



FESA's News & Views

Home of L.A.P.S. (Literacy and Parenting Skills)

RAISING SPIRITS

Thank you for Raising Our Spirits!

For 10 years, the Further Education Society has been dedicated to “raising the spirits” of families in need and on May 13th—you helped to “raise our spirits” by celebrating a decade of doing the work we are most passionate about—helping to improve the lives of low-literate families.

Our first ever fund-raiser, held at the Willow Park Wine and Spirits Store was a great success. Willow Park staff provided expertise, wonderful hors d'oeuvres and a beautiful venue. We are grateful also for all the support we received from our learners, program staff, community supporters, Further Education Society board members, fund-raising committee members and the friends of Literacy who attended. Ten years ago, the Further Education Society was founded upon a passion for learning, literacy and parenting and after 10 years of work, our commitment to this passion has grown in leaps and bounds. We are proud of the work we do and the milestones we've achieved. When we hear about the difference we have made in the lives of not just individuals, but entire families—we glow with pride, (as you may read on page 4 of this newsletter.)



Dave Kelly - Emcee at our Silent Auction

The generosity of our donors, sponsors and guests was truly inspiring. We are pleased to report that we exceeded our fund-raising goal. The dollars we received will be used to:

- Train new facilitators for our various programs
- Assist with educational research and development efforts
- Develop training materials and resources
- Help provide the expertise to deliver our local programs
- Build an endowment fund
- Provide children's books and book bags for Books for Babies program
- Build community capacity to deliver family literacy programs

Behind any great event is a team of dedicated individuals who devote their time, talents and energies to create a fundraiser that will help to improve the lives of countless families.

Finally we would like to thank BowValley College for over 10 years of support of our work. We are grateful to have a home in such a positive and encouraging environment.

Staff and Board Members

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* Notre oppologie à nos amis Francophone. Le manque de subvention ne nous permet pas de traduire ce bulletin.

Major Donor Supports Work of FESA: Thank you to Hydri Kusumoto

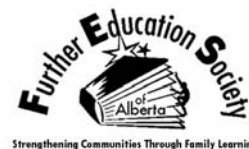
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were thrilled to receive news that Hyrdi Kusumoto, of Vancouver, B.C., has donated \$50,000 to support the work of FESA. Hydri, an educator herself, has always believed in the value of education. She has demonstrated this as a teacher, as a mother and grandmother who worked and continues to work diligently to ensure that her family acquires the highest quality of education available.

As a generous philanthropist, Hydri and her husband, Tom, have been involved in several projects which allow those with few advantages to build their capacity to thrive in this world through education.

FESA is grateful for this belief in our work and will devote these dollars to working with communities that have not had the means to work adequately with disadvantaged learners.

Thank you Hydri—benefactor, educator and friend.



Thank you to our Generous Sponsors

***We would like to thank our donors whose generosity made our first fundraiser,
Raising Spirits, not just a dream, but a reality!***

Alberta Theatres Project	Centre	La Brezza Restaurant	Ramada Hotel
Alderman Druh Farrell	Continental Imaging	Literacy Alberta	Remax Realty
Alderman Joe Ceci	Products	Hazel Litzgus	Sylvia Roberts
Alderman Bob Hawkesworth	Megan Darling	London Drugs	Rogers Video
Aura Interiors & Accessories	Decore Hotels	Lunchbox Theatre	Ben Rose
Back Door Wine & Spirits	DevaDave Salon	John MacKenzie	Christine Sparrow
Bellisima	Direct Energy	Lauren MacKenzie	Marnie Schaetti
Belgo Brasserie	Fort Calgary	MacKenzie Welbourne	Mick Mulloy
Beat Meiers	Fratello Coffee Company	Carol McCullough	Karen Sklar
BowValley College	Ina Giovannetti	McNally Robinson	Iain Smith
David Cairns	Joanne Good	Booksellers	Starbucks
Liz Cairns	Karen & Russ Grant	Jeff Mowatt	Ken & Jane Stothers
Louise Cairns	Chrissy Gonzales	Nevada Bob's Golf	Sunshine Village
Richard Cairns	Gloria Hare	Kerry Nowasad	Sunterra Market
Hon. Harvey Cenaiko	Grand and Toy	Maureen O'Sullivan	Transcanada Pipeline
Calgary Flames Hockey Club	Hair Experience	Pages Books on Kensington	Tribuild Contracting
Calgary Hitmen Hockey	Pat Hawkins	Marilyn Palsgrave	Vertigo Theatre
Club	International Hotel	Pandora's Box	John Welbourne
Canada Safeway	Candice Jackson	Panorama Mountain Village	Lucie Wheeler
Chapters/Indigo	Dave Kelly	Margurerite Paulson	Linda Wihak
Melody Charlton,	Karen Knight	Sue Phillips	Wildflower Graphics &
Weekender	Kensington Safeway	Philips Partners Inc.	Photography
Byron & Marion Chenger	Kensington Florist	Karen & Don Quillams	Willow Park Wine & Spirits
Cochrane Fitness & Health	Hydri Kusumoto	Quinn's of Kensington Hair	Jan Wittig

