

This Week in Literacy

May 28, 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

International Literacy Day	September 8, 2009
NWT Literacy Week	September 27 – October 3, 2009
World Teachers' Day	October 5, 2009
Human Rights Day	December 10, 2009
National Family Literacy Day	January 27, 2010

Community Events and Information

Call for Nominations: 2009 Council of the Federation Literacy Award – Nomination Deadline – Friday, May 29, 2009

The Council of the Federation, established in 2003 by the 13 Premiers of Canada, has identified literacy as a key initiative of importance to Canadians. The 2009 Northwest Territories Council of the Federation Literacy Award will honour the achievements of a learner who has overcome obstacles and demonstrated outstanding progress in the pursuit of literacy skills in any of the NWT official languages. Nominations are open to NWT learners of all ages. The winning nominee will receive a Council of the Federation medallion and a certificate from the Premier of the Northwest Territories. Nominations require two letters of support.

Call for Nominations: 2009 Ministerial Literacy Awards – Deadline – Friday, May 29, 2009

Do you know an educator or an organization in your community that has excelled in promoting literacy and helping others to improve their literacy levels in any of the NWT's official languages? This is your chance to honour the work of that exceptional individual or organization. Nominations will be accepted in two categories:

1. Teachers, tutors or literacy facilitators who have demonstrated outstanding dedication to literacy.

2. Organizations, literacy committees or programs, which have advocated for literacy and improved literacy levels in their communities.

One nominee from each category will be selected to receive a congratulatory letter, a certificate and a plaque from the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. Nominations require two letters of support.

Nomination forms are available from Barbara Miron, Coordinator, Literacy and Adult Basic Education; Department of Education, Culture and Employment; Government of the Northwest Territories. Phone: (867) 920-3482 Fax: (867) 873-0237 Email: Barbara.Miron@gov.nt.ca.

Free Moodle Introductory Courses for ABE Educators

Are you planning your professional development for the coming year? Consider learning about Moodle, a free, open source online course management system, designed using sound pedagogical principles, to help educators create effective online learning opportunities and communities. Moodle is used in colleges, universities, school boards, community organizations and in the private sector all over the world now. It is used in the E-channel distance learning programs in Ontario. To date, AlphaPlus has awarded certificates of course completion to 100 educators who have explored the basics of Moodle with us. You can learn to use Moodle too! AlphaPlus Centre is offering *Introduction to Moodle* training course this year. This eight-week training course will be offered three times during the 2009/10 funding year.

Training dates are:

- **June 8 - July 31, 2009** (7 seats remaining)
- **October 12 - December 4, 2009** (19 seats remaining)
- **January 18 - March 12, 2010** (23 seats remaining)

For more information go to <http://moodle.alphaplus.ca>.

NorthWords Writers Festival

When: June 11th to 14th.

Some of the exciting events and workshops are listed below. For a full schedule of events with dates and times go to <http://www.northwordsfestival.ca>.

- Words in Action: Stories for Youth
- Many Visions, Many Paths Family BBQ at Yellowknife Ski Club
- Northern Climate Change: Joining the Dots Between Science and Story
- Damm Good Advice on Publishing (Workshop)
- What do Publishers/Editors Want? (Panel)
- Signings with Sizzle (Book Signings and Barbecue)
- Writing for Young People (Panel)
- Fourth Annual De Beers Canada Gala Readings
- All Up in the Kool-aid: the 411 on Writing for Teens with Anita Daher(Workshop)
- Full Circle: Poetry and Storytelling with Jim Green (Workshop)
- Science Writing: Finally, The Medium IS the Message with Jay Ingram (Workshop)

- Learning the Craft of Fiction: a Study on Developing Voice and Character with Joseph Boyden (Workshop)

In the News

Canadian Council on Learning releases report on e-learning

Ottawa, May 21, 2009 — A new Canadian Council on Learning (CCL) report offers a unique look at e-learning in Canada, affirming that it holds much promise to improve Canada's economic competitiveness and prepare Canadians for the demands of the 21st century. However, several issues are constraining the country's ability to take full advantage of e-learning's potential.

