

This Week in Literacy

April 1, 2010

Happy Easter

There will be no e-news next week.

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 Children's Book Day	April 2
World Health Day	April 7
National Volunteer Week	April 18-24
Global Action Week	April 19-25

Community Events and Information

Presentation on RDSP

The Yellowknife Association for Community Living Family Networking Group will have guest speaker, Andi Rogers, to answer questions and provide information on the Registered Disability Savings Plan on Friday, April 9 from 7-9 pm. This event is targeted at people with disabilities, family members and service providers. The Disability Tax Credit will also be discussed. For more information or to RSVP contact Mimi Kennedy at 766-4294 or go to www.ykacl.ca.

Call for Nominations: 2010 Council of the Federation Literacy Award

The Northwest Territories Council of the Federation Literacy Award honours 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. Nominations require two letters of support and the deadline is May 28, 2010. For a nomination form call 920-8843 or email Margaret.Erasmus@gov.nt.ca.

Call for Nominations: 2010 Ministerial Literacy Awards

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?

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.

Nominations require two letters of support and the deadline is May 28, 2010. Contact (867) 920-8843 or Margaret_Erasmus@gov.nt.ca.

2010 Canada Post Community Literacy Awards

The deadline is May 21 to nominate a deserving adult learner and/or educator from your community for an award that recognizes personal achievement. For more information visit

http://www.canadapost.ca/cpc_email/Literacy/literacy_2010_1.htm.

The Great Questions Essay Contest

A writing contest for Canadian high school students with a deadline of May 7, 2010. For information visit: <http://www.greatquestions.com/e/bulletin.html> (English) or

http://www.greatquestions.com/f/gcq_regles.html (Français).

The Great Northern Canada Writing Contest

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 for a chance to win a first prize of \$500 and publication in above & beyond magazine. Entries must be mailed by April 30th, 2010 to Great Northern Canada Writing Contest, Box 1256, Yellowknife, NT, X1A 2N9.

Have Your Say on Financial Literacy

Canada's Task Force on Financial Literacy will be in Yellowknife April 6, 2010 from 9 am to 4 pm at the Explorer Hotel. This is part of an extensive national consultation exploring key issues about how Canadians make financial decisions. To find out how to make a written submission or to participate in the online consultation go to

<http://www.financialliteracyincanada.com/eng/index.php?PHPSESSID=311933ac88b702f2158f427309c69a8e>.

Students on Ice Arctic Expedition – deadline April 15th, 2010

Aboriginal high school or home school students can apply to join an expedition to the Arctic. The scholarship includes all travel expenses from home to the Arctic and return. If you are between 14 and 18, you can find the scholarship application form at (<http://www.inuit2010.ca/soi/> or

<http://studentsonice.com/index.php?content=friends>), or check them out on FaceBook at

<http://tinyurl.com/SOIScholarships2010>. For more information, contact Niki Trudeau, Participant

Coordinator at apply@studentsonice.com or call Toll Free: 1-866-336-6423.

National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation Scholarships

Financial awards to First Nations (status and non-status), Inuit and Métis students are offered through four major programs and an additional specialized program. The deadlines for scholarships and bursaries range from May 1 to June 1, 2010. For more information visit www.naaf.ca.

In the news

NWT Literacy Council Joins Call for NWT Poverty Reduction Strategy

Yellowknife (March 31, 2010) – The NWT Literacy Council has formally joined the call for an NWT Poverty Reduction Strategy, calling attention to the link between low literacy skills, poverty and employment prospects. “Low literacy, unemployment and poverty are all inter-related and tend to have a multiplier effect.” noted NWT Literacy Council president, Suzanne Robinson, when the Council board of directors agreed at a recent meeting to formally join a coalition of organizations and municipalities calling on the Government of the Northwest Territories to develop a NWT poverty reduction strategy. The resent of the news release can be found at <http://www.nwt.literacy.ca/whatsnew.htm>.

University Trust Funds a Bad Idea

Winnipeg Free Press, March 26, 2010

There has been extensive media attention given to Calvin Helin and David Snow's report, *Free to Learn: Giving Aboriginal Youth Control Over Their Post-Secondary Education*. First Nations agree that post-secondary education funding does need reform, but not in the manner presented by Helin and Snow.

They propose that the Department of Indian Affairs hold a \$25,000 trust account for each First Nation student to be paid directly to the post-secondary institution the students choose. For more go to <http://www.winnipegfreepress.com/opinion/westview/university-trust-funds-a-bad-idea-89252482.html>.

Letting Students Choose Books Could Make Them Better Readers

Globe and Mail, March 29, 2010

Some educators are ditching the traditional class-assigned novels - and it turns out teens are picking books other than Twilight. For the rest of the story go to

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/life/family-and-relationships/letting-students-choose-books-could-make-them-better-readers/article1515629/>.

First Nations University still in crisis despite new government funds

Globe and Mail, April 1, 2010

The financial situation at First Nations University is so dire the school is facing the prospect of major layoffs and campus closings in spite of last-minute government funding. For the full story go to

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/national/prairies/first-nations-university-still-in-crisis-despite-new-government-funds/article1519590/>. If you want to learn more about this issue or take action, check out <http://fnuniv.wordpress.com/>.

Resources and websites

Competencies Plus: My Tools to Succeed

This Facilitator's Kit Guide was produced by National Life/Work Center.

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

Youth Literacy Canada: Teaching Strategies

These strategies are designed to foster thoughtful interaction with texts and give students, who have previously not been successful, the tools to experience success even when confronted with challenging materials. http://www.youthliteracy.ca/pages/resources_strategies.html.

What the Health!

An adaptable literacy and health resource for youth. http://www.cpha.ca/uploads/portals/h-l/what-the-health_e.pdf.

Kids Know It Network

Free educational websites for the young and the young at heart. <http://www.kidsknowit.com/>.