



Student Ink: Writing by adult students at READ

The Importance of Literacy

Literacy to me means freedom and independence. Without the ability to read and/or write one might feel lost. People who can't read or write, a lot of the time hide it and live their life, but they don't live life to the fullest. It's kind of like jumping into a swimming pool and not being able to swim. On the same note, once you learn you never forget and you only get better with practice.

Dave

Why I Think that Literacy is Important

If you didn't have the proper literacy skills, you wouldn't be able to express how you feel or what you think to another person. To have all these ideas floating around in your head, and to not be able to put them on paper, it is very frustrating.

To survive and get around in the world, we have to have a good understanding of the things around us. Understanding what we should and shouldn't do. To understand what people are asking of us, doing a certain task the right and safe way. It's all about understanding and doing.

Jobs require you to use some or more numeracy skills. Whether you're a programmer compiling codes, or a cashier counting and calculating money, you need to know your way around the numbers.

Wicheruk

Literacy

People need to learn how to read because it's important. I think that readers are more helpful with directions and important decisions to lead us through the right path.

When I'm a magnificent reader and writer, I'll become a lawyer.

Gered

What Literacy Means to Me

I came to READ to have balance in life and to look forward to reading a book. I would like to have the power to get a good job and make good money. I want to be able to give my son a good life and all the opportunities I never had. Coming to READ has been a huge stepping stone for me. When I leave READ I am going into Practical Nursing. I would not be able to do this if literacy was not important to me.

Sarah

Literacy And Survival

To know how to read and write is an essential in our lives for so many different reasons.

To me surviving was very important because I immigrated to Canada and I never went to school to learn. Later I found out that without having any knowledge and skills, it feels like you are blind. So literacy is life.

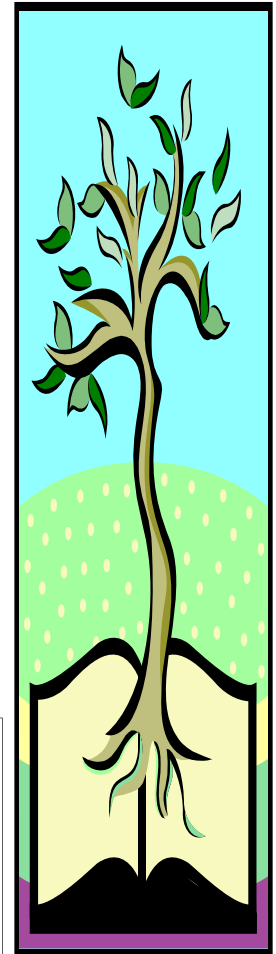
Peter

A student in READ's Children and Youth Program says good-bye ~

My Time at READ

I started in September 2004. One of the things the READ Society helped me with was to read better. Another thing is that I'm doing better in school. I still have trouble getting my ideas down on the paper. Another thing I liked was the staff at the READ Society.

Mike



Congratulations!

Mrs. Fiona Hyslop was the recipient of Leadership Victoria's Lifetime Achievement Award in January 2006. The award recognizes long term and outstanding service in community leadership roles such as philanthropy, innovation, mentoring and career achievement.



Mrs. Hyslop is a supporter and friend of READ. We are delighted at this public recognition of her commitment to the Greater Victoria community.

Thank you Volunteers!!

George Tse and his hardworking team from the Garth Homer Society ~ **John Wright, Mary Emmond and Keith Macphail** ~ helped us get our December edition of *Between the Lines* into the mail on time.

Renata Lang covered READ's shift (8:00 to 11:00 pm) at the Langford Drop In Bingo Hall on December 30th.

READ staff, board members and significant others volunteered for the Times Colonist Book Sale:

Vicky Austin ~ Keith Austin ~ Yvonne Blair ~ Hatty Copus ~ Lisa Crosse ~ Trevor Crosse ~ Wendy Graham ~ Myrna Hall ~ Janie Harrison ~ Julie Holder ~ Dave Skilling ~ Krysia Strawczynski ~ Helen Thomas.