We would also like to extend a very special thanks to Bow Valley College for 10 years of support.

"Education is for improving the lives of others and for leaving your community and world better than you found it." -- Marian Wright Edelman

Family Literacy Day—Celebrating What's Important

What is essential to a good Family Literacy program? A well trained, enthusiastic facilitator? Provision of excellent materials and resources? Community support? At the Further Education Society we pride ourselves on all of the above, but our learners provide the most essential factor: enthusiasm and willingness to learn.

In Calgary this year, we decided to recognize our learners for their dedication to our programs. We chose Family Literacy Day, January 27th, to partner with Women In Need Society and offer a celebration for our enthusiastic learners and their families. Women In Need Society is one of our first partners and we have enjoyed many years of successful partnership and program delivery with them.

We made a real effort to invite families by delivering posters in plain language to homes, and chatting with as many people as possible to build excitement

and spread the word. Much assistance was received from the Shaganappi Branch Library, where the event took place, West Central Community Resource Centre and the City of Calgary Community and Neighborhood Services.



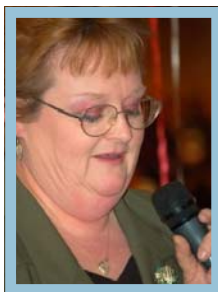
Laureen MacKenzie & Elaine Cairns
Celebrating Family Literacy Day

About 150 people of all ages attended, enjoyed refreshments, and took part in fun, literacy themed activities. All children received goody bags to take home while the adults entered a draw for 3 exciting prizes. Everyone took home 2 or 3 books from a table of donated books. Agency staff, volunteers and families all enjoyed the chance to visit and simply have fun together.

This event helped cement our friendship with other agencies, and we received beneficial publicity through our local media, but the greatest reward was enjoying the opportunity to celebrate what's most important - the success of our learners!

Not only is reading a privilege, but a right!

- A Testimonial delivered by Cindy Fisher at our Fundraiser



How do you think you would feel if someone called you terrible names like stupid, idiot, moron, or even retarded, just because you couldn't read? I know how I would feel because it happened to me.

I was low literate and when I was in school, I was called these terrible names from fellow students and sometimes teachers. The key word in this whole sentence is was. I struggled and faked my way through school and eventually was put into a program with other students with the same challenges as myself, all of us feeling as outcasts and being told that we weren't worth the effort. No one had time for us. We were freaks, and others let us know it. We were told that if we couldn't read or read properly by now, we never would. I gave up on myself. My self esteem was as low as it could go. I thought that if no one wanted to teach me, why bother? If I only knew then what I know now - but hindsight is 20/20.

I dropped out of school and went to work. I went from job to job because I couldn't read properly. No one wanted to keep me. I later married and had a beautiful daughter. My inspiration! I was introduced to the LAPS program which was my life saver. For those of you who don't know what LAPS is, it's an acronym for Literacy and Parenting Skills Program. LAPS has helped me look inside myself and discover the woman that was really there all along - strong, sensitive, level-headed, and smart.

