



Literacy Nanaimo Newsletter

19 Commercial St., Nanaimo, BC V9R 5G3 Phone (250) 754-8988
Fax: (250) 754-8114 Email: info@LiteracyNanaimo.org

Number 73

sponsored by Kwik Kopy

Winter 2008

Help someone learn to read and you open their door to hope... and a lifetime of possibilities! ...R.K.



Rebecca Kirk, Executive Director
Wendy Chapplow, Executive Assistant
Brian O'Rooney, Computer Technician
Jane Rose, Pat Donaldson, Bronwen Brice: Bookstore Supervisors



We bid a fond farewell and plenty of good wishes for the future to **Carolyn McWhinnie** our outgoing Executive Director and the founder of Literacy Nanaimo. Carolyn has worked with the organization since 1999 and deserves our grateful appreciation for building Literacy Nanaimo into the successful and dynamic agency that it is today. Carolyn is looking forward to retirement on Gabriola Island, lots of golfing and reading, and actually finding out exactly how many cats she has been feeding during the day!



Our new Executive Director - Rebecca Kirk

Rebecca began her leadership responsibilities with Literacy Nanaimo on Nov.03, 2008. She comes to us with a strong background in Community Program Development, Human Resources, Volunteer and Non Profit Leadership. A significant portion of Rebecca's career was in the Justice System establishing several programs. She highlights Victim Services, Restorative Justice and her work with First Nation Justice Issues as particularly satisfying. Rebecca was also a volunteer RCMP Aux. Constable for 15 years and concentrated on Community Policing and Crime Prevention for 7 of those years. She is looking forward to providing leadership and direction to an organization that has the strong potential to aid in preventing some of the fallout she has witnessed in her career caused when misfortune, abuse, and a lack of support has changed the direction of someone's life and interrupted their potential.

continued on page 2

Privacy Statement: At Literacy Nanaimo, we protect your personal information and adhere to all legislative and privacy policy requirements. Information you provide is held in confidence. Information is not sold, rented, or traded to other organizations. Your personal information will be used only to keep you informed of our activities, services, and opportunities to volunteer or to contribute. If at any time you wish to be removed from our mailing list, or if you have any questions, simply contact us by phone at 250 754-8988 or via email at info@LiteracyNanaimo.org.



...continued from page 1

Rebecca believes in life long learning and has been participating in Leadership studies and researching Social Enterprises, a longtime interest and one of the reasons she was drawn to Literacy Nanaimo, another being her love of books and building her personal library. She readily admits the opportunity to oversee the management and growth of a large bookstore is a dream come true.

With the support of a dynamic Board of Directors Rebecca looks forward with excitement to building on the current foundation. She believes the talented, dedicated volunteers and staff are the core strength of Literacy Nanaimo and enjoys the close working relationship that is developing. Rebecca also points out that she has received a wonderful welcome from an amazing network of supportive and involved Community, Government, Vancouver Island University and School District agencies, all working together to create and provide greater access to literacy programs for everyone.

Rebecca is delighted to be living in Nanaimo once again. With some of her personal interests including jogging, sailing, bike riding, writing, reading and playing the piano, all of the above enjoyed with family and friends, she intends to take full advantage of everything Nanaimo and the Island offers.



BEARS and BEAMS

Our "Be Enthusiastic about Reading" and "Be Enthusiastic about Math" programs are going strong with about 44 volunteers attending at 19 local elementary schools to act as reading and math buddies providing extra help for students.

Computer Refurbishing & Recycling

62 computers were completely refurbished and loaded with authorized licensed Microsoft software in 2008 by our dedicated team of Computer Volunteers and given free to families that have been identified by several community agencies and schools. **Literacy Nanaimo accepts used or new computer equipment. Please call and ask for Brian.**

Bookstore News

Bookstore Hours:
Monday - Friday 9:00 to 5:00
Saturday 10:00 - 5:00

A Beautiful Christmas Story

Recently a woman entered our bookstore and approached one of the volunteers. She handed her a \$20 bill and told her that a few years ago she had passed a counterfeit \$20 bill in our store and she wanted to pay it back.

Our encouragement and thanks go out to her for her act of courage!

