**Week #3 Reflection**

For the final week of my reflections, I just wanted to comment about my overall experience in Mexico City and how it differs from the culture in Vancouver. First off I would like to say that everyday in Mexico City was an adventure. The people here were so helpful and kind especially Maria (our supervisor). Whenever we were lost for directions or just asking places to visit in the city people took time out of their day to explain to us and search for information on phone or through communicating with other locals. It was a very different vibe from Vancouver where I feel people answer your question but they don’t go above and beyond what you asked for.

One cultural aspect from Mexico City that took some getting used to for me was how they greet each other. In Mexico, people greet each other by putting their cheeks together and making a kiss sound. This was very different from how I was use to greeting people because in Vancouver it would usually just be a simple handshake. The hilarious part was when Danielle told us that when she was in Spain, they actually gave two kisses, one for each cheek and some locals thought that was strange. But the funniest moment of cultural difference arises when we made friends with a local around our area who went to the Teotihuacan pyramids with us. When we said good bye to him, we gave him a hug. He had a very awkward look on his face and then Taylor had to explain to him that in Canada we hug. The awkwardness of greeting came full circle!

Another thing I found interesting in Mexico was that you had to pay to use the washroom. Yes sounds kind of crazy but usually when you are in a public area you would need to pay 5 pesos to use the facilities. Of course they does not apply if you are in school, restaurant, or you have paid to enter a museum. 5 pesos also doesn’t sound like much considering the exchange rate is around 14 pesos = 1 Canadian dollar. However, after attending a social government class at Prepa Tech, we learned that the minimum wage for a person in Mexico is 73 pesos PER DAY! It made us realize how lucky and sheltered we are living in a developed country.

The class that I enjoyed and learn from the most at Prepa Tech was the English beginner class. It was fantastic experience to see how a teacher teaches a second language to their student and what I took from her lessons the most was the amount of cross circular learning. After learning about the grammar rules and ample amount of practice, she incorporated the language usage into other subjects such as art and social emotion learning. For example, in today’s class, after the students learned about the passive voice, they were using that language to talk about art and which artists that inspire them the most. For the next class, they were to present their art topic using the passive voice rules that they learned from the previous class. This was definitely eye opening and when I get the chance I would 110% try this in my class.

Our three weeks at Mexico City have been an absolute amazing adventure. I learned a lot over the three weeks not only about teaching but also about myself as a person and truly experiencing a different culture in the world. This experience will help me become a better teacher and I can’t wait to visit other places to expand my teaching style and grow as a person.