



e - News

NWT Literacy Council

November 2003

The NWT Literacy Council will be holding its ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING on Friday November 14, 2003 at 12 Noon – 1:30 pm in the Abe Miller Centre Meeting Room. A light lunch will be served. For more information, you can contact us at 873-9262 or e-mail csills@nwtliteracy.ca.

Agenda

- Presentation of the 2002-2003 Annual Report
- Election of Executive Officers
- Proposed changes to our by-laws

NWT Elections

The NWT Territorial Election will be held on November 24th and there are lots of ways to get involved. You can write letters, invite the candidates into your program to talk about issues, or participate in forums. Check the Elections How To Kit for lots of ideas: <http://www.nwt.literacy.ca/famlit/howtokit/election/election.pdf>

The Northern Edge, our online literacy newspaper, has information on how to vote and how to get involved in the election. <http://www.nwt.literacy.ca/famlit/howtokit/election/election.pdf> You will need Macromedia Flash Player on your computer to view The Northern Edge. If you don't have the Flash Player, you can click on the link on the first page of The Northern Edge to download it.

Websites

ESL Magazine Online <http://www.eslmag.com/>

PIZZAZ! is dedicated to providing simple creative writing and oral storytelling activities with copyable (yes, copyable!) handouts for use with students of all ages. Permission is given to use these resources for in-class, non-profit use only.

<http://www.uoregon.edu/%7Eleslieob/pizzaz.html>

Education Place Houghton Mifflin - Search for activities by keyword or browse by topic or theme <http://www.eduplace.com/activity/>

November Family Literacy Activities

<http://www.peel.edu.on.ca/parents/activities/act.htm>

Fun activities for you and your preschool child

1. Take your child to the library and borrow a book about winter.
2. Bake cookies with your child today. Have him pick the flavour.
3. Visit the local bakery today to buy fresh bread to make sandwiches for lunch.
4. Help your child identify the different colours she uses to colour in her colouring book.
5. Collect leaves with your child and explain why leaves fall off trees.
6. Look at a calendar together. Count the days left until the next family member's birthday.
7. Experiment with different textures today. Make bears out of clay.
8. Learn a new song together. Think up actions for it too.
9. Talk with your child about hibernation and animals that hibernate.
10. Cook breakfast together for the rest of the family.
11. Fill a pot with water. Find out which objects will float and which will sink when you drop one in.
12. Explain to your child how opposites work. Say a word and ask him to say the opposite.
13. Write 10 things to do during a snowstorm on pieces of paper. Fold the piece of paper and place it in a jar. When a stormy day arrives, have your child pick one of the surprise activities from the jar.
14. Ask your child to take on a special responsibility today.
15. Read a book about winter with your child.
16. Build a bird feeder with your child. Roll a pinecone in peanut butter and sprinkle with bird seed. Tie a piece of string to your new feeder and hang outside.
17. Borrow the book *Stone Soup* by Paul Thain from the library. Make soup and talk to your child about the ingredients you use.
18. Make a list of five things that would be fun to do in the snow.
19. Borrow the book *Goodnight Moon* by Margaret Wise Brown. Read to your child and look at tonight's full moon before bed.
20. Go through magazines and pick out pictures of her favourite things. Make a scrapbook of them throughout the year.
21. Look into the sky tonight with your child and count all the stars you can see.
22. Borrow a book on sports from the library. Talk about what his favourite sport is.
23. Practice counting with your child while you set the dinner table. How many plates are there? How many forks?
24. Draw, paint and cut out pictures of animals with fur. Talk about how the fur helps animals stay warm. If possible, provide scraps of synthetic fur for your child to touch. How does it feel?
25. Teach your child how to print her name.
26. Today is National Cake Day. Bake a cake with your child.
27. Now that the days are getting shorter, have your child draw a picture of a sun and hang it on your refrigerator.
28. Ask your child to find five green foods in the grocery store. Make them together for dinner.
29. Go to the library and borrow a book about pets. Discuss with your child the things we must do to care for our pets properly.
30. Plan an activity party for your child's friends. Invite them over to play games.

