

# This Week in Literacy

October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2008

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.

## In this E-News

- [Community Events and Information](#)
- [In the News](#)
- [Resources and Websites](#)

## Literacy Dates

National Family Literacy Day	January 27, 2009
Aboriginal Languages Month	March 2009
International Children's Book Day	April 2, 2009
World Book Day	April 23, 2009

## Community Events and Information

### Upcoming NWT Literacy Council Workshops

#### **Bookmaking, Yellowknife, Oct. 22, 2008**

Participants will learn how to make eight different kinds of books. Making books is a wonderful literacy activity that can be used in schools, with parents and in early childhood programs.

#### **Family Literacy Training Institute, Hay River, Nov. 3 – 7, 2008**

This training is for people who are new to family literacy. Workshops include, Introduction to Family Literacy, 1-2-3 Rhyme With Me, Books in the Home, Family Literacy Nights and Love Grows Brains.

#### **Embedding Essential Skills into Learning Programs, Yellowknife, Nov. 18 & 19**

This workshop is for adult educators, literacy practitioners and trainers interested in embedding essential skills into their programs. Pat Salt from Bow Valley College, a leading expert in workplace literacy, will facilitate this workshop.

#### **Family Tutoring, Yellowknife, Dec. 3 & 4, 2008**

Family Tutoring is a program that supports parents to help their school-age children with reading and writing. The training provides participants with an overview of the program, ideas for starting a program in your community and facilitation tips.

#### **Developing Speech & Language Skills in Children with Special Needs Workshop**

Learn the Phoneme Touch & Say™ system and the most effective teaching strategies to use with students with developmental delay. This two-day workshop will be presented by speech-language pathologist, Jill Hicks, mother of a daughter with Down syndrome and creator of the Phoneme Touch & Say™ system.

**When:** Thursday and Friday November 27 and 28

**Where:** Northern United Place in Yellowknife

**Time:** 8:15 – 4:00 pm

To Register/For information call NWT Council of Persons with Disabilities at (800) 491-8885 or (867) 873-8230 or you can email: [nwtcpdinfo@yk.com](mailto:nwtcpdinfo@yk.com).

### **Book Launch – *Going Places***

You are invited to celebrate the release of local author Fran Hurcomb's latest chapter book for young readers, *Going Places*.

**When:** Saturday, October 18

**Where:** Yellowknife Book Cellar

**Time:** 2:00 pm

### **Book Sale at the Yellowknife Public Library**

Thursday, October 23      6 pm – 9 pm (\$5 admission fee – early bird special)

Friday, October 24      noon – 8 pm (no admission fee)

Saturday, October 25      10 am – 5 pm (no admission fee)

## **In the News**

### **Author thinks reading comics can help young children**

**Published Wednesday October 15th, 2008 by Lois Legge of The Canadian Press**

The prospect alarms fictional boy hero Martin Bridge when a novel-loving cousin comes to town. But that's not to say his creator - Halifax author Jessica Scott Kerrin - believes there's anything wrong with heavy-duty novels for the younger set. It's just that "reading is reading." And for Scott Kerrin that means reading comics or graphic novels can be just as beneficial early on as sitting down with classics. She says that's especially true for boys, the core readership for her illustrated eight-book Martin Bridge series, geared to Grades 3 and 4 and following the shenanigans of comic book and superhero-loving Martin and his friends.

"I think people develop at different stages and what doesn't interest you now doesn't necessarily mean that won't interest you in the future," says Scott Kerrin, who often visits local elementary schools to read and discuss reading with students. "I think for male readers, if you're reading, that's wonderful; it could be websites, it could be graphic novels, it could be manuals - whatever. It's more literacy that's key to me." Also key, the 46-year-old mother of one believes, are characters and stories that relate to young people's lives or interests. Scott Kerrin didn't become an avid reader until high school when she picked up J.D. Salinger's *Catcher in the Rye*. "That was an incredibly strong story,

very character driven and someone I could relate to for the first time, I think." To read more go to <http://dailygleaner.canadaeast.com/search/article/448312>

