

EEL Today

The World Today



A Collection of Student Articles

December 2004



East End Literacy

Building equity through community-based literacy

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East End Literacy

Our Mission

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The Most Influence on My Life

By Rohan

The person who has had the most influence on my life would be my mom. She has always been there for me no matter what, for example, when my dad moved to Canada it was a very tough time for her, but she never complained. She did the best that she could under the circumstances. Since that time my mom has been everything for me. From her example I learned the true values: how to respect myself and other people, how to be a positive person, and always to try to do my best. The unconditional love that my mom gave to me as a child is what gives me the strength in the struggles that come up in my life. Thanks to the values of a loving home that my dad has created for me at this point in my life, I feel that I have the confidence to achieve my goals in school as I work toward my dream to become a day care teacher.



In Loving Memory

By Orville

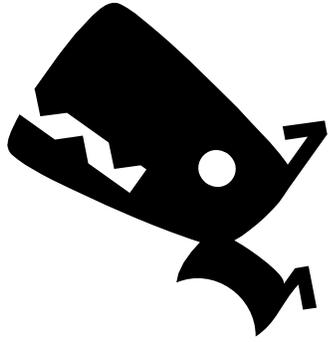
Who really was a strong influence in my life is Tishawwah because she took good care of the kids and she was a hard working person.

Tishawwah was an excellent mother because she was loving and she worked very hard to make sure that they had everything they wanted. Tishawwah was an intelligent woman because she knew what she was doing and what she wanted out of life. And nobody could take her for granted because she was so smart.



Tishawwah was a good organizer because she was very neat, had things in order, and always knew where things were supposed to be. She also was always on time when completing a task. Tishawwah was also very good at communicating with others. She got along very well with people and was always smiling. She was very understanding and helpful. And that's something that I really liked.

In conclusion I just want to say, it is really sad that she had to go so soon. Her life was cut short before she could complete things she wanted to achieve. Even though she has passed on, she is still watching over us and her spirit is still there.



Polka Time

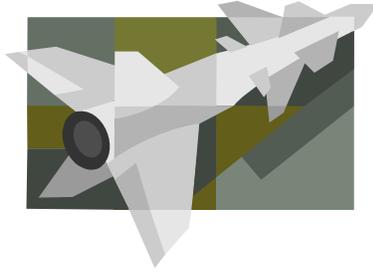
By Maurice

Big lessons come in small ways so they say. There are all kinds of dogs out in the world. I would like to take this opportunity to share with you, one of my strong influences in my life today.

Usually dogs show us all unconditional love. However, one little dog in particular shows me a bit more. I have a Jack Russell named M2, and she's no ordinary Jack Russell. Usually this kind of dog is breed of killing rodents, on a farm or in the house. These are smart, small dogs so they can fit down a hole and they are aggressive for a hunt. However M2 was born the runt of the litter. Being the only girl of seven, she had a rough life. Not to mention a nervous disposition. M2 is a quiet, cute little dog that knows wants she wants and how to get it. The irony however, is that this Jack Russell is afraid of mice. She thinks she is big, but the mice laugh at her, as do I.

One night she was sniffing around plastic tree there in the corner of my place. Then out of blue, a mouse fell out the tree and onto her back. AAH!! The sky is falling, and the mice are attacking! She ran like hell for the covers of her little bed and hid.

I love my M2, she's low maintance and just loves to play and dance like Snoopy on a good day. So when I come home and start to rub my hands together M2 knows its Polka Time. During this time she helps me feel free from all my troubles and worries, to be glad and happy I'm alive and breathing.



WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS...

By Albert

What the world needs today is peace. There has been conflict since day one. Today is the day that we remember those who have suffered because of war. Today we need to emphasize the issues that we are trying to make.

Today we need to build a strong group of journalists, which will analyze the issues. And will communicate government strategies on behalf of the people. For instance, if a member of parliament refuses to give a Canadian flag to a Veteran, there has been miscommunication. Remember those are the uneasy warriors who keep to themselves. The government must show respect to those who fought for our freedom.

We need more understanding so we can share ideas that will lead our world forward. More freedom and justice is needed, because today a lot of war is going on in some countries. This results in the senseless killing of innocents.

If we put a stop to war, people would live in happiness and there would be no more tears and sadness.

*If somebody is going to create a world again there should be
one sound!!*

What the World Needs is Peace on Earth

By Mohamed

The world today is full of enemies who don't care about the safety of others or their own safety. For example, a few weeks ago there was a shooting on a TTC bus. The bus was full with school kids and people coming from work. In all places, when things like shooting happens in the bus, in front of children and elders, it signals that people don't care about their own or others' safety.

Peace on Earth should be nourished and protected from all evils. It takes will power to keep our world safe. It takes will power not to turn away. It takes will power not to keep your mouth closed about someone shooting people. I think we need to be honest, serious, supportive, loving and spirited. If the offender is reported and sent to jail for a long time, it will prevent it from happening again. One by one we should get rid of those criminal elements who don't want to change their ways.

