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THE BEAR TRUTH



Langstaff Teacher is Torchbearer for the Pan Am Games!

SPECIAL SUMMER ADVENTURES ISSUE



Mme McWhinnie Takes on the 2015 Pan Am/Parapan Am Games

Interview by Jena Gall

What is your connection to Mexico in regards to the Pan Am/Parapan Am games?

I had visited the city of Teotihuacan with Langstaff students and we went to visit many tourist sites, including the Pyramid of the Sun, which is an ancient Aztec site. It is also the city where the torch run began with an ancient Aztec ceremony.

What are the Pan Am Games?

They are a major sporting competition featuring summer sports between countries in the Americas.

What does the torch represent in general? What does it represent to you?

The torch is a symbol of the Olympic traditions that date back to ancient Greece and the theft of fire from Zeus. Now is also symbolic of the spirit of sport and cooperation among the nations. To me, the torch symbolizes the dedication and hard work that the athletes put in, and serves as a source of inspiration to encourage people to be the best that they can be.

Why is running with the torch such an honour?

It was an honour for me to run with the torch surrounded by family, friends, students and community members because it allowed me to be part of an event that inspires people to be the best that they can be. It was also an opportunity for me to converse with people in English, French and Spanish and to celebrate the sense of unity that comes along with the games.

Why do you think that the organization committee chose Toronto as the host city for the games?

I think that they chose to have the games in Toronto because it is a multicultural city that complemented the multiculturalism of the Pan Am and Parapan Am Games.

Mme McWhinnie s'engage aux jeux Pan Américains/Parapan Américains

Quelle est votre lien aux Mexique par rapport aux jeux Pan Américains et Parapan Américains ?

J'ai fait visite à la ville de Teotihuacan avec un groupe d'étudiants et nous nous sommes rendus à plusieurs sites touristiques, y compris la Pyramide du soleil qui est un site Aztèque ancien. C'est aussi la ville où la course à flambeau a débuté avec une cérémonie aztèque ancienne.

Quels sont les jeux Pan Américains ?

Ils sont une série de compétitions de sports d'été pour les pays des Amériques.

Qu'est-ce que le flambeau représente en général ? Et pour vous ?

Le flambeau est un symbole des traditions Olympiques qui remonte aux traditions de la Grèce ancienne et au vol du feu de Zeus. C'est symbolique de l'esprit de sport et de la coopération parmi les nations qui participent aux jeux. A mon avis, le flambeau symbolise le dévouement et travail fort des athlètes et sert comme source d'inspiration pour encourager aux gens de faire de leurs mieux.

Pourquoi est-ce que c'est un tel honneur de courir avec le flambeau ?

C'était un honneur pour moi de courir avec le flambeau entourée de ma famille, de mes amis, de mes élèves et de la communauté parce que ça m'a donné l'opportunité de faire partie d'un événement qui encouragent aux gens d'être le mieux qu'ils peuvent être. C'était aussi une opportunité pour moi de converser avec des gens en anglais, en français et en espagnol et de célébrer le sentiment d'unité qui accompagne les jeux.

Pourquoi pensez-vous que le comité d'organisation des jeux a choisi la ville de Toronto comme l'hôte ?

Je crois qu'ils ont choisi le Toronto car c'est une ville vraiment multiculturelle qui faisait complément au multiculturalisme des jeux.

SUMMER ADVENTURES

Mme McWhinnie's Personal Account



Late last June I had the honour to be part of the Torch Relay for The Pan Am Games for which I ran a 200m segment in Richmond Hill, carrying the torch and wearing the Torchbearer Uniform. When my entry was selected, I started to get excited to be part of an event for which I spoke the

three official languages. The Torch Relay began at the Tenochtitlan Pyramid of the Sun where I brought student groups from Langstaff on Mexico Exchanges. Meeting fellow torchbearers and seeing my family, friends and students run alongside me during my torch segment was a highlight. I was surprised at the amount of security during the relay and especially by the police jogging around me who had been on the road with the Relay for the previous 26 days. Later in the summer when I wore my uniform to the Men's Final Soccer Game, it caught the attention of the Mexican Woman's Team who were in attendance, and I got to converse with some of my favorite players in Spanish. The Pan Am and Para Pan am Athletes will surely inspire us to work hard at being the best we can be!

