

# CRESTWOOD

## MULTICULTURALISM—A WAY OF BEING

BY: MR. TOMAS JOHNSTONE

I am a half Spanish, half Scottish person who grew up between a village in North Yorkshire, England and a corner of Spain called Galicia. Galicia is a Celtic country which borders Portugal, and we speak a language called Galician which, to be honest, is pretty similar to Portuguese.

I was never aware of how lucky I was to be able grow up speaking different languages with the opportunity to visit different countries with totally different cultures with such frequency. It was not easy. For years I could not speak any language fluently; my vocabulary was a mixture of Galician, Spanish and English.

But the fun part was when we travelled from England to Spain or vice versa. As Porto was our closest International airport, we had to travel through three different countries, which often took upwards of six hours. I used to love being able to show off in front of the customs officers when they asked us questions, changing from one language to another.



It was inevitable that I would draw comparison among those countries. I liked England because of their chocolate and their old houses, Portugal because of their chicken and rice and their custard tarts, Spain because of the weather and soccer, and so on. Of course that was just a game, and I was only six years old.

What I did not know it was that I was creating a habit of accepting and learning the positive of being in contact with other cultures. Instead of focusing on the things that I did not like, I was enjoying all of the exciting differences among these cultures. I never thought about that until I moved to first to Germany, then the United States and Turkey, and now Canada.

How amazing is to be able to accept and understand the differences among cultures? How important is it for us to travel and let the world shape our ideals? We live in a city that is a world reference when talking about multiculturalism. You can

have an Italian breakfast, a Jamaican lunch with a Portuguese dessert, an Indian snack and a Greek dinner in one day.

Crestwood Preparatory College is creating a multicultural environment by enrolling international students; we have students coming from lots of different countries, or students with parents from different countries. Let's use this multiculturalism to learn and grow as individuals. If you would tell me when I was in high school that at the age of 35 I would be living in Canada after teaching in five different countries, I would tell you that you were crazy. But being able to embrace multiculturalism has opened doors that I would never have opened myself.

I am proud of my heritage, my culture and the different languages I speak; but what I am really proud of is to be able to look at other cultures with respect and admiration.

### INSIDE:

How Languages Paved My Way Being a Global Citizen	2
New Canadian Kid Capital Multicultural del Mundo	3
Canadian by Birth, Grenadian by Parentage	4
Photo Gallery	5
The Importance of Bilingualism	6

# HOW LANGUAGES PAVED MY WAY

BY: MME. ALIX DOHERTY

I was born in a seaside resort on the west coast of France called St Briac sur Mer, a typical French village with at least six boulangeries (Bakeries). French baguettes, buttery crispy croissants, quiches and pains au chocolat were part of my diet! Délicieux! What is unusual about my region is that it is bilingual and from a very young age we learned to respect the traditions and the culture. My grand-parents spoke French but also Breton, a celtic language very similar to Welsh. During World War I, when my father was just 6 years old, he was sent to Wales. This was where he found shelter from the war but where he also met one of his best friends, who later on became my godfather.

My region is also well known for its tourist sites. From May to October, visitors from England, Germany, Holland, Spain, Italy and Switzerland arrive to enjoy the beautiful beaches, the food and the wine and the relaxed atmosphere. They soak into the culture and pick up a few words here and there such as, "Bonjour," "Merci," "Ca va," and "Oh la la." Each year the hotels, the restaurants and the campsites look for students; it was the best opportunity for me to make a few Euros, but also to



improve my English and pick up words from other languages. By the end of each summer not only was I able to converse in many different languages, but I also became friends with so many teenagers from other cultures. I was invited to visit them in their countries and we continued to keep in touch over the years.

