

This Week in Literacy

January 29th, 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 Pyjama Party

The NWT Literacy Council and AlphaTNO are hosting a Family Literacy Day pyjama party on Saturday, January 30th in Yellowknife. Wear your pyjamas and join us for stories, songs, crafts and fun from 3:30 to 5:00pm at Northern United Place. Families with children aged 3 to 10 are welcome (children must be accompanied by an adult).

Canadian Aboriginal Writing Contest

The 2009 Canadian Aboriginal Writing Challenge invites youth of Aboriginal decent (Status, Non-Status, Métis and Inuit) to explore an event in Aboriginal history through a piece of creative writing. 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. For more information please visit www.our-story.ca, call toll-free at 1-866-701-1867, or email staff@dominion.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

Centre for Literacy's Summer Institute 2009

The Centre for Literacy is pleased to announce this year's topic for Summer Institute 2009: Workplace Literacy & Essential Skills - What Works? and Why? This three day event will take place from June 25-27, 2009 in Montreal and will bring together policy-makers, providers and researchers from across Canada and abroad to consider issues of Workplace Literacy & Essential Skills, For more info go to <http://www.centreforliteracy.qc.ca/whatsnew/sli2009/index.htm>

Call for Presenters by the 2009 Alberta Indigenous Language Symposium

The Indigenous Language Instructors' Certificate Group invites you to share your ideas and experiences at the 2009 Alberta Indigenous Language Symposium. The theme of the symposium is "Take Action for Indigenous Languages." It will take place at the University of Lethbridge, March 27 and 28, 2008. For more information see the attached PDF or visit <http://www.bluequills.ca>

In the News

Canadians Helping to Address Literacy Issues in Afghan Prison System

Illiteracy is so rampant among guards at Kandahar's notorious Sarposa prison that when a car drives in through the heavily armed gates, almost no one has the ability to read the licence plate number, nor record a visitor's name. Earlier this month, Canada took its first steps to address the issue, adding a new literacy class to ongoing weapons and professional training at the prison. The goal of the project is to bring students up to a Grade 3 education level over the course of the next four months, and close the gap on security issues at the prison. To read more go to

<http://www.vancouversun.com/news/Canada+battles+Afghan+illiteracy/1219205/story.html>.

New Strategy Needed for the Over-50s

Older people need more opportunities to learn if they are to actively contribute - rather than be a cost to society - during the twenty or more years they spend in 'retirement', a new study of learning and population changes reveals. To read more go to <http://www.niace.org.uk/news/new-strategy-needed-for-the-over-50s>

A Good Teacher Is an Entertainer as well as an Educator

Teachers are under irrefutable pressure to entertain. Losing a difficult class in the first 10 minutes of a double lesson on Friday afternoon can present the poor teacher with a two-hour inferno, leading to self-doubt and misery. Consequently, many teachers have developed a style of classroom management using a variety of stimuli, recognizing that children learn best when they talk to one another in groups, and making use of culture and the arts as a key part of their methodology. To read more go to <http://www.guardian.co.uk/education/mortarboard/2009/jan/05/teaching-schools>

Resources and Websites

Upgrading for Parents with Pre-Schoolers: New Resource Available Online

Upgrading for Parents with Pre-Schoolers (UPP) is a series of lesson plans, complete with worksheets and teaching resources. Topics include Healthy Eating, Budgeting, Safety in the Home, Sickness and Health and more. For more information or to download the free lesson plans, visit

www.familyliteracyexpertise.org.

Infant-Toddler Language and Early Literacy Activities – Somali Language

These materials include twenty home and community activities for adults and children birth to three that encourage early language and literacy development. Somali language activities have just been added. For more information visit <http://www.wlearning.com>.

TVO Parent Resources

Check out the resources in the TVO family room to find out about different ways you can help your children learn at home:

http://www.tvo.org/cfmx/tvoorg/tvoparents/index.cfm?page_id=145&action=artic.