Craziness in Kabul

By Sonia Khawaja Siddiqi

Over the summer I went to Afghanistan and Germany. We were supposed to stay in Afghanistan for a month, but one morning, we all heard an attack. The city we were in was 30 minutes away from the fighting, but it was really scary because we actually heard the shooting. It even showed on the news: 20 people killed and 6 injured. We were going to stay longer but we left early. It was a crazy experience for me! I never want anyone to experience what I did because it was very dangerous, so I recommend that people do a lot of research before travelling somewhere; we didn't do that!

The Day I Got Benched

By M.V.

Allow me to tell you the tragic story of the day I ended up face-down on a bench this past summer. It started



off as a beautiful, warm afternoon; the sun was shining and the birds were singing: a perfect day, yet nothing to do. My best friend, Rebecca, and I sat around the kitchen table at my house, trying to think of what we should do.

"I've got a great idea!" she yelled. "I'm going to teach you how to jump over a bench on your skateboard!" Not knowing any better, I nodded and grabbed my skateboard from my room, then rushed out the door.

As we made our way to the park behind my house, she explained what I had to do to pull off the trick.

"You already know how to jump. Now all you have to do is skate super-fast towards the bench, jump over, and run across fast enough to jump back on your board once it gets to the other side."

I was now pumped up and ready to try this killer trick. Finally, we arrived at the park. I immediately hopped on my board and skated straight for the first bench I could find. As I took off, I could hear Rebecca shouting in the distance to wait, but it was too late. Missing my jump, I flopped over face-first into the bench. In too much pain to move, I laid there as Rebecca laughed away at my failed attempt. Once she had finished, we headed home and called it a day. Several months later, I still haven't forgotten the valuable lesson I learned that day: Rebecca's great ideas **never** end up being great ideas.

SUMMER A



Dirt-Bike Dangers

By James Buckley

My friend Thomas and I always enjoy dirt-biking together. One beautiful summer day this year, we decided to go to a racetrack nearby. We weren't involved in any races or competitions, but we had a friend named Nick that we were talking to and he told us that he had a race at the end of the day. He suggested that we come watch. So we went on and did our own thing for the rest of the day. We tried some new jumps, tricks and trails. At the end of the day, we decided that we would go watch Nick's race. These racers ride on extremely fast bikes and do massive jumps at speeds of 100km/h or more. While we were watching, Nick hit a huge jump while going really fast. Unfortunately, Nick didn't land the jump and even worse, a rider behind him landed on his left leg. Later, Nick had to be carried to an ambulance and taken to the hospital. After that day, every time Thomas and I go riding, we recall that day at the track, as we probably will forever, and it gives us the chills.

Mamma Mia!

By Isabelle Manarin

In high school, you need 40 hours of community service, so I, like other students, decided to volunteer at a summer camp. I chose "Musical Theatre Junior" and spent a week indoors helping counsellors teach a group of six year olds songs and dances from "Mamma Mia!" I was personally told to pay close attention to a very difficult child. She was the most paranoid six year-old I'd ever met, convinced that other children were stealing her stuff. When we needed to confiscate her lunch because it contained nuts, she was convinced that we would eat her food, and this was only the first day!

When the time came for us to practice the songs and dances in the gym, she refused to stand in her spot because it was not on a line. I tried reasoning with her, telling her that on stage, there were no lines and that we couldn't change her spot even if we wanted to. This argument went on for three more days. Finally, after a week of problems from this child, it was show day. All of the kids were great but even so, I knew that the silver lining of my week was not that we had pulled off the songs and the dances, but that I would never need to see this one kid again!

