

The BUZZ on Literacy

Literacy Now, South Okanagan--Similkameen



**June
2011**
Volume 4, Issue 6

Dates to Note:

- **Task Group Meeting** (discussion of community literacy plan and funding requests received): **Thurs. June 23**
Please join us!
- **Summer Reading Programs** start the **first week in July**. OK Regional Library branches: check the events page at www.orl.bc.ca. Penticton Public Library call children's programs 250.770.7783

Committee Meetings:

Adult /Workplace:
June 1

Conference Planning: June 29

Health: Sept 13

Family: Sept. 15

Interested in joining one of our committees?

Contact us!

250.462.0636 or
literacynowsos@gmail.com

Literacy in the community

A Little Food For Thought

Got a craving for a great chicken and mushroom pie or tasty tourtière? How about a book you'd like to pass along?

Pop into Britannia Pies and while you're scooping something great for supper, swap your old reads for something new. "I had books that were collecting dust in the basement," says

pie proprietor Raymond Miles, "I thought they'd be better off being read, so I decided to just give them away." Titles on his shelf include recent best sellers, fiction,

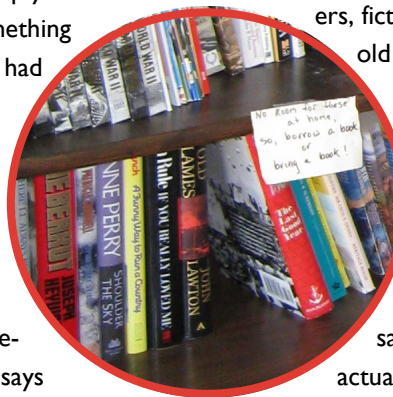
old favourites and non-fiction.

"I'm a strong supporter of reading," says Miles. "I actually trained as



a school teacher and did that for a short while." (His wife is a teacher, too.)

In Penticton now for about 11 years, Britannia Pies is at the Ellis Creek Centre, 78 Industrial Avenue W. ❖



A Little More Food for Thought

Penticton speech language pathologist Frances Monro shared this little poem created by the SLPs in Nelson. "It really speaks to the way babies use books to learn language," says Frances.

*At first I will chew
Turn pages with you
Look at a picture or two
You make the sounds funny
I hear words like bunny*

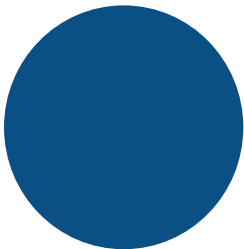


*I point and you say
Duck, woof, and neigh
We do this each day
And soon I know how
To say baa, quack and cow ❖*



For information about items in this newsletter or literacy programs & services, or to apply for funding for literacy projects, please contact:
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 250.462.0636
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WE'RE ON THE WEB!
 literacynowsos.ca



Strength in Numbers

When we talk about “literacy” we often think of reading and writing words. Numeracy—the ability to work and reason with numbers and math concepts—is also a type of literacy.

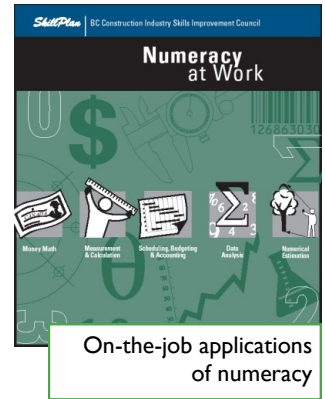
Most tradespeople must have good numeracy skills. Jud Martell is the training coordinator for the Sheet Metal Workers Training Centre in Surrey. He says that like most trades, sheet metal work also requires good hand skills, coordination and a strong back. And like all trades, along with the math there’s an increasing amount of reading.

From apprenticeship through journeyman, at every level they need to be able to understand a lot of written material such as

safety bulletins, job orders and manufacturers’ specifications.

“One of the reasons we went into the trades is because we didn’t want to do all that reading and writing,” says Martell; the “trade-off” was to do more physical work, less paperwork. But reading skills are important too, and a problem in this area can keep even the best tradesperson from advancing into a better-paying position. “A lot of the advancements are into the supervisory roles,” says Martell, and each step up the ladder involves more paperwork.

Martell says the Training Centre provides upgrading for job-specific skills like reading plans, but workers who need to upgrade basic



skills such as numeracy and reading will find what they need at SkillPlan.

Since 1991, this non-profit organization has provided direct assistance (tutoring, study groups and classroom instruction) to those working in the unionized construction industry in BC and the Yukon.

They also create essential skills resource materials to assist workers in trades and other sectors, while they are in training and on the job. Find out more at www.skillplan.ca. ❖

ESL Program Wins International Award

In Osoyoos, several dedicated tutors work one-to-one with adult English language learners. They are part of the English as a Second Language Settlement Assistance Program (ESLSAP), a provincial program administered by Okanagan College.

“These tutors are enthusiastic about gaining cultural insights from working with their

students,” says program coordinator Carollyne Sinclair.

Now the ESLSAP has received international recognition for their work, winning the **2011 Grundtvig Award** from the European Association for the Education of Adults (EAEA). Each year, these awards are presented to programs on different topics, all focused on adult learning. Previous



awards have gone to programs in Belgium, the Philippines, Kyrgyzstan, France, Malaysia and the Netherlands.

Sinclair is looking for more tutors who wish to take part in this award winning program.

She may be reached at 250.495.0787. ❖