

This Week in Literacy

April 30, 2009

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

International Literacy Day	September 8
NWT Literacy Week	September 27 – October 3
World Teachers' Day	October 5
Human Rights Day	December 10

Community Events and Information

Call for Nominations: 2009 Council of the Federation Literacy Award – Nomination Deadline – Friday, May 29, 2009

The Council of the Federation, established in 2003 by the 13 Premiers of Canada, has identified literacy as a key initiative of importance to Canadians. The 2009 Northwest Territories Council of the Federation Literacy Award will honour the achievements of a learner who has overcome obstacles and demonstrated outstanding progress in the pursuit of literacy skills in any of the NWT official languages. Nominations are open to NWT learners of all ages. The winning nominee will receive a Council of the Federation medallion and a certificate from the Premier of the Northwest Territories. Nominations require two letters of support.

Call for Nominations: 2009 Ministerial Literacy Awards – Deadline – Friday, May 29, 2009

Do you know an educator or an organization in your community that has excelled in promoting literacy and helping others to improve their literacy levels in any of the NWT's official languages? This is your chance to honour the work of that exceptional individual or organization. Nominations will be accepted in two categories:

1. Teachers, tutors or literacy facilitators, who have demonstrated outstanding dedication to literacy.
2. Organizations, literacy committees or programs, which have advocated for literacy and improved literacy levels in their communities.

One nominee from each category will be selected to receive a congratulatory letter, a certificate and a plaque from the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. Nominations require two letters of support.

Nomination forms are available from Barbara Miron, Coordinator, Literacy and Adult Basic Education; Department of Education, Culture and Employment; Government of the Northwest Territories. Phone: (867) 920-3482 Fax: (867) 873-0237 Email: Barbara.Miron@gov.nt.ca

Northwestel's Northern Futures Scholarship Program

Deadline July 5, 2009

Every year, Northwestel awards ten scholarships worth \$2,500.00 each to select post-secondary full time students enrolled in the following programs: Telecommunications, Computer Science, Electrical Engineering and Business/Commerce. Four scholarships are available exclusively to aboriginal students - one each in Nunavut, Northwest Territories, Yukon and northern British Columbia. The application deadline is: July 15, 2009 @ 4:30PM PST. Contact for further information:

scholarships@nwtel.ca

Teachers of Adults: Literacy Educator Certificate Program

Whether you are new to the literacy field or a "seasoned" practitioner, you will find these courses challenging and stimulating. The Certificate Program will give you the opportunity to gain the skills and knowledge to meet the needs of today's adult literacy learners. To find out more go to

<http://www.nald.ca/literacyeducator>

2009 Winnipeg Aboriginal Film Festival

Deadline June 19

The 8th Annual Winnipeg Aboriginal Film Festival (WAFF) invites artists to submit their work to one of North America's longest-running indigenous film and video festivals, happening this November 18-22, 2009. Submissions are now being accepted in 7 categories. WAFF pays screening fees to artists and there is no submission fee for entries received on or before the June 19 deadline (with a \$25 late fee applying thereafter). For complete rules and entry forms, go to <http://www.aboriginalfilmfest.org> or email info@aboriginalfilmfest.org

Learning Through the Arts (LTTA) Teacher Workshop

Where: Yellowknife **Location:** Mildred Hall **Date:** May 21, 2009 **Time:** 8:30 – 4:00 pm

Dr. Ann Patteson, Director of Research for LTTA, will provide you with an overview of the LTTA program and philosophy. As well, three LTTA Mentor Artist-Educators will lead you in arts-based activities that you can integrate into your teaching repertoire. The workshop will focus on how to use a variety of art forms in your teaching of Literacy, Mathematics, Science, and the Dene Kede curriculum. A shorter workshop covering some of the same material will take place from 6:00-9:00 PM that evening for those who cannot attend during the day. For more information, or to register, please contact Shannon Payne at YK1 766-5054, or shannon.payne@yk1.nt.ca

National Aboriginal Achievement Foundations

The National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation has evolved into the largest non-governmental funding body for First Nations, Inuit, and Métis post secondary students across Canada. Bursary and scholarship awards are provided to over 600 First Nations, Inuit, and Métis student annually across a diverse range of disciplines. To find out more about applying for funding go to

http://www.naaf.ca/html/education_program_e.html

In the News

Adult Literacy Supporters Set to Tee-up 2009 Peter Gzowski Invitationals

27 April, 2009, Toronto

ABC CANADA Literacy Foundation and lead event sponsor Great West Life, London Life and Canada Life are pleased to announce that the Peter Gzowski Invitational (PGI) Golf Tournaments for Literacy, a national fundraiser to raise money for local literacy organizations and adult learners in Canada, will kick off its 24th season on April 29 in Pond Inlet, Nunavut and roll out across the country through to the end of September. The annual event, which takes place in every province and territory in Canada, raises much-needed resources for thousands of adult learners. The support provides adult learners with access to opportunities that increase their literacy skills and prepare them to realize their full potential at work, at home and in the community. The PGIs were founded in 1986 by the late Canadian broadcaster and journalist Peter Gzowski, who dedicated much of his time and efforts to the literacy cause. The PGIs have raised more than 10 million dollars (net) to support literacy initiatives in the provinces and territories where the tournaments are held, making it the largest national literacy fundraiser in Canada. To read more go to <http://www.abc-canada.org/en/pgi2009>

