



THE BCIS EXPRESS

August 2014

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HAVE FUN AND LEARN By Mohammed Idriss

Many studies suggest that children lose some academic skills and knowledge over the course of summer vacations. This is a phenomenon known as the **Summer Learning Loss**. According to scholars, the loss varies across subject matter. They also found the level of the loss is highly influenced by the family socio-economic status. Although all kids experienced the loss, studies showed that less advantaged children experienced higher levels of loss, compared to children from middle to high socio-economic status. Some of the ways we can minimize the learning loss

during summer is to engage our children in fun, creative learning activities like summer camps, and trips to museums, parks, and libraries. Here in the City of Brooks, we have lots of summer activities for kids and families, many of them at no cost. If you want to learn about them, talk to one of our settlement counsellors.

Another important activity that can reduce the negative effects of the summer is reading. A family can implement a family summer reading program. This will have two benefits. It will minimize the loss, and it will give the family

meaningful time together that involves learning and bonding. As well, parents can use this time to teach their kids some of the values they believe are important to their development as responsible children and young adults. This can actually even lead to family time that continues throughout the year.

Til next time, have fun learning!!!



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BROOKS MEDIEVAL FAIRE

The 11th Annual Medieval Faire in Brooks is almost here! On [Saturday, August 9](#) & [Sunday, August 10](#) head down to the old rodeo grounds starting at 9:30 each morning, for an amazing fun filled day for the entire family.

International jousting will start at 11am on Saturday, with the finals at 3pm on Sunday.

Not sure what jousting is? Ask two jousters Saturday at

1pm as they explain what they wear, how it is made and how comfortable the armor really is! If you are really interested, you might even choose to try some armor on to test it's weight and comfort for yourself!

If jousting is not your thing, then come and see the Highland Dance competition on Saturday. On Sunday you may even be able to learn a step or two!

Throughout both days, the

Artisan Marketplace will be open. This is your chance to purchase unique, handcrafted items. You will be able to find everything from jewelry to cutting boards and anything in-between.

Don't forget to dress in costume. There will be a Medieval costume contest on Saturday and a Mythical Creature costume on Sunday!

For more information go to www.brooksfaire.com.



Grassland schools and Christ the Redeemer schools start back September 2, 2014!!

EMPLOYMENT BLOG by Ryan Kiedrowski

Don't leave your job to go on holidays!

Once we've become comfortable in our new job, we sometimes forget the struggle it took to get hired.

Case in point: leaving or quitting your job to go on vacation.

I've heard of many people that have done this; most saying that they had to return to their country of origin to help a family member or loved one in need. Emergencies happen, and we sometimes need to make quick decisions. There are better ways to leave work, while still keeping your job.

The most important thing is to talk

to your supervisor or boss. Explain what's happening, why you need to leave and for how long you expect to be away. Provide them with contact information (email address and phone number) of where you can be reached, and make sure to contact your employer while you are away.

It is much easier to talk things over with your employer, and have everything pre-arranged, then to leave without warning and expect to have a job when you get back. Chances are the boss will think you have quit, and will fill your job with someone else. That's why talking to your boss is important.

Things can also happen while you are away. Maybe you need to stay longer than you expected—that is when contact with your employer is crucial. Let them know what is going on if plans change. In this way, your boss can better organize things at work, and you can focus on what's going on in your personal situation.

Remember, don't quit or just leave your job if you need to travel. Otherwise, you will have a very hard time coming back to work at that same job, and it will be difficult to catch up on bills and other expenses when you return.



Dinosaur Provincial Park, a great place to visit!

VOLUNTEER NEWS by Criselda Narvacan

Tips to help you start VOLUNTEERING.

1. Think about what you want from volunteering—new skills, fun, or the chance to contribute to a cause.

2. Think about what you have to offer—enthusiasm, work skills, life skills.

3. Work out how much time you have to give, and

how many times a week or month you can volunteer.

4. Browse! The best way to find out what's available is to do internet searches on the *Do-it* database.

5. Narrow it down—if you get too many results to manage, narrow them down by selecting from the activity and the category drop-down menus.

6. Increase the distance— if you don't get many results, try increasing the distance searched.

7. Consult the “help” section if you still have problems searching on *Do-it*.

8. Remember that everyone can volunteer. Whatever your experience or

background, there are organizations who could use your help.

9. Ask questions. Don't be shy about asking questions as you go through the process of applying for an opportunity.

10. Just try it! Often the most difficult part of volunteering is making the first move, so be brave.

THE AMAZING RACE 2

by Ryan Kiedrowski

The Amazing Race is Back!

Following on the success of last year's inaugural event, the Amazing Race will be back in Brooks on **September 13**. Last year, participants sought high and low, completing challenges and solving clues to become the first team across the finish line.

“We're looking at having 10 teams involved with five challenges around the city to complete,” said Ryan Kiedrowski, Employment Counselor at BCIS, and lead of the Amazing Race 2 committee. “

Last year, the participants had so much fun, and also learned more about the community they live in.”

