



Literacy Nanaimo Newsletter

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Literacy Now



Literacy Now is a community development initiative funded by government, private, and corporate donations through **2010 Legacies Now**. The objective is for our community to join

together to make a community literacy plan unique to Nanaimo. The idea is to build on our existing strengths and develop a plan to address the gaps in our literacy programs.

Literacy Nanaimo is participating with a small group in the initial planning stages. This is where you, *the public*, come in. We are planning a community meeting to be held **Tuesday, January 23rd from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.** (location to be determined). The purpose of this meeting is to explain the process and the commitment involved.

There is funding available for developing a community plan and further funds available to implement the plan. All of this is to help B.C. to become the best-educated, most literate jurisdiction on the continent by 2010.

If you are interested in participating by attending the launch on January 23rd, please contact **Carolyn** at 754-8988.

Learner Speakers' Bureau

Thank you to *Harbour City Toastmasters* for sponsoring a **Speechcraft** program for a group of our learners. The learners will meet once a week beginning in January. They will be led through a series of exercises to help them to improve their public speaking skills. If you think your learner would benefit from this program, please contact **Marilyn** at 754-8988.



Volunteer Christmas Party

Literacy Nanaimo's annual **Volunteer Recognition** Christmas event will be on December 7th at St. Paul's Anglican Church Hall. The Board of Directors and Staff of *Literacy Nanaimo* are hosting the event for our volunteer tutors, learners, BEARS & BEAMS, and bookstore volunteers. Children's new books will be collected and donated to the **Great Nanaimo Toy Drive**.



Season's Greetings to all
from the Board and Staff
of Literacy Nanaimo



Books, Books, Books

The bookstore has a great assortment of new and like-new books suitable for gift giving. Be sure to drop in and check them out. And, don't forget our gift certificates. We can make them up in any denomination.

We have book donation boxes located in **Port Place, Country Club Centre** and now at **Woodgrove** (next to **Toys "R" Us**).

Scrabble Tournament 2007

We are busy organizing our **Scrabble Tournament** to be held Saturday, March 3rd at **Port Place Shopping Centre**. This is a change of venue and we are looking forward to working with Port Place. So, start working on your Scrabble skills!



Computer Recycling

The two Franks have been busy cranking out computers for families. This year to date we have donated 80 computers and we still have a month to go. In the new year, we will start upgrading to *Windows XP* and *Office 2000*. We currently load them with *Windows 2000*. This, of course, will depend on receiving donations of *XP* compatible computers.

Jeremy, a computer recipient, sent us this thank you:
My mom doesn't know much about computers so now she can learn and I can help her learn. My sister thinks the computer is fun too.



This holiday season, board member **Tony Bellavia** is going to be busy volunteering as a driver for **Operation Red Nose**. If you are interested in getting involved in this worthwhile activity, go to the **Community Policing** office at 303 Prideaux Street or call 753-3245 local 2649 for more information.

RIPAL/Literacy BC Workshop

June Hughes
Regional Literacy Coordinator

On October 25th, **Literacy BC** and **RIPAL** (**Research in Practice Adult Literacy**) sponsored a workshop for literacy practitioners and tutors from Nanaimo and the surrounding area. **Vancouver Island Regional Library** at **Harbourfront** kindly donated space for this event, and **Literacy Nanaimo** provided technical support and beverages.

Twenty people attended the workshop, which was entitled *Literacy, Equality and Creativity*. The presenter was **Bonnie Soro** who has spent time in Ireland where this program was part of the **LEIS** (**Literacy and Equality in Irish Society**) project.

Bonnie's workshop was an intriguing mix of learning styles. After some thought-provoking group work she asked us to build our idea of how we could bring an equal balance between the learner and the tutor into our work. With the help of lots of craft items and Bonnie's special zippers, each group was able to build a model of what their work might look like. The idea of working with stiffened zippers is amazing as they can be used to demonstrate how some people and programs are closed, and how some are very open and inclusive. After building the models, we were asked to explain what our model meant, which brought up more interesting discussions and a few laughs.

This interactive workshop is a demonstration that we must use all learning styles and every available technique to make people understand about literacy and to help others to learn.

When we talk about literacy, art is another piece of the puzzle for most of us; this opportunity to use our artistic skills in a safe and friendly environment was truly a learning experience for most of us.

You can see more of Bonnie's work at www.soro.com. You can also learn more about **RIPAL** at www.ripal.literacy.bc.ca and more about LEIS at www.leis.ac.uk.

Malaspina University-College / Literacy Nanaimo

Literacy Tutoring Program

Marilyn Guttman, Tutor Coordinator



Office hours: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays at Literacy Nanaimo

9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursdays at Malaspina U-C, Bldg. 205, Rm. 234

Phone: 754-8988 or 753-3245 local 2822

Email: guttmanm@mala.bc.ca

Happy Holiday Greetings from Marilyn

I wish everyone a happy and healthy new year. I want to thank our many tutors who have given of their time, energy, and expertise this year to assist learners in enhancing their literacy and numeracy skills. Please know that your work is greatly appreciated.