From childhood to adulthood, it has been made clear to us that if you shoot someone, you could spend your life in jail. If people hear this from Mom and Dad all the time, they'll think about it. I think parents should also make it clear they will turn their children in to the police if they're involved in criminal activities. This should give us some peace on the TTC and in the schools.





An Advocacy Task Force is Needed

By Taryn

The world needs an Advocacy Task Force to deal with poverty issues which create gang violence, drugs, and underground porn. Why can't anyone see or realize the desperate actions people will take to earn quick cash while not caring about the well being of others.

From my experience, as a victim, I think poverty is caused by financial actions that are linked to low income housing, lack of food banks, and lack of jobs to help low income people.

I also think that gang violence should be looked into much more seriously by the advocacy task force. They should remove easy access to weapons, strip local rival gangs, so they are unable to falsely claim innocent victims. The task force should also pressure the courts to lengthen punishment time.

The next issue is underground porn, which targets innocent single females and children as well. The task force should eliminate easy access to underground porn users who gain access to households and innocent females. I also think that porn sites should be banned from the internet and TV and those responsible should serve jail time.

There should also be severe consequences for drug abusers. The task force should start by targeting the local labs that create drugs, the users, and then the drug dealers that pressure innocent victims to become their buyers.

In conclusion, the government should hire an underground advocacy task force that is willing to risk the chance to change the ways and lifestyles of people in low-income situations.

Helping those who are attacked by the actions of desperate people, desperate enough to want to control low-income women and families.

There Shouldn't Be Any Fighting

By Eileen

There is a lot of action going on today with a lot of violence and fighting. There is nobody who knows what started all this commotion. There are lots of angry people at this time. But it always seems nobody knows, sees or hears anything when teenagers fight and involve other people, friends and family. All the problems that are started are from words heard from other people. The most important thing is don't say things that aren't true. There shouldn't be anyone fighting or involving other people in a fight, if there's nothing going on.



The World Needs More Love

By Vickian

I think the world needs more love and peace and less fighting and crime in today's society.

Too many people are becoming victims of crime and getting shot by guns even though they are not guilty of anything. In the same way, just bystanders get killed for nothing they did.

We need parents to educate their children to grow up, love their lives and respect other people around them. So the love and peace gained by the children will be passed down from one generation to another.

It only takes a little love, passion and time to do it. Can we do it?

What The World Needs Now

By Kathy



What the world needs now is our attention, because if people don't make changes now, the world will be in real bad shape for the next generation.

The things we can do to save the environment would be to work together as a community. We can start by reducing the amount of garbage we throw away. What I mean by that, is we can sort our garbage before taking it to the dump and see what you can save to reuse. With other garbage, like plastic, paper and glass bottles, we could use these items to recycle.

I think health care needs improvement. Medical care should be more affordable for those who cannot afford prescriptions or see a doctor. More doctors and nurses should be available to people in need of medical attention. We also need more doctors and nurses for emergency rooms in our hospitals, so they can save and help more people with emergencies, and non-emergencies.

(Continued on next page...)

I think we need more funds for our education system to make learning fun and easier, so the students could have access to books and supplies that they need to learn. We need more schools for different reasons, and we need schools that address the needs of people who are going back for a second chance, high school students, as well as elementary kids. We also need more teachers and smaller classes so everyone can get the help and education they need.

These days there are a lot of people getting away with murder, because of loop holes and lack of evidence. I believe if the government were more strict about its laws, there could be something done about these horrific crimes. Sexual assault and spousal abuse is another big crime, and not enough is done about the people who commit these terrible crimes. The people who are convicted of these crimes are served with light sentences. When someone commits sexual assault or spousal abuse they get bail the next day, when the trial comes they get time served, and the case is thrown out. I think they should make these sentences a lot harsher.

There are a lot of things we can do as a community and as a team to make our world a better place to live. First of all, we can pitch in together to keep our community and world cleaner, by using the three “R’s” (*Reduce, Reuse, Recycle*). Next, we can try to make our education system easier for people to have access to the resources they need to find help. Also, we need more doctors and cheaper costs for medicine to improve our health care. And finally, our laws could be stricter, so offenders don’t get away with murder and the rights of the victim are protected.



A Strong Influence on My Life

By Ainey

My mother has had strong influence on my life. When I was young, she encouraged me to go to school and do my best. She taught me to be nice and kind to people. As my mother is a good cook, she taught me how to cook our traditional food.

My mother also gave me good advice on raising my son. She told me to always protect and care for him. She told me to prepare my son for school because education is important.

I love my mother. She was my role model. I looked up to her for many things. She was very nice to me all the time. She talked to me and told me to be careful of bad people and proud of myself. She said that it is important to love yourself and your family.