Magical Minaj

By Hannah Boamah

The summer started with a month-long history class: probably the most boring thing I've ever experienced. But at the end of that boring month, I was rewarded with one of the *best* experiences of my life. The day started with the usual history class at Richmond Green High School, but on that perfect Tuesday afternoon, I left school early with my friend to get ready to see the one and only *Nicki Minaj*! While we were on our way to the Molson Amphitheatre, I was so jittery and nervous: I was going to experience my first concert and see my *queen* live on stage! Finally we arrived at the venue. It was very hot when we got out of the car. There was only excitement in the air. Regardless of their ages, people were dancing and talking to each other while listening to the opening acts from outside the amphitheatre. "We're not even inside the venue, yet!" my friend said. Above all, we were both so surprised at how radiant everybody looked, and it got us even more hyped than before. Inside the amphitheatre was crazy: more than 16000 people to see one person we loved and looked up to. It was *amazing*. At last, it was 9:42: time for Nicki to make her grand entrance. The lights dimmed and "Four Door Aventador" began. Everyone was screaming, I dropped my drink and the night had just begun! I made so many memories screaming to my favourite Nicki throwbacks. Dreams really do come true.

ADVENTURES

Detained in Iran

By Parsa Alavi

I get it that police arrest people for doing illegal things, but getting detained seven times for hanging out with a girl, having a pony tail, or wearing leather pants is just funny--and also annoying! This summer was the first time that I had gone on a vacation alone. I was really excited about being on my own for a month--that is, until I got there! It's unbelievable that I was detained 7 times in one month: 5 of those 7 times I was detained by police; 3 of those 5 times I was taken to the police station; and 1 of those 3 times I had to spend a whole day in the station for my 'punishment.'

The reasons that I got detained were really silly. The first time was at the airport. As soon as I got there, the officer who checked my passport looked at me and gave me a dead stare. The officer shouted: "What type of hairstyle is *that*?!"



Untie it before I make you spend a whole night in the station!" It was at that moment that I knew I shouldn't have travelled alone, but it was too late. I also knew I would have to deal with this kind of problem for a whole month. I took off the hair band and I stood straight. I started shaking so badly

that everyone was looking at me.

The second time was really scary. It was late at night, around 11:00, and I was on my way back home when a Mercedes drove right up in front of me. Two men got out and looked me over from head to toe. Then they kicked me in the

leg, saying, "Why are your pants like that?" Well, I remember my older brother told me once that if you go to Iran, the only way you can avoid being bothered is to speak English and act like you don't know Persian. So that's what I did. At first, they thought I was joking, so they got mad and kicked me again, but I showed them my driver licence. They saw that it was in English so they answered with a Persian accent, "Oh, you are not Persian." I know I did the wrong thing, but I replied with the same accent: "Yes, I am Persian!"

There were 5 more instances like this, but I will tell you about a time that a girl gave me her number because I was from Canada. Girls in Iran don't date anyone because they think one day a prince will come and marry them. So anyway, I was in the park when the police came up to me as usual and complained about my clothing and haircut. I used the tourist plan again to get away and it worked. When the police left, I felt someone tapping on my shoulder, so I turned to see a girl who looked about 19. She said, with a smile, "I know it's annoying when people stare at you and the police detain you, but I know English, so here's my number: call me and I'll take you out."

I did call her and we went to an expensive restaurant. The food was great; also, she wouldn't let me pay! We walked in the park and started talking; I asked her how old she was and she told me 16! I still cannot believe that girl was not 19. I swear she had so much make-up on. I was shocked, because for one thing, she was driving a luxury car. She told me that in Iran you get your licence at 18, but because of her dad, she doesn't need to worry. As soon as I heard what her dad does, I asked her to end the date and drive me home!

All I know is, that will be the last time I travel to Iran alone. I don't think I want to return with my parents, either!

A Dangerous But Interesting Trip to Tibet

By Bill Wang

The summer vacation came round again. I was happy that I could forget about school at least for a while. This summer, I didn't choose to stay in Canada, like some of my international student friends. Instead, I went back to my hometown, Shanghai, and also I planned a trip to a small city in Tibet with my parents. The summer can be very hot in Shanghai where the temperature usually goes up to 34°C or more. For that reason, it is really hard for a person like me who has lived in this cold country of Canada for two years: I have to stay indoors when the temperature is too cold! Interestingly, in Tibet, it does not get hotter, because of the high altitude. The highest temperature there is only 10°C and that's in the summer! We saw the beautiful blue sky and sweeping grasslands. Also, we rode horses and played with yaks on the grasslands. In addition, we climbed the glacier, but we were not strong enough, so we gave up early on. We also met lots of problems on this trip. We felt unwell at the high altitude; in fact, the altitude sickness forced me to visit the hospital twice. But, I felt worse after I went to the hospital. So my parents had to buy tickets for three of us to leave the city of Daocheng in Tibet. We flew from a small airport to see



the doctors in Yading. While the flight time was very short, it actually cost my parents almost 1000

dollars for this 40-minute flight! After a two-day stay, we finally left Tibet and flew to Shanghai, China. So, although the trip was a bit dangerous, it was really interesting and fun. I think I will always remember it.

