our work, our peers assess our work, and we assess our own work. Which of these assessments is of most importance? For me, that would be a mix of self and peer assessment. I'm competitive enough that I want my peers to appreciate my efforts, but more importantly, I want to have that satisfaction of knowing I did my job well and within a reasonable distance of my best abilities.

So, what about your children? What assessment is going to be the most important to them and their education over the long haul? Will they learn and work better to earn the applause of the teacher, the parent, the siblings and friends, or themselves? I expect most of you will agree with me that the assessment that impacts them the most is and should be self-assessment. A child may not be able to thoroughly assess the quality of something if it is their first exposure to a skill or concept. They may need appropriate samples or understandable guidelines (rubrics) to help them. Self-assessment should become an integral part of a child's program once the child begins to understand the concept and should be aimed at helping the child analyze and improve the learning process as well as future productions. Done well, self-assessment becomes the most powerful assessment tool in education.

The 2015-16 school year is quickly wrapping up and report cards will be sent to you at the end of this month. As you read through them and as you plan through the summer with your Home teacher, consider the role of self-assessment in your child's program for next school year. Questions like "If you had more time, how would you improve this?" or "When you look at all the work that you have done here, which part do you think is your best work and why?" can be very helpful. Giving a child a rubric for a task can be a great guide, but be sure to leave some aspects open enough to encourage some freedom of thought, too.

Have a great summer! It has been an honour to work with and for you this year.

STUDENT SHOWCASE

All around the province, students of TLA are hard at work!

Visit us on **FACEBOOK**, **GOOGLE+** , or **STUDENT SHOWCASE** for a showcase of student work and activities happening at TLA.

(There are links to all three of these sites on our TLA webpage under "Our Community".)

We would love to share what is happening in your home or community!

E-mail your photos/videos/scans to:

newsletter@schoolathome.ca

Or pass them along to your teacher!

"Done well, self-assessment becomes the most powerful assessment tool in education."

- S. Borley

Direct Learning Options for K-9 Home Students

By Bryan Young, VP TLA Direct

Hello TLA families. Here are some options for your family to consider in grades K-9 in Surrey and Abbotsford for the 2016-2017 school year. These classes are intended to add to your home learning program. Our certified teachers will work with your children in the classroom and provide an end-of-term report to your Home teacher. For more information about program descriptions, times, and cost, please click on the links to take you to each program's page.

[Online Program Request form for Exploratorium and Community Classes](#)

Exploratorium K-6 Program Surrey and Abbotsford - [Click Here](#)

Surrey Grades 1-6 | William of Orange Christian School | Wednesdays

Surrey Kindergarten | William of Orange Christian School | Tuesdays (new day)

Abbotsford Grades 1-6 | St. Matthew Anglican Church | Wednesdays

Community Classes Surrey - [Click Here](#)

French and Spanish Surrey 4-9 | Hawthorne Square | Fridays

Physical Education Grades 1-6 | William of Orange | Mondays gr. 1-3, Tuesdays gr. 4-6

Community Providers at Hawthorne Square - [Click Here](#)

*To register for classes with our outside providers, please contact them directly by phone or email. Details about provider programs will be sent out in July.

Guitar Classes with Ryan DeJager

Cartooning and Chalk Classes with Gillian Haberg

Logic and Literature with Kathryn Haller

SITES TO VISIT IN BEAUTIFUL BC

By Joanne Bueno, TLA LSS

The summer holidays are here, and it's time to wind down and relish in the beautiful BC weather and travel destinations. Here are some sites to visit while you travel this summer or to add to your bucket lists:

1. Othello Tunnels at Coquihalla Canyon Provincial Park

Though abandoned, these tunnels are historic. They were created as part of the Canadian Pacific Railway route from the BC coast to the Kootenays.

2. Pacific Rim National Park Reserve

A ferry is needed to visit this park which includes Long Beach, the West Coast Trail, and the Broken Group Islands. It is west coast of Vancouver Island. Beaching, hiking, and kayaking - what more can a nature-love ask for?

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3. Enchanted Forest in the Monashee Mountains

This is a place that I had never even heard of, but please do check this out online as it is quite special. The Enchanted Forest is located on the Trans-Canada Highway between Revelstoke and Sicamous. The tallest tree in BC can be found here.

