

This Week in Literacy

August 20, 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.

We will resume our weekly e-news on Thursday August 27.

In this E-News

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

Literacy Dates

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

Community Events and Information

International Literacy Day – September 8th, 2009

This year, International Literacy Day will put the spotlight on the empowering role of literacy and its importance for participation, citizenship and social development. Literacy and Empowerment is the theme for the 2009-2010 biennium of the [United Nations Literacy Decade](#).

A resource package will be soon available for download at

<http://www.unesco.org/en/literacy/advocacy/international-literacy-day>

Get Ready for NWT Literacy Week 2009!

NWT Literacy Week is September 27 – October 3 this year. The Yellowknife planning committee has met twice so far to discuss plans for Yellowknife. We have some exciting new activities and events planned for YK! We encourage communities to get together to start planning for your community. It is never too early! The NWTLC will be sending out NWT Literacy Week packages in August with new *How-to-Kits*, a wall calendar, our training calendar and promotional items to give away.

Council of the Federation Announces Literacy Award Winners for 2009

Canada's premiers have announced the recipients of the fifth annual Council of the Federation Literacy Award. Presented in each province and territory, the award celebrates outstanding achievement, innovative practice and excellence in literacy. The winner for the NWT is Annie Whane

from Yellowknife. The NWT Literacy Council would like to congratulate Annie for her hard work and determination!

Annie Whane displays a high degree of integrity, creativity and ambition as a student with the Literacy Outreach Centre in Yellowknife. Annie has taken on the role of an aspiring author by regularly writing poems, short stories and song lyrics. Annie takes inspiration from her own life as a young adult and shares her journey in humorous and touching ways with her peers. She is cheerful, friendly, vibrant and helpful towards her classmates, enhancing the milieu of the classroom. Annie is involved with community support agencies where she assists others in the community who are experiencing similar hurdles. She never fails to offer encouragement and support to those around her both in the classroom and in the community.

For more information about this award and a list of recipients from across Canada go to <http://www.newswire.ca/en/releases/archive/August2009/05/c2819.html>

Program Planning and Proposal Writing Workshop

Hosted by the NWT Literacy Council

When: October 14 & 15

Where: Northern United Place

Cost: FREE

There is limited space. Register by September 20th. Download the registration form and fax it to us at 873-2176. You can download a registration form from our website at

<http://www.nwt.literacy.ca/whatsnew.htm>

Facilitation Skills Workshop

Hosted by the NWT Literacy Council

When: November 12

Where: Northern United Place

Cost: FREE

There is limited space. Register by October 20th. Download the registration form and fax it to us at 873-2176. You can download a registration form from our website at

<http://www.nwt.literacy.ca/whatsnew.htm>

NWT Literacy Council Training Calendar for 2009-10

Get our new training calendar online at <http://www.nwt.literacy.ca/whatsnew.htm> and sign up for our Program Planning and Proposal Writing workshop in October or any of our other workshops by emailing us at nwt@nwtliteracy.ca

Cultivating Connections: Global Perspectives and Practices in Family Literacy

National Family Literacy Conference

The Centre for Family Literacy is hosting this conference in Edmonton next summer from July 15 – 17, 2010. Go to <http://famlit.ca/ccf> for more information.

Pathways: Professional Development for Adult Literacy Practitioners (Literacy Alberta)

This program was developed by and with literacy coordinators who value learning in order to do the best job possible, and who value professional recognition for themselves and for literacy programs. Pathways is a flexible program that includes three cycles with five areas of study: Administration,

Involving and Supporting Learners, Involving and Supporting Volunteers, Program Planning and Management, and Community Liaison. Perspectives: Theory and Practice in Adult Literacies and Perspectives: Creating Environments to Support Holistic Learning are key modules in the Pathways program. They provide a foundation for learning about adult literacies and are strongly recommended. Literacy practitioners have the option of earning a certificate in each cycle. This booklet describes each cycle and what you need to do to earn certificates. (You do not have to register for certificate completion in order to participate in the Pathways program. All adult literacy practitioners are welcome to take part.) To download the booklet go to <http://www.nald.ca/library/learning/pathways2/pathways2.pdf>

Health Care Cards

The Department of Health and Social Services is currently undertaking a project to renew NWT Health Care Cards that are set to expire March 31, 2010. This is a phased project where all permanent residents will receive a letter requiring them to apply for new coverage. If residents have changed any of the following in the last four years - address, name, or ethnic status - they should complete the forms located on the Health and Social Services website. Once the Department has updated addresses for residents of the NWT, an application for a new Health Care Card will be mailed. The Department also requests all students studying outside the NWT to complete a temporary absence form. For further information, contact 1-800-661-0830. Forms can be found on the website www.hlthss.gov.nt.ca

The 17th National Conference on Learning Disabilities - LDAY "Minds of Gold" September 24 – 26, 2009 Whitehorse, Yukon

Momentum is building for the 17th National Conference on Learning Disabilities, to be held for the first time in the North on September 24 to 26, 2009. Richard Lavoie will be one of 25 well known speakers presenting at the conference. Register now to ensure you get the workshops you want! Visit <http://lday.leafsolutions.ca> for full conference details.

