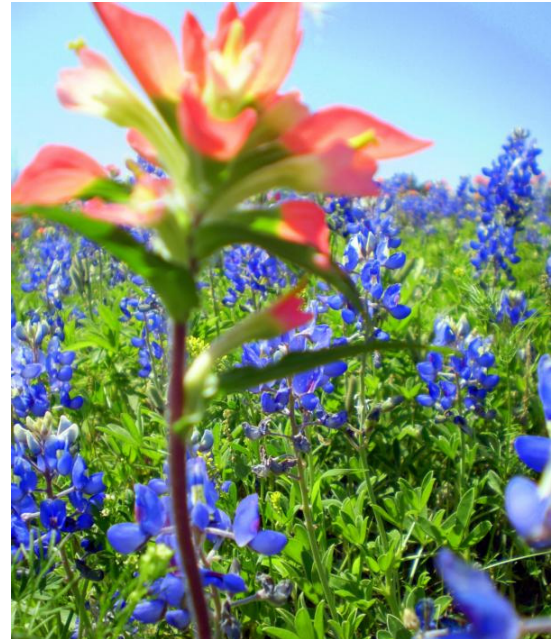


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learner journeys

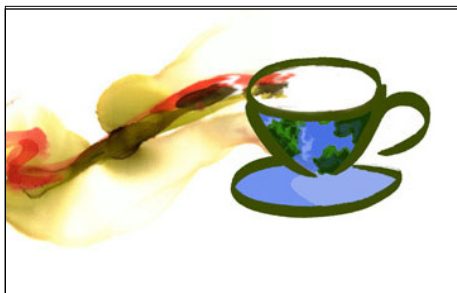
the saskatchewan literacy network's
learner newsletter



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SASKATCHEWAN
LITERACY
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SLN Conference Wrap Up

On November 19 and 20 2008, 17 adult learners from 8 areas across Saskatchewan met at the Travelodge Hotel in Saskatoon to take part in the Saskatchewan Literacy Network fall conference, 'The Spirit of Community'.

There were many different sessions to choose from, each with a different topic to discuss. Learners were encouraged to take part in any session that interested them.

Jenny Horsman's workshop really spoke to our hearts. Jenny encouraged us to remember that the power within us is greater than any problems ahead of us, and that we only need to take things one step at a time.

Kevin MacKenzie showed us the importance of storytelling when connecting with others. Many

thanks to Kevin for giving us lots of opportunities for laughter!

So many other presenters gave valuable sessions on research, family literacy, workplace and essential skills, and showed wonderful examples of solid partnerships in action.

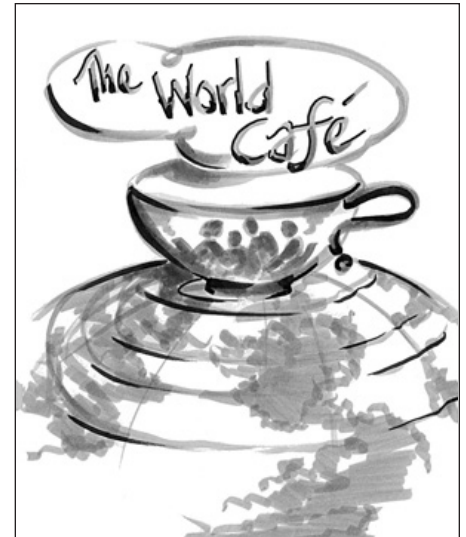
The Saskatchewan Literacy Network has created a booklet outlining the activities that took place at this year's conference called "Taking Part 2008." This document can be downloaded on the Saskatchewan Literacy Network's website: www.sk.literacy.ca.

If you have any questions about the conference, or would like a copy of "Taking Part 2008," contact the Saskatchewan Literacy Network.

Literacy Cafés

What is a Literacy Café?

A Literacy Café is a simple way to get a group of people thinking about important things. As groups of people talk and share ideas, we learn more about each other and can use what we know to solve different kinds of problems. A Literacy Café reminds us that we all have something important to contribute, and we each have a role to play in our society.



Why does the Saskatchewan Literacy Network hold Literacy Cafés?

We hope to **provide an opportunity** for people interested in literacy to **come together and share**. We want to be able to find out what is going on in Saskatchewan and use the information we gather to decision makers and funders.

Why does my opinion matter?

Adult learners are very important to the Saskatchewan Literacy Network. What you have to say helps us to make decisions about what kinds of things we do across the province!

Upcoming Events in Saskatchewan



Literacy Awards of Merit - April 30, 2009

The Literacy Awards of Merit are held to honour learners, practitioners, businesses, organizations and programs involved in literacy in Saskatchewan. The Awards are an important way to recognize the great work being done in the province by people who care about literacy issues. Contact the Saskatchewan Literacy Network for more information on the Literacy Awards of Merit.

