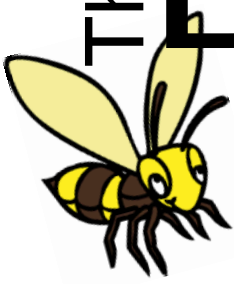


# The BUZZ on Literacy

Literacy Now, South Okanagan--Similkameen



April  
2011

Volume 4, Issue 4

## Dates to Note:

- **Task Group Meeting** (discussion of community literacy plan and funding requests received): **April 28**, 1:00, at the SD53 Annex in Oliver
- **Connecting Generations: Grand Times at the Museum** Wednesdays in April & May, from 11:30am-1:30pm
- **Adult Spelling Bee Challenge** Tues. **May 3**, 7-9am, PG&CC

## Committee Meetings:

**Family:** April 14

**Conference Planning:** April 21

**Adult /Workplace:** May 5

**Health:** May 17

*Interested in joining one of our committees?*

*Contact us!*

250.462.0636 or  
literacynowsos@gmail.com

A whole lot of learning

## Traditions & Technology

The Penticton Indian Band has several programs to promote literacy development for all ages.

**Little Paws Preschool** provides opportunities for little ones to socialize and learn with an infant-toddler program, a three-to-five daycare, and a Head Start program. "We would like to expand the language/culture



component," says site coordinator Glenda MacDonald.

Currently, two contractors spend time with the children telling stories, and drumming and singing in the Okanagan language.

The children also spend

plenty of time outdoors learning about their natural world. "It's very hands-on."

**Planting the Seeds for Growth** Footprints to Technology is hosting a two-day Essential Skills workshop for all frontline

*(Continued on page 2)*



## Adults Can Learn, Too (and what employers should know)

In a story posted to MetroNews.ca, writer Alex Newman tells how businessman Brian Armstrong learned to read as an adult—but only after a friend discovered his "secret" and helped him to do something about it.

Like others in his situation, Armstrong used coping strategies to get by and stay employed. Newman says this veil of secrecy is what keeps adults from seeking help: they think they're alone. They're not. About 42 per cent of

Canadian adults share the same "secret." Employers, he writes, would be well advised to identify staff with literacy problems: "employers who make use of literacy programs see a 251 per cent return on improved productivity."❖



For information about items in this newsletter or literacy programs & services, or to apply for funding for literacy projects, please contact: Naomi Ludington 250.462.0636 literacynowsos@gmail.com.

Little learners from Little Paws



(Continued from page 1)

workers (including non-aboriginals) in employment or education settings.

Program coordinator Mindy Rollins says the organizers are grateful for Literacy Now's support in funding the workshop, which is a good fit for the rest of their programs. Footprints to Technology provides

opportunities for aboriginal persons with a disability to create change for themselves, and links them with additional supports that are available locally, provincially, nationally and on the World Wide Web. Their technology training program has been designed to address the needs of those with disabilities, and they offer free online computer skills tutoring—a great starting point for adults with disabilities to develop basic computer skills. Participants can learn from home or on a community site.

Other Footprints programs include their Community

Navigators, leaders in the community recruited and trained to provide peer support, and Employ-Ability, a 12 week pre-employment program, with modules on career development, assistive technology, and wellness for work.

Although Footprints' current essential skills workshop (to be held April 18 and 19 at Okanagan College) is full, Rollins is gathering names to gauge interest repeating the event at a later date.

For more information or to add your name to the list, contact Rollins or Terry Terbasket at 250.492.5289 or email mrollins@pib.ca. ❖

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

literacynowso-s.ca

It's happening in Oliver

## Launch of the Lounge Lizardz

There's a new program underway Mondays at the Oliver Youth Centre @ the Hangar.



### Lounge Lizardz

is a relaxed, quiet after school get-

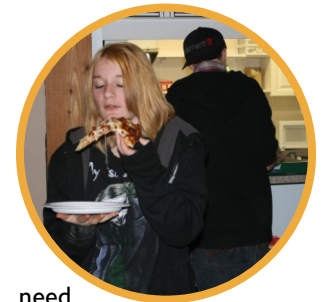
together time for youth who wish to read, play games, or work on their school assignments.

The Oliver Kiwanis Club has provided laptops youth can use for their research, and local stores and restaurants are helping

provide a light dinner and draw prizes.

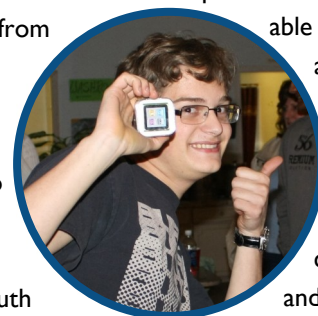
The youth themselves came up with the name "Lounge Lizardz." The program is run by the Okanagan Boys and Girls Clubs in partnership with Literacy Now South Okanagan-Similkameen.

The OBGC plans to enlist the help of student volunteers from South Okanagan Secondary School who will be on site as peer tutors if youth



need some support in the way of school work.

They hope to eventually include other service providers who may be



able to help youth in a variety of skill areas such as job searches and resume preparation, communication, and more. ❖

Oliver's Lounge Lizardz: read, study, play, eat, and win cool prizes each Monday