

This Week in Literacy

January 16, 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

National Family Literacy Day	January 27, 2009
Family Day	February 16, 2009
Aboriginal Languages Month	March 2009
International Children's Book Day	April 2, 2009
World Book Day	April 23, 2009

Community Events and Information

NWTLC Workshops - FULL

All of our workshops are now full. We are very pleased to have such a good response. We apologize to those who wanted to attend the workshops and training. We will deliver these workshops again next year.

Family Literacy Day – January 27th, 2009

Only a few days left to get organized for Family Literacy Day! Look on our website www.nwt.literacy.ca under 'What's New' and 'Family Literacy' for ideas for your event. Other places to look for ideas or information for Family Literacy Day are:

- http://www.abc-canada.org/family_literacy
- <http://www.nald.ca/info/events/annual/fld/fld.htm>
- http://www.nwt.literacy.ca/fld/fl_day.htm

Canadian Aboriginal Writing Contest

If you or someone you know would like to enter the 2009 Canadian Aboriginal Writing Challenge, call us toll-free at 1-866-701-1867, or email us at staff@dominion.ca. Participants of Aboriginal decent (Status, Non-Status, Métis and Inuit) are asked to submit an original piece of creative writing that explores a moment in Aboriginal history. This could be an event of personal, regional or national significance.

Submissions are judged by a group of esteemed Aboriginal authors and leaders including *Tantoo Cardinal, Tomson Highway and Drew Hayden Taylor*. The first place participant in both age categories (14-18 and 19-29) is awarded a \$2,000 cash prize and a trip to Calgary to be honoured in front of a group of Aboriginal leaders. The top two winning entries will be published in *The Beaver: Canada's History Magazine*. In addition, those who place in the top ten in both age categories will also receive cash prizes. Groups or classrooms of 10 or more who participate are eligible for additional prizes. For more information please visit www.our-story.ca.

Calls for Proposals by the Office of Literacy and Essential Skills – Deadline – March 13

1. Community-based Adult Literacy and Essential Skills Projects must address the literacy and essential skills of adults and applications must clearly demonstrate how community-based approaches will address one or more of the following objectives:
 - a. Employability: Improve the literacy and essential skills of adults to obtain jobs and/or to improve their employment prospects.
 - b. Community Participation: Improve the literacy and essential skills of adults so they are better able to participate in their communities.
 - c. Family: Improve the literacy and essential skills of adults so they are better able to contribute to their families.
2. Improving Literacy and Essential Skills of Aboriginal People. Projects must address the literacy and essential skills of Aboriginal adults and clearly lead to one or more of the following results:
 - a. helping Aboriginal adults to build the literacy and essential skills, in English and/or in French, they need to get a job, and/or adapt and succeed in the labour market.
 - b. helping Aboriginal adults to build the literacy and essential skills, in English and/or in French, they need to contribute to their families and communities.

You can get copies of the CFP application kit and guide for both calls at http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/eng/workplaceskills/oles/olesindex_en.shtml

In the News

Canada's Outstanding Principals for 2009 Announced

<http://www.canadasoutstandingprincipals.ca/>

Toronto, Jan. 19

Thirty one exceptional leaders in education from across the country have been chosen as Canada's Outstanding Principals(TM) for 2009. The Canada's Outstanding Principals (COP) program is in its 5th year and this year's winners will join the assembly of more than 120 previous recipients of this prestigious honour. The award is an initiative of The Learning Partnership, a national not-for-profit organization that has championed public education in Canada since 1993. The award is presented to principals who have made a measurable difference in the lives of their students and their own local communities. They help ensure that Canada's young people continue to receive a quality education.

This year Angela James from K'alemi Dene School in N'dilo was a recipient. Congratulations Angela!

Experts warn of learning problems associated with noise in classrooms: Introduction of Classroom acoustics standards a must!

OTTAWA, Jan. 16 /CNW Telbec/

During a press conference on Parliament Hill today, the Concerned About Classrooms Coalition urged the federal government to show leadership in our children's education by encouraging provincial governments to implement acoustical standards for Canadian schools. With children back in school for a new year, audiologists and speech-language pathologists warn that noise conditions in Canadian classrooms are far from ideal. Children, who primarily learn through listening, need a learning environment in which they can fully hear and understand the teacher's instructions, particularly children with learning disabilities, hearing loss or those learning in a second language. "No legislation regarding standardized classroom acoustics currently exists across Canada," stated Linda Walsh, President of the Canadian Association of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists (CASLPA). "The government needs to make sound decisions to protect our children's learning environment and that begins with implementing province-wide classroom acoustic standards." To read more go to <http://www.newswire.ca/en/releases/archive/January2009/16/c8160.html>

NALD invites you to announce your events for Family Literacy Day

Every year since 1999 on January 27, **Family Literacy Day** (FLD) is celebrated in communities throughout Canada, with activities related to reading, writing and math. Family literacy involves the actions or activities that happen in everyday life, in both the home and community, where literacy skills are used together by children, friends, parents and/or extended family members. The National Adult Literacy Database (NALD) invites you to let us know about activities you are planning or that you know about, surrounding Family Literacy Day. Examples of activities that have been announced on the NALD website in the past are: writing contests, open houses, story times and book drives. NALD would be very happy to receive your news about FLD and will post it on our website at: www.nald.ca/info/events/annual/fld/fld.htm.

Please give us the name of your event, date, time, location and contact information including a name, phone number and email address.

If you have any questions or comments on the services offered by NALD, please do not hesitate to contact me. For information or to send events, you can send an email to events@nald.ca or lorette.chiasson@nald.ca.

Resources and Websites

PBS Arctic Passage

Relive two legendary expeditions – one tragic, one triumphant – to pioneer a route through the Northwest Passage. This website is full of great resources for teachers and students:

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/arctic/>

Ookpik: Sharing the Pride and Vision of Arctic Youth

This site is designed for Arctic youth, with contributions from Arctic youth. This is your gateway to Arctic networks, knowledge, opinions and events. Visit OOKPIK at: <http://www.ookpik.org/>

Canadian Abilities Website

The Canadian Abilities Foundation is excited to announce the launch of their new web site. Visit them to see the new and enhanced features, including the new blogs and their CEO and Founder's welcoming video. They will be adding new content daily and hope to engage all communities across Canada and North America in dialogue and sharing of information that matter and are relevant to people with disabilities and the broader community, including decision makers in the public and private sectors. To view this new website go to: www.abilities.ca

Globe Books

Check out this new free, searchable archive of Globe and Mail book reviews at: <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/books>

Narrowing the Achievement Gap for Low-Income Children: A 19-Year Life Cycle Approach

Tamara Wilder, Whitney Allgood, and Richard Rothstein

Skills beget skills, success breeds success, and the provision of positive experiences early in life is considerably less expensive and more effective than the cost and effectiveness of corrective intervention at a later age. To view this report go to:

http://devweb.tc.columbia.edu/manager/symposium/Files/117_Rothstein%20paper%20for%20Symposium%2011-12-08b_6.pdf