New MCL-LAN Representative

The Saskatchewan Literacy Network would like to congratulate Ngeune Selinger of Prince Albert, who has been chosen as the new MCL-LAN rep for the province. Ngeune has been involved with the SLN for many years, and her knowledge of the history of learner involvement as well as her passion for literacy will be a wonderful asset to this national group. The SLN would also like to congratulate Gordon Li of Regina, who has been chosen as backup MCL-LAN rep. Ngeune and Gordon are both such an incredible source of wisdom and knowledge, it is always a pleasure to see their continued involvement in literacy!



Ngeune Selinger



Gordon Li

Why Call the Saskatchewan Literacy Network?

The Saskatchewan Literacy Network wants to help YOU! Calling the toll free literacy line can help you to:

- find out what programs and learning opportunities are available to meet your specific needs
- find out who to contact about learner groups and activities in your area
- find out what agencies offer tutoring
- use the Saskatchewan Literacy Network's website
- and so much more!



For help, or to help call: 1-888-511-2111

Activity: Riddle Me This!

Give your mind some exercise! Can you solve these ten riddles?

1) What gets wetter and wetter the more it dries?

2) You throw away the outside and cook the inside. Then you eat the outside and throw away the inside. What did you eat?

3) What goes up and down the stairs without moving?

4) The man who invented it doesn't want it. The man who bought it doesn't need it. The man who needs it doesn't know it. What is it?

5) I can run but not walk. Wherever I go, thought follows close behind. What am I?

6) What can run but never walks, has a mouth but never talks, has a head but never weeps, has a bed but never sleeps?

7) What goes around the world but stays in a corner?

8) I went into the woods and got it. I sat down to seek it. I brought it home with me because I couldn't find it. What is it?

9) Give me food, and I will live; give me water, and I will die. What am I?

10) What can you catch but not throw?



Find the answers on the back page!

Regional Support Group - Saskatoon Food Bank

The Saskatoon Food Bank and Learning Centre was the location for a vibrant and active support group for adult learners last winter. The meetings took place in the mornings or during lunch.

The activities included a morning of dancing and music with motivational speaker Monica Knight and her African Shosholoza theme. Another day, learners from SIIT joined in to hear Darlene Lanceley speak about the Indian Act and its affects on Aboriginal people. Other times together were spent listening to traditional storytellers, discussing learner needs and the importance

of education in today's world.

In total, around 55 adult learners participated in weekly small group activities.

Each activity brought with it some great learning experiences, especially the connection that the learners made with each other. Many realized that they are not isolated in their learning struggles.

"I thought it was a good experience for me to hear stories about other people," said one participant. Another said, "It's great to meet people who are in the same sort of situation I am in."

Learner Story: Ngeune Selinger

Literacy is very important to me. Literacy is the skills we all need everyday to function. We often take it for granted because it affects all of us young and old.

As adult learners we have some trouble in this area. Literacy involves not only reading, writing: it's math, communicating verbally and non-verbally, and computers. Most of all, literacy is lifelong learning.

Being involved in literacy has given me courage to admit to myself that I need to learn more each and every day to be a good and productive citizen. I need to be a good example for my four girls. I used



...continued on the back page

Learner Story

“If you work hard, enjoy it and pray for it you will succeed.”

- Ngeune Selinger

to have very low self-esteem, and had trouble reading and communicating for a person who had grade 12 and who had been in Canada for 30 years. I now am able to speak in front of people, I facilitate Come Read with Me, Alphabet Soup, and many other literacy trainings, I am on the board for the Saskatchewan Literacy Network, and I am the Provincial MCL-LAN representative. I'm also very involved in helping with literacy at Riverside Community School in Prince Albert.

In the past I was told by a school career counselor that I could not be a teacher because I'm an immigrant. From there, I just stopped learning and having goals at all. I felt that because I was an immigrant the barriers were too great. Now I know with the support of my family, the school and the Saskatchewan Literacy Network I will become some kind of a teacher. I know it will be a lot of hard work, but I will make it. I want to be a good example for my children, because I always tell them if you work hard, enjoy it and pray for it you will succeed.

The Saskatchewan Literacy Network welcomes your submissions for this newsletter! Do you have a good story? An interesting fact? Are you doing something with your literacy support group that you want others to know about? Send your submissions to Sheena Summach or Connie Jones!

Sheena Summach:
sln.communications@sasktel.net
Connie Jones:
connie.jones@sasktel.net



SASKATCHEWAN LITERACY NETWORK
202 - 626 BROADWAY AVENUE
SASKATOON, SASKATCHEWAN S7N 1A9
1-888-511-2111

Answers to riddles on page 6:
1) A towel 2) Corn on the cob 3) A rug 4) A coffin 5) A nose 6) A river
7) A stamp 8) A splinter 9) Fire 10) A cold