

This Week in Literacy

February 20, 2009

**There will be no *This Week in Literacy* next week.
Look for it again on March 6th.**

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

Aboriginal Languages Month	March 2009
International Adult Learners Week	March 3 – 8
International Children's Book Day	April 2, 2009
World Book Day	April 23, 2009
International Literacy Day	September 8
NWT Literacy Week	September 27 – October 3

Community Events and Information

Celebrate Aboriginal Languages Month – March 2009

The NWT Literacy Council encourages communities to celebrate Aboriginal Languages Month in March. We will be sending out a poster that has all the Aboriginal languages on it, bookmarks in all the Aboriginal languages and an information kit. You can also download the information kit on the website.

What IS the impact of video game, TV and internet use on children???

Yellowknife – March 2 & 3, 2009-02-18

There is a rising incidence of child physical, mental and behavioral impairments, as well as poor academic performance in children! Come and learn more about this. Go to

<http://www.regonline.com/builder/site/Default.aspx?eventid=662785> for more information.

WHERE Challenge

In celebration of the International Year of Planet Earth, the first annual WHERE Challenge is asking Canadian kids aged 10 – 14 years to discover the answers to these questions: What on Earth is your stuff and WHERE on Earth does it come from? Pick a favourite object in your home, school or playground, identify one or more non-renewable earth resources needed to make that object and tell the story of WHERE on Earth those resources came from. Entries can be essays, poems, songs, plays, paintings,

posters, audio, video or multimedia presentations or anything else dreamed up. For more information about the contest please see: <http://www.earthsciencescanada.com/where/>

The Great Northern Canada Writing Contest 2009

Deadline for entries: April 30, 2009

The NorthWords Writers Festival~ and above&beyond magazine are pleased to announce the 2009 Great Northern Canada Writing Contest. To enter, submit a piece of prose (fiction or non-fiction) up to 1,000 words about life in the Yukon, Northwest Territories, Nunavut, Nunavik or Northern Labrador. First Prize is \$500 and publication in above&beyond magazine. Special Emerging Writer Prize of \$250, and publication in above&beyond magazine. This is for writers who have never been published for payment. To qualify, identify yourself as an "emerging writer" on the cover sheet you submit with your entry. Entries should be typed and double-spaced with the title (but not your name) on each numbered page. Submit a separate cover sheet with your name, address, phone number, email address, word count, and indicate if your story is fiction or non-fiction. Mail entries to:

Great Northern Canada Writing Contest
Box 1256,
Yellowknife NT X1A 2N9

For more information go to <http://www.northwordsfestival.ca> or <http://www.arcticjournal.ca>

Summit on Aboriginal Education: Strengthening Aboriginal Success: Moving toward Learn Canada 2020

February 24 and 25, 2009, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

The CMEC Summit on Aboriginal Education is an historical event bringing together key stakeholders such as all ministers of education, the federal government, and national and regional Aboriginal organizations, to discuss issues related to Aboriginal education. For more information email c.bressette@cmec.ca

Measuring Success in Adult Literacy: Case studies in the assessment of learning

13 February, 2009

In anticipation of International Adult Learners Week (March 2-9), ABC CANADA Literacy Foundation would like to invite you to participate in a special online presentation regarding the assessment of adult literacy learning. Noted international researcher Ralf St.Clair will discuss the need for quality assessment; how different types of assessment at different levels can lead to a more tailored and meaningful approach for learners; and share research on different types of assessment models studied in Canada and the U.K.

WHAT: Measuring Success in Adult Literacy

WHO: Ralf St.Clair, Senior Lecturer in Adult Education, University of Glasgow

WHEN: Friday, February 27, 2009 at 2:00 PM EST

HOW: Via Webinar

Don't miss this opportunity for valuable information, insight and discussion on adult literacy. Please RSVP to Loren Turner at info@abc-canada.org or 416-218-0010 x 123, by Monday, February 23 to reserve your space and obtain access information.

In the News

Cost Estimates of Dropping Out of High School in Canada

Report commissioned by Canadian Council on Learning stresses importance of decreasing dropout rates

February 4, 2009—A new report commissioned by the Canadian Council on Learning presents the tangible costs of dropping out of high school—related to social assistance, crime, health, and labour and employment. “It is generally accepted that dropping out of high school has negative consequences for the individual and for society; however, few may recognize the full extent to which non-completion can produce significant economic costs,” said Olena Hankivsky, Simon Fraser University professor and report author. “This report signifies Canada’s first step in determining what those costs are.” To read more about this go to <http://www.ccl-cca.ca/CCL/Newsroom/Releases/20090203Costofdroppingout.htm?Language=EN>

Tough times need tough thinking from not-for-profits

Andrea Southcott, Globe and Mail Update, February 16, 2009 at 6:00 AM EST

While businesses are feeling new pressures with recent market shifts, those pressures are even more acute for not-for-profits. Many corporate donors have had to shift away from, or limit, charitable contributions due to business pressures. At the same time, private donors are cutting back because they have seen their personal net worth dramatically eroded – and many are unsure of what the future holds for their earnings potential. Endowments that have provided operational and capital funding may also become less reliable, as many have seen significant drops in value or in earnings. All of these funding uncertainties come at a time when many not-for-profits are seeing increased demand for their services.

To read more go to

<http://business.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/story/RTGAM.20090212.wsouthcott16/BNStory/robAtWork/home>

Resources and Websites

Thinkfinity

Whether you are an educator, student, parent, or work in an afterschool program, you can use this website. You'll find a wealth of free top-quality, exciting and engaging educational resources that support the skills we all need for success in the 21st century. For more information go to:

<http://thinkfinity.org/welcome.aspx>

Supporting Student Outcomes Through Expanded Learning Opportunities

This paper looks at the role of after school and summer learning programs in supporting student success. The paper explores how to bridge the divide between out-of-school time programs and schools by offering research-derived principles for effective expanded learning partnerships. To read this report go to: «..³ 0 0 0 «@³ 2 μ^a 3, ¥-| 0. -±¶ μ[¶] ¶², μ[¶] ¶[¶] ¥μ² 0 ¶², μ³, ¥-| 0. -±¶ ¶[¶], 332 μ±^a ¶[¶], §[±]. 2, .|² 0 ¶[¶] ..« μ², ^a «³ ¶±§[±] §[±] ¶[±] ±^a 2332 μ, ±-¶[¶] ¶[¶]

Plain language summaries of Statistics Canada reports – now on NALD

The [National Adult Literacy Database \(NALD\)](http://www.nald.ca) has posted to its Library a collection of plain/clear language summaries. These summaries are explanatory abstracts of major Statistics Canada research reports currently available at <http://library.nald.ca/>. They are available on the NALD website at www.nald.ca/library/research/summaries/summaries.htm. The complete research reports are also available in the online library.

Literacies: Special: Bulletin

Literacies has played a very important role in keeping the literacy field informed about Canadian research. However, their funding has not been renewed, and it looks as if their next issue will be their last. http://www.literacyjournal.ca/Forumpages/forum8_bulletin_s09.pdf

Online Exhibit

An online exhibit of how the Inuit use ivory from the Royal Ontario Museum. Go to <http://www.rom.on.ca/exhibits/ivory/toc.php>

Arctic Studies Centre

The Arctic Studies Centre invites you to explore the history of northern peoples, cultures, and environments and the issues that matter to northern residents today. Join us as we excavate arctic sites; support indigenous efforts to preserve cultural heritage; and work with communities and scholars to share the treasures preserved in museum collections and archives. <http://www.mnh.si.edu/arctic>