

This Week in Literacy

Friday, January 4th, 2007

**Happy New Year and all the best in 2008
from the board and staff at the NWT Literacy Council!**

Community Events and Information

January 27th is Family Literacy Day

1. Family Literacy Resources

Check out our website at www.nwt.literacy.ca for new resources for Family Literacy Day.

- ✓ Literacy Survivor How-to-Kit
- ✓ Baby Book How-to-Kit
- ✓ Supporting Literacy Development from Birth to 6 years
- ✓ Family Literacy Ideas for Your Community
- ✓ Fun Family Activities for Family Literacy Day

These resources have been mailed to every school, adult education program, early education program and friendship centre. If you do not receive them in the next week or so please give us a call and we will mail a package to you.

2. Author Visit

Richard Van Camp will visit Yellowknife, Behchokö and Fort Smith next week to celebrate family literacy.

Yellowknife – Monday, January 7th and Friday, January 11th

- ✓ Richard will be launching his new book *Welcome Song for Baby: A lullaby for newborns*. He will be at the Yellowknife Public Library Meeting Rooms on January 7th from 10:30 – 11:30. Parents and their babies are welcome to come. There will be songs, storytelling, snacks and lots of book prizes.
- ✓ Richard will also visit K'alemi Dene School and St. Pat's to work with students.

Fort Smith – Tuesday, January 8th – Wednesday, January 9th

- ✓ Richard will visit both schools and the college to share his books and ideas with students.
- ✓ There is a public reading at the Mary Kaesar Library at 7:00 pm on Tuesday night. Everyone is welcome!

Behchokö

- ✓ Richard will visit both schools and work with students from K – 12.

Literacy Matters: Understanding the Impact of Literacy Levels in the NWT

When: January 29 – 30, 2008
Where: Explorer Hotel, Yellowknife, NT
Time: January 29th – 9:00 am – 4:00 pm
 January 30th – 9:00 am – noon

The **Literacy Matters workshop** will be facilitated by Mr. T. Scott Murray, an international expert in youth and adult literacy. The workshop will bring together representatives from governments, industry, Aboriginal training organizations, education and the voluntary sector. Participants will learn about the NWT results from the recent International Adult Literacy and Life Skills Survey (IALSS) and will have in-depth discussions about how to best respond to the challenges raised by the results. For more information go to our website at www.nwt.literacy.ca or contact Aggie Brockman, Workshop Coordinator at abrockman@ssimicro.com or 873-4588.

NWT Arts Council Grants – deadline January 31, 2008

For more information about this program contact boris_atamanenko@gov.nt.ca

A National Creative Writing Contest

Write and illustrate a story, and you could become a published author! Winning stories will be selected from each participating province and territory. The stories will be then published together in an exciting book and shared with kids in other places throughout Canada and the world. This year’s theme is “In the News.” Put your spin on a newsworthy story. You can base stories on events, legends or people in your community.

Children must be in grade 4 or 5 at the time of entry. For more information go to this website: <http://www.worldlit.ca/w2r07.html>

In the News

New literacy champion Jan 03, 2008

Lieutenant-governors usually bring their own priorities and causes to the largely ceremonial position. But in a welcome move, David Onley, who was sworn in as Ontario's 28th lieutenant-governor in September, is carrying on a campaign for native literacy that his predecessor, James Bartleman, championed throughout his five-year term in office.

Onley launched a book drive this week that will collect books for native youth in isolated fly-in communities in Northern Ontario. New children's books can be donated until Jan. 18 at Ontario Provincial Police detachments across the province, and at Toronto police stations. The drive builds on previous efforts by Bartleman, who headed two campaigns that collected some 2 million books for remote communities in Ontario, Nunavut and Quebec. He also set up summer reading camps and a reading club for native children in Northern Ontario.

Boosting literacy, and opportunities, among native youth is a crucial antidote to the dire poverty, appalling living conditions and high suicide rates that plague many remote reserves. Onley deserves high praise for taking up this worthy cause.

New Resources and Websites

New Northern Resources

The NWT Literacy Council developed several new resources recently. They are now on-line at www.nwt.literacy.ca

- ✓ English 110 - Five Photo Stories (stories and learning activities for beginner readers)

- ✓ English 120 – *Two Old Women* Novel Study by Velma Wallis
- ✓ Stories and Activities for English 110-120

These resources were developed for adult learners but can be used with children and teens. All the activities and stories are northern-based.

New Publications from Ningwakwe Learning Press

- ✓ Moving Beyond – Understanding the Impacts of Residential School (\$14.95)
- ✓ Journeys of the Spirit III – A Collection of Writings by Aboriginal Literacy Students (\$9.95)
- ✓ Sinew and Sage Aboriginal Literacy Workbook 1 (\$9.95)
- ✓ Sinew and Sage Aboriginal Literacy Workbook 2 (\$9.95)

These publications are available to order by phoning 1-888-551-9757 or by visiting www.ningwakwe.on.ca

NWT Literacy Council Membership?

Have you renewed your membership with the NWT Literacy Council? If not, why not take a moment and do so right away - that way you can stroke it off your New Year's resolution list! Donations are also gratefully accepted. A membership application form is posted on our web site at: www.nwt.literacy.ca/aboutus/about.htm. It's halfway down the right hand column under "About Us." Memberships are \$10 for an individual, \$20 for families, and \$25 for organizations and businesses. You can print a copy of the form from our web site and mail in your cheque or money order. Or you can drop by our office at 5122 - 48th Street in Yellowknife.

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The NWT Literacy Council is a non-profit, non-government agency dedicated to supporting the development of literacy in all official languages of the NWT.