Meeting people from so many cultures has opened so many paths for me. Trying to speak their languages has made me so much more confident. Trying new things like travelling and working abroad became my new goals. After graduating, I worked a few years in France and then I worked in Ireland and in England. When an opportunity to work in Canada came my way, I did not hesitate. I love the fact that here in Toronto you can keep your traditions as well as embrace a Canadian identity. My children speak French, some Gaelic and English and took Spanish outside of school – but they are Canadians!

So learn languages and learn about other cultures because multiculturalism and diversity are what make us original.

"Keep your language. Love its sounds, its modulation, and its rhythm. But try to march together with men and women of different languages, remote from your own, who wish like you for a more just and human world." Helder Câmara

# BEING A GLOBAL CITIZEN

BY: JENNIFER FREEDMAN

Over 2,400 years ago, the philosopher Socrates said: "I am not an Athenian or Greek, but a citizen of the world." A global citizen is aware of the wider world and has a sense of their role as a citizen of the world. Global citizens respect and value diversity. Accepting multiculturalism is a necessary act in order to have the prerequisites to become a global citizen. They have an understanding of how the world works economically, politically, socially, culturally and environmentally. Being aware of all of these topics allows you to appeal to a large scale of individuals and cultural groups. The spirit of brotherhood will be acti-

vated with your understanding of the many different layers of our world. Global citizens participate and contribute to the community from local to global levels. They help when help is needed and will stand up for issues that need global awareness. Being a global citizen is about understanding the need to tackle injustice and inequality. Having the desire to work actively is also half the battle. This shows that you value the earth both as precious and unique. Being a global citizen is a mindset and an outlook on life. If you want to be a global citizen, believe that you can make a difference!

## NEW CANADIAN KID

BY: GABI SANDLER

Canadians take pride in the fact that we are a cultural mosaic and we are a nation of many nationalities. However, it is often easy to forget the struggles and changes that a new immigrant faces when they cross the border. To born and raised Canadians, the culture, the language, and the way of life are part of our identity from the start. To a newly identified Canadian, it sometimes takes time to proudly call yourself Canadian.

Dennis Foon, a born and raised Canadian, tried to put himself in the shoes of an immigrant in his play, New Canadian Kid.

The play follows the experiences of Nick, a young boy who has just moved to Canada from a country called Homeland. Nick is worried about learning English and finding his way in his new school. Foon has a fun and creative take on having the audience experience Nick's struggle of learning a new language. Nick speaks "Homelander" (English) at home, and has to learn to speak English (a scripted Gibberish that is somewhat recognizable). Nick learns to find his way, but not with-

out overcoming bullying, racism, and finding a balance between his old customs and his new ones. The play is a heart-warming take on being the new kid and there is a lesson to be learned by Canadians of all ages.



The play will be performed by four Crestwood students in the annual Sears Drama Festival. The festival showcases student performed and directed shows from all over the city and is a great chance to display young talent. Working on the play has been a real eye-opener. It may be hard to fully understand what leaving behind your home and coming to a new one may feel like, but Foon's writing and characters do a great job to show the "Everyman" of immigrants and really puts the process into perspective. The show will be performed on February 28 at Cardinal Carter Academy. Come out to support fellow Crestwood students and see Canada through different eyes.

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## CAPITAL MULTICULTURAL DEL MUNDO

BY: RACHEL BREGMAN

Una de las cosas que mas me gusta sobre el multiculturalismo es la gran variedad de comidas a la que tengo acceso. Toronto me da muchas oportunidades para probar las cocinas del mundo. El Multiculturalismo en Toronto nos ha dado barrios especiales, como la Ciudad China, La Pequeña Italia, El Pueblo Indio, La Ciudad de Corea o La Ciudad Griega, entre muchos otros. De hecho, no hay cocina que sea completamente desconocida en alguna parte de Toronto.

Nuestra propia escuela reconoce y rinde homenaje a la multiculturalidad, por eso cada año celebramos nuestro día multicultural.

Es un gran regalo para todo el mundo cuando lleguen a probar todos los platos étnicos diferentes a los que se introducen.