### **It's Google for the brain**

**Published October 15, 2008 by Julie Steenhuisen**

Searching the Internet may help middle-aged and older adults keep their memories sharp, U.S. researchers say. Researchers at the University of California Los Angeles studied people doing Web searches while their brain activity was recorded with functional magnetic resonance imaging scans. "What we saw was people who had Internet experience used more of their brain during the search," Dr. Gary Small, a UCLA expert on aging, said in a telephone interview. "This suggests that just searching on the Internet may train the brain – that it may keep it active and healthy," said Dr. Small, whose research appears in the *American Journal of Geriatric Psychiatry*. Many studies have found that challenging mental activities such as puzzles can help preserve brain function, but few have looked at what role the Internet might play. "This is the first time anyone has simulated an Internet search task while scanning the brain," Dr. Small said Tuesday. His team studied 24 normal volunteers between the ages of 55 and 76. Half were experienced at searching the Internet and the other half had no Web experience. Otherwise, the groups were similar in age, gender and education. To read more go to

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/story/RTGAM.20081015.wgoobrain1015/BNStory/Technology/home>

## **Resources and Websites**

### **Northern Edge – Edition 6**

Edition 6 of *The Northern Edge*, an online newspaper for adult learners is not online. Topics include finding work, northern biographies, adult learner stories and family literacy. To view *The Northern Edge*, go to <http://www.nwt.literacy.ca/resources/northernedge/edge.htm>

### **Adult Literacy Blogs**

Check out these blogs on adult literacy:

- **23 Things: Learning 2.0** <http://plcmcl2-about.blogspot.com>  
Listed in this website are 23 Things (or small exercises) that you can do on the web to explore and expand your knowledge of the Internet and Web 2.0.
- **Literacies café: adult literacy blog** <http://literaciescafe.blogspot.com>  
Chit chat from literacies every Monday, Wednesday and Friday.
- **AlphaPlus Blog: Learning Outside the Lines : Adult Literacy in Ontario**  
<http://blog.alphaplus.ca>  
Check out this blog about literacy in Ontario and across the country. You will find information on upcoming training, workshop and other literacy blogs.

- **Learners – What Literacy is About** <http://alphastory.blogspot.com>

Listen to learners stories on this blog. Hear their testimonials about how learning to read and write has changed their lives.

### **Ontario Skills Passport** <http://skills.edu.gov.on.ca/OSPWeb/jsp/en/login.jsp>

The Ontario Skills Passport (OSP) provides clear descriptions of the essential skills and work habits important for work, learning and life. Essential skills are used in virtually all occupations and are transferable from school to work, job to job and sector to sector. The OSP offers high school students, adult learners, job seekers, workers, employers, teachers, trainers, practitioners, job developers and counsellors a common language, resources and tools that help build competence, confidence and connections. For example the OSP database contains sample workplace tasks for 309 occupations. Tasks are grouped by essential skill and skill level.

### **Family Education**

Check out this website for fun Halloween recipes, crafts for kids, printables and activities.

<http://www.familyeducation.com/home/>

### **The Language and Literacy: From Birth... For Life multimedia resource kit**

This kit provides evidence-based tools to help practitioners support young children in their lifelong journey of literacy. The kit is comprised of a summary of current research on language and literacy development in young children, resource sheets, a poster and a CD-rom featuring workshops, interviews and video clips of effective practice techniques. Due to the popularity of this resource, developed by the Canadian Child Care Federation and the Canadian Language and Literacy Research Network, we recently did a limited reprint of the materials. If you are interested in ordering a copy for yourself or for your organization, please email Lynda Kerr at [lkerr@cccfc-fcsge.ca](mailto:lkerr@cccfc-fcsge.ca) . It's FREE!

Don't delay.....order yours today! For more information on additional resources available from the Canadian Child Care Federation, visit [www.qualitychildcarecanada.ca](http://www.qualitychildcarecanada.ca) .