

CIS PTSA News

Autumn is a second spring where every leaf is a flower. -- Albert Camus



Fun Times! 2012 CIS PTSA Summer Festival

The 2012 CIS PTSA Summer Festival was a perfect way to start a new and exciting school year! A record number of students, teachers, office staff and parents came together to celebrate our wonderful CIS school community with games, food and truly fabulous entertainment courtesy of both students and teachers.

For those of you who weren't able to make it out to the Festival, you can see some of the highlights on page 4. We hope you'll be able to join us next year! We also hope that parents will consider sharing their talents with the students and staff at next year's festival.

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Halloween's Coming!

Are your pumpkins ripe? That spookiest of holidays is coming soon – get ready for the big CIS Halloween party on October 28th.

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Talking with Teachers

CIS has a new grade 1 teacher! Read the interview. Then, Mr. Fleming shares some thoughts about his University Days - read on!

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PTSA News

The PTSA is responding to the priorities of parents, students and teachers with its 2012-13 workplan. Learn how you can play a role!

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Time to dust off your fangs and sharpen your claws! Here are some surprising facts to help you enjoy (and understand) the spookiest day of the year!!!!



The owl is a popular Halloween image. In Medieval Europe, owls were thought to be witches, and to hear an owl's call meant someone was about to die.



SOMEONE

Someone came knocking
At my wee, small door
Someone came knocking,
I'm sure - sure-sure
I listened, I opened,
I looked to the left and right,
But nought there was a-stirring
In the still dark night

The first known mention of trick-or-treating in print in North America occurred in 1927 in Blackie, Alberta, Canada

Black and orange are typically associated with Halloween. Orange is a symbol of strength and endurance and stands for the harvest and autumn. Black is typically a symbol of death and darkness.

Jack o' Lanterns originated in Ireland where people placed candles in hollowed-out turnips to keep away spirits and ghosts on the Samhain holiday.

Only the busy beetle
Tap-tapping in the wall,
Only from the forest
screech-owl
call
ly, the cricket
whistling
While the dew drops fall,
So I know not who
came knocking

Ireland is typically believed to be the birthplace of Halloween. The ancient Celts thought that spirits and ghosts roamed the countryside on Halloween night. They began wearing masks and costumes to avoid being recognized as human.

Talking with Teachers

~ Josie Stukic, Grade 1 Teacher ~

Can you tell me about the area of Canada that you call home?

I was born and raised in London, Ontario, an ever-growing city just southwest of Toronto. London is where my family and many of my friends still reside and is a place I love to visit. However, I had been living in Ottawa, Ontario for the past three years and the nation's capital won me over with its natural beauty and delicious restaurants. I call both of these cities *home*.

How many people are in your family?

There are four people in my immediate family: my mom, my dad, my brother and myself.

Did you have any pets growing up?

We had a handful of fish, a bird, and for a short while, an adorable German Shepherd puppy.

What sport do you enjoy playing the most and/or what is your hobby?

I love cooking and baking! If I am not in the kitchen experimenting with a new recipe, you will find me online or flipping through cookbooks to learn about new techniques and interesting ingredients.

When did you first come to Japan?

I'm new to Japan! I came here in August.



What surprised you the most when you first came here?

Chopsticks! In all my preparations before arriving, I forgot to practice using chopsticks.

Did you have many international experiences before coming to Japan?

I have travelled to a few countries in Europe, but this is my first time living outside of Canada.

What is the one place in the world you have always wanted to visit?

I couldn't possibly narrow it down to one place. I want to travel everywhere and see and experience everything.

What advice can you give to Columbia students to help them realize their goals and achieve their dreams?

Realizing and achieving our goals isn't always easy. Don't be discouraged by obstacles and challenges, rather, embrace these experiences as opportunities to learn and grow.



Fun Memories from the Summer Festival

The PTSA Summer Festival, held on June 16th, was a great success and we had more members of our community participate than ever before! Everyone was very anxious that the day would go smoothly since the decision to have the Summer Festival was “last minute” and required that everyone pitch-in...and pitch-in they did! Without delay, the members of the PTSA began to organize the food, games, entertainment, PR and set-up. The wonderful CIS teacher’s band “We’ll be Fine” didn’t hesitate when we asked them if they would play and we were thrilled to listen to them and their special guest, Jett Edwards. We were also very proud of the many CIS students who volunteered to get up in front of their peers and parents to perform – they were awesome!

The PTSA just pulled off the best summer festival on record. The food was awesome, the company was great and we had the pleasure of performing for the event. It was a blast!

(Mr. Hagerty, teacher, guitarist & singer)



These are the kind of events that bring the community together! We were thrilled to see the many happy faces of our growing CIS Family! Our chair, Michiko Isomura, worked hard to keep everyone organized. Thank you, Michiko! And, thank you to all of the PTSA members, families, students, teachers and staff who made the event such a great success. Here’s to many more fun celebrations at CIS!

Thank you again to all of our student & family entertainers!

