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learner journeys



Saskatchewan
Literacy
Network

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Why Call the Saskatchewan Literacy Network?

Call the toll free literacy line to:

- Find out what learning programs are available to meet your specific needs.
- Find out about the Learner Focus Committee and how you can participate.
- Find out what agencies can help with learning disabilities.
- Find out who to contact about learner groups in your area.
- Find out what agencies offer tutoring.
- Learn how to use the Saskatchewan Literacy Network website.
- Much more!

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

2010 Knowledge Exchange

By Lynda Richards

The 2010 Spirit of Community Knowledge Exchange was a great success again this year with a strong turnout from adult learners across the province. There were many opportunities for learners to connect with one another over the learner's breakfast in the morning, or to chat over a delicious lunch with all Knowledge Exchange participants. Since the Learner Focus Committee was looking for a new member, some of our current LFC members chatted with new adult learners and told them how they could get involved with the LFC. The annual Knowledge Exchange is a great opportunity for learners to come together and encourage one another to keep working hard. It's important for learners to attend because they realize they are not alone in their struggles with literacy.



One of the highlights of the conference for me was the keynote by Dr. Vianne Timmons, President of the University of Regina. She spoke about taking a whole family approach to literacy. She stressed how important it is for parents to get involved with their children's school and to get to know the teachers. All too often, adult learners are held back by their own insecurities and don't want to become involved with their children's education. Dr. Timmons stressed how important it was for parent and school to build a relationship and to work together with the child's best interests in mind. Dr. Timmons shared her own experiences as the parent of a child with unique learning needs and talked about how she had allowed her child's learning struggles to take the place of her child.

The Saskatchewan Literacy Network, in partnership with local colleges and adult education programs, was able to cover the cost for any adult learner who wanted to attend the Knowledge Exchange. This is a great opportunity for any adult learner and we hope to see even more learners there next year!

Committee of Adult Literacy Learners (CALL) Report

By: Ngeune Selinger

The meetings that we go to two times a year in Ottawa are wonderful for networking and sharing information about adult literacy across our country. We have common goals and concerns that are important to each of us. After our first meeting, we felt as if we had known each other for a long time, and each meeting after that felt like a family reunion. We all try to help each other - for this report I had help from my friend Patricia Ashie, who has mentored me since my first day in Ottawa for the CALL meeting. I love going to each meeting because of the wonderful people I am with. The CLLN (Canadian Literacy and Learning Network) and CALL (Committee of Adult Literacy Learners) are great organizations to be a part of.

Committee of Adult Literacy Learners

Patricia Ashie - Vice-chair- Ontario
Marie David - Nova Scotia
Danny Haines - CALL mentor - Alberta
Dennis MacLeod – New Brunswick
Anita Martens - Manitoba
Kim McGrath-Myers - Prince Edward Island
Ngeune Selinger - CALL mentor - Saskatchewan
Ellen Szita – Chair – British Columbia

2010 was a very busy and productive year for CALL members:

Chris Harwood and the members of the CALL committee developed and wrote a Study Guide for the adult learning curriculum. The Study Guide is based on a book written by Ellen Szita called "Ellen's Story". We strongly believe that the Study Guide will be embraced by other learners because it will reinforce and support personal and career development leading to employment. As well, students working through the Study Guide will attain the 9 essentials skills necessary for the workplace.

Activities of CALL members:

- Community outreach
- Advisory committee members (Business/ literacy)
- Workplace support and counselling of fellow employees
- Providing information about and promotion of literacy programs
- Fundraising
- Public speaking
- Letter writing (politicians/newspapers/literacy organizations)
- Radio Interviews
- Promotion (publication of success stories/newspaper articles/interviews)
- Members of numerous committees
- International partnerships
- Co-presenters at workshops
- Awareness outreach campaigns (e.g. invitations to speak with high school students)
- Published articles
- Nominations for various awards:
 - NALD chose Ellen Szita as the first student learner of the week in August 2010
 - Danny Haines was nominated as one of Edmonton's top ten "Champions of Change"

Learner Focus Committee

The Learner Focus Committee is made up of a group of adult learners from all over Saskatchewan. The committee meets two to three times a year to talk about literacy issues and help the Saskatchewan Literacy Network stay in touch with what matters to learners in Saskatchewan. These meetings are a great way for learners to get to know more about literacy around the province and share their views.