Hay muchos beneficios en el multiculturalismo, pero éste es de lejos el más delicioso.





# CANADIAN BY BIRTH, GRENADIAN BY PARENTAGE

BY: MS. JUDY JOSEPH  
(SCHOOL SECURITY GUARD)

Contrary to popular belief, I was not born in Jamaica, Trinidad, or Africa. I was born in Toronto, and my parents are from Grenada. Grenada is often mispronounced – it is Gree-Nay-Dah, NOT Gren-Ah-dah.

The State of Grenada consists of three islands: Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique, located on the southern end of the Windward Islands in the Caribbean. As a side note, there is also a place called Grenada in the state of Mississippi in the United States. The population is 104,000. They use Eastern Caribbean dollars. The Climate tropical with an average temperature of 75°F (24°C). Known as the Spice Island, Grenada grows more spices per square mile than any other place in the world and is one of the world's largest exporters of nutmeg and mace crops. But that's not all this island is known for!



Grenada made world headlines in 1983 when a split in the governing left-wing party led to the overthrow and execution of the country's charismatic leader, Maurice Bishop, and provided the pretext for a US invasion of the islands.

"In the early morning of October 25, 1983, the United States invaded the island of Grenada.

The initial assault consisted of some 1,200 troops, and they were met by stiff resistance from the Grenadian army and Cuban military units on the island. Heavy fighting continued for several days, but as the invasion force grew to more than 7,000, the defenders either surrendered or fled into the mountains. Scattered fighting continued as U.S. troops hunted down stragglers, but for the most part, the island quickly fell under American control. By mid-December, U.S. combat forces went home and a pro-American government took power."



Today, almost 30 years after the event, Grenada remains a peaceful society, welcoming visitors from all over the world on a daily basis. The date of the invasion is now a national holiday in Grenada, called Thanksgiving Day. As well, Grenada recently celebrated its 39th anniversary of Independence from Britain on February 7.

"If you are looking for a tropical paradise with lush green vegetation, panoramic views, beaches, waterfalls, opportunities for whale watching, sailing, diving, scuba and other water sports, then Grenada offers it all."

I love Grenada and I am proud of it!





# MULTICULTURAL DAY AT CRESTWOOD!





# THE IMPORTANCE OF BILINGUALISM

BY: KATHERINE CHARNNESS

The territory of modern day Canada was founded by two European entities: the British and the French. Although they both formed strong colonies in Canada, as we know, the British eventually gained control.

However, the British adopted a policy to support French culture and language, maintaining the connection to both founding empires. They were able to find a way to live together relatively peacefully despite the differences in religion, culture, and language. This tolerance is rooted in the founding of our country, and is something that has carried on to the present. With the Official Languages Act in 1969, Canada recognized this biculturalism and Canada's official languages remain to be both English and French.



A mon avis, je pense que c'est très important de maintenir le connection avec l'héritage du Canada. Le bilinguisme du Canada représente une histoire de tolérance et d'appréciation de beaucoup de cultures différentes. On pourrait dire que cette philosophie est la base pour former le Canada comme une mosaïque culturelle. Le maintien de la connection entre l'Anglais et le Français est extrêmement important pour l'identité du Canada. Aussi, c'est un facteur qui distingue le Canada des autres pays qui parle Anglais.

The benefits of enforcing an appreciation of multiple cultures is tremendous, as well as the practical skills that come with learning a second language. The English and the French both contributed equally to making Canada the country that it is today and this foundation of a combination of cultures has lead Canada to accept immigrants from all over the world. Our diverse population is a distinguishing factor of Canadian society.



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### THE CRESTWORD TEAM

Katherine Charness

*Editor — Katherine.Charness@crestwood.on.ca*

Ms. Bryant

*Editor-in-Chief — Nicole.Bryant@crestwood.on.ca*

Mr. Findlay

*Staff Support — Trevor.Findlay@crestwood.on.ca*