



THE BCIS EXPRESS

LET'S CELEBRATE!!

It's that time of year again where we gather with friends and family to celebrate the year that was, and look forward to the year ahead. We had a great time at our third annual Brooks Got Talent 3 event on Nov. 22, as you can see by the pictures in this newsletter! Thank you to all those who helped make our event a success, and for the fantastic talent of those who were brave enough to take the stage.

Until next time, have fun!



Congratulations to the top five winners of Brooks Got Talent 3!

Thank you to all our wonderful participants! It was a great show!

Our amazing judges: thinking, discussing and evaluating each act.

Thank you Tamara, Chris and Ashley!



December 2014

Series 4~Issue 7

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Wishing you and your family a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

EMPLOYMENT BLOG by Ryan Kiedrowski

Increase your workplace skills at BCIS!

We've got some exciting events lined up for December in Employment Services! On Wednesday, Dec. 3, we're hosting a recruiter from the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology (SAIT) with sessions starting at 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. She will explain what is offered at the SAIT campus in Calgary, and will be available to answer any questions people may have about the programs they offer.

On Wednesday, Dec. 10, BCIS will also host an information session on the Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS). This is something required in many industries, from oilfield jobs to foodservice, and some of the terms can be challenging to understand. This session will help people prepare for this course and to write the exam and has two intakes at 11:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.

Another session that is returning this month is one on Resume

Writing. Having a flawless resume is very important for job-seekers, and participants will learn how to write a winning resume to increase their chances of getting a job. If you already have a resume made, feel free to bring it along and we can help answer any questions you may have. This session also has two intakes, at 11:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.

To reserve a spot for any or all of these sessions, call BCIS at (403) 362-0404 and ask for Ryan. All sessions are free of charge and we'd be happy to see you attend!



Brooks Got Talent 3: Cassandra stole the show with her octogenarian act taking first place. (left) The beautiful artistry of the Filipino Dance group took second place. (below)



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, December 9 4-8 pm

**Wednesday, December 10
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 salasltd@telus.net.

Volunteer News by Gurpreet Gill

The Benefits of Volunteering

Whether it is important for you to solve a community problem, advance a worthy cause, or to develop as a person; volunteering offers many benefits in appreciation for the gift of your time and expertise.

Volunteering can help you:

- Make important networking contacts.
- Learn or develop new skills.
- Teach your skills to others.
- Enhance your résumé.
- Gain work experience.
- Build self-esteem and self-confidence.
- Improve your health.
- Meet new people.
- Feel needed and valued.
- Express gratitude for help you may have received in the past.
- Communicate to others that you are ambitious, enthusiastic and care about your community.
- Make a difference in someone's life.

It also Improves the likelihood that your children will volunteer as an adult.



TEMPORARY FOREIGN WORKERS CORNER by Ashley Dykin

Spending the holidays away from family

When you are a temporary worker, being away from home during the holiday season can sometimes be hard, especially if you are very new to Canada. Here are a few tips for the holiday season if you are away from family and/or are new to Canada.

Learn and explore:

Holiday season is a great time to explore your new residence. Some of the local holidays may be the same, or different than the ones you celebrate at home. For example, Christmas is celebrated in Canada, but it may be celebrated in different ways than it is at home. Try to embrace those differences and find out

what's going on here locally. Chances are, you will be able to find celebrations that really make you feel a part of the culture. Find out what the locals do to celebrate and try them out. Who knows, you might find a new tradition of your own! You can also then teach others how you celebrate back home.

Find ways to celebrate:

If you are having trouble finding things to do over the holidays, or are looking for something that reminds you of home, try taking some time off to head to a different city over the holiday. Larger cities simply have more going on. Even though many cities shut down around Christmas and New Year's, there are

always large groups of different people from abroad in any big metropolis.

Find others who are away from home:

Other immigrants (or people who once immigrated) know what it's like to be in a place completely foreign to them. Meeting up with a few people who have been in your situation is helpful, and you never know what types of celebrations you can find. Finding anything that is familiar is helpful for homesickness, so connecting with other people whose first home is somewhere else can be much needed.



