

CHILLIWACK LEARNING SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



IN THIS ISSUE

SURFING, ANYONE?

LETTER FROM
KATHY

CHAT WITH JANET
AND COLIN

NEIGHBOURHOOD
BOOK HUBS

ESL Volunteer Tutor Program Goes Digital

Our amazing ESL Volunteer tutors and learners continue to learn together using their computers, iPads and phones!

Meeting with learners on Facetime, Skype or Zoom is proving to be a great way to help newcomers improve their English language skills. Considering that most of our volunteers are seniors, we are proof that lifelong learning is alive and well in Chilliwack. The April workshop for ESL volunteers saw 18 of us on Zoom. Now we know how to get good attendance for workshops – allow people to stay at home!

Longtime volunteer Bill Weismiller continues to meet with his group (photo) while also teaching ESL for Chilliwack Community Services. Many one-on-one tutoring sessions are encouraging learners to continue improving their English fluency as well as building vocabulary and grammar skills. While some volunteers have decided to take a break, others are increasing their volunteer commitment to learners. Kudos to this wonderful team!



Chilliwack
Learning
Society

INTERVIEW WITH COLIN YU

Each English learner in our program has a story. Colin continues to meet with his volunteer tutor using Skype and textbooks provided by CLS. The ESL Tutor Program Coordinator, Janet Les, interviewed Colin.



JL: Tell us a little about your English learning journey.

CY: When I first came to Canada, my English level was 3-4, and I got an ESL Level 5 certificate after taking ESL courses in the community. Because the community level 6 course was not offered, I joined the one-to-one study arranged by Janet. Now my English teacher is Bonny, a very good teacher.

JL: How has your volunteer tutor helped your English learning?

CY: We study science and technology, world history, cultures of various countries, TV and movies, and topics of our interest. We will also read and do questions together.

JL: How is the COVID-19 situation affecting your family?

CY: The COVID-19 has indeed influenced many lifestyles of our family. We had to stay at home. The farm I work on is also greatly affected by COVID-19, so I also applied CERB from the government. My daughter can only do online lessons at home. My wife can only work online. In any case, I am not idle. I exercise every morning and volunteer to help our community and nearby walk Trail pick up garbage, so that the place where we live is more beautiful and clean.

I also thank my teacher Bonny for teaching me how to grow vegetables, so I also learn to grow vegetables on the balcony to adjust my life.

JL: How is the situation affecting your tutoring experience?

CY: My teacher Bonny and I can only study online in this epidemic. I study the same as before and proofread the answer with Bonny. Although we did not meet and learn well, I still thank Janet and Bonny. I believe this is the best arrangement. Thanks again to two excellent teachers.



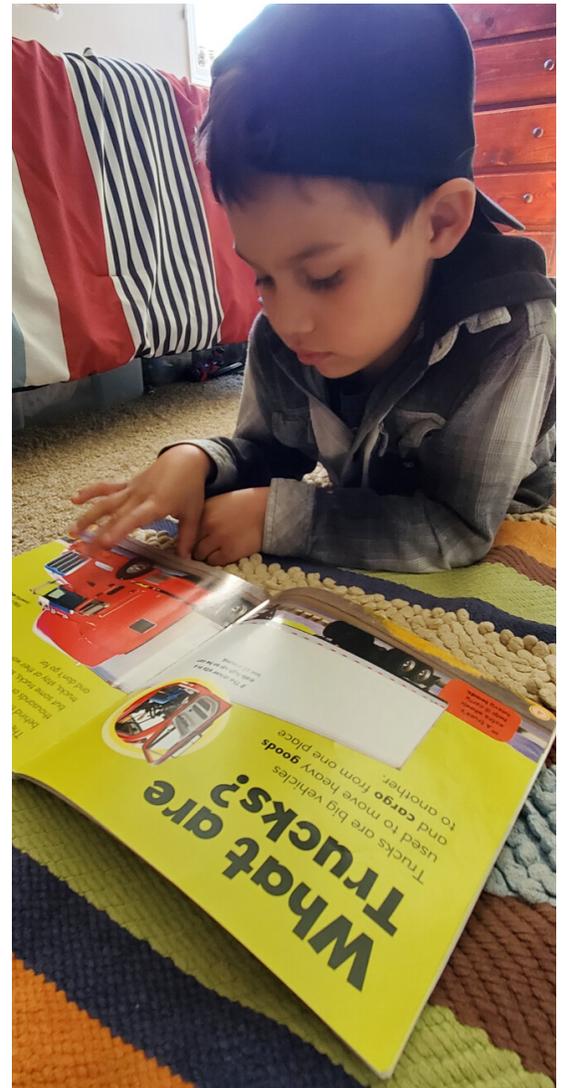
BOOKS FOR NEIGHBOURS

The CLS is not taking books in at this time – but we’re certainly giving them out. More than 2,700 books have been given out this spring through our new “Books for Neighbors” program, a new *no social contact* method of putting books into the hands of children.

Bins of sanitized pre-owned books for children of all ages are available for people who wish to be a hub that distributes them in their neighbourhoods. Families pick the books up, or they can be delivered if need be. The distributors (currently 9) enjoy knowing that they are “putting smiles on little faces”. One person reported, “I have given out books to 5 families, plus my own kids. My 10 year old daughter enjoys helping out with sorting and picking out books for other kids.”

Families have also received books through outreach programs and services, delivered in goodie hampers or directly by program facilitators and coordinators. Agencies and people which took part included the Aboriginal Head Start program, the Chilliwack School District’s Strong Start Program, and an Early Years Family Navigator.

“I heard back from many of the parents that requested books, the children were all enjoying the books, sharing them with their siblings or reading them with a grandparent. One family of 4 boys and one girl was dividing them up in the van – they were headed out to Delta – and arguing who got what first. lol! Hopefully mom survived the trip!”



Corbin enjoying one of his new books



This program is possible because of an array of individuals and organizations. Thank you to the United Way of the Lower Mainland Local Love Fund, Decoda Literacy Solutions & Post Media Raise-a-Reader fund, The Book Man, Chilliwack Bowls of Hope Society, the Rotary Club of Chilliwack, Chilliwack Citizens for Change, and individual citizens.

If you would like to give books to your neighbours, contact Debbie Denault at literacyoutreach@chilliwacklearning.com or 604-701-9794.