AlphaPlus Tech podcasts

April 17, 2009

To share how practitioners are using blogs, wikis, photo - sharing sites, audio files and much more in their programs every day, we are launching a series of AlphaPlus Tech Podcasts where we will talk to educators about their experiences with technology - and how and why they are using it. Each week, between April 23, 2009 and June 4, 2009, we will publish a new podcast where you will hear directly from literacy educators in the field. The podcasts will be accessible on the [AlphaPlus Blog](#) in the [Tech Podcasts](#) section. We will also introduce special blog posts dedicated to each podcast where you will be able to read more about the guests and comment on their stories. To find out more go to <http://alphaplus.ca/newsupdates.asp?eventID=210>

Global Economic Leaders Gather in Chicago to Advance Financial Literacy

CHICAGO, IL, April 20 /CNW/

The Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago and Visa Inc. convened a global summit today on financial literacy, bringing together government leaders from multiple countries to explore ways to promote lasting economic stability through improvements in individual money management. Speakers at the third annual Financial Literacy and Education Summit focused on three imperatives: recognition of financial literacy as a critical life skill; all entities involved in the global financial system doing their part to find solutions; and the necessity of cross-border and cross-industry collaboration. To read more go to <http://www.newswire.ca/en/releases/archive/April2009/20/c3081.html>

Why can't we concentrate?

Twitter and e-mail aren't making us stupider, but they are making us more distracted. A new book explains why learning to focus is the key to living better.

By Laura Miller, April 29, 2009

Here's a fail-safe topic when making conversation with everyone from cab drivers to grad students to cousins in the construction trade: Mention the fact that you're finding it harder and harder to concentrate lately. The complaint appears to be universal, yet everyone blames it on some personal factor: having a baby, starting a new job, turning 50, having to use a Blackberry for work, getting on Facebook, and so on. Even more pervasive than Betty Friedan's famous "problem that has no name," this creeping distractibility and the technology that presumably causes it has inspired such *cris de coeur* as Nicholas Carr's much-discussed "Is Google Making Us Stupid?" essay for the Atlantic Monthly and diatribes like "The Dumbest Generation: How the Digital Age Stupefies Young Americans and Jeopardizes Our Future," a book published last year by Mark Bauerlein. To read more go to <http://www.salon.com/books/review/2009/04/29/rapt>

Resources and Websites

Assisting Students Struggling with Mathematics

The eight recommendations in this guide are designed to help teachers, principals, and administrators use Response to Intervention for the early detection, prevention, and support of students struggling with mathematics. To view this new website go to:

http://ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc/publications/practiceguides/#rti_math_pg

Assisting Students Struggling with Reading

This guide offers five specific recommendations to help educators identify struggling readers and implement evidence-based strategies to promote their reading achievement. To view this website go to:

http://ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc/publications/practiceguides/#rti_reading_pg

A Journey to a New Land

People first arrived in the Americas at least 12,000 years ago. The timing of their arrival and the route by which they travelled are not known. Did they follow an inland ice-free corridor route from Siberia to the un-glaciated regions south of the ice sheets? Or did they take a coastal route, travelling by boat down the Pacific Coast? This site explores these and other questions, and looks at some of the evidence and ideas that have been proposed to resolve them. To view this site go to:

<http://www.sfu.museum/journey/>

goENC.com K-12 Curriculum Resources

ENC provides the resources and support for math and science educators needed to help raise student achievement in these vital subjects. To view this website go to: <http://www.goenc.com/>

MIT OpenCourseWare

Free lecture notes, exams, and videos from MIT. No registration required. MIT OpenCourseWare (OCW) is a web-based publication of virtually all MIT course content. OCW is open and available to the world and is a permanent MIT activity. To view this website go to:

<http://ocw.mit.edu/OcwWeb/web/about/about/index.htm>

CBC Documentary on FASD

CBC Radio recently did a multi-part documentary on FASD entitled "Million Dollar Babies". To access the full series (there are audio clips of each segment), please visit

<http://www.cbc.ca/edmonton/features/fasd/>. There are 8 short audio clips: *MRI Testing, Adult Diagnosis, Justice Program, A Community Solution, One Family Two FASD Children, A Specially Designed Classroom, What it is and How Prevalent it is, and A Mother and Daughter Share Their Story.*