Laureen and her team gave me the confidence and the courage that I needed to better myself, so I went back to school. I wanted to be a good role model for my daughter. Two and half years later, I became a grade 12 graduate. I now have a great job that I adore, and my daughter looks to me for answers. Without the LAPS program, I don't know where I would be today. I thank you, Laureen, for fighting for me and fighting with me, all the while telling me that I'm worth it. So please bid generously tonight, ladies and gentlemen. Not only is reading a privilege, but it's also a right and guess what - I can do it!

Positive Discipline Strategy

submitted by Judy Brooks / LAPS & ALAPS Trainer Regional Literacy Coordinator, Vancouver Island, BC

This year, in the Comox Valley on Vancouver Island, we were able to offer the LAPS program (“Learning Adventures for Parents”) in three elementary schools. It has been very well received by parents and supported with enthusiasm by the school principals. It is part of our community plan to have more Family Literacy activities for parents located in schools – schools being a natural neighborhood hub for learning.

At one of our LAPS sessions, we were talking about how parents need to give clear messages to their children. A grandmother who helps raise her grandchildren volunteered a brilliant strategy that the adults in her family agreed to use to modify the behavior of a ten-year-old boy.

The “grown-ups” had a meeting to figure out how they would handle the following problem: the boy (their son / grandson) was being hard to communicate with, that is, he was either talking back, or ignoring them, or being evasive when asked to do something – being generally uncooperative. They recognized that this had become a bad habit that needed some intervention (from them.) They also thought that a lot of their time and energy was being used every day to deal with this – time they could put to better use!

In a family meeting, they worked on a short list of what he was doing that was unacceptable in terms of communicating with them. In a second column, they described the responses they expected from him – that is, more reasonable behavior from a boy his age.

They agreed that when he acted inappropriately in the future, he would be “called” on the behavior and sent to his room where the list was posted on the back of his bedroom door. He would then have to spend some “down time” reading the list and reflecting on a better way to communicate with the members of his family. His grandmother (our LAPS participant) said that gradually, his way of responding changed. His interactions with the rest of the family have become more positive and he seems a happier person for it.

To me, this process illustrates how people can problem-solve in an uncomplicated, fair and understanding way. The parents in our LAPS groups continue to make great suggestions that we all benefit from – the learning never stops!



LOLA AWARDS

“Impossible becomes possible often if there is belief, focus and opportunity.”
- Lauren MacKenzie



We are proud to announce in April, Lauren MacKenzie, FESA’s co-executive director received the Life of Learning Award from Calgary Learns in the category of Designer/Director. This is an award that goes to an educator who has made extraordinary and innovative contributions to the promotion, advancement and development of lifelong learning in Calgary.

It was Lauren’s belief that education is the great equalizer that led her to join the education field 39 years ago. It was back in 1975 after developing an early literacy class for struggling grade 10 students that she determined to spend the rest of her career working with what she considered the missing link – confident, skilled parents.

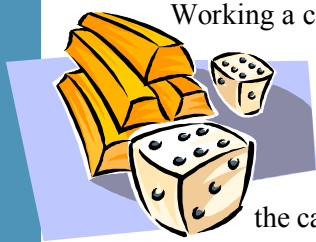
Her participation in the development of LAPS (Literacy And Parenting Skills), beginning in 1993, was one of her responses to this. This program is currently available in many regions of Canada and serves learners from many different backgrounds. It is her belief in people’s ability and interest in learning throughout their lives, if encouraged and supported, that sustains her in the field of literacy.

Lauren believes that this award belongs to the many on our committed, selfless team at Further Education Society and BowValley College who work tirelessly on a daily basis to provide Calgary’s challenged families with the new skills and supports that they need to thrive intellectually, emotionally, physically and spiritually.

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.” - Nelson Mandela

Where is Lady Luck?

By Ida Stanley-Tober, FESA President



Working a casino is a wonderful two day reunion where people you may or may not know talk steady, eat lots and have a great time, with a little bit of work to do at the casino. My work as the volunteer casino coordinator started in January. I was off work for medical reasons and thought that getting on the phone and interacting with the public might help me get back in the groove for work.

I was given a list with about 45 names for the 40 positions to be filled. Some of the names were Board members, others were facilitators, others supportive members. Many could not work it because of prior personal or work commitments. I had a wonderful time talking to almost all of them, some I had to leave messages.....and then wait....call again....wait some more.

