

This Week in Literacy

March 25, 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 Children's Book Day	April 2
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.

SkillPlan Online Courses

During April and May 2010 scheduled online courses are Thinking Strategies for Numeracy, Reading at Work and Numeracy at Work. Sessions vary from one to two hours. For registration information go to www.skillplan.ca/English/online_training.htm.

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 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>

Aboriginal Education Research Forum

The sixth annual forum is scheduled for April 13 - 15, 2010 in Winnipeg. For information go to <http://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/aerf/>.

Community Participation and Leadership Call for Proposals

The deadline is April 16th, 2010 to apply to the Community Participation and Leadership funding stream of the New Horizons for Seniors Program. Grants of up to \$25,000 are available for community-based projects that encourage seniors to play a leadership role in the development and implementation of projects. For more information visit http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/eng/community_partnerships/seniors/index.shtml or call Josephine MacKenzie at 766-8307.

The 2010 Canada Post Community Literacy Awards

The deadline is May 21 to nominate a deserving adult learner and/or educator from your community for a prestigious award that recognizes personal achievement. For more information visit http://www.canadapost.ca/cpc_email/Literacy/literacy_2010_1.htm.

In the news

For Economics and Decency's Sake, Let's Help our Indian Students

Globe and Mail, March 15, 2010

Despite years of effort and billions of dollars spent, aboriginals continue to fare worse than all other Canadians on almost every social and economic indicator. Education, particularly higher education, is undeniably one of the keys to fixing this iniquitous state of affairs. According to one study, if aboriginal Canadians were able to increase their educational attainment to the level of other Canadians, our cumulative economic output would grow by an additional \$179-billion by 2026 and government tax revenue would be \$3.5-billion higher. That would be good for aboriginals and all Canadians. For the rest of this story go to <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/opinions/for-economics-and-decencys-sake-lets-help-our-indian-students/article1501388/>.

Education is the key to aboriginal (and Canadian) potential

Globe and Mail, March 19, 2010

The issues facing First Nations today are so wide-ranging it can be difficult to know where to begin. The key is to move on those areas that set a strong foundation for growth. First Nations are united on an agenda for change. For more go to <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/opinions/education-is-the-key-to-aboriginal-and-canadian-potential/article1475104/>.

Turning Green with Literacy

New York Times, March 16, 2010

Long, long ago the Irish pulled off a remarkable feat: they saved the books of the Western world and left them as gifts for all humanity. True enough, the Irish were unlikely candidates for the job. Upon their entrance into Western history in the fifth century, they were the most barbaric of barbarians, practitioners of human sacrifice, cattle rustlers, traders in human beings (the children they captured along the Atlantic edge of Europe), insane warriors who entered battle stark naked. (Who said history is boring?) And yet it was the Irish who were around to pick up the pieces when the Roman Empire collapsed in the West under the increasing assaults of Germanic tribes. Read more at <http://www.nytimes.com/2010/03/17/opinion/17cahill.html>.

Education Reform: Obama's Bipartisan Issue?

Time Magazine, March 17, 2010

When the bare-knuckled brawl over health care reform finally wraps up and the Obama Administration pivots to less divisive topics, education reform may be one of the few issues capable of drawing bipartisan support. Read more:

<http://www.time.com/time/politics/article/0,8599,1972820,00.html>

Pooch power gives kids the courage to be independent

National Post, March 09, 2010

When Dawson turned seven years old, his mother, Becky Brunton, decided it was time for the world to see what he could do. Diagnosed at 18 months with autism, Dawson didn't speak and, according to his mother, people assumed he would never attain any independence. For the full story go to <http://www.nationalpost.com/related/topics/story.html?id=2659980>.

Nigerian Government stages mass literacy campaign via radio

The Nigerian government at the weekend announced the release of \$96.5million to the 36 states of the federation and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) for a radio literacy program. To find out more go to http://234next.com/csp/cms/sites/Next/News/5540561-147/n96million_released_for_mass_literacy_campaign.csp.

Resources and websites

From Compassion to Action

The theme of National Volunteer Week 2010 is From Compassion to Action. For more go to <http://volunteer.ca/nvw/celebrate> and for ideas about how to celebrate go to <http://www.volunteernwt.ca/resources/Docs/National%20Volunteer%20Week%20Kit.pdf>.

Global Action Week on Education

Global Action Week is promoted by the Global Campaign for Education. The theme this year is education financing. For resources go to <http://www.campaignforeducation.org/en/resources/>.

The Language Portal of Canada

This new resource showcases Canadian expertise in the area of language. It informs readers about Canadian resources that deal with different aspects of language. Plain language tools, information about Canadian Aboriginal languages, plus lots more. www.ourlanguages.gc.ca

Daily Sudoku

<http://www.cbc.ca/diversions/sudoku/>