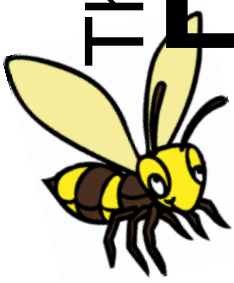


The BUZZ on Literacy

Literacy Now, South Okanagan--Similkameen



September
2011

Volume 4, Issue 9

Dates to Note:

- **Seniors Symposium:**
Wed. Oct. 19th
9:00 a.m. to 4:00p.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, 1:00p.m.
Penticton Chamber Office
- **Communities for Kids
Parenting Conference**
Oct. 22nd
Sen'Pok'Chin School,
Oliver

Committee Meetings:

Health: Sept 13

Family: Sept. 15

**Conference
Planning:** Oct. 13

Adult /Workplace:
Oct. 26

*Interested in joining one
of our committees?*

Contact us!

250.462.0636 or

literacynowso@gmail.com

Essential Skills

Keys to Success

Think of a job—any job. What kinds of skills will a worker need to do this job properly? Would this worker need to be good with computers? Math? Problem solving? How about document use?

Not sure?

Human Resources and Skills Development Canada (HRDC) has identified nine skills that are key to success in our daily lives, and in almost every job.

How much we depend on each of this skills varies from job to job; some workers may need to be

very good at some skills, and less reliant on others.

But when we think about career choices, we may not know if or how we would need to use these skills. For example, if we think about welding, we probably don't know how much we would need to read, or how complicated



the reading will be; how much math is involved;

whether or not a lot of problem solving may be required; or even whether

or not we will need to fill out a lot of forms.



To help people choose careers based on their strengths, the HRDC has figured out how each of the nine skills is used in more than 350 different jobs, from accounting to woodworking and everything in between.

Find this information and more at hrdc.ca. Here's a *(Continued on page 2)*

Save the Date!

On May 4 & 5, 2012, we're hosting a literacy conference, *Cultivating Community Literacy: Planting the Seeds for Change*. Our goal: to provide opportunities for information sharing, networking, and education. Everyone is welcome:

employers, tradespersons, literacy practitioners, health care providers, child care providers, parents, non-profit organizations, educators,

adult learners, volunteer tutors... The conference kicks of Friday evening with a keynote address and wine and cheese reception. To find out more, see the *Events* page of our website literacynowso-s.ca.

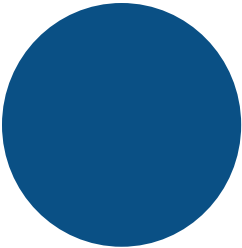




For information about items in this newsletter or literacy programs & services, or to apply for funding for literacy projects, please contact:
Naomi Ludington
 250.462.0636
literacynowsos@gmail.com.

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

literacynowsos.ca



(Continued from page 1)

quick overview of the nine key skills:

Reading generally refers to sentences and paragraphs. (forms, labels, notes, letters, memos, manuals, specifications, regulations, books, reports or journals).

Writing is providing information through words (e.g. filling in forms on paper or on electronic devices).

Document use is understanding how symbols (words, numbers, icons, lines, colors and shapes) are given meaning by their spatial arrangement. (Sound pretty complex? Think of tables, graphs, blueprints, schematics, and drawings.)

Numeracy is the ability to use numbers and think in quantitative terms.

Thinking includes six related skills: problem solving, decision making, critical thinking, job task planning and organizing, use of memory, and finding information.

Oral communication is using speech to exchange thoughts and information.

Working with others is also a skill; think of cooperation and self discipline.

Continuous learning is a readiness to absorb and apply new information.

Computer use is one of the “new” skills required for many jobs. ❖

PROJECTIONS FROM THE CANADIAN COUNCIL ON LEARNING (CCL):

By 2031, 47% of adults aged 16 and over (15 million individuals) will have literacy skills below the International Adult Literacy and Skills Survey (IALSS) Level 3—an internationally-accepted level of literacy required to cope in a modern society.

The number of immigrants with low-level literacy skills will increase by more than 61%, to more than 5.7 million. However, the number of immigrants with higher literacy skills could more than double (from 1.8 million to 3.7 million).

The number of older Canadians (aged 66 over) with low literacy skills will double, while the number for young adults (aged 16–25) should remain relatively unchanged. ❖

Small Effort—Huge Rewards

Are you looking for an opportunity to make a huge difference in the lives of others? Do you love to read? Consider volunteering with One to One, a reading program offered in several area elementary schools.

While many children pick up reading skills quickly, others need more practice, and some need one-to-one help to catch up.

“These children just need someone to read with them,” says Naomi Ludington, literacy outreach coordinator for Literacy Now South Okanagan-Similkameen. “Falling behind in reading really holds a

student back. A little bit of individual help can make a world of difference.”

Volunteers don’t need any special skills, although there are a few simple strategies they can use to help the students. Ludington explains these in a short training session. “Most of us have already used some of these ‘strategies’ with our own children,” says Ludington, for example taking turns, reading in unison, and looking at the pictures to help figure out the words.

All that the volunteers really need is a joy of reading. “We want to keep these kids excited about reading, and

help them feel successful so they want to spend more time doing it.”

Volunteer tutors commit to a weekly 90-minute session, for either the fall/winter or the winter/spring program. Ludington tries to place tutors in the school of their choice, and tutors can usually choose to volunteer either in the morning or the afternoon.

The next training session is on Friday, September 23. Interested adults can contact Ludington at 250.462.0636 or via email at literacynowsos@gmail.com. ❖