SURREALISTIC SELF-PORTRAITS BY CHARMAINE LIU AND IRIS IP





My Summer Education

By Mr. Cherry,
Principal

I had planned to become a summer school principal at an elementary school in China, but the program was cancelled. Now what? My post-China

summer highlight became the Tough Mudder event with my son Daniel and daughter Claire. Last summer, Claire completed her first Tough Mudder but this would Daniel's first endurance obstacle event. To be honest, I was concerned about his ability to complete this obstacle-ridden 16km event that traversed Mt. St. Louis. To prepare him for this ultimate challenge, we decided to complete a Spartan Sprint event on Ottawa and a Spartan Super event in Toronto. The Spartan sprint event sounds like a good place to start because it was only 5km long. However, this became a long 5km because the course was only vertically up or down a ski resort. Halfway through the course, Daniel turned to me and said, "Let me know if you want me to slow down." I smirked because we were there to get him up to speed for future courses and to keep up to his sister and me. Shortly thereafter, I realized that not only was Daniel sincere in his concerns about me keeping up to him but it was actually the reality, as he completed a number of obstacles which I humbly could not. An enviable turning point in life, the baton had been passed from father to son: my role was forevermore to "keep up" to him.

The second Spartan Super Race was going to be a real challenge at 14km of hills, obstacles and mud. The venue was the Oshawa Ski Resort. As it turned out, it was one of the hottest days of the summer. The first half of the course was again vertical and my knees were not impressed. It was hot, really hot. Keeping hydrated and avoiding heat exhaustion was a real concern. The one saving grace was that the winter snow guns had flowing cold water which relieved the dizziness I was starting to feel. Looking up at the longest and steepest climb to of the course, I thought about the mere seconds that it would take to snowboard down this hill with a few long turns. Going downhill in the winter and climbing uphill in summer is a very different experience.



As I climbed, my mind wandered to occupy my consciousness and supersede my body's nervous system traffic jam of aches and complaints. As I reached the top of the hill, I had a sense of accomplishment and relief. This was the also the most significant moment of the my summer because I was at a crossroads, with my bodily discomfort bordering on mutiny and wondering worries about people and places that were beyond my control. It was at this crossroads that I saw the most amazing woman.



She stood confidently atop the hill with such poise and grace. You saw her eyes and smile before her adaptive crutches. Her determination was clear, simply by where she stood. Wow. This really provided a context for my aches and worries. Everything is relative. It was only a moment in time. I passed by, forever changed, yet I was merely another participant passing before her.



I shared my summer adventure with staff and Mr. Link suggested that I include my experience in the school newspaper. I am so happy that he did because I started to look for a Spartan Race photo which led to actually finding the Misty Diaz Facebook fan page and YouTube Videos.



Everyone has their own journey to forge; just remember to do so with courage and the determination to reach your goals. This is the life lesson and visual reminder that Misty Diaz is to me on my summer adventure.

You can find out more information about Misty, Spina Bifida, and her message on Google and YouTube.



LA DOLCE VITA: LANGSTAFF'S ITALY AND FRANCE 2015 SCHOOL TRIP

By Natalie Nicola

In April 2015, students from Langstaff S.S. and Markham District H.S. had the unique opportunity to visit two of Europe's most beautiful countries: Italy and France.

Our travelling classroom made its first stop in Rome. Home to the Colosseum and the Vatican, we strolled through these breathtaking sights, marveling at the power of the former Roman Empire and the beauty of the artistic masterpieces. Our native Italian tour guides spoke with pride and passion about their heritage and their history. On a number of occasions, we veered off the typical tourist's path and strolled along quaint alleyways and cobblestone roads where exploring the city took on a whole new meaning. The beautiful piazzas, including the impressive Trevi fountain and the Spanish Steps, added to our magical impression of the city. On we travelled to Florence, where our stay was especially interesting since our hotel once housed an old

convent of nuns. It is said that if you touch a specific fountain in the city of Florence, you will be sure to return. Fortunately for our group, we all made that promise. The medieval Italian towns of San Gimignano and Lucca were also on the itinerary. Here, we sampled gelato from the very store that had earned the prestigious award for *Best Gelato in the World!* Objects found in the artisanal shops made for great souvenirs.