Early registration is encouraged and teams can sign up for only \$5 per person until August 14. After that date, registration is \$10 per person. Teams will be made up of three people, aged 15 years and older. All the action will take place in and around the downtown core with a barbecue for participants at the end of the event.

For more information or to get involved, contact BCIS at: 403-362-0404 or visit our website at : bcis-brooks.ca.

“Check out our Facebook page; BCIS Amazing Race 2,” Kiedrowski said.

“We'll be updating the page a lot over the next two months!”

TFW CORNER (Temporary Foreign Workers) by Ashley Dykin

[Temporary Foreign Worker Program \(TFWP\) Overhaul](#)

In June, the federal government imposed a set of reforms to the TFW program. For a full explanation of the most recent changes, refer to the Employment and Social Development Canada section on the TFWP available at: http://www.esdc.gc.ca/eng/jobs/foreign_workers/index.shtml

As follows are some frequently asked questions about some of the changes:

Do the changes apply to TFWs already working in Canada?

Yes. The changes may impact a TFW currently working in Canada and their eligibility to continue working in Canada.

How long is a low-wage TFW eligible to work?

Low-wage TFWs can receive a work permit for a maximum of one year, at which time their employer can reapply for an LMIA (formerly LMO) for an additional year. A low-wage TFW may stay for a **maximum of two years**.

Low-wage TFWs currently working in Canada for more than two years will be expected to leave Canada once their work permit has expired. Those working in Canada for less than

two years may be able to get a new work permit.

Is it possible for TFWs in the low-wage category to move to the high-wage category?

Yes. If an employer is able to obtain a high-wage LMIA approval, the TFW can submit an application for a new work permit. However, the approval of the work permit is always at the discretion of CIC.

Will workplaces with more than 30% of the workforce formed by TFWs be allowed to extend the worker's permits once the companies obtain an LMIA?

LMIA applications will not be approved until the 30% maximum TFW per workforce at each worksite is met. If the current number of TFWs at a worksite is lower than 30%, it will not be able to increase to 30%. July 1, 2015 the maximum percentage of TFWs employed by one employer per worksite will be lowered to 20%, the following year it will be lowered to 10%.

BCIS will be holding a workshop regarding these changes in the near future. **If you are interested in attending, please contact us for more information.**

SETTLEMENT WORKERS IN SCHOOLS

In partnership with Christ the Redeemer School District, the Settlement Workers in Schools (SWIS) program, provides school-related settlement services for children, youth and their families.

We can help:

- Assist newcomer students & families transition to their new school.
- Provide information and bring school or community services to students & families.
- Facilitate communication between schools & families.
- Provide diversity and cultural information to schools & families.
-

Contact Huy Nguyen at 403.427.1500 or fcisschools@ccis-calgary.ab.ca or visit the Mother Cabrini Centre 247 1st Street West

Christ 
The Redeemer
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS



Teams participating in the Amazing Race 2013.

Save the Date!

English Language Assessment

The team from SALAS will be at the Brooks Campus of Medicine Hat College for two assessment sessions.

Tuesday, August 12 4-8 pm

Wednesday, August 13 9 am-1 pm

To book an appointment, call the Brooks Campus at (403)362-1677 and speak with Lorelei, Khamla or Marian. You can also call SALAS toll-free at 1-888-329-4811 or email salasld@telus.net.

Bay 2-500 Cassils Road East
Brooks, Alberta

Phone: 403-362-0404 ~ Fax: 403-362-0435

Office Hours

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 8:30am-4:00pm
Wednesday 8:30am-7:00pm
Friday 8:30am -2:00pm



Connect with us!



www.bcis-brooks.ca

THE GAMES ROOM

SUDUKO

Fill a number in to every cell in the grid, using the numbers 1 to 9, however, you can only use each number once in each row, each column, and in each of the 3x3 boxes.

		4		3				
		3	6			5	4	
7			5				2	
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	6						3	
1				8	7		9	
	7				9			6
	9	8			1	2		
			4			8		

UPCOMING EVENTS AND WORKSHOPS

DINOSAUR PARK TRIP



Join us on a trip to Dinosaur Provincial Park.
Call 403.362. 0404 for more information.
You **must** register to attend.

August 17 at 7:45 am

OPEN HOUSE & BBQ

Join us for a free BBQ. Tasty food, great socializing and building tours-fun for everyone!

August 20

12 noon - 3pm



NEWCOMER ORIENTATION

Held on the last Sunday of every month. Next session:

August 24 ~ 1 pm

CATHOLIC SCHOOL INFORMATION SESSION

Information on Catholic schools, programs, English language learning, settlement services and registration.

August 24 ~ 1 pm



Lunch & Learn Series

Held on the last Wednesday of each month.

Wednesday, August 27

12-1 pm