The deadline to have most of the names was very close and I did not have nearly enough people! It seemed like a Reality TV show, where the host is frantic that the house owners will be coming back or the deadline will mean the place will look worse than before they started! I phoned nearly everyone in my personal Little Black Book. I invited everyone at AADAC to work our casino. I found my stash of business cards from people in the literacy field, many of whom I had not talked

to in over five years!!! I called everyone!

I called a friend of a friend, a perfect stranger. Well not exactly perfect, but very strange! I left a message explaining who I was, and the cause. When he called back he was very intoxicated and said there was no damn way etc.. Then he called back sober, said he would work. This cycle repeated itself, including expletives, until I informed him that it worked out and I did not need him.

Now it is one day before the casino. One person had an emergency and could not help; another I called to confirm had no recollection of our conversation two days before when he said he would love to help.

At the casino everyone showed up! I love working at casinos, chatting with people of the same "ilk" or passion for literacy. Thanks everyone!

FESA hosted it's first casino on April 9th & 10th in Calgary. Staff & Board were grateful to everyone who participated in making this major event the success that it turned out to be. We look forward to applying the proceeds (as yet unknown) to our expanding work in Alberta.

Upcoming In-Service & Training:

Calgary Facilitator In-Service: June 20th at BowValley College.

Celebrating another year of successful programming, learning more about diversity, and using various LAPS resources and strategies to strengthen program delivery.

Interested in Becoming a LAPS Facilitator?

If you have a Passion for Literacy, Parenting & Sharing in Other's Successes —

please attend our Upcoming Facilitator Training:

Centre for Family Literacy, August 21,22,23,24,25.

For More information on the In-Service or Facilitator Training
Please contact Sue Phillips at 686-2751 or flyingcoloursteaching@shaw.ca

The following tips come from Wendy and Jennifer, our two newest LAPS facilitators in Calgary. They explored parent/child interactive ideas. Many of these fun, summer learning activities were shown and started in class, but left for families to complete at home, encouraging ongoing parent/child interaction.

- ◆ “We discovered our ESL learners weren’t familiar with book tapes, or how to get them from the library. Parents and children really enjoyed using one in class and now look forward to making trips to the library for more.”
- ◆ “Families enjoyed learning how to make playdough at home, after using it in class.”
- ◆ “Parents and children got a chuckle out of ‘Pet Rocks’ we brought in to show the class. Some of the materials such as felt, pipe cleaners, googly eye-balls, paint, and markers were offered for families to take home for making their own pet rocks. (Nail polish also works well.)
- ◆ “Families enjoyed planting sunflower seeds and watching them grow.”
- ◆ “Another hit: Bird-feeders made by rolling pine-cones in peanut butter or lard, and rolled in bird seed, with strings attached for hanging from trees.”
- ◆ “Adults and children got a laugh from learning the ‘Hokey-Pokey’, playing ‘I Spy’, and ‘Pack My Suitcase’.” These simple games we play in Canada are fun and novel to some of our ESL learners. When they were invited to share similar activities from their countries of origin, it was great to see learners in the class take much pleasure in the opportunity to teach others.



Name The Newsletter Contest:

FESA’s News & Views is looking for a new name! Email us your Suggestions at bprefontaine@bowvalleycollege.ca and if we choose your name we will send you a lovely prize!

FESA News & Views

LAPS News is published semi-annually and is a publication of Further Education Society of Alberta.

We welcome contributions of interest to LAPS trainers and facilitators in addition to other practitioners within the family literacy community. Contributions may be sent directly to the LAPS main office via e-mail c/o Office Administrator, LAPSinfo@bowvalleycollege.ca, or faxed to the attention of LAPS Program, Room 541, Bow Valley College, (403) 297-4949.

Please contact us at (403) 410-1501 if you wish to be removed from our mailing list.

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Need help setting up a LAPS program or organizing training in your area? Give us a call at (403) 410-1501.



Want to make a difference? For information on how you can become involved Visit LAPS on the web at www.nald.ca/laps or contact lapsinfo@bowvalleycollege.ca or (403) 410-1501