



Literacy Nanaimo Newsletter

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Newsletter sponsored by Kwik Kopy

Number 61

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Autumn 2005

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International Literacy Day

International Literacy Day, which has been observed on September 8 since 1965,



focuses attention on worldwide literacy issues.

Internationally, almost one person in seven is illiterate, and out of a total of 860 million illiterate adults, nearly two-thirds of them are women. It is estimated that for each year a child attends school, his or her potential income as an adult rises by 10-20%. For more information on international literacy issues, check out the **UNESCO** site at www.unesco.org and the **CODE Canada** site at www.codecan.org.

United Way

We are approaching **United Way Campaign** time. As a member agency of **United Way**, we would like to encourage you to support **United Way** activities in the next three months. We have been a member agency for many years and are grateful for the support that **United Way** gives us.



Our Malaspina Partnership

We were very pleased this summer to have a visit from the **Malaspina U-C** Dean of Adult and



Continuing Education, **Dennis Silvestrone**. Dennis is pictured with Volunteer Tutor Co-ordinator **Jacqueline Webster**, and volunteer tutor **Kathy Downs** with her student **Brad Clark**.

We have had a partnership with **Malaspina University-College** since 1990 whereby we help to co-ordinate the **Volunteer Tutor Program** and provide tutoring rooms and resource material for the tutors and learners.

Thank You!

Thank you to **Trish Jennings** of the **Coastal Community Credit Union, Bowen Road Branch**, for organizing an in-house book sale



to raise money for **Literacy Nanaimo**. Pictured are **Carolyn McWhinnie** our Executive Director with **Trish Jennings** and **Wendy Smitka**, President of **Literacy Nanaimo**. The cheque came in handy, as someone had just vandalized our coin-operated coffee machine to the tune of \$850.00. So, thank you again **Coastal Community Credit Union**.

Summer Partea for Literacy



The Summer Partea for Literacy, held at the *Nanaimo Museum* on August 20th, was a major success. We raised \$5,400.00 for our literacy programs. Pictured is **Miriam Novalle**, from the *T Salon and Emporium* in New York City, delighting everyone with her stories about tea.

A fine art show with 26 artists represented was organized by **Liu Jian** of the *Shanghai Emporium* and we had a wide assortment of Silent Auction items generously donated by members of our community.

The food, which everyone agreed was fabulous, was prepared by **Chef de Cuisine James Hume** and his able assistant **Christine McAuley**. Special thank you to the *Rotary Daybreak Club* for helping out with the liquid refreshments, such as the wonderful Marteanis.

Thank you to our sponsors *Costco, Bridgeway Transport, Fountain Tire* and the *Shanghai Emporium*, with special thanks to **Christine McAuley** of *Bernard Callebaut Chocolaterie*, our **Chef de Cuisine James Hume**, the *Woodlands School Jazz Combo*, and the *Nanaimo Museum*.

Quilt Draw



Thank you to the *Scrappy Bags* quilting group and *Snip and Stitch Fabrics* for their generous donation of a hand made quilt. The quilt was won by one of our volunteer tutors, **Joyce Hedges**.

Bookstore News

We have had a change of staff in our bookstore. **Jane Rose** (right) stepped in as bookstore supervisor for the summer and will be job-sharing come September. Jane had a bit of an accident, tripping over the sidewalk, so has been working shorter hours while her knee mends. We will be having a half-price sale in September on *English classics, poetry and drama* so be sure to drop in to welcome Jane and pick up some bargains.



Summer Student Jordan Sugiyama



Again this year we received a grant from **Weyerhaeuser** to provide an employment opportunity as a first time job for a youth. We were all very pleased to work with **Jordan Sugiyama**.

Jordan is a student at *Nanaimo District Secondary School* and is very involved in minor hockey as a referee. He assisted us with our public-access internet site and the computers in the tutoring rooms. He demonstrated an exceptional level of maturity for his age and was a great help.

Redecorating

We would like to thank everyone for your patience with our redecorating. We have tried to have all of the work done in the evening and early mornings but sometimes the chaos and paint smell remain. We would like to thank our hardworking painter **Rick Dunstan** and carpenter **Don Taylor**. We are almost finished and the building is really starting to look good. Once everything is complete, we will have an open house with volunteer appreciation to celebrate.

Malaspina University-College / Literacy Nanaimo

Literacy Tutoring Program



Jacqueline Webster, Tutor Co-ordinator

Office hours: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays at Literacy Nanaimo

9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursdays at Malaspina U-C, Bldg. 205, Rm. 234

Phone: 754-8988 or 753-3245 local 2822

Email: websterj@mala.bc.ca

Greetings from Jacqueline

Welcome back to those of you who have taken a summer break from tutoring. I look forward to working with you and your learners again this fall. When I returned from holidays, I was delighted to see how many of you had continued supporting your learners throughout the summer months. Although September and October are busy months for me, I am always available for your questions or concerns. Please call me.

