

This Week in Literacy

December 19, 2008

**The NWT Literacy Council board and staff
would like to wish you a very happy holiday
and all the best in the New Year!**

The NWT Literacy Council will close December 23rd at 5:00 pm and open again on January 5th.

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

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

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 27th and 28th, 2009. To register for this workshop download a registration form from our website, email 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: Aurora College, Inuvik

Cost: FREE

Family Literacy Day – January 27th, 2009

The NWT Literacy Council will be sending Family Literacy Day packages in the mail in early January. The packages will include several How-to-Kits and some promotional material from ABC Canada. Start planning your activities now! You can call the NWT Literacy Council for help and free books!

2009 Mathieu Da Costa Challenge

Enter the 2009 Mathieu Da Costa Challenge – National writing and artwork contest! The deadline for submissions is Friday, February 20, 2009. Simply fill out the entry form online at www.mathieudacosta.gc.ca and send it along with your original piece of writing or artwork to the following address:

The Mathieu Da Costa Challenge
334 Churchill Avenue North
Ottawa, Ontario
K1Z 5B9

You can find out more information about the contest at their website www.mathieudacosta.gc.ca

In the News

Kansas tries a new tactic for helping children to read

By **Jim Sullinger**, *The Kansas City Star*

Kansas parents now have a powerful new tool to improve their children's reading ability. It's called Kansas Book Connect, a Web site that lists books that fit the reading level and interests of each Kansas student. Kansas is the first state to deploy it, according to officials at Renaissance Learning, a Wisconsin company working with the state's Department of Education to offer the service. To read more go to <http://www.kansascity.com/115/story/928504.html>

A Holiday Reading Tradition For The Whole Family

by **Lynn Neary**

In the dark days after Thanksgiving, before the holiday season is in full swing, Sally Kern drags out a big box filled not with holiday decorations — those will come later — but with books. Sally and Stephen Kern read to their kids pretty much every night, but the books in this box are special, reserved for this time of year only. They are filled with stories, mostly about Christmas, but also about Hanukkah, Kwanzaa and the winter solstice. "I think it's wonderful to have books as a centering activity this time of year, because everything does get ratcheted up," says Sally Kern. "Even before Thanksgiving, the Christmas pummel starts. And so this is something that is very grounding for them and for us." To read this article go to <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=98308208>

Resources and Websites

Literacy Express Newsletter for November 2008

<http://www.literacy.ca/themes/mcl/lexpress/nov08/1.htm>

Fact Sheet – Reading the future: Trying to meet Canada’s future literacy needs

Canadian Council on Learning

<http://www.ccl-cca.ca/NR/rdonlyres/4B4EAB1B-828B-4BF3-B5D8-65B2A8CFB165/0/LiteracyReadingFutureFactSheetE.PDF>

Talk to Your Baby

Lots of different resources and documents on language development and literacy development.

Definitely worth checking out! Some examples are:

- Baby’s First Words
- Communicating Through Music
- Communicating Dads
- Early Language Advocacy Kit
- Talk to Me
- Talk to Your Baby

<http://www.literacytrust.org.uk/talktoyourbaby/resourcesttyblist.html>

Updated Indicators in Education

The Canadian Education Statistics Council released 54 updated tables from the report *Education Indicators in Canada: A Report of the Pan-Canadian Education Indicators Program (PCEIP)*. Released in December 2007, the report is a comprehensive data compendium on the characteristics and functioning of education systems in the provinces and territories. It examines key developments and emerging trends related to the school-age population, the financing of education systems, and the school-to-work transition.

The updated tables include information on children living in low income circumstances, public and private expenditures on education, student achievement, apprenticeship, educators in public elementary and secondary schools, educational attainment for the general population and for people with Aboriginal identity, student pathways and transitions, and earnings relative to educational attainment.

This update also contains new tables looking at the results from the 2003 International Adult Literacy and Skills Survey (IALSS). Seven countries participated in this survey gathering information on adults using printed information to function in society. Conducted in 2003, IALSS is the Canadian component of the Adult Literacy and Life Skills study, a joint project among the Government of Canada, the US National Center for Education Statistics, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), and the Institute for Statistics (UIS) of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

The new tables are available for download at <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/81-582-x/2007001/update-miseajour200816-eng.htm>.