



SEC brought in the New Year with many exciting celebrations! Read on to see what has been happening at SEC this month...

## IELTS Preparation course coming soon to SEC!!!

SEC Inc. is proud to announce that starting in March 2009, we will be offering an IELTS (International English Language Testing System) exam preparation course.

IELTS test scores are recognized world wide by education facilities, government agencies and professional organizations and the exam is one of the fastest growing English language tests with over 1 million people each year using IELTS to open the door to new opportunities for themselves.

This 12 week program is an excellent option for students who have finished ESL and are interested in pursuing post secondary education in Canada.

Talk to your counselor or Academic Manager to find out if IELTS is right for you!

## Study Tips from the Academic Corner

We all know how nervous we can get when it comes time to do a presentation. Here are a few tips to help you with speaking in public.

### Don't:

- ▶ Read your presentation directly from your paper
- ▶ Look at only one area of the room
- ▶ Speak too quietly

- ▶ Let your audience intimidate you, they are your friends and peers.

### Do:

- ▶ Remember to make eye contact with everyone
- ▶ Smile when you are talking, it will help you to feel more comfortable
- ▶ Choose a topic that you know well, you will seem more natural when speaking
- ▶ Practice your presentation a few times in front of a mirror or friends
- ▶ Make notes to help you in case you get lost during your presentation
- ▶ Enjoy the challenge of public speaking

Remember to relax and have fun while you are speaking in front of a group of people and you will do just fine.

## International Pot Luck Day!!

At SEC we proudly showcase our diversity of cultures within the school. We hosted an international pot luck where each nationality worked together to provide samples of their favourite foods from their home country. The result was a huge success. Each nationality chose a leader to give a short presentation in front of the school describing the food that they had prepared.



After the short presentations, everyone gathered around to



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try all of the wonderful food that was prepared. It was a very festive event with a lot of laughing and full bellies!

## SEC Piñata Party

It is always about embracing the other cultures here at SEC. That is a big part of living in Canada as well. We took this opportunity to put on an International Piñata Party!! Students gathered to take turns hitting the piñata and dashing to get all the candy that fell from it. The piñata itself was filled with international candy from all over the world. There were candies from



Mexico, Brazil, Colombia, Japan, Korea, and more!

After the party, SEC provided the students with free pizza for everyone. Students had a chance to hang out with friends and practice their English while discussing their plans for the upcoming year!

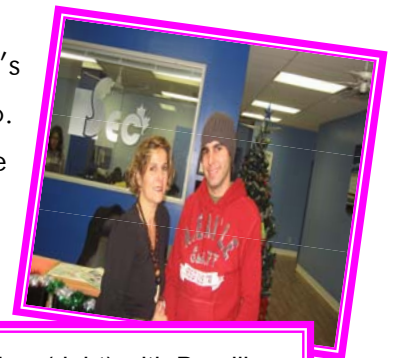
## Student Testimonial

**Francisco de Assis Miranda Pinheiro Neto – Brazil (EWP “Study & Work” Program)**

I really like SEC. The teachers were very good and they helped to correct me when I made a mistake. I feel like I learned a lot in my classes and they helped me to prepare for my

placement. I made a lot of international friends while I was studying at SEC. This helped me to practice my English. I stayed in a homestay which also helped me to improve my English skills. The homestay coordinator at SEC was very helpful to me and always gave me very good support.

I worked at Sammy’s Restaurant in Toronto. Working has helped me to be confident when I am speaking English. At Sammy’s Restaurant I had to be a cashier so I



Francisco(right) with Brazilian Counselor, Leila Monteiro Lins

spoke to a lot of customers everyday. This made me improve my speaking skills a lot. I feel like working at Sammy’s Restaurant was a very good experience for me. I never imagined working in that type of job before. I am leaning to be organized, and responsible. I have improved my speaking and my listening a lot. I have to work with people everyday. I am meeting people from all over the world. I think that the EWP Program is a really good program because I learned how to speak English and then I learned how to live in the Canadian culture by my work placement experience.

*Best Wishes for the New Year from the SEC family!*



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