Fall Tutor Training

If you have enjoyed being part of the **Tutor Program**, pass the word on to your friends and colleagues. We are running our fall tutor training September 26 to November 3 (Mondays and Thursdays) from 1-4 p.m. at Malaspina U-C. There are still seats available.




Tutor Networking

Our networking sessions provide a forum for tutors, currently working with a learner or not, to share tutoring ideas and concerns. Our third session of the year will focus on teaching phonics. We will discuss questions such as:

- Why do we use phonics?
- Is there a sequence that we should follow?
- What are good strategies to use?

If you have used phonics or if you would like to use phonics with a learner, please attend!

 **Tutor Networking: Phonics**
Monday, October 17, 2005
Literacy Nanaimo
1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
RSVP Linda, 754-8988

Lynda is a Winner!

When I joined *Literacy Nanaimo* in September 2004, it was my goal to improve my reading, writing and spelling. Although I had graduated from Grade 12, I lost my skills because of an acquired brain injury.



Lynda Thomas & Joyce Hedges

My tutor felt I had a talent for writing and encouraged me to write as much as possible. I decided to enter the *Nanaimo Kinette Club District Quill Award Contest*. I wrote an essay a little about the brain injury and my experiences in the *Kinette Club*. To write the essay was long and hard; it took a long time and a lot of perseverance. My efforts were rewarded by winning second place in the *Kin Club Quill Writing Contest*. **Lynda Thomas**

It has been a pleasure to work with Lynda. Her reading, writing and spelling have improved considerably over the past year. Lynda's writing style is natural, and sensitive to her environment, with a lovely humorous touch. Her dedication to continuous learning and her writing will be the key to even further improvement. **Joyce Hedges**

Tutoring Statistics: Sept. 04-Aug. 05

- ★ 87 tutors
- ★ 115 learners
- ★ 8 months: average length of matches
- ★ 33 months: average length tutors stay with us

Thanks for your commitment!

Dyslexia: Simply a Different Way of Thinking

In June, tutors were invited to a dyslexia workshop. Alan McDowell, founder of FULCRUM, a provider of dyslexia awareness and training courses in Britain shared his personal experiences, and told how these experiences shaped his life, finally leading him to establish a system of assistance to businesses, government, and voluntary organizations. He is in the process of establishing the **Vancouver Island Dyslexia Association (VIDA)**, a group that will provide support to families and individuals, in addition to relevant organizations.

McDowell informed tutors that dyslexia is not something that needs fixing. He stated that the dyslexic person, using the right side of the brain processes thoughts or images at a speed of 10,000 per minute; the average person, using the left side of the brain to process thought, can process no more than 252 words per minute. Dyslexia is "simply a different way of thinking", and VIDA wants to tap into this powerful resource. He also informed tutors that people with dyslexia are the largest 'disability' group in Canada with 10% of the population affected. On Vancouver Island that represents over 70,000 people.

VIDA's mission is to "change the balance...of how dyslexia is perceived and dealt with, from being a negative to a positive attribute."

Submitted by tutor **Valerie Hannan**

VIDA

The **Vancouver Island Dyslexia Association (VIDA)** is having its formation meeting on September 13. This is an opportunity for adults, parents, and their children to come together to establish their needs and discuss their vision for this association. Please encourage anyone who might benefit from this association to attend the meeting.

VIDA Formation Meeting

Tuesday, September 13, 2005

6:00-7:45 p.m.

Vancouver Island Regional Library
Harbourfront Branch, 90 Commercial St.
More information at 753-5644

On the Road to Success

Gary Wakelin has been with the tutor program since October 2004 and is making steady progress towards his goals. Gary was very seriously injured some time ago and spent months in hospital recovering. The incident affected his memory and left him with a number of health problems that have kept him from working and living a fully satisfactory life. These things have not affected Gary's ambition and drive to improve himself; while he can read and write, he wants to improve his ability to do so even better. In just a few months he has made great strides, showing very positive improvement in his writing and reading.



Dedication to his studies, always doing his homework, expressing his needs clearly, having a willingness to ask questions and an obvious thirst for knowledge, as well as being on time for tutoring sessions are some of the reasons for his steady upgrading. His self-confidence and self-esteem are increasing; both the Literacy Coordinator and I, Gary's tutor, feel that the future can provide great things for him. Friendly and optimistic about his future, he is a pleasure to work with. Malaspina University-College may not yet be one of Gary's goals but there is no reason, if he maintains his steady progress, why it should not be. Go for it, Gary!

Bill Boagey

Gary adds: "Since starting at Literacy I feel that my reading and writing has improved at least 25%. I also am gaining in self-confidence and intend to keep studying."

Learning Links

Go to **www.literacynanaimo.org** and then click on *Learning Links* for reading/spelling/math practice. So far, the two favourite sites are:

- ★ **BBC-Skillswise**
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/skillswise/>
- ★ **Learning Resources : CNN**
<http://literacynet.org/cnnsf/home.html>