



THE BUZZ ON LITERACY

Literacy Now, South Okanagan-Similkameen www.literacynowso-s.ca

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For more information on any of the items in this month's newsletter or any questions about literacy services please contact Naomi Ludington at literacynowso@gmail.com

COMMUNITY CHALLENGE

Penticton Honda will supply a Honda Fit from Monday, January 18th to Saturday January 23rd in Cherry Lane Mall.

Bring your new and gently used books, for all ages, all week and help us 'Fill the Fit' with books!



HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

Family Literacy Day Celebration!

January 23, 2010
10AM to 4PM

Cherry Lane Shopping Centre

Lots of literacy and service information booths!

- Okanagan College
- Boys and Girls Club
- Libraries
- Mental Illness Family and Peer Support Information Centre
- WorkZone
- SD 53 & 67 Strong Start
- Success by Six
- Communities for Kids
- Penticton & District Community Resources Society
- Penticton Museum
- Oonakane Friendship Centre
- Child Care Resource and Referral
- Penticton Writers and Publishers
- Raise a Reader

Lot of Draw Prizes!

Community Challenge 'Fill the Fit' with books!

Storytelling Teepee! Lots of entertainment!

Centre stage entertainment includes: magic show, drumming workshop, children's choir, school guitar group, author readings, community theatre, dancing, yoga demonstration and more...

Literacy Definitions Evolve

1. Ability to read and write: the ability to read and write to a competent level, and
2. A skill in particular subject: knowledge of or competence in a subject or area of activity
 - computer literacy
 - emotional literacy
 (online dictionary, Encarta, 2010)
3. Ability to read, write, speak in English, compute and solve problems at levels of proficiency necessary to function on the job, in the family, and in society. As information and technology have increasingly shaped our society, the skills we need to function successfully have gone beyond reading (National Institute for Literacy).
4. New forms of literacy (on-screen literacy and moving image media) to consider alongside the more traditional print literacy. Literacy is important because it enables pupils to gain access to the subjects studied in school, to read for information and pleasure, and to communicate effectively. Poor levels of literacy impact negatively on what pupils can do and how they see themselves (John Hertrich in the HMI Secondary Literacy Survey)
5. Reading literacy is defined as the ability to understand, use and reflect on written texts in order to achieve one's goals, to develop one's knowledge and potential, and to participate effectively in society (Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development/Unesco Institute for Statistics, 2003).
6. literacy is the "ability to identify, understand, interpret, create, communicate, compute and use printed and written materials associated with varying contexts. Literacy involves a continuum of learning in enabling individuals to achieve their goals, to develop their knowledge and potential, and to participate fully in their community and wider society" (UNESCO)".



The Gift of Reading— A Success Story

A camping trip changed my life 27 years ago. The boys were out fishing and my girlfriend and I sat at the campsite doing nothing, sounds great. Then she got a big brown bag full of Harlequin romances out of the camper and so starts my reading story. One book was not very big and it was what she called easy reading. Maybe for her but not for me, I did not read. It took me 2 weeks to read that first book reading every day for about 2 hours a day, but I did it. Then I read another and another, plugging along. The words were simple and the story was not that hard to follow. Next were the bigger Danielle Steel books.

My family who are all avid readers were so happy they kept giving me more and more books to read. Over the next couple of years, it was one romance novel after another but it became boring. I did try fiction and fantasy but the words were too hard for me. All the made up names took forever to read and it was no fun. Murder mysteries were next and I liked them. Michael Connelly is one of my favourite authors. I have nearly all his books. My husband reads westerns and so one day I will try his books. There are autobiographies and of course, the classics. It is not quantity or even quality; it is all about doing it. There are still so many other types of books left to explore. That's the best part it's my choice. If I don't like it I don't have to read it. I often go back to a simple romance novel this is so important for me (keep it simple and have fun reading). Word by word, page by page there is no magical way to learn I just keep at it and had a dictionary handy for words I did not know.

I would like to finish my story by saying this has not been an easy journey for me but the accomplishment has been so great. The power of reading even a simple romance novel has opened the doors to a world that had been always been closed to me. Even though I can read, I still cannot spell very well. That's a whole different story. I know there are many people that have the same challenges as I do so I hope that my story will inspire you in some small way. Keep it simple, have fun, remember if you do not like it you do not have to read it and do not ever stop.

Shirley Fehr

Upcoming Literacy Now SO-S Meetings

- **Books for Babies**—Jan 7th 10am-12pm Penticton Health Centre
- **Family Literacy Subcommittee**—Jan 14th 1-2pm Penticton Museum Meeting Room
- **Task Group Meeting**—Feb 18th 1-2pm, Penticton Chamber of Commerce
- **Workplace Subcommittee**—Feb 22nd 1:30-2:30pm, Penticton Chamber of Commerce

Everyone Welcome!



Writing Out Loud

Parents are invited to six FREE workshops for beginning writers

Thursday evenings

January 14 to February 18

7-8 pm

Room 4 /Parkway Elementary, Penticton

Journals and pens will be provided

Come to one or all of the sessions

Door prize at each session

No one sees your work but you!

Child minding is available for pre-schoolers only

Sign up at school office

Questions? Call Mary Kiviste,

Okanagan College, 492-4305 ext 3244