A Strong Influence on My Life

By Vickian

I think my friend Gloria has a strong influence on my life because when I am negative of anything, she gives me confidence by letting me know that everything is possible. For example, after I went back to St. Vincent and wanted to come back to Canada, my boyfriend used to tell me always that there was no way I could come back. However, she was the one who told me not to worry, and I would get through it. And here I am in Canada once more with her and her family.

She is also the one who encouraged and advised me to go back to school and further my education. That is why I am in school at this present moment.

I am so grateful to have a good friend like her. I really care about her a lot.

What the World Needs

By Gloria

The children of today need guidance everyday. They want guidance from their parents. The parents need to lead them in the right way to go. They need to go to Sunday Schools. The parents have to take more care of the children.

If they don't have guidance from their parents, children may take wrong paths and stop going to school. Besides, they may end up in the streets where they may get into trouble with the law and send to jail.

That is why it is important that parents have to train up their children in the right way to grow. Parents have to love their children too.



The Love Of My Sister Elaine

By Myrel



My sister Elaine has been the biggest influence in my life. My sister has helped me in my life and she likes to help others. She also has lots of love to share. After I had finished Primary School she took me to live with her and her husband in the city. She sent me to school to learn embroidery.

After my course in embroidery was finished she encouraged me to get a job and I did. The job I had was to do embroidery on ladies clothing. I also worked in a store as a Sales Clerk selling clothing for women and men. My sister Elaine helped me to get to Canada and because of her encouragement I enjoy helping others too. She was a very educated, responsible, independent and a hard worker. She loved her family and if someone asked her for help to do something she would go out of her way to help that person.

We all loved her because she was friendly, outgoing, trustworthy, and fun to be with. We shared lots of joy, peace and happiness together.

My sister instilled in me the importance of having a good family because of the things my family has done for me. My sister enjoyed her life and did well for herself. I have lots of good memories of her and will love her always.

And these are just some of the many reasons she has influenced my life.

My Best Friend Jim

By Peter



Jim is my best friend who I first met at the church. So he picked me as an usher in the church and taught me respect for other people. As he works at the Y.M.C.A, he also got me a volunteer job there. I pick up the towels and take them to the laundry room. I also keep the locker room clean. This job taught me how important cleanliness is. So I felt good about doing my volunteer job.

He advised me to go back to school. He told me that getting education would help me to learn how to read, write, use computers and do my math. He also made phone calls and found a school for me. So I am improving my reading, writing, math and computer skills at school. Moreover, he helps me in budgeting and keeping my money in the bank when I need it. He also taught me how to pay my bills and cook my meals.

I trust Jim with my problems. He listens carefully to what I have to say. I like to be with him during the holidays. We go for a walk and share a pizza. Then we sit down and watch television.

What the World Needs Today

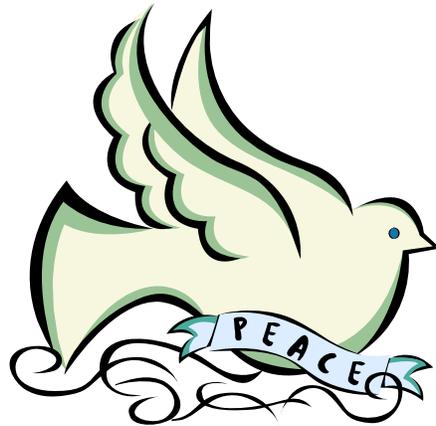
By Lejia

What do we need from the world? What does the world need today? These are the questions I am thinking about when I am writing this article. Everyone would say the world needs PEACE, but how can human beings contribute to build the world peace, to love animals and nature?

When we were children, we were told we were living in a beautiful world, and we still tell our children that the world is so beautiful, so wonderful as it was before they were born.

But from TV and newspapers we know about the wars, the accidents and the illnesses, which happen every day. Sometimes it's not easy to tell children which things are good and which are bad. We can only let them to learn to love people, love nature and love all things around us. It's hard to explain to the children why there are so many bad things happening.

What we need, what the world needs is peace and love. Peace and love can make the world beautiful. It can give us a happy life in the world.





East End Literacy

Building equity through community-based literacy

OUR MISSION

We aim to be the most integrated, progressive literacy organization in Toronto, with the highest quality of teaching. Through our work, we build the capacity of the people who live within our area.

By **integrated**, we mean that each part of the work we do enriches the other parts.

By **progressive**, we mean that we think ahead. We look for new, better ways to reach our goals.

By **capacity building**, we mean that our work both draws upon and strengthens the skills and resources of the people in our area. This means our work should help them to take part in community life, live with independence and security, and get the supports they need.

East End Literacy works to achieve its mission by:

- Giving high quality instruction
- Helping people find and use the services they need
- Helping people get involved in their community
- Telling the public about the need for literacy programs
- Speaking out for Clear Language and Design in public communications.

Our new mission statement reflects our commitment to the idea of building human capacity in our community and it is an idea that is central to our identity and what we do at East End Literacy.

OUR VISION

Building equity through community-based literacy.

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