

This Week in Literacy

March 11, 2010

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

Aboriginal Languages Month	March
International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination	March 21
World Water Day	March 22
NWT PGI in Yellowknife and Hay River	March 22-25

Community Events and Information

Paralympic Lessons of the Day

The story of Paralympic athletes can inspire students to strive for excellence and teach the value of passion, dedication and perseverance. View the lessons of the day at <http://www.sharingthedream.gov.bc.ca/>.

More PGI Supporters welcomed

Thank you to First Air, our 20-year sponsor of the PGIs (Peter Gzowski Invitational Golf Tournaments for Literacy). This week we also want to thank BHP Billiton, CBC North, Enbridge Pipelines Ltd., Northwestel, Town of Hay River, DeBeers Canada, Diavik Diamond Mine, and Nahanni Construction.

Tickets are available at the NACC Box Office for the PGI Community Concerts for Literacy in Yellowknife, Monday March 22 and Tuesday, March 23, at 7 pm. Doors open for the raffle at 6 pm. Everyone is invited to the PGI Premier's Community Feast on Wednesday, March 24 at the Chief Lamalice Complex on the Katlodeeche First Nation Reserve. PGI special guests include Connie Kaldor, Jonathan Torrens, Russell deCarle, Richard Van Camp, Pat Braden, Sophie Leger, Shelagh Rogers and Barney Bentall.

March 25 Poetry Reading at the Yellowknife Public Library

Randall Maggs will be reading from *Night Work: The Sawchuk Poems*, his book about Terry Sawchuk and hockey in the 50s and 60s. It is poetry but it reads and sounds like fiction or short stories. This event starts at 7 pm on Thursday, March 25. Local authors Bren Kolsen, Cathy Jewison and Jamie Bastedo will also be reading.

The Canadian Aboriginal Writing Challenge

Are you a young Aboriginal writer with a story to tell? Are you between the ages of 14-18 or 19-29? Showcase your creative writing and win great prizes!! Simply create a short story that explores a moment or theme in Aboriginal history. Stories in each age category will be judged by an expert panel of Aboriginal leaders and authors. This year's deadline is March 31, 2010. For more information go to <http://www.our-story.ca/youthWriting.html>.

The Great Northern Canada Writing Contest

The deadline is April 30, 2010 to 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. First Prize is \$500 and publication in above & beyond magazine. Entries must be mailed to Great Northern Canada Writing Contest, Box 1256, Yellowknife, NT X1A 2N9.

Aboriginal Languages Initiative Innovation Fund

The Innovation Fund focuses on the innovative use of existing technology in the creation of digital content that produces new or improved products specifically for First Nations languages. The application deadline is April 1, 2010. For more information go to <http://www.pch.gc.ca/pgm/pa-app/index-eng.cfm>.

New Horizons for Seniors

The Government of Canada is accepting applications from not-for-profit organizations who want to give Canada's seniors the opportunity to participate in and lead projects that will improve their quality of life and make a difference in their communities. To learn more about this call for proposals go to http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/eng/community_partnerships/seniors/index.shtml.

Arctic Voices Fellowships Call for Applications

The Arctic Voices Fellowship program is accepting applications from northerners aged 25 -35. Arctic Voices Fellows will have the opportunity to research and develop policy ideas that they believe will benefit their communities and the North. Each Fellow will receive \$25,000 spanning two years starting in June 2010, mentoring from Elders, and opportunities to spend time with other Fellows and policy experts across Northern and Southern Canada. Application deadline is March 24, 2010. For more details visit www.arcticvoices.ca.

Annual Summer Science Program - Deadline to apply: Friday, May 7th

The Institute for Aboriginal Health at UBC in partnership with the First Nations House of Learning is offering a one-week cultural, health and science program for Aboriginal students in grades 8-11. For information call 604-822-1795 or 604-822-6612 or check out <http://www.iah.ubc.ca/>.

2010 Summit on a People Centred Economy

The 2010 National Summit on a People-Centred Economy in Ottawa will bring together leaders and community representatives to build a common agenda and mobilize action for a secure, sustainable

economy that puts people and the planet first. The summit is May 30-June 1, 2010. For more information visit <http://www.ccednet-rcdec.ca/en/summit>.

National Family Literacy Conference - July 15 - 17th, 2010

A National Family Literacy Conference is set to take place in Edmonton July 15 - 17th, 2010. The conference will profile the critical contributions of family literacy across Canada and around the world! For more information call (780) 427-5704 or email deborah.landry@gov.ab.ca.

In the News

Lessons in obfuscation

Ottawa Citizen, March 11, 2010

The Toronto grandfather who is also a retired teacher spoke for many when, according to a news report, he looked at his grandson's Grade 4 report card and said: "My God, if I can't understand what this is talking about, what about a parent whose first language isn't English?" For this story go to <http://www.ottawacitizen.com/Lessons+obfuscation/2668852/story.html>.

Toddlers go under the microscope for the first time

The Observer, February 21, 2010

The Millennium Cohort Study is following the progress of 19,000 children born at the beginning of the 21st century. One of the findings: "three-year-olds whose parents read to them every day were two months ahead of their peers in the first year of primary school, not only in language and literacy, but also in maths." See more at <http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/2010/feb/21/toddlers-study-health-policy>.

Are Workplaces Ready For The 'Class of 2010'?

CNW, March 4, 2010

I Love Rewards, the leader in online employee rewards and recognition, partnered with Studentawards Inc., a youth marketing and market research firm, to understand future employees coming out of the "Class of 2010." To learn about their findings, go to <http://www.newswire.ca/en/releases/archive/March2010/04/c6843.html>.

Learning and the arts: Can Mozart make you smarter?

General exposure to the arts is often credited with having added educational or intellectual benefits that extend beyond the artistic experience itself. Such claims are often used to justify the inclusion of arts education in school curricula, despite the fact that the evidence that these claims are built upon is often shaky. However, there is good evidence that the arts can contribute to effective learning conditions for students. Read more at <http://www.ccl-cca.ca/CCL/Reports/LessonsInLearning/LinL2010Mozart.htm?Language=EN>.

Resources and Websites

Family Literacy Resources

Looking for resources for your family literacy program? Visit the NWT Literacy Council's Resource Page, a searchable database of literacy resources including many family literacy resources, northern books and aboriginal language books at <http://www.nwt.literacy.ca/nwtliteracyresources/index.html>.

Ten Tips for Reading Aloud with Your Preschooler

Check out Links to Literacy's tips for reading to preschoolers at <http://literacytoolbox.wordpress.com/2010/02/02/ten-tips-for-reading-aloud-with-your-preschooler/>.

Top 20 Downloads on NALD@Work

The top downloads for February can be found at <http://www.naldatwork.ca/information/feature>.

Shop Smart and Save

By Consolidated Credit Counselling Services of Canada Inc. (2009)

http://www.nald.ca/library/learning/ccsc/shop_smart_save_en/shop_smart_save_en.pdf.

Money Savers for New Parents

Tips for aising Baby without Breaking the Bank can be found at

http://www.nald.ca/library/learning/ccsc/money_savers_parents_en/money_savers_parents_en.pdf.