According to *State of E-Learning* in Canada, e-learning—the application of technologies such as computers and the internet to education and training—is recognized as a fundamental tool for fostering a lifelong learning society. In particular, e-learning provides for a flexible learning approach not readily available through other means. For example, e-learning:

- allows learners to choose content and tools appropriate to their differing interests, needs and skill levels;
- reduces geographical and physical barriers to learning; and
- can be accessed when desired or necessary.

To read the whole article go to <http://www.ccl-cca.ca/CCL/Newsroom/Releases/20090514E-Learning.htm>.

Frontier College Recognized as Event of National Historic Significance

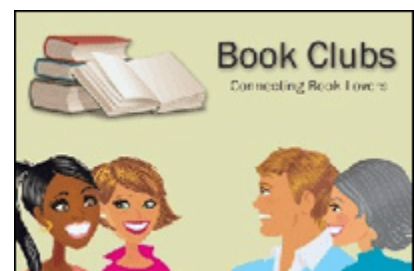
Toronto, May 22, CNW

Frontier College, Canada's original literacy organization celebrating its 110th anniversary in 2009, has just been recognized by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada with a plaque unveiled today. The plaque commemorates the historical significance of Frontier College as a national educational institution in Canada for 110 years. Today at 4pm, a ceremony and plaque unveiling marking the event took place at Gzowski House, Frontier College national headquarters at 35 Jackes Avenue in Toronto. To read more go to

<http://www.newswire.ca/en/releases/archive/May2009/22/c6699.html>.

Facebook's Book Clubs Gets Kids Excited About Reading By SLJ Staff -- School Library Journal, 5/21/2009

What better way to get kids talking about books than on one of their favorite pastimes—**Facebook**. *Book Clubs* is a new application on the hugely popular social networking site, offering students a free and convenient place to share ideas about books, authors, and related interests. Facebook members can instantly create or join a reading group devoted to any category, region, interest, or author. "If you want to connect with people who share your passion for books, this is the place to be," says Rusty Weston, cofounder of **Book Clubs**. "Online book clubs aren't intended to replace face-to-face meetings, but many book



lovers can't make monthly gatherings or don't want to wait that long to discuss what they're reading."

Launched in 2008, Book Clubs has 6,200 members. And although it missed out on the *Harry Potter* craze, mid-to-late teenage girls are talking about Stephenie Meyer's *Twilight* series quite a bit on the site. Users can post comments about a book or author, rate or review books, build or search a library of titles, entirely at their convenience. They can arrange meetings in person and use book clubs as a place to chat or post club news between meetings. To read more go to <http://www.schoollibraryjournal.com/article/CA6658704.html?desc=topstory>.

Resources and Websites

Computers for Deaf Learners

Workplace Education Manitoba

<http://www.nald.ca/library/learning/deaf/deaf.pdf>

Connecting Literacy, Learning and Work

This is a book that tells a story about an adult literacy program that made changes to the way it thought about and taught literacy for adults who want to make changes to their working lives. Although there is one story, it is told from many perspectives: the students, the instructors, program managers, published research and the authors. Finally, this book is intended for those who work in adult literacy programs and are engaged in the on-going process of making connections between literacy, learning and work. To download a copy go to <http://www.nald.ca/library/learning/christine/connecting/connecting.pdf>.

Family Math Groups: An Exploration of Content and Style

By Kate Nonesuch

When the facilitator of a family math group adopts an exploratory and holistic approach to math, what changes occur in parents' attitudes to math and to helping their children with math learning? What are the effects of an egalitarian facilitation style on parents' attitudes to participation in family math activities? The researcher asked these questions in the context of a project that brought together parents (and people acting *in loco parentis*) in small groups to try out a set of math activities she had designed for adults and kids to do together, to give her feedback on the activities, and to help her revise a manual designed for parents who wanted to have fun with math with their kids. To download a copy go to <http://www.nald.ca/library/research/fammatgro/fammatgro.pdf>.

Family Math Fun

By Kate Nonesuch

We are all born with a learning spirit, and when we love and care for children, we want to keep their learning spirits alive and well. The activities in this book are designed for families to do together. All the activities will help children learn to think about numbers and shapes and patterns—that is, they will learn to do “math thinking.” But besides the mind, the activities involve the spirit, heart, and body. To download a copy go to <http://www.nald.ca/library/learning/familymath/familymath.pdf>.