And yes, there was no shortage of enticing pizzerias.

The second part of the trip was devoted to the south of France and in particular, its famous Côte D'Azur region. Our base point was none other than Nice, the capital city of the French Riviera. While in Nice, we travelled to Cannes, Eze and of course, the Principality of Monaco. Our eyes filled with images of boulevards, Mediterranean coastlines, medieval villages, glitzy casinos and super luxurious yachts.

The experiences from this trip were unforgettable, as were our encounters with the Italian and French peoples. I'm often asked: What made this learning experience so unique? Would you recommend such a trip to others? The sheer number of sights toured and facts learned was amazing. Just as importantly, and somewhat unexpectedly, our group of students, teachers and tour guides bonded, creating beautiful, lifelong memories, and new perspectives. What we learned in the classroom took on another meaning as we put our language skills to the test and attempted to acclimatize to new environments and situations. Yet, perhaps the most significant aspect of this trip was that together we learned, together we developed and together we gained a greater understanding of and appreciation for diverse cultures, people and of our own self-awareness.

So, in answer to the above question: YES, I would definitely recommend such a trip!



Director of The Month: Alfred Hitchcock

By Michelle Pollak

Hitchcock is one of those directors who knows his way around the psyche of his audience and a thing or two about how to scare them. Regarded as one of the greatest directors of not only the 20th century but of all-time, Alfred Hitchcock's consistent high quality plotlines and long line of work in both the suspense and murder mystery genres have earned him the prestigious title of The Bear Truth's director of the month. Hitchcock stands as proof that a film can scare audiences without being filled with pop-ups, poltergeists, and gore. His career spans over six decades with numerous, highly-renowned titles such as *Psycho*, *Vertigo*, and *The Birds*. Hitchcock has become an inspiration and pioneer in the film industry. This is a director whose work is definitely worth watching.

Classic Horror Flicks That Will Give a Good Scare!

By Michelle Pollak

1. *Psycho* (1960)

A must-have on every horror film list, everything about this flick is iconic. A legend in the thriller genre, the Bear Truth would highly recommend this film to any movie lover.

2. *Halloween* (1978)

Filled with suspense and thrills, this Halloween staple is sure to get your blood pumping. An escaped mentally unstable murderer is on the loose in a small town. Classic!

3. *Carrie* (1976)

After watching this, you may want to stand up for the quiet kid in class,

because who knows; maybe they possess telekinetic powers and a lot of pent-up anger?

4. *The Exorcist* (1973)

It started a new era for horror films and still scares audiences of all generations today. Doesn't matter how tough you are: this movie still remains creepy.

5. *Fright Night* (1985)

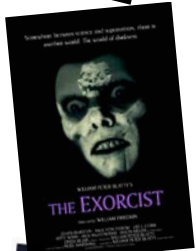
Your next-door neighbour's a vampire, but who's going to believe you?

6. *House of Wax* (1953)

Ever been creeped out by the statues at a wax museum? Yes? Well, try recognizing your neighbour as one of the statues. Now *that's* creepy!

7. *The Innocents* (1961)

Yeah, like kids aren't weird enough, so why not take it a step further and make them evil and possessed! Creepy kids are the staple of all horror movies, so take a look at one of the pioneers of the trend.



THE LANGSTAFF BREAKDOWN

BY JENNY CHU AND JERIKA
HO

High school is undoubtedly a huge transition from elementary school; it's a new building full of new people, teachers, and opportunities. Since we are graduating this year, we thought that it would be helpful to compile a list of tips and tricks that we have learned over the years. We hope to pass the torch on to you and we hope that your four years will be well-spent.

