

A brief review of Youth Settlement Program December 2011

In December, Newcomer Youth Program ran successfully with the services provided to youth clients through assistance & referrals on settlement issues including the weekly sessions on language and tutoring. The highlights of the month were the holiday gift making workshop and year-end youth party.

Newcomer Youth Language Skills Development for Newcomer Youth - Wednesdays

The youth continued with a session on Confidence II where they worked with their peers in drawing each other's three happy and unhappy things to identify some basic factors in building confidence by focusing on positive things. Some of the other activities they covered included – a quick way to build self esteem, group reading and presentation of essay, "What you need to do before you can develop self confidence".

The last session of the month was held on Wednesday, Dec 14th where the program participants and volunteers got together to celebrate the holiday season by playing games and having food. The party was organized by the Wednesday program youth who put together the games such as musical chairs, blowing balloons, eating competitions and card tricks. All organizing members received a gift. The rest of the participants also received gifts of cards and crane hanging decorations made by the youth during the holiday gift making workshop on Dec 9th.

Peer Tutoring Club – Fridays & Workshops

Two sessions were held in December along with the workshops on both Fridays. The peer tutoring club provides peer support in helping with solving homework and subject related assignments.

WORKSHOPS

Two workshops were held in December.

One was on movie review writing workshop (Dec 2nd) presented by STOM-R project with guest instructor, Antoine Tedesco – managing editor of Toronto Community News. The workshop was attended by 20 youth some of who were the team members of the STOM-R project, others were youth volunteers and participants. They learnt the basics of writing an effective review; the workshop included an exercise of understanding the structures of writing a review followed by watching a movie for 20 minutes. It concluded with discussions and Q & A session.

The second workshop was Holiday Gift Making workshop on Dec 9th attended by 18 youth. Youth learnt how to make a crane origami, design cards and hanging decoration. They each made 5 greeting cards and one hanging piece. Everyone took three cards home and donated the other two for the rest of the youth who couldn't participate. It was a successful hands-on craft making workshop for the Holiday season enjoyed by all youth.

Parkdale Newcomer Youth Committee (PNYC) – a youth leadership group initiated by the Youth Program of PIA and PCIC

Three youth members practiced songs and dance to perform as a group at the Festive Season Celebration on Dec 10th at the Parkdale Library basement auditorium. The Festive Season was organized collectively by some of the major community organizations of Parkdale (Parkdale Community Information Centre, Kabbabayan Community Centre, Parkdale Library and Parkdale Intercultural Association). The youth group performed two songs and one dance.

Our monthly meeting was on Dec 14th after the holiday party. The members reviewed the youth program and STOM-R project updates. Few of the team members who missed the meeting visited office Dec 15th to get the project updates. 12 team members picked up their first movie tickets to watch a movie to be reviewed as part of the STOM-R project work plan.