

## This Week in Literacy

### Friday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2007

We are sad to say that Cate Sills, the executive director, is leaving the NWT Literacy Council. She has been with the council for over 10 years. When she first started there were only two staff members working for the council. Since she took over as the Executive Director, the NWT Literacy Council has grown to six staff members and the importance of literacy has been brought to the forefront through Cate's hard work. Cate has made a huge impact in the literacy field in the NWT and across Canada. The board and staff would like to wish Cate success in new job at the Legislative Assembly. We will really miss her! Please wish her well by emailing her at [nwtliteracy@nwtliteracy.ca](mailto:nwtliteracy@nwtliteracy.ca).

Tell us what you think. Do you like the new weekly format or do you prefer a monthly format? Please email us and let us know. [nwtliteracy@nwtliteracy.ca](mailto:nwtliteracy@nwtliteracy.ca) or [lisa@nwtliteracy.ca](mailto:lisa@nwtliteracy.ca).

#### In this E-News

- [Community Events and Information](#)
- [In the News](#)
- [New Resources and Websites](#)
- [NWT Literacy Council Membership](#)

---

## Community Events and Information

### January 27th is Family Literacy Day

#### 1. Family Literacy Information

The NWT Literacy Council is developing a Family Literacy Day package to be sent to all communities in the NWT. The package will have fun ideas for family literacy activities and promotional items. Get a head start on planning. The information from the package will be on our website next week.

## 2. **Author Visit**

Richard Van Camp will visit Yellowknife, Behchokö and Fort Smith in early January to celebrate family literacy. He will be launching his new book *Welcome Song for Baby: A lullaby for newborns*. He will be at the Yellowknife Public Library Meeting Rooms on January 7th from 10:30 – 11:30. Parents and their babies are welcome to come. There will be songs, storytelling, snacks and lots of book prizes. In the coming weeks we will have his schedule for Behchokö and Fort Smith.

## 3. **Munsch at Home Contest**

There's still time to enter the Munsch at Home contest to win a visit from best-selling children's author Robert Munsch, honorary chair of Family Literacy Day. Families are invited to send their applications to ABC CANADA Literacy Foundation for the contest deadline of 5:00 PM EST on December 14. Contestants can find out more about the contest and download an application form at [http://www.abc-canada.org/fld/munsch\\_contest.shtml](http://www.abc-canada.org/fld/munsch_contest.shtml).

## 4. **Tell ABC Canada About Your FLD Event & WIN!!**

Please take a few minutes to tell ABC Canada about your planned FLD event and you will be entered into a draw for a chance to win a collection of autographed Robert Munsch books! Tell them about your event at: [http://www.abc-canada.org/fld/your\\_event.shtml](http://www.abc-canada.org/fld/your_event.shtml).

## 5. **Family Literacy Day discussion on Alpha**

You are invited to join the Family Literacy discussion and talk with family literacy coordinators across the country! Visit the AlphaPlus website directly at <http://www.alphaplus.ca/eng.asp> and select "AlphaCom discussions" from the AlphaCom discussion navigation at the top of the page. Register with AlphaCom and then join the Family Literacy Day discussion - the registration is free!

## **Building Communities through Arts and Heritage Program**

next deadline is January 14, 2008:

In September 2007, the Department of Canadian Heritage [ [http://www.pch.gc.ca/progs/dcap-bcah/index\\_e.cfm](http://www.pch.gc.ca/progs/dcap-bcah/index_e.cfm) ] announced a new funding program with two components. Many NWT organizations may be eligible for support for projects which feature local artists, heritage activities, or historical anniversaries.

### **Contact Your Local Canadian Heritage Office:**

Government of Canada Building  
5101 - 50th Avenue, Third Floor  
Yellowknife, Northwest Territories  
X1A 2N4  
Toll-free: 1 800 661 0585

### **Kindle: Amazon's New Wireless Reading Device**

The new revolutionary *electronic-paper* display provides a sharp, high-resolution screen that looks and reads like real paper. It's simple to use: no computer, no cables, no syncing. You can buy a book and it is auto-delivered wirelessly in less than one minute. There are more than 90,000 books available, including 100 of 112 current *New York Times*® Best Sellers. **Curious?** Click on <http://www.amazon.com/Kindle-Amazon's-Wireless-Reading-Device/dp/B000FI73MA> for more information.

