

GCI'S ESL/ELD NEWSLETTER

February, 2019



MESSAGE TO FAMILIES

Greetings to all of you from our ESL/ELD Department!

We hope you are all doing well. We would like to let you know that we had a very successful semester with our ESL/ELD students. Many of them got involved in a variety of activities and events at our school and in our community. In this newsletter, we would like to share with you some of their successes and stories. These stories were written by ESL students in the Literacy Class.

- Mrs. Lowes, Ms. Josifova, Ms. Vuong, Mrs. Long, Ms. HB, Mrs. Farnaz, Ms. Ropp and Ms. Faryal

Events Coming Up This Semester:

February: Newcomer Youth Drama Club begins
March: GCI will be hosting a Speech Contest for ESL/ELD students from our region

Unsilent Night Event



Neon posters made by ESL students from GCI

ESL Students Involved in the Cambridge Unsilent Night Event

On December 6th, ESL students from GCI participated in the Cambridge Unsilent Night. They made neon (glow-in-the-dark) signs of multi-lingual phrases that were illuminated with black light along a route through downtown Cambridge.

Gary Kirkham, from MT Space and Ms. Faryal, our settlement worker, introduced this event to ESL students and got them involved in the community. They wrote phrases about love and peace on big posters using neon paint. "It was fun! We asked a lot of students in the school to write words in different languages on the posters," said Michelle, an ESL student. Her poster in Spanish said, "Nunca dejes de soñar" which means, "Never stop dreaming."

Unsilent Night is an event that is celebrated in 30 more cities around Canada and USA. Dima, another ESL student, shared her impressions of how Unsilent Night was celebrated in Cambridge. "There were more than 2,000 people. Everyone enjoyed the music, while watching the performance of people who wore clothes with lights, and carrying neon posters. It was cold, but we were so excited and I didn't even feel it, and I drank coffee." The Unsilent Night route was closed by policemen. Loud speakers playing festive music were placed on the streets.

The ESL students from GCI helped a lot in this event. They also had an opportunity to practice their speaking skills by explaining the meaning of their posters. Lastly, they got volunteering hours and spent an amazing time at this event!

- Lidiia Bocharova