

# This Week in Literacy

October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2008

## Happy Halloween!

**There will be no *This Week in Literacy* next week – November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2008.  
Look for it again on November 14, 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.

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### 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

#### NWT Literacy Resources Survey

Recently, we sent out a survey on our resources. We ask people to tell us what NWT Literacy Council resources they use and what kind of resources they would like to see us produce. We also asked about people's access to the Internet and what kind of new technologies they would like to see the NWTLC explore (for example, blogs, facebook, etc). We really want your feedback. Your feedback helps us respond to your needs. If you received a form – please fill it out and send it to us at Box 761, Yellowknife, NT X1A 2P9. Thanks!

#### 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. This is a great program for schools and communities. To register call the NWT Literacy Council (867-873-9262).

## ***Literacies* is asking for input on its strategic planning process**

The *Literacies* journal is facing another break in funding with no real idea how long that break will be. The publication is funded by the Office of Literacy and Essential Skills (OLES) for one more issue only. To prepare for the future, *Literacies* is working on a strategic plan. You are invited to provide feedback on what you like about the journal, what could be improved, what you think of some options for continuing to publish during a funding hiatus, and what you would be willing or able to do to support the work of *Literacies* during the hiatus and beyond. Interested persons can support *Literacies* by filling out a survey at <http://www.surveyconsole.com/console/TakeSurvey?id=515694>

## **Canadian Culture Online Proposals**

Deadline: November 26, 2008

Canadian Culture Online (CCO) is launching a new call for proposals under the Gateway Fund for the 2009-10 fiscal year. The primary objectives of the Gateway Fund are: to increase the amount of quality Canadian cultural content for the Internet, build audiences for that content by making it easy to find on the Internet, and engage Canadians to use the content and share their perspectives on Canadian events, people and values. This call for proposals seeks to support projects by ethno cultural communities and Aboriginal peoples. Projects will result in cultural content for the Internet by and about these communities. Priority will be given to applicants whose projects have not previously received financial support from the Gateway Fund. For more information go to: [http://www.pch.gc.ca/pcce-ccop/progs/gateway\\_e.cfm](http://www.pch.gc.ca/pcce-ccop/progs/gateway_e.cfm)

## **In the News**

### **Most 'worth talking about books'**

A list of the 50 books touted as the "most worth talking about" was announced on Friday ahead of World Book Day 2009. The selection includes books as diverse as a novel about Welsh culture, accounts of Chinese migrant workers, a tale of a British Muslim seeking love online, and a hypochondriac who finds he is really dying. Get the list at <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/3212732/Most-worth-talking-about-books.html>

### **Acclaimed Colombian Institution Has 4,800 Books and 10 Legs**

New York Time, LA GLORIA, [Colombia](#) — In a ritual repeated nearly every weekend for the past decade here in Colombia's war-weary Caribbean hinterland, Luis Soriano gathered his two donkeys, Alfa and Beto, in front of his home on a recent Saturday afternoon.

Sweating already under the unforgiving sun, he strapped pouches with the word "Biblioburro" painted in blue letters to the donkeys' backs and loaded them with an eclectic cargo of books destined for people living in the small villages beyond.

His choices included "Anaconda," the animal fable by the Uruguayan writer Horacio Quiroga that evokes Kipling's "Jungle Book"; some Time-Life picture books (on Scandinavia, Japan and the Antilles); and the Dictionary of the Royal Academy of the Spanish Language.

"I started out with 70 books, and now I have a collection of more than 4,800," said Mr. Soriano, 36, a primary school teacher who lives in a small house here with his wife and three children, with books

piled to the ceilings. To read more go to

[http://www.nytimes.com/2008/10/20/world/americas/20burro.html?\\_r=4&oref=slogin&oref=slogin&oref=slogin&oref=slogin](http://www.nytimes.com/2008/10/20/world/americas/20burro.html?_r=4&oref=slogin&oref=slogin&oref=slogin&oref=slogin)

## **Canadian spelling takes a blow**

**By The Canadian Press**

Oxford University Press announced in late September it was laying off the entire staff of the *Canadian Oxford Dictionary*, including chief editor Katherine Barber.

Sales of print dictionaries overall in North America have dropped 10 to 15 per cent per year in the past three years, said David Stover, president of the Canadian branch. Although Oxford has the market-leading dictionary, it said it was concerned about the downturn in the retail market and the migration of people to online products. To read more go to

<http://www.nald.ca/info/whatnew/headline/2008/spelling.htm>

## **Aboriginals left behind in education, study shows**

Globe and Mail, Joe Friesen, October 29, 2008

The gap in high-school graduation rates for aboriginals and non-aboriginals has grown in recent years, while the percentage of aboriginal people with a university degree has increased only slightly compared with a massive boom among the general population, new research shows. Both are troubling figures that indicate much more needs to be done in one of the great social-policy challenges Canada faces, according to a study published yesterday by the C. D. Howe Institute.

"Clearly, we're not doing well enough, and clearly, we should be highly concerned about it," said the study's author, John Richards, who teaches public policy at Simon Fraser University. "A marginalized community, such as aboriginals, living in a modern economy can only escape poverty through an educational transformation." To read more go to

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/story/LAC.20081029.EDUCATION29/TPStory/National>

## **Resources and Websites**

### **Lessons in Learning**

Lessons in Learning is published to provide Canadians with independent information about 'what works' in learning. Each publication is approximately 2,000 words, and focusses on a specific topical issue. All articles follow a consistent format and provide links to sources of data and related research. All the articles can be found at <http://www.ccl-cca.ca/CCL/Reports/LessonsInLearning?Language=EN>

### **Guide to Blended Learning: Skills at Work series**

**Trudy Kennell, April 2004**

This book is a guide to developing and using a blended approach to learning. The focus of the guide is how to go about blending the best resources, technology, and practices from the elearning world into your setting, and what you need to know to do that. Blended learning combines the best features of your face-to-face sessions with the flexibility of elearning. You will find that some aspects of elearning are more effective than face-to-face learning, and vice versa.

Also in this series:

- Practitioner Guide to Workbooks 1 and 2
- Workbook 1: Assess your skills
- Workbook 2: A day on the job

You can download all these guides at

<http://www.nald.ca/library/learning/skillswork/blended/cover.htm>