We are grateful to a contingent from the University of Victoria who volunteered at the Book Sale on READ's behalf: **Rosemary Barlow ~ Nicole Jane ~ Cindy Lancaster ~ Catherine McLeod ~ Kathleen O'Malley ~ Brooke Rose ~ Lauren Telford.**

Volunteers from READ and Project Literacy Victoria sold 50/50 tickets at four Salmon Kings games in January, February and March. Both literacy organizations will benefit from the proceeds. Our READ volunteers were **Keith Austin ~ Bob Bentham ~ Matthew Davies ~ Ken Denegar ~ Ryan Emperingham ~ Sonya Emperingham ~ Jane Francis ~ Jim Graham ~ Wendy Graham ~ Janie Harrison ~ Rebecca Harrison ~ Sarah Harrison ~ Julie Holder ~ Tabitha Jones ~ Eliot Kendall ~ Susan Link ~ John Oldale ~ Donna Randall ~ Dave Skilling ~ Krysia Strawczynski ~ Barbara Walman ~ Bart Walman ~ Jo-Ann Zelen ~ Peter Zelen.**

Susan Harrison, Tabitha Jones and Shurly Mazerolle helped us out with the Education Fair at Mayfair Mall on Saturday, February 11th.

SCRABBLE® Scramble for Literacy

Second annual fundraiser for READ's
Bursary Fund for Children

October 14th, 2006



Check out our June and September newsletters for event details, times and registration information.

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Thank you Donors!

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Memorial gifts were recently made to the READ Bursary Fund "In Memory of Sheila Davis" and "In Memory of Elliot Gose".

Thank you Langham Court Theatre!



Langham Court Theatre once again provided an opportunity to raise funds for READ's Bursary Program for children. Patrons who purchased tickets from READ for the Opening Night performance of *Under Milk Wood* on February 23rd enjoyed a first-rate production followed by a reception with the talented cast, crew, and director Scott Hylands.

We are pleased to acknowledge the support of Spinnakers Spirit Merchants for enabling us to include a wee Scotch tasting (in honour of Dylan Thomas, of course!) at the Opening Night reception.

We sincerely thank the community-minded folks at Langham Court Theatre and all those who supported READ with their ticket purchase. This special evening raised \$3000 for our Bursary Program!

Victoria READ Society

Helping Students Learn

720 Linden Avenue
Victoria BC V8V 4G7

Phone 250-388-7225
Fax 250-386-8330

info@readsociety.bc.ca

www.readsociety.bc.ca

Literacy Facts & Figures

Literacy plays an important role in health. Many different sources confirm that low literacy has a negative effect on all aspects of health, including overall levels of life expectancy, accidents and a wider range of diseases such as diabetes, cardiovascular disease and cancer.

Canadians with lower literacy skills have difficulty reading and understanding health information unless it is clearly presented.

Canadians with lower literacy skills are more likely to work and live in unsafe or dangerous environments and to suffer the consequences.

Less literate people often wait longer to seek medical help so health problems reach a crisis state.

Low literacy increases costs to our healthcare system through misunderstanding of health information, misuse of medication, longer hospital stays and other preventable issues.

Literacy is for life!

Movement for Canadian Literacy
www.literacy.ca

READ's Mission

To help students of all ages in the Greater Victoria area learn basic academic skills through small classes, individualized help and a supportive, caring environment.



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Helping Students Learn

A READ bursary provides ten months of individualized instruction in basic reading, writing, math and study skills for a child who is struggling to learn.

A gift of \$40 to the READ Bursary Fund for Children will buy one hour of classes for a student receiving bursary assistance. A gift of \$320 will provide one month of individualized instruction.

Making a donation is easy ~

- Visit www.readsociety.bc.ca and click on the *Donate Now* button to donate on-line.
- Download a donation form and send it to us at 720 Linden Avenue, Victoria, BC V8V 4G7.
- Call 388-7225 and make a donation using your VISA or MasterCard.

Your donation is tax deductible.

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