

This Week in Literacy

March 18, 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.

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

2010 NWT PGI Next Week

Support literacy and have fun at the Peter Gzowski Invitational Fundraiser for Literacy Community Concerts in Yellowknife, Monday March 22 and Tuesday, March 23, at 7 pm. Doors open for the raffle at 6 pm. Tickets are available at the NACC Box Office. Everyone is invited to the PGI Premier's Community Feast on Wednesday, March 24 at the Chief Lamallice 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.

Thanks to all the organizations supporting the 2010 PGI! This week we are acknowledging the support of Canarctic Graphics, Coast Fraser Towers, Katlodeeche First Nation, Kingland Ford Sales, Lutra Associates, NTCL, Quality Furniture, the Ptarmigan Inn and the Northwest Territories Power Corporation.

Integrating technology into practice – Educator insights

Do you use new innovative technology in your program? Have you found that new technology is helping you connect with your students or your colleagues? Did they get excited about the latest program, lesson, or tool you introduced them to? We would like to feature adult educators and their stories about integrating technology into practice on our website and in our eNews. If you or someone you know enjoys using new technology and tools in literacy practice, please contact us at info@alphaplus.ca (include Educator Stories in the email title.)

Canada 2010: A Workplace Essential Skills Snapshot

Essential Skills, Province of Manitoba has created a very short on-line survey that asks: who is incorporating workplace Essential Skills in their workplace and how; who isn't and why; and what is still needed? We want workplace leaders and Essential Skills practitioners we know and those we've never even met to weigh in on this to give the most representative picture of what's going on in workplaces across Canada. Please fill out this survey yourself as soon as possible by going to http://www.wem.mb.ca/canada_2010_a_workplace_essential_skills_snapshot.aspx and check out the video series also found on the website.

The Canadian Aboriginal Writing Challenge

Are you a young Aboriginal writer with a story to tell? Are you between the ages of 14 and 18 or 19 and 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>

Canadians have their say on Financial Literacy

Canada's Task Force on Financial Literacy will be in Yellowknife April 6, 2010 as part of an extensive national consultation exploring key issues about how Canadians make financial decisions. "Financial literacy is essential to all Canadians," said Task Force Chair Donald A. Stewart. "It has the power to enhance quality of life for Canadians and their families - at all income levels - and make Canada stronger, more competitive and successful." To find out more or to participate in the online consultation go to <http://www.financialliteracyincanada.com/eng/index.php?PHPSESSID=311933ac88b702f2158f427309c69a8e>

Students on Ice Arctic Expedition

Here is a great opportunity for high school or home school students to join an expedition to the Arctic, a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for youth to expand their knowledge about the circumpolar world, and to gain a global perspective of the Arctic, its wonders, and its present and future challenges. The scholarship includes all travel expenses from home to the Arctic and return. If you are an Aboriginal youth 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: <http://tinyurl.com/SOIScholarships2010> . For more information, contact Niki Trudeau, Participant Coordinator at apply@studentsonice.com or call Toll Free: 1-866-336-6423. Deadline to apply is April 15th, 2010.

In the news

CMEC Summit on Aboriginal Education

Ministers of education and of Aboriginal affairs; First Nations, Métis, and Inuit leaders; and federal government officials came together in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, on February 24 and 25, 2009, for the CMEC Summit on Aboriginal Education:

Strengthening Aboriginal Success. This was a first-ever national dialogue to discuss priorities for moving forward on eliminating the gaps between the educational achievement of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal students in Canada. See the meeting report at

http://www.cmec.ca/Publications/Lists/Publications/Attachments/221/aboriginal_summit_report.pdf

Financial Literacy Key to Teen Credit Card Use

Deciding when your child should have a credit card is a hot topic with parents. But most experts agree that financial literacy is the key to using a credit card responsibly. Under a new US federal law, credit card companies must stay at least 1,000 feet from college campuses if they are offering free pizza or other gifts to entice students to apply for credit cards. See more at <http://www.wibc.com/news/Story.aspx?ID=1205141>

The Changing Canadian Workplace - Special Report from the TD Bank Financial Group

The Canadian workplace has been undergoing a seismic shift in recent decades. Macroeconomic and demographic trends and new workplace standards have changed the definition of a "traditional" career. Employers and workers must face this new paradigm with a different toolset than that which has been used up to this point. This study investigates these trends and the challenges that they present. View this study at http://www.nationtalk.ca/documents/ff0310_canlabFINAL.pdf

Project Information Literacy: An ongoing research project

Researchers at the Information School at the University of Washington released "Lessons Learned: How College Students Seek Information in the Digital Age." According to Sharon A. Weiner, a Professor and W. Wayne Booker Chair in Information Literacy at Purdue University, the findings are troubling. College students think of information seeking as a rote process and tend to use the same small set of information resources no matter what question they have. See more at Information Literacy Weblog <http://information-literacy.blogspot.com/>

Family Literacy Day 2010 a major success

More than 314,000 Canadians participated in Family Literacy Day in January.

"Congratulations to the more than 1,500 libraries, literacy organizations, schools, homes and workplaces who sang for literacy this year to celebrate Family Literacy Day.

Canadians highlighted the importance of parents and children practicing literacy skills by reading, singing and learning together," said Margaret Eaton, President, ABC Life Literacy Canada. "A special thank you to our Family Literacy Day Founding Sponsor Honda Canada for their continued commitment to the literacy cause." For more information on how to celebrate family literacy every day, go to

<http://www.abclifeliteracy.ca> .

New obstacles to literacy in a social-media dependent world

For every student reading a book and talking about it, I have 50 students reading and writing continuously and meaningfully through social media every single day, says John Herman, a language arts high school teacher. Today's students carry a history of complex, meaningful practice in the form of Facebook commenting, instant messaging, thread-based forum writing, and text messaging through mobile devices. Promoting literacy cannot begin without recognition of what these students bring to the table. To read the article visit

http://www.wirenh.com/Features/Cover Stories/You_are_here_201003113985.html

Resources and Websites

Why play?

Brochures for parents and child care providers from the Canadian Association of Family Resource programs offer information on play and child development in 11 languages. http://action.web.ca/home/crru/rsrscs_crru_full.shtml?x=128442

howjsay.com

A free online Talking Dictionary of English Pronunciation. <http://www.howjsay.com/>

National Geographic Education site

<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/education/>

Harper Collins

Play the "Rotten School Game" or visit "Narnia". There are lots of fun things for children on this site at: <http://www.harpercollinschildrens.com/Kids/GamesAndContests/>

New pathfinders

Web resources to support your literacy practice.

<http://alphaplus.ca/newsupdates.asp?eventID=275>

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