Community Development Program, Building Rural and Northern Partnerships

Building Rural and Northern Partnerships is a program which offers funding to assist rural and northern regions to get information, and access/develop the expertise, tools and processes they need to: respond to rural/northern challenges and opportunities and become more competitive by collaborating regionally, building on their local assets and developing unused potential. For more information please go to: <http://www.rural.gc.ca/RURAL/display-afficher.do?id=1230068932797<=eng>

How do we Canadians go about building a reading society?

On November 11 to 13, 2009 the TD National Reading Summit will bring together writers, educators, publishers, librarians, and public officials who care about crafting a blueprint for a reading Canada. Speakers from across the country and around the world will share their research and experience in developing reading promotion programs, and delegates will lay the groundwork for implementing new programs and policies with both provincial and federal participation. Some of the confirmed speakers to date are: Ana Maria Machado (Brazil), Ingrid Bon (Netherlands), Richard C. Anderson (US), Tom King (Canada), Charles Pascal (Canada) and Elisa Bonilla (Mexico). For more information contact: Association of Canadian Publishers: Tel: 416 487 6116 | Fax: 416-487-8815 | E-mail: info@nationalreadingsummit.ca | www.publishers.ca

In the News

UNESCO Literacy Prize winners for 2009

A newspaper produced entirely by women in rural India is among the winners of the UNESCO International Literacy Prizes this year. Innovative literacy projects in Burkina Faso, Afghanistan and the Philippines have won the other three awards, while a programme in Bhutan received an Honourable Mention. For more information visit <http://www.unesco.org/en/education>

Fully Literate State in India

[Tripura](#) will be declared fully literate in September next year, Chief Minister Manik Sarkar said on Tuesday: "On the occasion of World Literacy Day (September 8) next year, [Tripura](#) will be declared an entirely literate state. The final phase of all out efforts to achieve this goal has begun". For more information visit

[http://www.indiaedunews.net/Tripura/Tripura to be declared fully literate in 2010 9035/](http://www.indiaedunews.net/Tripura/Tripura%20to%20be%20declared%20fully%20literate%20in%202010%209035/)

How Noise and Nervous System Get in Way of Reading Skills

Evanston, Ill.

A child's brain has to work overtime in a noisy classroom to do its typical but very important job of distinguishing sounds whose subtle differences are key to success with language and reading. But that simply is too much to ask of the nervous system of a subset of poor readers whose hearing is fine, but whose brains have trouble differentiating the "ba," "da" and "ga" sounds in a noisy environment, according to a new Northwestern University study. To read more go to

<http://www.northwestern.edu/newscenter/stories/2009/07/ReadingNoise.html>

New 'science of learning' could reinvent teaching techniques

By [Dan Vergano](#), USA TODAY

Scientists are quietly tackling education issues, offering up new tools, new approaches and even a new discipline. "New insights from many different fields are converging to create a new science of learning that may transform educational practices," begins a report led by Andrew Meltzoff, co-director of the [University of Washington's](#) Institute for Learning and Brain Sciences in Seattle. The review in the current *Science* journal makes the case that psychologists, neuroscientists, roboticists and teachers should create a new field that combines everything from how brains grow to how classrooms work into a new kind of learning research. To read more go to

http://www.usatoday.com/news/education/2009-07-21-education_N.htm

Early literacy begins with baby talk

Katherine Dedyne, Canwest News Service Published: Wednesday, July 29, 2009

It's easy to forgive parents for feeling exhausted when faced with all the options to help improve their toddlers' literacy and language development before school: Think everything from flash cards to Baby Einstein DVDs. But there's one thing that's so easy parents can do it any time, any place for free and kids will love it: Talk to them and give their fledgling words your full attention. Inviting children to express their thoughts is a huge stepping stone to literacy, says Trish Main, a learning initiatives teacher with the Greater Victoria School District. "Speech is a precursor to literacy," she says, noting that research has shown that by age five, a child from an impoverished background will hear 32

million fewer words than a middle-class child. To read more go to <http://www.nationalpost.com/story.html?id=1840847>

Starting early literacy with baby talk is too late!

