



Literacy in Action

The Bulletin of Literacy Alberta

Mark Your Calendar!

December 7, 2005

Red Deer Regional Meeting
Donna Grutter,
dgrutter@literacyalberta.ca

January 27, 2006

Family Literacy Day
www.abc-canada.org/flid

January 30, 2006

Call for Papers Deadline
Early Years Conference
www.albertaearlyyears.ca

March 16-17, 2006

Alberta FASD Conference
Calgary AB
charmion.rebus@gov.ab.ca
780-422-6494

March 19-22, 2006

The 38th Banff International
Conference on Behavioural Science
"Violence in the Lives of Children and
Families"
Banff AB
www.banffbehavsci.ubc.ca

April 24-26, 2006

Community Learning Network
Conference
Edmonton AB
Mairi Babey, 403-948-5667 or
clnmgr@telusplanet.net

December 05/January 06 Practitioner/Volunteer Edition

Announcements

Congratulations to Awards of Excellence Winners!

These awards were presented on Friday, November 5, 2005 to the following outstanding people:

- Organization: Mustard Seed Street Ministry **Storefront 101 Project**, Calgary
- Practitioner: **Audrey Gardner**, Calgary
- Volunteer: **Melody Wakefield**, Wainwright
- Student: **Trish Hill**, Magrath

For stories on the winners, go to www.literacyalberta.ca/events.htm.

Literacy: Making Connections

This year's conference was a big success with 328 registrants enjoying a variety of workshops including Encouraging Learner Writing, An Introduction to Workplace Essential Skills, and Connecting Culture, Language, and Literacy. Next year, we are pleased to host the Provincial Literacy Conference (PLC) at the Fairmont Palliser Hotel in Calgary on November 2, 3 and 4, 2006. Watch for the Call for Papers soon.

Bursary News

We awarded bursaries to attend the PLC to 54 students and 42 tutors this year. If a student or tutor in your literacy program received a bursary to attend the conference, please encourage them to send a short letter to Literacy Alberta describing what the bursary meant to them. Please send letters to Candice Jackson at the Literacy Alberta office.

Renew Your Membership!

Your membership provides a voice for literacy in Alberta and helps us to support people involved in literacy activities. Benefits include:

- use of our library and traveling resource materials
- access to our online community, *Share*
- discounts to attend professional development workshops
- a vote in our 2006 election

Help us keep our admin costs down by renewing as soon as you get your first renewal form in the mail. That way, you will be a member in good standing and will continue to receive news and information.



Literacy
Alberta

Literacy Help Line of Alberta: 1-800-767-3231

Library News

Did you know that members can borrow items from our library? No matter where you live, our library comes to you through our collection of Traveling Trunks and Totes. Topics include ESL, Family Literacy, Learning Disabilities, Tutor Training, and more.

We are currently developing these new trunks with estimated launch dates of early 2006:

- Aboriginal Literacy
- AWES (Alberta Workplace Essential Skills)
- Needs Assessment
- Self-Care for Practitioners

For all your library questions, contact Laura at library@literacyalberta.ca.

Surfing Sites...

http://ldlink.coe.utk.edu/ld_work_issues.htm

This site addresses an issue of prime importance to those with learning disabilities: how to engage in satisfying and successful work. It also raises awareness of learning disabilities for employers and workers.



<http://www.statcan.ca/english/dai-quo/subs.htm>

Get the latest information free of charge from Statistics Canada on the subjects of your choice, delivered right to your desktop immediately upon release.

Regional Roundup

Edmonton STAR team meets on the first Tuesday of each month. Our next student/tutor conference is October 2006. We will send a letter and flyer to each of the programs in the area offering to bring workshops right to their program. For more info contact Rebecca Still at 780-968-7617 or rstill@literacyalberta.ca.

Calgary STAR team will host a one-day conference in the next year. As a planning group, they have met several times and sent out surveys to programs, students and tutors in the Calgary region. Almost 200 people from the Calgary region completed the survey! For more info contact Berniece Gowan at 403-410-6991 or bgowan@literacyalberta.ca.

Lethbridge STAR team will host a one-day conference on February 8 at Lethbridge Community College. The conference is for students, tutors, and practitioners. Brochures will be sent to members and programs in the Lethbridge region in December. For more info contact Monika Ekvall at 403-382-6979 or m.ekvall@lethbridgecollege.ab.ca

Red Deer STAR will host a one-day conference on Saturday, March 25 at the Red Deer College Arts Center. The conference registration fee is \$10.00 and will include lunch. For registration information contact Bonnie Ireland at 403-742-2999 or bireland@literacyalberta.ca.

Whitecourt STAR will host a one-day conference in Spring 2006. Whitecourt region STAR has sent out surveys to the literacy programs in their region to help plan the STAR conference. Watch for more information! Whitecourt STAR is also looking at ideas that will encourage students to connect with other students within the region. For more information contact Teena Pankonin at 780-349-6333 or tpankonin@hotmail.com.



Regional News is Welcome!

Let us know what is happening in your region! We can post events on our online conferencing system, *Share*, and on our web site at www.literacyalberta.ca.

