

This Week in Literacy

June 25, 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.

Please note that for the months of July and August we will do a monthly enews on July 22 and August 19. We will continue our weekly enews in September.

We wish everyone a wonderful summer holiday.

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

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

Book Launch!

The Ugly Truck and Dog Contest and Other Tales of Northern Life: A collection of short stories about Yellowknife

by Cathy Jewison

Thursday, June 25, 2009 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Northern Frontier Visitors
Centre 4807-49th Street, Yellowknife, NWT

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&lang=eng>

In the News

New technologies are not just eye candy

“Computers do not spell the demise of literacy -- in fact, they may help to create one of the most literate and engaged generations the world has seen.” Carl Whithaus, associate professor of writing at UC Davis, will make that argument during a session on June 20, at UC Davis, part of a four-day Computers & Writing 2009 conference sponsored by the University Writing Program at UC Davis. For more information:

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2009/06/090618093248.htm>

Why not grade the teachers?

By Margaret Wente, Globe and Mail Opinion

Our system resists meaningful evaluation of the most important factor in education. The research is abundant and the results are in. The single most important factor in the quality of your children's education is not class size (sorry, Dalton McGuinty), socioeconomic status, the school they attend or how much funding it gets. It's the quality of the teaching.

Well, duh. Most of us know that. That's why parents send their kids to private school, where the teaching standards are supposed to be higher, or fight to get their kid into Ms. O's class instead of Mr. B's. Excellent teachers get measurably better results than mediocre ones, no matter what children they teach. Few teachers are a real disaster, but if your kid gets one of those, God help her.

So you'd think it would make sense to grade the teachers. After all, the rest of us are graded all the time. So are our kids. But the school system itself is stubbornly resistant to meaningful evaluation. To read the whole article go

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/opinions/why-not-grade-the-teachers/article1186130>

Father-focused programs get their day

Lauren La Rose, The Canadian Press, Saturday, Jun. 20, 2009

Bruce Stewart says it's one of the happiest hours of his week. The Vancouver resident steps into his local library and transforms into an entertainer, belting out tunes and singing rhymes. But what makes the weekly sessions so special is Stewart's constant companion during these visits - his little girl. The stay-at-home dad and his 16-month-old daughter, Sara, are regular participants in the Vancouver Public Library's Man in

the Moon program. The early-literacy program is open to fathers and other male caregivers to attend with young children. Currently, it's being offered for babies and toddlers. There are sessions in English and Cantonese with plans for a Spanish program in September. To read more go to <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/life/father-focused-programs-get-their-day/article1186616>

Resources and Websites

Learning and Knowing in Indigenous Societies Today

The loss of their specialized knowledge of nature is a grave concern for many indigenous communities throughout the world. Education, as it is understood in a Western context, occupies a pivotal role in this process, highlighted by many as both a major cause of the decline of indigenous knowledge, and also as a potential remedy for its demise. To read this report go to:

<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0018/001807/180754e.pdf>

How are Canadians Really Doing?

The Institute of Wellbeing has just released its first report called "How are Canadians Really doing?" The report highlights the need for the Canadian Index on Wellbeing. According to the report, the CIW will "fill a large gap in the Canadian dialogue about public policy making." To view this report, go to: <http://www.ciw.ca/en/Home.aspx>

Six skills evolve from the 'early literacy movement'

Parents know that reading to their little ones is important. What they may not know is why. A recent movement across the nation has caregivers and educators learning more about "early literacy" skills which provide an essential foundation for children to learn language. The six early literacy skills include: print motivation, vocabulary, print awareness, narrative skills, letter knowledge and phonological awareness. See more at: <http://www.coloradoan.com/article/20090618/WINDSORBEACON01/906180324/1131/Six-skills-evolve-from-the-early-literacy-movement->

Saskatchewan Aboriginal Literacy Resource Directory 2008

This updated resource is a valuable tool for people working in the literacy, education, and library sector as well as those connected to literacy in other sectors such as health, labour, business, social issues (such as housing, food, and poverty), mental health, social services, and justice, to name a few. The cost is \$10. To order a copy contact the Saskatchewan Aboriginal Literacy Network Inc.:

Ph.: (306) 934-2632

Fx.: (306) 934-2633

Cel: (306) 292-6668

aboriginal.literacy@sasktel.net

1017B 22nd Street West , Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada S7M 0S2

www.aboriginal.sk.literacy.ca

Will Employers Want Aging Boomers? (Discussion Paper)

Gordon B.T. Mermin, Richard W. Johnson, and Eric J. Toder, July 2008

<http://www.nald.ca/library/research/boomers/boomers.pdf>

Supporting Early Literacy in Natural Environments

This resource provides activities that caregivers can do with their children to help develop early language and literacy skills. The activities teach three primary skills which include phonological awareness, print awareness and use of language. Parents can use the activities during play and daily routines. To download a copy go to

<http://www.wlearning.com/downloads/english-preschool.pdf>