

# This Week in Literacy

December 11, 2008

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.

## In this E-News

- [Literacy Dates](#)
- [Community Events and Information](#)
- [In the News](#)
- [Resources and Websites](#)

## Literacy Dates

National Family Literacy Day	January 27, 2009
Aboriginal Languages Month	March 2009
International Children's Book Day	April 2, 2009
World Book Day	April 23, 2009

## Community Events and Information

### Bookmaking Workshop - Yellowknife

We had so much interest in our bookmaking workshop that we decided to hold another one. If you would like to register for this workshop, please contact Kathryn Barry Paddock at [kathryn@nwtliteracy.ca](mailto:kathryn@nwtliteracy.ca) or call us at 873-9262. You must register to attend!

When: December 1, 2008

Time: 7 – 10 pm

Where: TBA

Cost: FREE!

### Program Planning and Proposal Writing Workshop – Inuvik

Do you want to learn how to write an effective proposal? Do you want to plan for your community? Would you like to learn about different funding pots for literacy and family literacy? The NWT Literacy Council is hosting a Program Planning and Proposal Writing Workshop in Inuvik – January 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>, 2009. To register for this workshop go to our website and download a registration form or email [lisa@nwtliteracy.ca](mailto:lisa@nwtliteracy.ca) or call us at 1-866-599-6758. The workshop is free, however participants must pay their own travel and accommodation.

When: January 27 and 28, 2009

Time: 9 am – 4 pm

Where: TBA

Cost: FREE

## **Time is running out to win a fun, family experience featuring best-selling author Robert Munsch**

Visit [www.FamilyLiteracyDay.ca](http://www.FamilyLiteracyDay.ca) for your chance to host Canada's foremost children's author in your very own home. ABC CANADA Literacy Foundation wants to remind Canadians about the fourth annual *Munsch at Home* contest for a chance to win a visit from Robert Munsch, best-selling children's author and honorary chair of Family Literacy Day® (FLD). To be eligible, families must mail their applications to ABC CANADA Literacy Foundation by 5 p.m. (EST) on December 12, 2008. Contestants can download application forms from the Family Literacy Day pages of the ABC CANADA website, at [www.FamilyLiteracyDay.ca](http://www.FamilyLiteracyDay.ca). Each entry must include a short description of how the family plans to celebrate FLD together. To read more about this contest go to [www.FamilyLiteracyDay.ca](http://www.FamilyLiteracyDay.ca)

## **Submitting learners' stories to NALD**

*Story of the Week* is a very important and a very popular feature of the NALD website. Adult learners get the opportunity and the space to share their personal stories of how they were able to overcome obstacles and learn to read and write. In addition, when adult learners read an inspirational story written by another learner, they very often become motivated to write their own stories. In this way, they demonstrate their success and contribute to the educational process for others. To learn more about the guidelines or how you can submit your learners' stories go to <http://www.nald.ca/info/whatnew/headline/2008/story-of-the-week.htm>

## **Author Visit**

James Raffan author of *Emperor of the North: Sir George Simpson and the Remarkable Story of the Hudson's Bay Company* will be in Yellowknife on Saturday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Yellowknife Book Cellar. Come and meet James and review his new book at 2:00 pm this Saturday.

## **In the News**

### **How to Choose a Children's Book (For Grandparents, the Childless, and the Clueless)**

November 12, 10:37 AM

by Terri Schlichenmeyer, [Midwest Book Examiner](#)

So you say you've got a child on your holiday gift list this year. You've already made a pilgrimage to the local bookstore and you're overwhelmed. There were hundreds of books to look at, zillions of choices, toys, games, crying kids... you couldn't escape fast enough. Empty-handed, of course. So now what? You'd like to give the kid a book for a gift, being the smart auntie / grandparent / honorary uncle / future step-parent that you are, but you don't have Clue One where to start. And that's why you're online. HELP!

### **For infants to age two:**

This is an easy age when it comes to buying books. Four words - cloth books, board books. Cloth books are just that: books made of cloth. They can be chewed-on, put in the laundry, thrown (and nobody will get hurt if they're smacked with a cloth book), slept with, and while they're not indestructible, they're the next best thing. Board books are heavy cardboard, not quite as durable as

cloth books but probably more interesting if you're two years old. The thing about buying books for this age group is that, for the most part, the buying is really for Mom.

### **For toddlers and preschoolers ages three to five:**

This is the fun age. Think picture books... you know, those larger-sized books with lots of fabulous illustrations. New picture books come out all the time and there are some really cute ones. "Pete & Pickles" by Berkeley Breathed is one of my favorites. Kids this age love the "Walter the Farting Dog" books (especially if you read them with sound effects). You'll find "girl" books and "boy" books, Christmas, Hanukkah, and Kwanzaa books, as well as books for African American children, Asian children, differently abled children... all kinds of books for kids of this age. Really, go look at the picture books. You'll have a hard time choosing what to give. To read the whole article go to <http://www.examiner.com/x-936-Midwest-Book-Examiner~y2008m11d12-How-to-Choose-a-Childrens-Book-For-Grandparents-the-Childless-and-the-Clueless>

### **Afghan literacy programme launches in Bamiyan**

© UNESCO/Roya Aziz/Star Group, 14-11-2008

Hundreds of villagers gathered to celebrate a pilot literacy programme launched by UNESCO Kabul in Bamiyan.