As of this spring, we have 6 members, but are excited that we will be adding 2 or 3 new members in the coming months. Here is the current LFC:

- Ming Xiang Pan, Regina
- Gordon Li, Regina
- Lin Ling Yuan, Regina
- Lynda Richards, Swift Current
- Randy Belanger, Ile-a-la-Crosse
- Ngeune Selinger, Prince Albert

Report from Ile-a-la-Crosse

By Randy Belanger and Lon Borgerson

Ile-a-la-Crosse is a northern community and the second oldest settlement in Saskatchewan. The name means "where the rivers meet" and is a place of sandy beaches, rivers, lakes, and streams. As well, the community is important historically as the birthplace of Louis Riel Sr. and the burial site of Sr. Marguerite Riel, the sister of Louis Riel.

There are many exciting things happening within the literacy community in Ile-a-la-Crosse both in the School Division and at community based organizations. The Ile-a-la-Crosse School Division offers a number of supplementary programs that contribute to literacy in our community. Adult 12 is offered through a partnership with Northlands Regional College and Gabriel Dumont Institute (DTI). This program is delivered over three terms, with the first trimester as an upgrading term for language and mathematics skills. The Division also hosts an ABE program from DTI.

As well as the Kindergarten to Grade 12 programs, there are a variety of courses offered online and in Ile-a-la-Crosse. There are several individuals who help community members complete employment and housing documents and other forms. These people play an important role and should not be forgotten. Our schools and Elders teach our children the basics of "bush literacy". Children learn basic survival, hunting and trapping techniques. Our friendship center offers a wide variety of programming for all ages that is open to the community.



In the summer of 2010, the Ile-a-la-Crosse School Division hosted a highly successful Summer Literacy Camp, in partnership with Frontier College. These camps provide continued literacy development of our young people over the summer months. As well, camps offer a strategy for addressing the literacy and achievement outcomes of northern/Aboriginal students. The school division is planning their second Summer Literacy Camp in 2011.

Literacy is a learning journey for young and old. It affirms and empowers everyone. The community and school division in Ile-a-la-Crosse are working together to support the learning needs of young and old!

Decorate your rental on a Dime

Here are some easy and cheap tips on how to decorate your rental without spending much money.

Choose a feeling you want in your apartment or rental home.

Since rentals can be small, choosing a feeling can help you decorate the entire space on a theme. Do you want it to feel relaxed and calm? Choose neutrals or cool colors such as blues and greens. Do you want your space to show personality? Try using bright, lively colours like reds and oranges.

Check out yard sales, thrift shops and online sites for used furniture.

It might take some hunting, but most thrift stores have used furniture and you can find good deals at yard sales during the summer months. There are also websites like Kijiji.ca where you can buy used furniture from people in your area.



Add some personality.

There are many cheap ways to add personality to a room without painting. Throw pillows and throw blankets add color and charm, warm up the room and hide ugly furniture. Buy some real plants or fake greenery at a craft store to make the place cozier.

Be creative with dollar store finds.

Pick up some picture frames from the dollar store, spray paint them and then frame unusual things like fabric, printed scrapbook paper, CD covers or cards. Display the frames as a grouping on the wall.

Furniture can be painted.

Anything can be painted these days. Clean the piece well, sand lightly and then simply paint the piece with the colour you like. You can paint everything the same so it looks like a set, or paint pieces with bright colours for accent furniture. You can also change hardware (handles, knobs, etc.) to update it.

Rewritten from an article on Rental Decorating Digest website by Kathy Wilson.

Upcoming events

International Adult Learners' Week Contest

April 2nd – April 9th

The Saskatchewan Literacy Network is holding a contest called "What did you Learn Today?" to celebrate International Adult Learners' Week (IALW). In order to be entered in a draw to win an **Apple iPad 2**, visit the SLN website from April 2 - 9 to tell us what you have learned.

Visit the contest website: <http://www.sk.literacy.ca/contest.html>



Literacy Awards of Merit

May 5th, 2011 in Saskatoon

These awards recognize the great work being done in the province by people who care about literacy issues. Read more about the awards on our website: www.sk.literacy.ca

Knowledge Exchange 2011

November 16th -17th

It may seem far away now, but it's never too early to start planning to attend the 2011 Spirit of Community Knowledge Exchange! This year the focus of the Knowledge Exchange will be on Essential Skills. Mark your calendars now and check our website for updates!

http://www.sk.literacy.ca/pages/spirit_community.html



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