4. Alert Bay, BC

Some of you may need to take a ferry to visit this. But you can engage in some First Nations history by visiting this location in Vancouver Island. There is much more to see than the tallest totem pole. The largest ceremonial house of the 'Namgis, as well as the Old 'Namgis Burial Ground, are also in Alert Bay. Be sure to be respectful of grounds considered sacred to the Namgis.

5. Kootenay National Park

This park is located in southeastern British Columbia and is the western part of the Canadian Rockies. Here you can see the Marble Canyon, Sinclair Pass, and the Stanley Glacier.

These are just a few of the many breathtaking locations you and your family can visit this summer and beyond, all testaments to the beauty that God has blessed our province with. Of course there is a bounty of other destinations to choose from, and many are likely just a walk or a bike ride away!

“Our mission is to partner with parents and students to foster quality learning at home. our “family first” motto ensures that our focus is on the learner within family-centred educational programs.”
- TLA Mission Statement

One More Opportunity!

TLA is pleased to provide one more opportunity to view the film

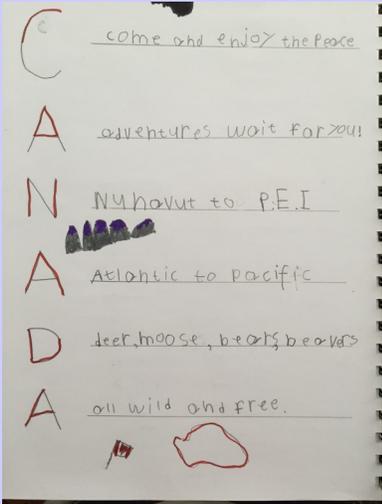
Most Likely to Succeed

(Tuesday, June 28, 4:30pm @ the Clova Cinema).

"Most Likely To Succeed is the best film ever done on the topic of school — both its past and its future. The film inspires its audiences with a sense of purpose and possibility, and is bringing school communities together in re-imagining what our students and teachers are capable of doing."

For more information and tickets please visit:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/most-likely-to-succeed-tickets-26176383267>



C come and enjoy the peace
A adventures wait for you!
N N4havut to P.E.I
A Atlantic to Pacific
D deer, moose, bears & beavers
A all wild and free.

An Acrostic poem about our great country.
Written by: Joseph C., grade 3,
West Kelowna

ONLINE HAPPENINGS

BY MARY-ANNE VANDERHORST, VP TLA ONLINE

BC's New Curriculum - *The Graduation Years - Grades 10-12*

At the end of May the government came out with some more information for schools and parents regarding the changes to the Graduation Years.

Here are links where you can read about changes coming to Curriculum - <https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/curriculum-updates>

Assessment and Reporting - <https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/assessment>

and Graduation - <https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/graduation>

If you are a visual learner this easy to read chart <https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/graduation-info#grad-table> clearly highlights the requirements for students entering grade 10 in the 2016/17 school year.

All this new information can be overwhelming. Please contact me at mvanderhorst@schoolathome.ca if you have any questions or concerns.

Have you re-enrolled yet?

I am busy processing enrolments for the 2016/17 school year. Have you re-enrolled yet? The re-enrolment link can be found here <https://schoolathome.ca/enrol/>

If you have any questions or concerns about courses for your child please don't hesitate to contact me at mvanderhorst@schoolathome.ca

Congratulations Graduates

You are graduating and life as you have known it is going to change. You are going to be faced with new and wonderful opportunities. It will not always be easy and you will not always succeed.

BUT, The One who knew you even before you were born knew this day would come and is already preparing the way ahead. Remember to read God's word, to pray, to meditate and to constantly seek his direction for your life.

Summer Blessings

I find it very hard to believe that we are coming to the end of another school year. With DL it seems there is never really a year end because students can work on their courses year round. Some students may even need to finish up remaining assignments in their courses over the summer. Even though school work may still need to be done, summer still provides a change in pace and a time to rest and relax a little as well as a time to make memories. My hope and prayer is that you all have a blessed summer. A summer where you are able to enjoy the people God has placed in your lives as well as His amazing creation.