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## What a great Winter Party!

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On December 9th, 2011, about 200 CCI-LEX students, teachers, and staff had a great party.

There was a lot of good food from many different countries. For example, we had samosas, sushi, and kebabs! Everyone had a lot of fun.

Many students and teachers were lucky, and won raffle prizes. There were 12 prizes: 8 were for students and 4 for teachers. Some students won a CCI-LEX bag. Inside the bag, there were a CCI-LEX toque, a picture dictionary, and an ESL textbook. One student won Canada mugs and a Starbucks gift card. There were also many gift baskets full of food (cheese, sausage, jam, mustard, chocolate, and candy).

Santa also paid us a visit: in the middle of the celebration, a large man with a white beard and a

## Free ESL Resource of the month

**Name:**

Break the Wall

**Website:**

[www.breakthewall.alberta.ca](http://www.breakthewall.alberta.ca)

**Skill:**

Listening, but also reading, writing, and speaking

**Best for:**

High Intermediate and Advanced

**Summary:**

The site uses real CBC Radio One news stories, recorded more slowly to help with understanding.

The included written lessons talk about local events, culture, and workplaces in Canada.

red suit stormed into the room and exclaimed "HO HO HO!". Many CCI-LEX students were quite amused, and chose to have their pictures taken with this extraordinary man. At the end of the night, much of the food had been eaten, although there were still many leftovers. But one thing is certain: everyone went home feeling satisfied!

- *Catrin Berghoff, LEX Volunteer*



## EVENT CALENDAR

Wednesday, January 25:  
**CCI Evening Beginner Class - FREE Observations**

Tuesday, February 14:  
**Valentine's Day**

February 17-20:  
**Silver Skate Festival, at Hawrelak Park ([www.silverskatefestival.org](http://www.silverskatefestival.org))**

Every weekend in January and February:  
**Metropolis Winter Festival, at Churchill Square**

## John's Idioms

*John Megill is a CCI teacher and LEX volunteer.*



**Idiom:**

"out to lunch"

**Example:**

Lindsey's boss has told her three times how to use the new computer program, but Lindsey is really out to lunch today.

**Meaning:**

not smart, not paying attention

*(taken from [www.voanews.com](http://www.voanews.com))*

# In the Spirit: Lunar New Year

**Chinese New Year is the most important of the Chinese holidays. Many people who live outside China call it the Lunar New Year. People celebrate this holiday all across the world. Chinese New Year's Day begins on the first day of the first lunar month in the Chinese calendar. It ends on the 15th day.**



This day is called the Lantern Festival and is another time to celebrate and have a party. Chinese New Year's Day changes every year because of the Chinese zodiac. The exact day depends on if it is the year of the dragon, rat, horse, dog, etc. The first day of the Chinese New Year is when Chinese people welcome the different gods to their homes.



There are many superstitions on this day. Many people believe that not eating meat will bring them a long life. Others believe it is bad luck to light fires so many people cook the day before. Other bad luck things to do on New Year's Day are getting a haircut, sweeping the floor and buying books. The most important thing to do on this day is to visit your family. Children like this day because they get money from their older relatives. It is a very festive time. People hang red lanterns from their houses and cook all kinds of traditional food. It is also very noisy as people let off firecrackers and fireworks in the street to celebrate.



*(taken from [www.eslholidaylessons.com](http://www.eslholidaylessons.com))*

## February 14 is.... Valentine's Day!



**Valentine's Day is a holiday that happens on February 14. It is the day of the year when lovers show their love to each other.**

This can be done by giving flowers, chocolates or Valentine's cards. Love notes can be given to one another. These notes are called valentines.

Symbols of Valentine's Day are heart-shaped roses, and Cupid with his arrows. Valentine's Day is named for two martyred Christian saints named Valentine.

Since the 14th century, Valentine's pairs have been formed in England. English emigrants took the Valentine's custom to the United States. After the Second World War, US soldiers brought this festival to the rest of Europe.

*(taken from Simple English Wikipedia, at [www.simple.wikipedia.org](http://www.simple.wikipedia.org))*

## Did you know...

that the average temperature in Edmonton for January is -13.9 degrees Celsius?

Brrrr!

*(Source: The Weather Network)*

## Laugh out Loud!



*(taken from [www.visualthesaurus.com](http://www.visualthesaurus.com))*

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