DO KEEP EXTRA BUS TICKETS

Since you never know when you need to catch the 444 or 83, it's always a good idea to keep extra tickets in your bag. You'll be prepared for any situation: perhaps an unexpected ride home or a last minute trip to the mall. Plus, who doesn't want to be that person that saves the day when your friend is in need of a lift?

DO JOIN CLUBS

To connect with people that share the same interests and hobbies as you, join a team or club! Langstaff offers a wide variety of after-school activities, so whether you are a math whiz or a volleyball star, there is sure to be something that interests you. Not only will this come in handy when applying to colleges or universities, it is guaranteed that you will meet someone you "click" with. Clubs are usually available for all grades, and the upperclass don't bite! Meeting older students will also benefit you because we can offer the "inside scoop" on classes and give general advice.

DO TRY NEW THINGS

High school is a time for change and growth. If you don't take chances presented to you right now, you will regret it later on. Never let the fear of failure take over your mind; it will be a learning experience, no matter what the outcome is. Plus, it's always settling to know that you tried, rather than never knowing what could have happened if you had taken that leap of faith.

DO START ASSIGNMENTS RIGHT AWAY

Trust us when we say that "due tomorrow" does not mean "do tomorrow." Procrastinating can add unnecessary stress to your life. Although it may seem that your teachers purposely plan to have everything due the same week, they actually don't. In reality, a majority of your teachers will give you assignments and the Independent Study Unit (ISU) weeks, if not months, in advance. Use this extra time to get a head start because by the end of the semester you'll be exhausted and burnt out. Don't forget that these marks do impact your future so try your best, even if you're in grade 9 and 10.

DO GET AN AGENDA

If you haven't already, get an agenda. They will be your life support throughout high school. Avoid missing any important assignments or test dates by writing them all down! Agendas help you plan out when you should study for that big test coming up and ensure that you're not doing 3 projects in one night. If you have a part-time job or are a member of any after-school clubs, a planner helps balance your schedule to minimize stress and maximize your time. Try to get a paper agenda; while most say they will note dates on their phones, let's be honest: few students actually check their reminders, calendar, or notes.

DO TAKE WRITTEN NOTES

We know that many students have been taking photos of notes, but let's face it: you'll probably never have time to go back and rewrite them (no matter what you claim). Keep an organized binder with notes that actually make sense; it makes a huge difference when you're studying for tests, exams, practicals, or performance tasks! We hope that these small tips help you start the year off on a good foot. It's easy to lose motivation as the days pass, but it is important to keep pushing all the way until June. Whether you have 4 years or 1 more year to go, we wish you the best of luck for the 2015-2016 school year!

HALLOWEEN DIY: MONSTER CAKE-IN-A-JAR!

BY WARRE TSU

SUPPLIES:

Frankenstein: 3 half pint mason jars, 1 black Sharpie paint pen, 6 googly eyes, super glue, black sprinkles, green and black food colouring

Jack-O-Lantern: 3 half pint mason jars, 1 black Sharpie paint pen, green sprinkles, green and orange food colouring

Mummy: 3 half pint mason jars, 1 box of 2 inch gauze, 6 googly eyes, super glue, white sprinkles

1 Box of vanilla cake mix or make your own cake batter from scratch!

Buttercream Frosting:

4 Cups of icing sugar, 1.5 Cups of butter at room temperature, 2 Tbsp. of heavy cream, 1 Tbsp. of vanilla extract, 1/4 Tsp. of salt

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Make the cake batter by following the box directions then divide it evenly between three mixing bowls, one for each monster, and add the orange and green food colouring to the Frankenstein and Jack-o-latte bowl, respectively.
2. Pour the batter into the mason jars, filling each halfway so in the end, there are three green, three orange and three white mason jars.
3. Place the jars onto a rimmed baking sheet and into the centre of the oven to bake at 350 degrees for exactly twenty minutes and remove them immediately!
3. Place the baked cakes onto a wire rack to cool completely for about forty minutes.
4. Meanwhile to prepare the frosting, beat together butter, vanilla, heavy cream, and salt in the bowl of a stand mixer. Gradually mix in the icing sugar and beat until fluffy for about five minutes.
5. Divide frosting evenly into three bowls and add food colouring again so there are one black (Frankenstein's hair), one green (top of jack-o-lantern) and one bowl of white

frosting (mummy). Scoop into prepared piping bags and set aside.