Band	Nagisa Miura Julia Kurosawa Kenya Nakanishi Kotomi Yamada Fumitaka Takiura
Cello	Taiki Jo
TaeKwonDo	Keiju Yoshihara
Piano	Sakura Prema Kadono
Guitar	Kanta Kiyomoto (with Mom & Dad)
Sword Dance	Yo Kanda
Keyboard	Siraj Emi
Kendo	Ryuta Kato & Father

University Corner: The Inside Scoop on *Brandon U.*

Mr. Darcy Fleming – Brandon University, Manitoba
(<http://www.brandonu.ca/>)

“There are two reasons why I easily adjusted to life at BU: first, the generous help of domestic students as well as international students; second, the active cooperation with professors. Generally speaking, studying at BU is worthwhile in terms of experience and knowledge.” (Chinese Student @ BU

Mr. Fleming, one of our high school teachers and a school counselor received both his Bachelor of Arts & Post-Graduate Education degrees from this small, but vibrant university. Below are some of the highlights from the many good things he had to say about his university experience.

Why Mr. Fleming attended Brandon University:

“I attended the university for two reasons: I would be close to home (cheaper) and I wanted to become a teacher and Brandon offers a great Education program. (ranked second in Western Canada the last time I checked). I majored in History and minored in Religion and Geography in my first degree. During my second degree I focused entirely on teaching. The university is also famous for it's Music Program.”

About the environment of Brandon University:

“The environment at Brandon was very cozy. The university is small and everyone seemed very relaxed. People from the dorms would often attend lectures in their pajamas and fuzzy slippers. I'm not sure you can do that anymore!”



A Word of Advice:

“Sit down with your parents and tell them what you are looking at. Remember they are an important partner in your education. Talk about the course you would like to take, the location (safety, geography, weather, etc.) and of course the cost. Research possible universities that meet your requirements more thoroughly (website, contact the universities, talk with teachers). After researching, talk with your parents again and come up with a short list of 5 or 6 universities that you would like to attend. Apply! This should start in Grade 11 and applications should be sent by January or February of your graduating year.”



At a Glance:

- **Location:** Brandon, Manitoba Voted a Top 10 Canadian City
- **Brandon University's Motto:** “Be You at B U!”
- **A Historical University:** Brandon University was established in 1866 & is the 3rd largest university in Manitoba.
- **A Leader in Rural Development & Indigenous Education:** Brandon University received a \$1 million research award aimed at a university - community partnership to improve success for children and youth in First Nations, Métis, Inuit (FNMI) and northern communities in Manitoba.
- **Student Population:** 4,000 undergraduates
- **English for Academic Purposes: (AEP)** International students can sign-up for 3 month AEP courses to support their studies.
- **Annual Cost for International Student:** \$7,000 - \$8,000
- **TOEFL (pass score):** 80 for iBT TOEFL, 550 for paper-based test
- **Academic Programs:** Faculty of Arts; Faculty of Education; Faculty of Health Studies; School of Music & Faculty of Science



Get Involved! 2012-13

Creative ideas, organization, hands-on work – We need your skills!

Parents who help the PTSA to enrich the school lives of our children are all volunteers. Some of us are homemakers, some of us care for our aging parents and some of us work at businesses both inside and outside of the home. But all of us have found many benefits from being involved in the PTSA.

A few of the many benefits include knowing that we have enriched our children's school experience, enjoying the company of other parents and enjoying the opportunity to use our time, energy and skills to help out with something meaningful.

As a parent of a CIS student you, too, are a member of the PTSA. We are confident that if you choose to become a more active member you, too, will experience the many benefits of volunteering!

To give you a better idea of what it is we do and how you might like to get involved, here are some of the PTSA activities from over the past couple of years, we have had workshops ranging from how to build and program robots to how to skip double-dutch. We also hosted a presentation from a Canadian children's book author, a performance of English rakugo and a drummer's group.

At the school's Winter Fiesta, the PTSA hosts a fund-raising bazaar, runs a café and has games/crafts/stories/songs for the children. The PTSA also regularly enriches the school's Halloween party with pumpkins for the children to carve, prizes for the best pumpkins and Halloween treats. Then, on Canada Day, for graduation and to welcome new students, we distribute gifts.

The PTSA also hosts its own special annual event – a very successful Summer Festival which you read about on page 4! This enjoyable afternoon features delicious food, fun games and entertainment by both students and teachers. It's a real community-building event!

This year, in response to identified needs by the school community and in cooperation with the school, we are planning to update the library, purchase some sports equipment and contribute to a school trip.

As you can see, there are many opportunities for you to become involved!

In addition, if you have a great idea, please share it with us. If you see a problem and can offer a good solution, please let us know. Let's all work together to make the PTSA work even better for our children.

PTSA meetings are held at the school on the second Saturday of every month during the school year. Please come and join us! Together, we can work together for our children's benefit.

We are looking forward to hearing from you and seeing you!