Recognition Ceremony

Traditionally, we have recognized the contributions of our tutors during our Christmas Party. Once our volunteers have tutored for six months, they are presented with a certificate and a literacy pin. This year **Tony Bellavia**, Director of Malaspina's Career and Academic Preparation, will make the presentations to the following volunteer tutors:

Donna Anthony	Melina Snyder
Tam Green	Vivian Streader
Tina Louie	Bob Thompson
Juanita Miller	Alan Whittal
Mary Ann Moore	

We will also be acknowledging a very special group of tutors who have passed the 5-year mark:

Dave Flynn	Christine Norris
Sara Frisch	Margaret Smith
Alf Hackaray	Joan Stelling
Cheryl Myers	Penny Thompson



Laughter on a Rainy Day

How to be a poet:

play with words
speak up
face the
enjoy liquid
laugh often
be brave
allow magic
scattered
experiment



have fun
feel free
storm
sunshine
share words
share joyfully
cut, paste and put
thoughts on paper

observe differences

What we learned:

random words make a meaning
what's in between
to connect with a higher being
open doors

like magnets we attracted meaningful words
how to express different things using the same words
there are no rules
Now we're poets!

Contributed by **Mary Ann Moore** with words from the participants of *Poem Making for Everyone*

Upcoming Workshop



Mental Health and the Role of the Tutor

Monday, Dec. 4, 2006. 1:00-4:00 p.m.

Vancouver Island Regional Library

Harbourfront Branch, 90 Commercial Street

RSVP: Wendy 754-8988

A Warm Welcome to Our New Tutors

Congratulations to the sixteen enthusiastic new tutors who completed the Fall Training Program on October 26th:

Pauline Bayley	Gillian Niles
Karen Downey	Mel Peddle
Joan Etheridge	Cathy Perkins
Dolores Gottenberg	Jim Ross
Jeannie Isbister	Wendy Standing
Jeff Manney	Debra Vincent
Diane Morrison	Patricia Wilson
Joanne Muckle	Kathleen Zaharuk

Each new tutor received a **Malaspina University-College Certificate**, presented by **Tony Bellavia**, Director, Career and Academic Preparation. As I write this, many of our new volunteers have already begun their work, helping learners advance their literacy and numeracy skills. We hope that tutoring will be a rewarding and worthwhile experience for them.

A highlight of the Tutor Training Program occurred during two training sessions when the following tutors and learners shared their stories and experiences: **Tam Green, Donna Kristensen, Sandra Magrum, Melina Snyder, Heather Porteous, Doug Reeves, Vivian Streader, and Bernice Johnson.**

We were privileged to have guest speakers who contributed their expertise and experience to the training: **June Hughes** presented on Plain Language, **Christine Norris** on English as a Second Language and Lesson Planning, and **Iris Strong** on Fundamental Math.

Finally, the program concluded with an **Orientation to Literacy Nanaimo**. **Carolyn McWhinnie** provided a tour of Literacy Nanaimo, **Marilyn Guttman**, a look at our resource materials, **Christine Norris**, an overview of our educational software, and **Brian O’Rooney**, an introduction to our computer support services and to *WRAP*, Word Recognition and Phonics Software.



Orientation to **Literacy Nanaimo**, October 31, 2006

Poem Making for Everyone

On Wednesday, Nov. 15th, Nanaimo faced torrential rains and falling trees and branches. At Literacy Nanaimo, in sharp contrast, there were expressions of creativity and laughter. Eleven tutors and learners braved the harsh elements to attend the Poem Making workshop facilitated by **Mary Ann Moore**, a poet, writer, volunteer tutor, and workshop facilitator.


What is Poem Making? It can be a spiritual practice, a silly practice or a sacred practice. Mary Ann’s definition of Poem Making is:


**The soul creating a ceremony
out of an ordinary event.**


Learners benefit from Poem Making in many ways. First and foremost, their writing practice is based on real life activities. Some of the other benefits are: helping learners realize their own creativity, encouraging learners to explore words and use a dictionary and thesaurus, and helping learners learn about editing and the correct use of parts of speech.

In a relaxing environment that combined work and play, tutors and learners listened to poetry and participated in several hands-on activities. For example, they created poems by using cut-out words from magazines to finish phrases.

A warm thank you goes to Mary Ann who left us with her hand-outs containing many ideas for Poem Making. Here are a few **tips for tutors**:

 **Poster Poem** Cut out words from newspapers and magazines, arrange them on a page, and glue them down when you are satisfied with what you see.

 **Transposition** Print or type out a poem you like. Cut it up and put the words into a bag. Pick out the words and create a new poem. (Give credit to the original poet for the poem you created.)

 **Found Poem** Take a paragraph or sentence already written and turn it into a poem.

An Invitation to tutors: Drop by the resource table at **Literacy Nanaimo** and take one of Mary Ann’s hand-outs. You can visit Mary Ann Moore’s website at www.maryannmoore.ca.