

LEARNING COMMUNITIES

Newsletter

Term 4, 2018

Term 4 review and see what we've been up to here at Hagley's Learning Communities.

Winners at Senior Prize Giving 2018

Our heartiest congratulations to Ifrah Nur Hassan, recipient of Abdul Rahman Ikhtiari Award 2018 to support academic study. We wish Ifrah Nur Hassan all the best at her further study at Canterbury University in 2019!.

We are proud of the achievements made by the ELL students. Adolescents have received prizes for Academic Excellence in English Language Learning (Nasteho Mohamud Mohamed), in Science (Abdiqani Hassan) and Future Directions Award to (Nasteho Mohamud Mohamed). Awards also were given to excellent adult students of the year, namely Zhu Qi, Nabi Deljo, Zili (Sophia) Gao, Amin Noori, Min Min Zhang, Xue Mei Sun and Xue Zhong.

Celebrating the night with families and friends, these students thoroughly deserved the accolades as they have showed hard work, diligence and determination in their studies throughout this year.

Abdul Rahman Ikhtiari Award is created to honour the memory of Abdul Rahman Ikhtiari who was a teacher in Afghanistan and worked as a volunteer here at Hagley for four years. He was sadly murdered in Christchurch in 2008. He was very much respected and known for his selflessness and generosity of spirit and it is in the spirit of this community-oriented man that Hagley awards this scholarship specifically to students from refugee background who have excelled to support them with future studies.



Students with Recognition Awards



Abdiqani Hassan, Lesley Cowie, Ifrah Nur Hassan

How other culture celebrates Christmas?

Many refugee background students and families at the College come from these main cultural groups – Somali, Bhutanese, Afghani, Kurdish, Nepalese, Ethiopian and Eritrean. They observe and celebrate different festivals and holidays following some great traditions of rituals and practices based on different religious beliefs. When celebrated in the home countries, students and families those festivals are official public holidays. Here in New Zealand, students and families celebrate them on negotiated time off from school and work. It is important to recognise and support their celebrations as they are an important part of their cultural identity.

Ethiopian Christmas (Genna)

- Falls on January 7th (of the Gregorian calendar). Father Christmas is known as Yāgena Abāt in Amharic.
- Festivities begin early in the day, as early as 6:00am when people gather in churches for mass.
- For the clergy it has begun much earlier, 43 days before, with the fasting period leading up to Genna. This pensive fasting period is required of the clergy and is known as the fast of the prophets. The fast of Advent is carried out to cleanse the body and soul in preparation for the day of the birth of Christ.
- After the service, people disperse to their homes to feast and the clergy break their fast.
- Food served at Christmas includes Doro Wat and Injera, a spicy chicken stew eaten with the sourdough pancake-like bread. Often, tej, a local wine-like drink made from honey, accompanies the feast.
- Christmas is more reflective in Ethiopia with gift exchange playing a minor role in the celebrations, and it is often amongst family and close friends. However, the children can always expect gifts of new clothes and outfits.



Diwali Festival

Surrounded by beautiful Himalayas, Nepal is a multi-ethnic and multi-lingual society. Hindus in Nepal and throughout the world celebrate Diwali festival with wishes for happiness and healthy long life, dazzling lights, gift exchanges, fireworks, cultural dances and elaborate feasts to welcome Lakshmi, the goddess of light and wealth. A range of houses and shops in Nepal, exhibit the bright lights typical of Hindus and happiness during Diwali.

Known as Tihar in Nepal, Diwali is celebrated with the normal Hindu festivities and rituals. The festival of Diwali continues for five days with the main events happening from the third day of Diwali. For the last three days people form groups and visit houses to offer cultural dances and wishes throughout the day and night, receiving gifts and money from each place they visit as a reward of their performances. Lights and lamps are lit to enlighten the entire surrounding and some of the special decorations are done for the third day of the festival. Fireworks, lamps and crackers are widely used. The fourth day is dedicated to Yama, the Hindu God of Death. He is prayed for long life. The fifth final day is Bhaya Dooj dedicated for the brothers who are wished long life and prosperity by their sisters. It is like brothers and sisters day. On this day sisters wish long healthy life and happiness for brothers according to the culture, offering garlands, and variety of delicious food. In exchange of that, brothers make wishes too and offer special gift and money to their sisters. In addition, it is a good opportunity for brothers and sisters to get together from different part of the country.