---

## **In the News**

### **B.C. Students Among Top in the World For Literacy**

VICTORIA – British Columbia students have one of the highest literacy levels in the world according to the latest international student assessment, Education Minister Shirley Bond announced today. “B.C. is a world leader in literacy and this international assessment proves that,” said Bond. “This is the first year B.C. students have participated in this assessment and the results are outstanding. I'd like to thank our students, parents, educators, trustees and support staff for their efforts and commitment to improving literacy for all students in our province.” The Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS) was released today by the International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement, a global co-operative of national research institutes and governments. More than 215,000 Grade 4 students in 40 countries and five Canadian provinces participated, including over 4,100 students from British Columbia. British Columbia, Alberta and Ontario were recognized by PIRLS as three of the highest achieving participants. B.C. was recognized as having one of the smallest differences between male and female student achievement of any jurisdiction in the world. Girls generally score higher on these tests than boys, and in many countries by a wide margin. The PIRLS survey questions also identified B.C. students as having a high level of reading for pleasure, a key indicator of success. “Literacy is a top priority for this government and clearly for British Columbians,” said Bond. “The results we see here show that our ReadNow BC

literacy strategy is working to make our province the most literate jurisdiction, not only in North America, but in the world.”

## **International Adult Learners' Week**

The Secretary-General, David A. Walden, is pleased to inform you that the Ministry of Human Resources and Skills Development Canada has approved the grant requested by the Canadian Commission for UNESCO for both fiscal years 2007-2008 and 2008-2009. This means there is a plan to coordinate International Adult Learners' Week (IALW) in Canada in March 2008 and March 2009. The project will seek to achieve the following objectives:

- Increase the visibility of adult learning and promote literacy and learning throughout life;
- Reach out and give voice to adult learners, especially those from marginalized groups;
- Develop cooperation among partners in all learning environments at both governmental and non-governmental levels to promote adult learning.

They are considering Monday, March 3 to Sunday, March 10, 2008 as the dates for the Week, and the Commission plans to draft a framework for action to be discussed during a consultation meeting scheduled in early December in Ottawa.

## **Montreal's Books to Prisoners Program**

No Canadian should be deprived of the right to read or access information. Even those in prison. Independent organization Books to Prisoners – known as Open Doors Books in Montreal – puts this belief into action. More information can be found at [www.mcgilldaily.com/view.php?aid=6754](http://www.mcgilldaily.com/view.php?aid=6754).

---

## **New Resources and Websites**

### **Free reproducible language and early literacy activities (Washington Learning Systems)**

To download materials go to [www.wlearning.com](http://www.wlearning.com) and click on the purple button that says "Free Parent Education Handouts" on the home page. There are hundreds of activities you can use with children and families. This is a great resource!

## **Literacy Matters Newsletter**

The NWT Literacy Council will be sending their fall/winter newsletter to you next week. Look for it in the mail. We will also have the newsletter on the website as soon as possible.

## **Making it clear: A Clear Language and Design screen and checklist**

Click on <http://www.nald.ca/library/learning/clc/checklist/cover.htm> to load the document.

## **NALD@Work: National Adult Literacy Database launches new website to support workplace learning**

The National Adult Literacy Database (NALD) expanded its services with the launch of NALD@Work, a website that will benefit the workplace literacy and essential skills community in Canada. NALD@Work ([www.naldatwork.ca](http://www.naldatwork.ca)) is an Internet database of information and resources. It is a one-stop shopping site for program models and approaches, teaching, learning and research materials, news, events, contacts, websites, tools and support – all available in one central location.

---

## **NWT Literacy Council Membership?**

Have you renewed your membership with the NWT Literacy Council? If not, why not take a moment and do so right away - that way you can stroke it off your New Year's resolution list! Donations are also gratefully accepted. A membership application form is posted on our web site at: [www.nwt.literacy.ca/aboutus/about.htm](http://www.nwt.literacy.ca/aboutus/about.htm). It's halfway down the right hand column under "About Us." Memberships are \$10 for an individual, \$20 for families, and \$25 for organizations and businesses. You can print a copy of the form from our web site and mail in your cheque or money order. Or you can drop by our office at 5122 - 48th Street in Yellowknife.

*Lisa Campbell*  
Community Literacy Coordinator  
NWT Literacy Council  
Box 761  
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2N6  
Toll Free: 1-866-599-6758  
Phone: (867) 873-9262  
Fax : (867) 873-2176  
E-mail: [lisa@nwtliteracy.ca](mailto:lisa@nwtliteracy.ca)  
Web Site: [www.nwt.literacy.ca](http://www.nwt.literacy.ca)

**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.**



**NWT LITERACY COUNCIL**