Technology is your friend:

Of course when you are abroad you are often missing one very important thing – family. One good way to bridge the gap is with Skype. When there is a family gather, some people set up the computer so those who are away can see everyone. Using Skype to just talk and “hang out” makes it feel like you are sharing a moment together, despite the distance.

No matter what you do, we wish you a safe and happy holiday season!

YOUTH HAPPENINGS– Joseph Octavious

Friday, November 7 seemed somewhat dull and snowy due to the cold weather, but later it turned out to have an exciting ending as the BCIS Youth Group had a fun Movie Night at BCIS. The youth watched Hercules, which was the movie of their



choice because it stars WWE hero Dwayne Johnson (The Rock). As the movie progressed, snacks and soft drinks were the order of the day and the youth had a relaxing and enjoyable evening in spite of the weather.

On Wednesday, November 26, Safeway hosted a Career Day at BCIS and our youth group members were invited to come ask questions about resumes or employment opportunities at Safeway. The Safeway Career Day was split into two sessions, one in the morning and one in the evening.



Stay tuned for more youth activities and be sure to tell your friends!

Brooks & County Immigration
Services

Bay 2-500 Cassils Road East
Brooks, Alberta

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

Office Hours

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



Connect with us!

www.bcis-brooks.ca

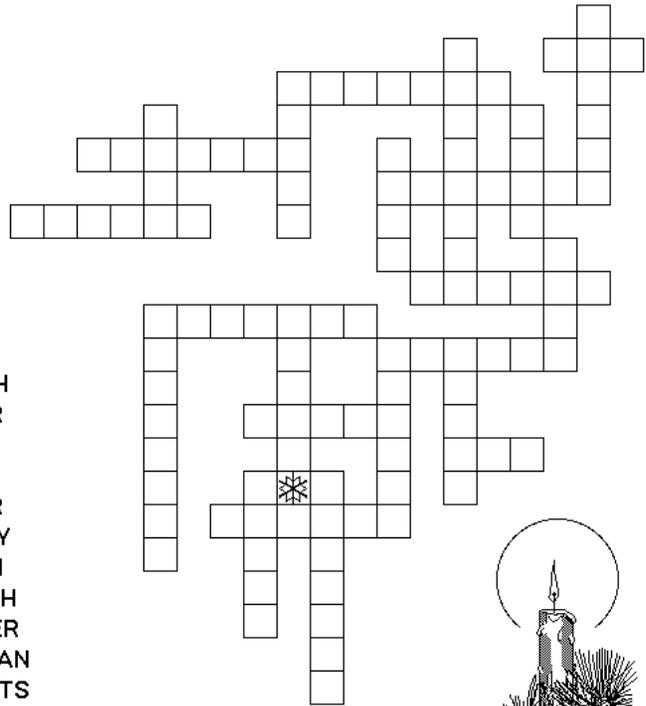


@askBCIS

THE GAMES ROOM Christmas Crossword

Make all the words fit into this crossword.
Each word is only used once.

ELF
TOY
GIFT
BELL
TREE
STAR
SANTA
COMET
CUPID
VIXEN
CANDY
FROSTY
WREATH
DASHER
DONNER
SLEIGH
DANCER
CHIMNEY
BLITZEN
RUDOLPH
PRANCER
SNOWMAN
PRESENTS
REINDEER



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UPCOMING EVENTS AND WORKSHOPS



SAIT INFORMATION

Find out what programs are offered
and get your questions answered.

Wednesday, December 3
Two sessions: 10am & 5 pm



Resume Writing

Discover how to write a winning
resume!

Wednesday, December 17
Two sessions:
11:30am & 5:30 pm



WHMIS INFORMATION

Learn about the Workplace Hazardous
Materials Information System

Wednesday, December 10
11:30am



CHRISTMAS DAY

Office closed

We wish you all the best this holiday
season!

December 25

MEDICINE HAT
COLLEGE



MHC PRE-EMPLOYMENT WELDING INFORMATION

Get information on the pre-employment
welding program at Brooks Campus.

December 10; 5:30pm



BOXING DAY

Office closed

December 26

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