

The BUZZ on Literacy



Literacy Now, South Okanagan--Similkameen

July/August
2011

Volume 4, Issue 7

Dates to Note:

- Seniors Symposium:
Wed. Oct. 19th
9a.m. to 4p.m.
Penticton Trade &
Convention Centre
- Task Group Meeting
(networking, sharing, and
brainstorming to foster
improved literacy for
everyone throughout all
of our communities):
Thurs. Oct. 20th
Time TBA
Chamber Office

Join us!

Committee Meetings:

Conference
Planning: July 20

Health: Sept 13

Family: Sept. 15

Adult /Workplace:
Oct. 26

Interested in joining one
of our committees?

Contact us!

250.462.0636 or

literacynowsos@gmail.com

Getting the facts

Adult Literacy Myths

About 42% of Canadian adults struggle to understand what they need to read each day. To help us understand what this means, here are some myth-busting facts from ABC Life Literacy Canada.

MYTH:
There are millions of illiterate people in Canada.

FACT: There are very few people who are "illiterate," meaning that they cannot read at all. There are about nine million Canadian adults age

16 to 65 who are challenged by low literacy. However, most can read to some degree. These individuals simply need additional tutoring to raise their literacy skills to a level where they can engage fully and confidently in regular work and life activities.

MYTH:
You can either read or you can't read.

Reading comprehension is not like an "on-off" light

FACT:
Having low literacy does not mean

switch. The vast majority of people with literacy issues can read to a certain degree, but not at a literacy level required for full engagement at work, at home and in the community.

MYTH:
Low literacy is not an issue for adults who are educated and have traditionally had good literacy skills.

FACT: Literacy skills can deteriorate over time if habits do not support literacy development and maintenance. Literacy

(Continued on page 2)

PIB's Grandparent Program

Penticton Indian Band's Outma Sqilx'w Cultural School is hosting a new program.

Sponsored by Literacy Now through the New Horizons Fund, the Grandparent Night takes place in the school's new

Language and Culture Meeting Room.

Administrator Michele Woitzik says the program is an opportunity to connect the community of grandmothers and grandfathers, while sharing nursery rhymes and songs

that the children are learning in the Okanagan language; hearing stories, ideas and traditional ways from the elders; and spending time with our community grandparents.

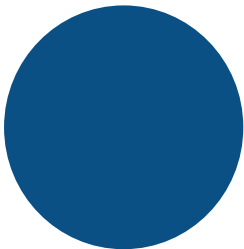
Dinner is provided, as well as childcare for ages 4 up. ❖



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



(Continued from page 1)
 skills are like muscles—they are maintained and strengthened through regular use (*Literacy Skills for the Knowledge Society, Statistics Canada, 1997*). That is why it is so important for families to read and learn together. Both children and parents benefit from these activities.

MYTH:
 Low literacy primarily affects people of a certain socio-economic level.

FACT: Though some correlations can be drawn between socio-economic levels and literacy levels, the reality is that literacy challenges are experienced by adults in a wide range of socio-economic circumstances and occupations. Their liter-

acy levels may vary, but they are nonetheless challenged by the tasks they face. What is common among these individuals are the methods they use to hide their difficulties.

MYTH:
 Canada's low literacy levels are as high as they are due to increased immigration.

FACT: While a significantly higher proportion of immigrants have low literacy (60 per cent, compared to 37 per cent of native-born Canadians), and while immigration levels have increased over time, especially in certain urban areas, the overall percentage of Canadian adults with low literacy is 42 per cent, a level that has effectively remained the

same since 1994.

MYTH:
 The school system should be able to address the issue of low literacy in adult Canadians.

FACT: Low literacy among adult Canadians should not be an issue for the school system to handle alone. Unfortunately, adults with low literacy are so challenged for a variety of personal reasons. To address the issue of low literacy in adult Canadians, there must be opportunities made available for adults in various circumstances to gain access to the literacy upgrades they require. It is therefore necessary for business, labour, government and schools to work together to achieve this goal. *Find out more: www.abclifeliteracy.ca.* ❖

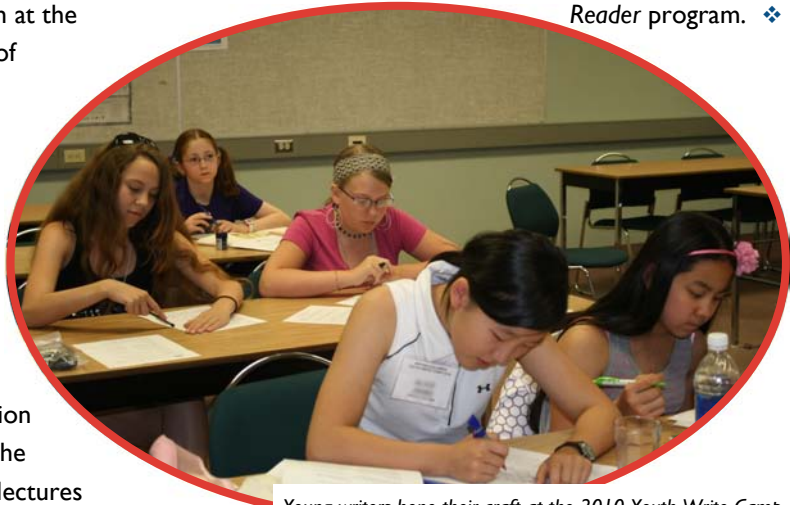
Youth Write Camp

The Penticton Writers and Publishers are hosting their fifth annual British Columbia Youth Write Camp, from July 3rd through 8th at the Penticton Campus of Okanagan College.

“We have 75 registered,” says camp coordinator Yasmin John-Thorpe. “We have five presenters hosting creative writing and illustration workshops during the mornings, plus five lectures

in the afternoons.” The camp kicks off Sunday with a keynote address from author Jack Whyte. Each

of the young writers will receive a copy of one of the author's novels as a gift, courtesy of the *Raise a Reader* program. ❖



Young writers hone their craft at the 2010 Youth Write Camp