

# The BUZZ on Literacy

Literacy Now, South Okanagan--Similkameen



January  
2011  
Volume 4, Issue 1

## Dates to Note:

- **Plain Language Workshop for Interior Health**  
Jan. 13. Contact us to book one for your workplace. (It's free!)
- **Family Literacy Day: Events at Cherry Lane**  
Jan. 22, all day. Everyone welcome.
- **Task Group Meeting (discussion of funding requests received):**  
Jan. 25, 1:00, Chamber office. Join us!

Fun for the whole family:

## Family Literacy Day 2011

Beat the winter blahs with a free event jam-packed with family entertainment.

Enjoy stories, songs, dances and dramatic performances with magician Leif David, Bubbleeze the Clown, Twisted Tree Theatre Company, the Parkway Elementary School Choir, and others.

Emcees for the main stage are the vibrant Lisa McCall, vice principal of Osoyoos Elementary, and local author and radio personality Adam Lewis Schroeder. Hang around for one of the family-friendly door prizes.

Bring down new or gently used children's books and help fill the Fit (thanks to our sponsor, Penticton Honda). These books will be distributed among the many literacy programs throughout the South



Okanagan and the Similkameen.

Be sure to wander around and check out some of the other booths. Although there are plenty of free programs to help people build their literacy skills, it's often a challenge to let everyone know these programs even exist.

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*School board chair Ginny Manning & pal (a.k.a. Literacy Now coordinator Naomi Ludington) at Family Literacy Day 2010. Will the cat in the hat come back? Find out Sat. January 22 at Cherry Lane.*

## Committees:

**Family:** Next meeting Feb. 10

**Health:** Next meeting Feb. 13

**Adult /Workplace:** Next meeting Jan. 12

*Interested in joining one of our committees?*

*Contact us!*

250.462.0636 or  
literacynowsos@gmail.com

## Out there

Did you know that one third of adults in BC struggle with reading? Many don't know that help is available. Getting them the information they need isn't easy, so we are always looking for opportunities to get



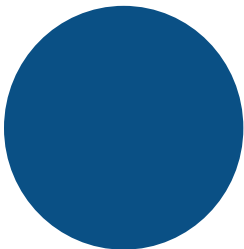
out in the community. Our amazing volunteers help with events like Wrapping for Reading, hosted by Hooked On Books. If your business or organization would like to host an event, we would love to hear from you. ❖



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.

**WE'RE ON THE WEB!**

[literacynowso-s.ca](http://literacynowso-s.ca)



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This event puts the people with the programs out where they have a better chance of meeting the people who need their services.

You'll also find interactive crafts and



games for all ages, support for aspiring writers, and some unusual discoveries about how some people actually see the written word (find out more at the Irlen booth). ❖

*The local college, school districts, library and other agencies set up booths at the Family Literacy Day event. Come see what they offer.*



## For young families: Mother Goose & More

Storytelling with songs and rhymes is an important part of a child's development, and it's fun! Busy young families can learn to share stories and songs with the Mother Goose program. (It isn't just for mothers — dads tell us they enjoy it, too.) Mother Goose is for children up to 2 years



old, and a parent. In Penticton, they meet Mondays 5:00 to 6:30pm. Child-minding is available for siblings, and a light meal is provided. It's free. To register contact Naomi at 250.462.0636 or email [literacynowsos@gmail.com](mailto:literacynowsos@gmail.com). For information about Mother Goose in Oliver, call Theresa: 250.498.2019.

The Penticton Public Library offers a variety of programs for children. Beginning this month and running through March are Baby Songs & Rhymes (0–15 months), and Storytime (16 months–5 years). Snow Amazing (for kids 6–12) is January 21. These programs are free. Register by calling Youth Services Librarian Julia Cox at 250.770.7783. ❖

## Partners in literacy:

### Interior Health

*In the South Okanagan and Similkameen, organizations and individuals are working together to support literacy. Literacy Now helps coordinate and support their efforts.*

Christine Davidson is a public health nurse with Interior Health and a regular at Literacy Now's health committee meetings. "It's a great time to collaborate," she says. "Health and literacy do go hand in hand."

Davidson's role is to help Literacy Now make the right connections in the medical community. A lot of

health literature is difficult for most readers to understand. Literacy Now's plain language workshops help health practitioners communicate better with their patients.

Understanding the health literature is important, but patients also need the courage to speak up and seek answers.

People who struggle to read are often more reluctant to bring forth a complaint, ask questions, and insist on answers. And they may not provide vital information

about their condition. But unless health care professionals know what to look for, they may not realize that some of their patients have significant difficulty with literacy.

It is important for health care professionals to understand how to identify low-literacy patients, and how to encourage these patients to access the help they need.

"If their literacy level increases," says Davidson, "their health often improves as well." ❖