After receiving the blessing of goddess Lakshmi and exchanging good wishes, people are ready to work and obtain virtue, power and wealth. Diwali thus is the most anticipated festival of Nepal. This year it was celebrated on 7 November 2018, and we will look forward to Diwali on 27 October 2019.

HAPPY WORKING DURING YOUR SCHOOL BREAK

Our sincere thanks to Tony McNeill from immigration NZ for delivering a valuable talk at Hagley College this term. We learn many useful things regarding employment and rights at work, Kiwi Slangs and culture at workplace.

All the best to students who work during the break, and know your rights as an employee for happy working. Some tips below may help:

- Every employee in NZ has the same employment rights – it does not matter what the job is or what your immigration status is
- You must be given a written contract to sign. You can seek advice from your friends, family members, or a lawyer before signing.
- If you are paid less than the minimum wage, it is illegal
- Do not work for a small amount of money – say “No”
- No one can take money out of your pay, without permission (eg. money for a jacket, helmet, shoes, a course, etc)
- You must pay tax to the Government.
- If there is a problem at work, ask to speak with your employer. You can ask someone you trust, to come to the meeting.

If you need help:

- Guide to kiwi workplaces: <https://www.newzealandnow.govt.nz/resources/guide-to-kiwi-workplaces>
- NZ Now: <https://www.newzealandnow.govt.nz/>
- INZ Call Centre: 0508 558 855
- Email: newimmigrantinfo@mbie.govt.nz
- Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB)
: <http://www.cab.org.nz/Pages/home.aspx>

2019 Free classes for you, your families and your friends

Mondays: Money Management: Room E2, from 3-5 pm

To learn how to budget your expenses, keep track and stay within budget; learn to manage your money, whether big or small income.

Tuesdays: Driving Class - Learners (Post-beginner): Room E3, 3-5pm

To learn road codes and traffic rules to be able to sit for learner's licence test

KiwiSaver – How to get \$520 free from the government: Room E4, 3-5 pm

To learn about savings, to get \$520 bonus from the government.

Wednesdays: Yoga Class: Dance Room, from 8.45 am – 9.45 am

To learn Yoga techniques for your wellbeing

Sewing Class: Room H2, from 5-7 pm

To learn basic sewing techniques

Computer and Smart phone (Apps): Room H4, 3-5 pm

To learn how to use computer and apps on your smart phone.

Thursdays: Driving Class - Learners (Beginner): Room E3, 3-5pm

To learn road codes and traffic rules to be able to sit for learner's licence test

Learn to Teach Someone to Drive (2 Thursdays ONLY), Room E4, 3-5 pm

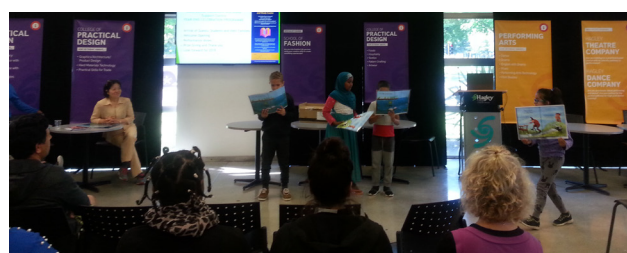
To learn how to teach someone to drive, so that you can help your family, friends to practice in-car driving

Fridays: Healthcare in New Zealand (5 Fridays ONLY), Room E4, 3-5pm

To understand NZ health system and its services, medication management.

Kiwi Slangs and Cultures at Workplace, Room E4, 3-5pm

To learn how to communicate at work and understand Kiwis workmates



Term 4 Multi-Ethnic Homework Centre

We are drawing to a close now after a busy year at the Multi-Ethnic Homework Centre. Students have been working diligently and some are preparing for external NCEA exams.

During the term 4 we had 87 students who were enrolled and attended the Homework Centre. They come from 29 schools across Christchurch. Students preparing for level 1, 2 and 3 exams received specialist help in subjects including: Maths and Statistics, Science, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Accounting and English.

On the final Wednesday 21 November 2018, staff and students shared a celebratory dinner and were rewarded for all their hard work and effort. We wish them all the best for their NCEA exams and Year 2019 ahead!

Year End Primary Room Show

First Aid Training