Tom Sticht, International Consultant in Adult Education, August 9, 2009

On Wednesday, July 29, 2009, an article with the headline "Early literacy begins with baby talk" was published in Canada on the National Post web site

(<http://www.nationalpost.com/story.html?id=1840847>). The article focuses on the well established connection between oral language and written language. Children who develop high levels of oral language vocabulary and the ability to express and comprehend ideas in oral language early in life before school tend to become the better readers after they enter into school and acquire written language decoding skills.... Actually, literacy begins with parent talk. To read more go to

<http://www.nald.ca/info/whatnew/headline/2009/sticht6.htm>

Mourning the Death of Handwriting

By Claire Suddath Monday, Aug. 03, 2009

I can't remember how to write a capital Z in cursive. The rest of my letters are shaky and stiff, my words slanted in all directions. It's not for lack of trying. In grade school I was one of those insufferable girls who used pink pencils and dotted their *i*'s with little circles. I experimented with different scripts, and for a brief period I even took the time to make two-story *a*'s, with the fancy overhang used in most fonts (including this magazine's). But everything I wrote, I wrote in print. I am a member of Gen Y, the generation that shunned cursive. And now there is a group coming after me, a boom of tech-savvy children who don't remember life before the Internet and who text-message nearly as much as they talk. They have even less need for good penmanship. We are witnessing the death of handwriting. To read more go to

<http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,1912419,00.html>

16 Tips from a teacher

Back-to-school is not just about supplies. Parents' planning is a key part of students' success
Freda Lewkowicz, Aug. 12, 2009 11:20 AM EDT

School bells will soon be ringing which means that cheers, groans and back-to-school preparations have already begun. Unfortunately, these preparations usually focus on consumer affairs, the traditional "shop till you drop" frenzy for school supplies and clothing. Not that there's anything wrong with a new backpack and new running shoes, but if you really want to make the grade in back-to-school groundwork, you'll have to do a lot more than just feel the pinch financially. Getting ready for a new school year requires the same effort and commitment as a wedding planner. Are you doing enough to welcome 2009-2010? The following strategies will help you guide your child toward academic excellence.

1. Be a hands-on parent. Buy a large calendar to keep track of school events, tests and school projects. Check your child's agenda book daily. If the school doesn't provide an agenda book, add this necessity to your shopping list. Reinforce the importance of writing down homework and test dates. Make sure that you set a good example by keeping your own agenda book and, no, your electronic agenda won't do for teaching this life skill. To read the next 15 strategies go to <http://www.globecampus.ca/in-the-news/article/16-tips-from-a-teacher>

Resources and Websites

Tell Us About Your Internet Access

As part of the Broadband program, Industry Canada is undertaking an extensive mapping exercise in order to understand the extent to which Canadians remain unserved or underserved. They are inviting Canadians to provide [feedback](#) about broadband availability across the country. Please note that the feedback you provide is for information purposes only. By completing the feedback form you are providing useful information to Industry Canada. It does not, however, necessarily mean that Internet services will be extended to all areas that currently lack broadband access.

Literacy Resources for Special Needs <http://www.literacy.uconn.edu/spnhome.htm>

Welcome to the classroom literacy web resource. In this website you'll find easy access to a wide assortment of literacy ideas customized for classroom teachers of students with special needs. The links on this page are particular to this audience, but you will also find many other relevant literacy resources by visiting the [Teachers homepage](#) or by selecting a particular grade level on the side-bar of this website.

National Institute for Literacy Website <http://www.nifl.gov>

Check out this website for resources and current information on different literacy research and practices.

Youth Literacy Project Phase II

This report reflects the reality of attracting youth to literacy programs in northeastern Ontario. It is expected that the results of our research will further indicate the needs of youth, and inform community leaders in our area from the youth perspective. To download go to

<http://www.nald.ca/library/research/alphaplus/listen/phaseII/phaseII.pdf>

New Toll Free Number for NILA

NILA (National Indigenous Literacy Association) can now help you identify resources, tools and methods to make your programs even more successful! For your convenience, NILA has added a toll free number. To learn about literacy resources, story tellers in your area, Aboriginal ways of knowing, or new materials for your programs, contact NILA at 1-877-838-NILA(6452).

Canadian Council on Learning, Adult Learning Knowledge Centre – Launch of the Seniors Learning Video

This is the final instalment of a video series designed to illustrate the power of adult learning. This segment celebrates the power of seniors learning in formal and informal settings. See the seven videos at:

<http://www.ccl-cca.ca/CCL/AboutCCL/KnowledgeCentres/AdultLearning/OurWork/Video/Video7.htm?Language=EN>

Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition Action Plan

The Prior Learning Assessment Centre of Halifax, Nova Scotia, has recently completed a pan Canadian study on the recognition of experiential and informal learning in Canada. You can access

the report at the following URL: <http://www.placentre.ns.ca/PDFS/CCL/2008-PLAR-FullReport-EN.pdf>.