Internet Sales

Our book sales over the Internet have been increasing. We have shipped books to several locations throughout the world. Next time you visit our store take a moment to look at the map up behind the Internet Sales Desk managed by Bea, another of our volunteers. You can view our Internet listings on the following sites:

www.abebooks.com
www.antiqubook.com
www.biblio.com
www.biblion.com
www.booksandcollectables.com

Book Requests

Just a reminder that if there is a special book you are trying to find you can put in a request. Call or visit our front desk. We have found thousands of books for customers through our request system. You might have to be patient for a while but eventually they turn up in the store and we will call you.

Upcoming Tutor Training:

We will be offering tutor training again in the spring. This 30 hour course provides a good introduction to literacy tutoring and is free of charge. If you know of anyone who might be interested, please have them call Literacy Nanaimo at 250-754-8988 for more information or suggest they stop by at 19 Commercial Street upstairs to speak with Jacqueline or Margaret and pick up a brochure on tutoring.

Tutor Tips:

In November Debra Hagen of Vancouver Island University agreed to present a workshop for our tutors. "Supportive Learning with Free or Low-Cost Resources" drew 12 tutors for a very informative and fun session. Debra discussed many new websites that will be of use to our tutors. The sites offer new and different ways of assisting learners with some of their language problems. We include the list here for your research:

Software:

Readplease <http://www.readplease.com/>

Screen reading software. The most basic version may be downloaded for free.

Text Aloud 2 <http://www.nextup.com/index.html>

Also screen reading software. There is a free 30 day demo. It is fairly easy to use. A full version can be purchased for about \$40 and good voices may be added on for an additional \$25. Test files can be converted to MP3 files so that they can then be listened to on MP3 players.

OpenOffice <http://www.openoffice.org/>

A free set of programs similar to those found in Microsoft Office. The word processor allows documents to be saved in PDF format.

Inspiration <http://www.inspiration.com>

(74.00 per copy available from Strategic Transitions Inc. Inspiration Software Associates, Toll Free 1 800 726-7784)

Graphic organizer software. Examples may be found at:

<http://www.strategictransitions.com/literaturepage2.htm>

<http://www.strategictransition.com/literaturepage1.htm>

Primo PDF <http://www.primopdg.com/>

A free program that allows the conversion of files to PDF

Adobe reader <http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2/html>

Adobe reader is the program needed in order to open PDF documents. It comes with a Read Out Loud function (found under "View") It can be downloaded for free.

Websites:

<http://www.studygs.net/>

A series of Study Guides and Strategies that has been researched, authored, maintained and supported by Joe Landsberger as an international, learner-centric, educational public service. Permission is granted to freely copy, adapt, and distribute individual Study Guides in print format in non-commercial educational settings that benefit learners.

<http://www.eduplace.com/graphicorganizer/>

A selection of Graphic Organizers that can be opened in PDF format and printed.

<http://www.audiobooksforfree.com/home>

Hundreds of books and short stories (no longer copy protected) with human readers, not digitized speech.

<http://manybooks.net/about/>

A large selection of free etexts (both fiction and non-fiction) many from Project Gutenberg. Most are older books that are no longer copy protected.

<http://www.webmath.com/index.html>

A website to help students with math problems.

<http://www.lib.umn.edu/help/calculator/>

An assignment calculator provided on the University of Minnesota website.

<http://www.word2word.com/>

This site is dedicated to breaking down of language barriers and assisting users who have the desire to learn a language, a need to communicate between languages, and for those who work with languages as a profession.

<http://www.cdiponline.org/>

The purpose of this site is to help adults improve basic skills like reading and spelling using real-life stories on topics of interest to adults. There is a separate section for teachers and adult educators that can be accessed by selecting the For Adult Educators link at the top of the homepage (most of the stories are based in California and many are dated, but still may be a useful resource).

<http://www.visuwords.com/>

On-line graphical dictionary and thesaurus

<http://citationmachine.net/>

Citation Machine is an interactive web tool designed to assist high school, college, and university students, their teachers, and independent researchers in their effort to respect other people's intellectual properties.

Tutor Coordinator Hours

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, 9AM - 5PM
Jacqueline Webster (Tuesday at VIU)

Thursday, Friday, 9AM - 5PM
Margaret Ames (Thursday PM at VIU)