6. When the cakes are cooled completely, decorate the outside of the jars to your liking. Let the ink and glue set for 5-10 minutes before frosting.

7. Frost the cakes as desired and garnish with sprinkles. If you are giving these as a gift, you can screw on lids and decorate the tops.

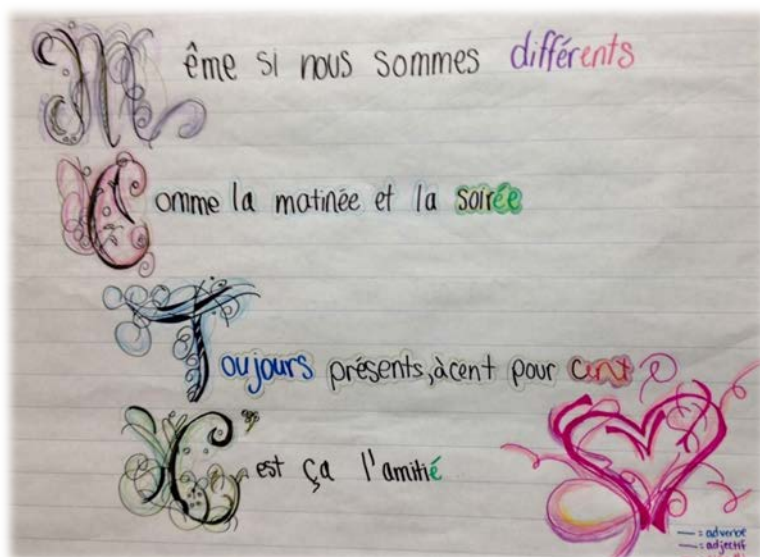
8. You may seal and place in refrigerator for 2-3 days. Enjoy!



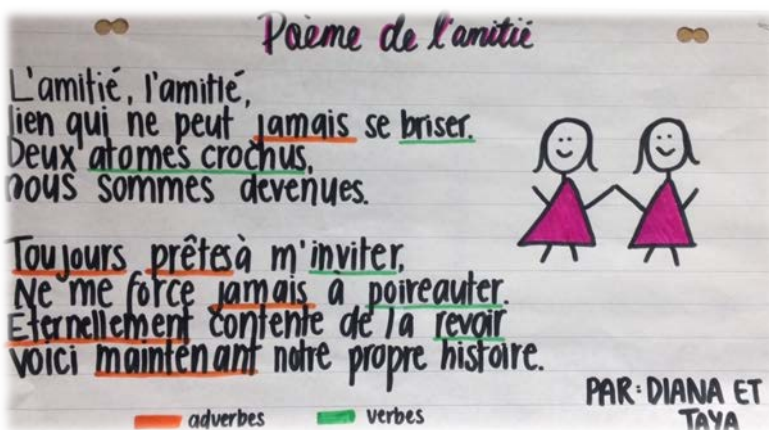
The Art of Food:
Sculpture by Mehrsa Sharifi



Amis, peu importe la langue Friends in Any Language



Even though we are different
Like morning and night
We are always together, one hundred percent:
That's friendship.



Friendship, friendship
A bond that can never be broken.
Two peas in a pod
We have become.
Always ready to invite me,
Never makes me wait.
Eternally happy to see her
Here now is our story.

Shahbod 'Shaby'

Zandi

2000-2015



A Tribute by Parsa Alavi

I wonder as I wander, out under the sky,
Why do people I care about always have to die?
Are you happy where you are, wherever that may be?
I wonder as I wander, do you still think of me?
I look up at the winter sky, and shed a single tear.
I think of all the days gone by, I'll always hold you dear.

Thinking about how Shaby won't be in class with me, to talk with me, bothers me. Thinking about how whenever I go to his family's house, he's not going to be there; or thinking about how he always wanted me to drive and he didn't make it to see me driving him! All I can do is talk to his picture, and that is bothering me because whenever I talk to him I get no response! I always talk to him every night with his huge picture on my wall. I always text his phone when I miss him because deep down I feel like he sees it. All I want to do is to see him again and I know I will, but not yet. Shahbod Zandi, King Shaby, I will always love you as my cousin and I will always see you whenever I walk by your class.