Fun activities for you and your elementary school child

1. Borrow a book on astronomy from the library. Talk with your child about the planets and stars.
2. Ask your child to paint a picture of the fall season. Hang the picture on the refrigerator for the whole family to enjoy.
3. Include your child in making simple family decisions. What kind of dessert should we have tonight?
4. Take photographs of your family. Work with your child to make a family tree.
5. Play alphabet soup. Mix up all the letters in the alphabet and get your child to put together as many words as possible.
6. Today is the birthday of James Naismith, inventor of basketball. Ask your son to name his favourite basketball player.
7. Discuss with your child the best and worst parts of your day. Ask her to do the same.
8. November is Child Safety month. Talk with your child about how to stay safe.
9. Plan a no TV night. Instead, have a family game of bingo.
10. Complete a word puzzle together with your child.
11. Talk with your child about Remembrance Day and the significance of the poppy. Read the poem In Flanders Fields by John McCrae. This poem may be found at www.emory.edu/ENGLISH/LostPoets/McCrae.html.
12. Ask your child to find a new word. Can he use the word in three sentences?
13. Encourage your child to write a letter to her best friend. Send it in the mail for a special surprise.
14. Watch a half hour television show with your child. How did the program match your family's values? Did the characters make good choices? What other choices could they have made?
15. It's Apple Month. Ask your child to help you make an apple pie for dessert tonight.
16. Look for ways to motivate your child to write. Leave notes in different places around the house and ask for him to write back.
17. Today is national hiking day. Spend some time exercising with your child by going for a hike.
18. Borrow a library book you enjoyed when you were your child's age. Read it together.
19. Ask your child to clip grocery store coupons of your favourite products. Redeem them together later.
20. November is international drum month. Is your child interested in music? Now's a great time to introduce her to a musical instrument.
21. On this day in 1877, Thomas Edison announced his first great invention – the phonograph, a way to record and play back sound. Discuss with your child the use of records and record players when you were growing up. Search the internet for other things Thomas Edison invented?
22. Encourage your child to sort out his books by subject.
23. Extend bedtime tonight and let your child read in bed.
24. Ask each member of your family to think of a favourite vegetable. Combine them into a vegetable soup. Read the story Stone Soup by Paul Thain.
25. Play a game of charades with your child.
26. Today is National Cake Day. Bake a cake with your child.
27. Ask your child what changes she'd make if she were principal of her school for a day.

28. Give your child a math problem to solve. Talk with him about how he would solve the problem. Can he think of a different way to solve the problem?
29. Teach your child to be independent. Decide on a task together that would make her more independent.
30. It's Mark Twain's birthday. Read one of his short stories to your child. Have him explain to you what he liked or didn't like it.

Fun activities for you and your middle school child

1. On this day in 1512, the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel in Rome was exhibited to the public for the first time. What famous Italian artist painted the ceiling? Visit the library to find out this fact and other interesting information about the artist.
2. Encourage your child to write a letter to one of his friends. Take him to the post office to mail it.
3. Think of something your child knows how to do, but you don't. Ask her to show you how. For example, she could teach you how to use the internet or program the VCR.
4. Encourage your child to join a sports team. Teach him about responsibility, he needs to know that others will depend on him to be there for practices and for games.
5. This is apple month. Have some hot apple cider together.
6. Today is the birthday of James Naismith, inventor of basketball. Shoot some hoops with your child this afternoon.
7. November is international drum month. Is your child interested in music? Now is a good time to introduce her to a new instrument.
8. Encourage your child to write a creative story. Suggest that he draw pictures. Read the story as a family before bedtime.
9. Have your child invite a friend over after school. Encourage them to do their homework together.
10. Make today "No TV Day." Use books, games and discussion for entertainment instead.
11. Talk with your child about Remembrance Day and the significance of the poppy. Read the poem In Flanders Fields by John McCrae. This poem may be found at www.emory.edu/ENGLISH/LostPoets/McCrae.html.
12. Spend some time with your child doing homework. Have her explain the homework assignment and what she's learning.
13. Encourage your child to create a family newsletter. When it's finished, mail the newsletter to friends and relatives.
14. Visit your local community centre and pick a project or activity to get involved in.
15. Get your child to learn a new word. Pick a new word and encourage him to use it five times in the day.
16. Ask your child to take some photographs of the family. Put them together in a scrapbook.
17. Visit the library and ask your child to choose a book that has also been made into a movie. After you have both read the book, watch the movie together. Discuss the differences between the two.
18. Teach your child about having a budget. Let her pick one item that she wants to save up for.
19. At the dinner table, ask family members to name the thing they are most grateful for about their day.
20. With your child, sign up for an exercise class to participate in during the winter months.

