

new year, new learning

Chinese New Year, 2025-Year of the Snake was just the occasion to discover new things from this holiday celebration! Evelyn Diebel, professor at Cambrian College's Espanola Campus, says that the Adult Literacy Program takes full advantage of these occasions. Evelyn believes that by teaching "food literacy," it envelops "all of the competencies" that the Get SET (Skills, Education and Training) requires.

Every Wednesday, the literacy students are supported by community partnerships with Community Living Espanola and a long-established Learning Partners program with (volunteers in the classroom) Kim Bressan and Claire Poirier. We also had the assistance of a Developmental Social Worker placement Student, Jessica Martin, help virtually as part of the requirements to graduation.

Community Living Espanola opens the door to their kitchen, to their staff, and provides opportunities for their clients that are enrolled in the literacy program under the Get SET program, including Find and Use Information, Communicate Ideas and Information, Understand and Use Numbers, Use Digital Technology and Engage with Others.

The students encounter blended learning opportunities from a supportive team that takes place through on-line sessions, hands-on sessions, and "family style" sit-down meal sessions.



To celebrate the Chinese New Year at Community Living Espanola, the students made homemade eggrolls, rice and a prosperity friendship stir fry (everyone brought a vegetable to put in the pan).

They learned about the Chinese culture over a couple of zoom lessons in the early part of the month. The meal was eaten with chopsticks (another learned skill), jasmine tea and fortune cookies.

A new year and community collaboration that will always be remembered!

— Evelyn Diebel, Cambrian College, Espanola