From The Board Table

Literacy Strategy

Literacy Alberta's mission is to support people involved in literacy activities. We do this through providing services like professional development, resources, networking opportunities and program referral.

Currently we are working on developing a literacy strategy for Alberta. This past summer and fall, we hosted several meetings with key stakeholders to help us with this process. Our Round Table group meets again in December to continue this timely and valuable work. We have also provided input to MCL (Movement for Canadian Literacy) and Minister of State, Claudette Bradshaw on a national literacy strategy. Exciting things are on the horizon!

Board Structure

As you may have heard, we are beginning to ask questions regarding the best way to ensure that all our members' voices are heard at the board table. Stay tuned, as we will let you know what we are hearing over the next few months.

Erratum

In her President's report to the membership at the Annual General Meeting, Elaine Cairns said of the decision to switch from Elit.ca: "We are not the only province to make this change. Before we made our decision both B.C. and Manitoba made a decision to change service providers." In fact, only Manitoba had made that decision. We apologize for any confusion.

Nomination Packages Are in the Mail

Literacy Alberta will elect new board members in March. Nomination packages were mailed in November. Positions available are:

- Vice President
- Director: Student
- Director: Literacy Practitioner

You must be a member in good standing to run in the election.

Deadline for nomination is January 16, 2006. We will mail an election package to you in February. All members in good standing will have a vote in the election. The new board will be announced April 1. If you have questions about the election process, contact the office.

Announcement from Minister:

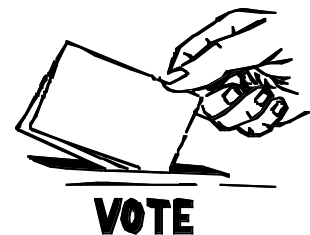
Recently Minister of Advanced Education Dave Hancock hosted a forum called "A Learning Alberta". The highlight of the forum was his announcement that his goal is to cut the low literacy rate in Alberta by half in the next five years. Literacy Alberta will be supporting this effort and look forward to seeing this goal realized.

Minster Dave Hancock also spoke at our conference Opening Ceremonies on November 3. Some of his speech included these comments:

"Advanced education...which includes literacy...is critical to the future of Albertans and the future of this province. That's why advanced education is the government's top priority this year. Advanced education lies at the heart of government's 20-year plan for Alberta—a framework for shaping our province's future and ensuring it is well-prepared for both challenges and opportunities in the years ahead."

"I was shocked to hear that the adult illiteracy rate in Alberta is 36 per cent—and I set a bold target to seek to reduce that rate by half within five years. We shouldn't rest until every parent in Alberta can read to his or her child."

Literacy Alberta looks forward to working with the Minister's office over the coming months on several literacy initiatives.



Professional Development

Building Community Capacity: Focus on Literacy

This course is for adult literacy practitioners and is sponsored by Literacy Alberta and Bow Valley College. The course will help practitioners learn how to use a Literacy Specialist approach to help organizations build capacity to better serve people with low literacy in their community. The course runs February 16-June 2, 2006 and there are still a few spaces left. To find out more, contact Candice Jackson, at cjackson@literacyalberta.ca or Audrey Gardner at agardner@bowvalleycollege.ca.

Online Survey Regarding Salary Levels

Attention VTALP (Volunteer Tutor Adult Literacy Program) coordinators! Watch your email soon for an online Literacy Alberta survey regarding coordinator salary levels. We will be developing a salary grid and need your participation. For more info contact Berniece Gowan at 403-410-6991 or bgowan@literacyalberta.ca.



If I Won a Million Dollars...

Literacy Alberta is hosting a workshop for non-profits called "If I Won a Million Dollars..." on December 8 at the Kahanoff Centre in Calgary. For more info contact Berniece Gowan at 403-410-6991 or bgowan@literacyalberta.ca.

Best Practices Seminar

Advanced Coordinator Training is now called Best Practices Seminar. The next Best Practices Seminar will be held in the spring in both Edmonton and Calgary. More information will be available early in 2006.

Raffle Raises Fun and Funds!

Thank you to all the ticket sellers and to all the supporters of the raffle. With your help we raised \$5000 for the Student Bursary Fund! Congratulations to the winners of our "Get-Away for Literacy" raffle!

- First Prize: Pat Mabley, Valleyview
- Third Prize: Gail Klassen, Beaumont
- Fifth Prize: Theresa Paul, Duffield
- Second Prize: Dave Stinson, Ft. McMurray
- Fourth Prize: Kerry Doran, Drayton Valley



Starbucks Supports Literacy

For the past two years, Starbucks has donated coffee gift cards and door prizes to our PLC. Now, Starbucks has offered to advertise upcoming literacy events on their community bulletin board. They have also offered to provide snacks and coffee at regional meetings.

Starbucks will offer these "perks" to literacy programs through a new partnership with Literacy Alberta. Do you have a literacy event or regional meeting coming up? If so, send your info to office@literacyalberta.ca and we will send it to our contact at Starbucks.

Celebrate Family Literacy Day January 27!

We have lots of promotional material available for programs to celebrate FLD. For an order form, go to our online community *Share* at <http://share.literacyalberta.ca> or go to our web site at www.literacyalberta.ca/events.htm. **Deadline is January 13, 2006.**