21. On this day in 1877, Thomas Edison announced his first great invention – the phonograph, a way to play back sound. What else did Thomas Edison invent?
22. Get your child to decorate lunch bags for another family members lunch tomorrow.
23. Ask your child what they would do differently if they were prime minister for a day.
24. Give your child a journal. Encourage him to write for five minutes every night before bed.
25. Ask your child to take on a special responsibility today.
26. Plan a weekend family activity. Encourage your child to invite a friend.
27. Have your child plan an activity she can do with her younger siblings.
28. Give your child a math problem. Ask him to solve it. How did he get to the answer?
29. Subscribe to an educational magazine the whole family will enjoy.
30. Ask your child to come up with a new winter activity the whole family will enjoy. Then, have her plan the family outing.

Activities for you and your secondary school child

1. On this day in 1512, the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel in Rome was exhibited to the public for the first time. Ask your teen if she knows which famous Italian artist painted the ceiling? What else can she tell you about this artist?
2. Go to the library together and borrow a book that has been made into a movie. After you have both read the book, watch the movie and discuss what is different.
3. Encourage your teen to save. Have him pick something he wants to purchase.
4. Encourage your teen to take candid photos of the family. Put them together in a scrapbook.
5. Today is Take Our Kids to Work Day – a day that provides an opportunity for grade 9 students to spend a day in a parent's workplace. Enjoy the experience and ask your teen what she learned.
6. Would you like to learn how to surf the internet? Ask your teen to show you how.
7. Visit the community centre with your teen and choose an activity to do together.
8. Check out the "Student Stuff" section of the Peel board's web site with your teen to see what's new -- www.peelschools.org
9. At the dinner table tonight, have each family member share the best, worse and most grateful parts of their day.
10. Is there a college or university nearby? Make plans to take a tour with your teen.
11. It's Remembrance Day. Talk with your teen about the significance of the day.
12. Is your teen learning how to drive or interested in getting his driver's licence? Make time to talk about safe driving.
13. Talk with your teen about what makes a real hero. Encourage her to write a letter to her hero.
14. Take the whole family out for a special breakfast today.
15. Spend some time talking with your teen about his homework assignments. Have him explain to you what he's learning.
16. Learn more about personal wellness. Visit the Peel board's Take One Step web site at www.takeonestep.org.
17. Visit your local library and borrow a book about career choices. Talk to your teen about the steps she must take to pursue different careers.
18. Subscribe to an educational magazine the whole family will enjoy.
19. Ask your teen to compose a family newsletter. It can then be mailed out to friends and family.

20. Regular exercise is important. Join an exercise class with your teen to stay in shape during the winter months.
21. Find a volunteer activity you can do with your teen and other members of your family.
22. Find an article or a cartoon you think your teen would enjoy. Leave it in his room.
23. Leave notes of encouragement for your teen around the house for them to find.
24. This week is AIDS Awareness Week. Talk with your teen about HIV/AIDS. Find out what events/activities are planned for the week at your teen's school or in your community.
25. Ask your teen to make dinner as a special treat for the family.
26. Turn off the TV tonight and make it family game night.
27. If you're planning to make a large purchase, ask your teen to conduct some research. Which store offers the best buy?
28. Visit the library with your teen and borrow a book you will both enjoy. After you are finished, discuss what you liked and did not like about the book.
29. Ask your teen to make a list of activities she would like to do over the holiday break. Encourage her to start saving now.
30. Declare today a Random Act of Kindness Day. Ask your teen to come up with ways to help others today.