UNESCO and the Afghan Ministry of Education have established 32 literacy classes in the Shaidan region of Bamiyan Province as a pilot scheme for the Enhancement of Literacy in Afghanistan programme (ELA). Along with literacy, the ELA programme aims to provide vocational skills trainings and micro-credit facilities to the newly literate and link them with income generation opportunities. At the inauguration ceremony Mr Shigeru Aoyagi, Director of UNESCO Kabul, said the programme would cover 18 provinces in two phases and serve 600,000 people, of which 60 per cent would be women. Mr. Aoyagi said: "Shaidan's success is Bamiyan's success and Bamiyan's success is Afghanistan's success". He also thanked the Government of Japan for providing 15 million US\$ for the implementation of the first phase of the programme. Mr. Mohammad Raza, Director of the Education Department for Bamiyan province, said illiteracy was a major obstacle on the road to the country's development.

### **Hey, kids, try this at home: Beat your video-game addiction**

Cathy Wing and Arletter Lefebvre, Special to Globe and Mail Update

November 17, 2008 at 12:02 AM EST

The recent disappearance and death of a 15-year-old Ontario boy after a dispute with his parents over a video game has brought to the fore long-simmering concerns about computer games. This is not the first time these issues have been raised; people have been worried about video games since *Space Invaders* or even *Pong*. What's changed is that game playing has become nearly universal among youth: Nearly all children and teens - 97 per cent, according to the Pew Internet and American Life Project - play computer games at least occasionally.

With so many young people playing video games, more parents are expressing concerns about their addictive qualities. Many of the game players are worried as well: According to a Harris Interactive poll released in January, 23 per cent of gamers surveyed said they felt addicted to video games. It's long been a measure of praise to call a game "addictive," but it's now becoming clear that, for at least some people, both youth and adults, gaming can bear many of the characteristics of an addiction: a

sense of euphoria; an inability to stop thinking about it; neglecting family, friends and school or work; and even physical symptoms such as migraines and sleep disturbance. To read the whole article go to

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/story/RTGAM.20081114.wcogaming17/BNStory/specialComment>

### **Boosting literacy levels in the military: Same teaching principles can be applied for adults, adolescents and children**

By Tom Sticht

At times in the United States it has been necessary for the military services to recruit, train and utilize personnel whose literacy and/or English language skills were at a low level. In these times the military has implemented literacy programs for illiterate or non-English-speaking recruits. Later, some of those who worked on literacy programs in the military went on to apply methods used in the military programs to the literacy education of adults, adolescents and children in the civilian world. Three of these bridges from military to civilian literacy education are summarized below to illustrate some salient principles in teaching reading across the age span. To read the whole article go to <http://www.nald.ca/info/whatnew/headline/2008/sticht-nov17.htm>

## **Resources and Websites**

### **Literacy in the workplace: Examples of programs, activities and exercises**

The manual *Literacy in the Workplace* is a creation of L'ABC Communautaire (Welland, Ontario) in partnership with the Collège du Savoir (Brampton, Ontario). It is addressed to those trainers who wish to deliver basic skills training in the workplace. *Literacy in the Workplace* is a collection of training programs consisting of activities and exercises for different workplace environments. These examples of programs can be used as is or as a source of inspiration for the creation of other training programs. To download a copy go to <http://www.nald.ca/library/learning/litwork/cover.htm>

### **2008 Summer Tutoring Program for Kids Final Report**

PEI Literacy Alliance

#### **Background**

The Summer Tutoring Program for Kids (STPK) runs for eight weeks during July and August every year. It is offered free of charge. The program began in 1998 with 5 tutors tutoring 97 children in 8 libraries across PEI. Since 2001, the PEI Literacy Alliance has been the community sponsor for the STPK. In 2008, 25 tutors tutored 762 children in 25 libraries, schools, and community centers.

#### **Purpose and Benefits**

The purpose of this program was to support the learning objectives of the school system by offering an alternative learning environment during the summer months. The program offered numerous benefits for children with reading difficulties, including:

- personal attention for one hour per week
- learning made fun
- knowledge of how to use a public library and its databases

- introduction to reading as an activity that continues outside the
- classroom
- introduction to a wide variety of library books
- increased self-esteem and confidence

To read this report go to <http://www.nald.ca/library/learning/stpk08/cover.htm>

### **NWT Literacy Council Annual Report**

We have posted our annual report on our website. To review our programs and services from 2007-08 go to <http://www.nwt.literacy.ca/annualrep.htm>