

The Literacy Update ~ No. 1

The Newsletter of PEI Volunteers for Literacy. Winter/Spring 2006. PO Box 2000 Charlottetown PE C1A 7N8

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Who are we? What do we do?

PEI Volunteers for Literacy have been volunteering in elementary schools for over 13 years as Project L.O.V.E. and as BOAST volunteers in intermediate and high schools for about five years.

In 35 schools across PEI, more than 250 very committed (mainly retired) older volunteers help students with their school work in various areas. In the elementary program, help is usually in that most important area, reading.

PEI Volunteers for Literacy go to their school at least once a week, spending between an hour and a whole morning or afternoon in the school. We usually help one student at a time, listening and coaching them with words, reading aloud to model good pronunciation and expression for them, helping with classroom projects or catching up on missed assignments.

Teachers whose students work with the volunteers all agree: Their students benefit greatly from this help, gaining self-confidence through the interest shown in them by our volunteers.



Why Boys Must Be Boys

Recently, we as a Board have been discussing what we might do to help the many boys involved in our program enjoy books more.

There are a number of good resources and book lists available, along with articles on gender differences in learning styles which recognize boys' lack of interest in some of the offerings in the school reading program.

We have taken a very comprehensive list of books for boys provided by the Department of Education to children's librarian Brabara Kissick. She has edited it for us.

The following list consists of books which are **known** to be read by boys who use the provincial library system.

A small warning: There are

problems with providing book lists. The first is that some good books will have been left off by mistake. The second is that **new** books aren't on the list.

Let this list be a guide for selecting books for those boys who just don't seem to be able to find anything they like to read in the school's reading program.

Get them at your local library if necessary. Remember they can be delivered to your branch if they are anywhere in the system!

Or take the advice of the teacher from Parkdale School, who said "They're interested in natural history (bats, snakes, dinosaurs), car crashes, machines, - all grim subjects!"

Read-Aloud

The Little Old Lady Who Was Not Afraid of Anything by

Linda Williams

Pecos Bill by Steven Kellogg

The Polar Express by Chris van Allsburg

Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark by Alvin Schwartz

Picture Books

Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good Very Bad Day by Judith Viorst

The Big Sneeze by Ruth Brown
Chicka Chicka Boom Boom by Bill Martin Jr. and John Archimbault
Click, Clack, Moo: Cows that Type by Doreen Cronin
Dinosaur Cousins by Bernard Most
Doctor de Soto by William Steig
Pete's a Pizza
If You Take a Mouse to School by Laura Numeroff
If You Give a Mouse a Cookie
If You Give a Pig a Pancake
If You Take a Mouse to the Movies
Miss Nelson is Missing by Harry Allard
Miss Nelson is Back
Miss Bindergarten gets Ready for Kindergarten by Joseph Slate
No, David! by David Shannon
No Jumping on the Bed by Todd Arnold
One Fish Two Fish Red Fish Blue Fish by Dr. Seuss
Pigs Aplenty, Pigs Galore! by David McPhail
Dogzilla by Dav Pilkey
 Also: *Dog Breath; Hallo-wiener*
The Grouchy Ladybug by Eric Carle
 Also: *The Very Quiet Cricket; The Very Hungry Caterpillar*
Where the Wild Things Are by Maurice Sendak

Easy Read Series

Amelia Bedelia by Peggy Parish
Arthur by Marc Brown
Curious George by H.A. Rey
Franklin by Paulette Bourgeois

Series for Young Boys

The Adventures of Captain

Underpants by Dav Pilkey
The Hardy Boys: All New Adventures by Franklyn W. Dixon
The Magic Tree House by Mary Pope Osborn
 Also: *Afternoon on the Amazon; The Knight at Dawn; Mummies in the Morning; Night of the Ninjas*
Munschworks: The First Munsch Collection by Robert Munsch
Sam: Dog Detective by Mary Labatt
Screech Owls by Roy MacGregor
A Series of Unfortunate Events by Lemony Snickett
Sideways Stories from a Wayside School by Louis Sachar
Star Wars Jedi Apprentice by Jude Watson
The Time Warp Trio by Jon Scieszka

Series for Older Boys

Harry Potter by J.K. Rowling
Tales of Redwall by Brian Jacques



Novels for Young Boys

Holes by Louis Sachar
Island by Gordon Korman
I was a Rat by Philip Pullman
Danny the Champion of the World by Roald Dahl
 Also: *George's Marvelous Medicine; Matilda*
Stone Fox by John Reynolds Gardiner
Sam Samauri by Jon Scieszka

This Can't be Happening at MacDonald Hall! by Gordon Korman

Also: *Beware the Fish; Bruno and Boots; The Chicken Doesn't Skate; Fifth Grade Radio; Our Man Weston; No Coins, Please*

Novels for Older Boys:

Artemis Fowl by Eoin Colfer
 Also: *Artemis Fowl: The Arctic Incident*
The Case of the Raging Rottweiler by John R. Erickson
The Giver by Lois Lowry
The Golden Compass by Philip Pullman
 Also: *The Subtle Knife; The Amber Spyglass*
Hatchet by Gary Paulsen
My Side of the Mountain by Jean Craighead George
The Hobbit by J.R.R. Tolkien
 Also: *Lord of the Rings Trilogy*
 Avi (many)
The Outsiders by S.E. Hinton
Silverwing Trilogy by Kenneth Oppel

Poetry for Young Boys

Where the Sidewalk Ends by Shel Silverstein, also *A Light in the Attic*

Poetry for Older Boys

Nightmares: Poems to Trouble Your Sleep by Jack Prelutsky

Non-Fiction

Boy: Tales of Childhood by Roald Dahl
 Eyewitness Books

Guinness Book of Records
(newest)

*Hockey for Kids: Heroes, Tips
and Facts* by Brian McFarlane

How Hockey Works by Keltie
Thomas

The Way Things Work by David
Macaulay

Also: *Building Big; Cathedral;
Castle; Pyramid*

*Knights and Castles: a non-
fiction companion to The Knight
at Dawn* by Will and Mary Pope
Osborn

*Mummies and Pyramids: a non-
fiction companion to Mummies
in the Morning* by Will and
Mary Pope Osborn

I Spy (series) by Jean Marzollo
*Z is for Zamboni: A Hockey
Alphabet* by Mike Ulmer

A new name, but the philosophy's the same!

The Doiron/Lees research report "*It Takes a Village to Raise a Reader*" has made a number of recommendations to us, and one of these which has been enacted is the change of name.

You may already have this information, but, in case you missed it, the researchers said: "**What's in a Name.**" "There is little doubt that Project L.O.V.E. has become well-known in PEI as a positive and important initiative that brings older volunteers and students together for the promotion and development of

literacy. It is a 'brand' known by many. "However, the name is awkward and confusing to anyone who is unfamiliar with the organization. The use of L.O.V.E. as an acronym diminishes the credibility of the organization and does not do justice to a serious, intelligent and dedicated group of elders from the community who want to create an interest and 'love' for literacy in the next generation. Using hearts and cupids as 'corporate image' adds to this warm fuzzy look. We suggest that the Project L.O.V.E. Board re-examine its public image and current 'brand' and consider changing its name and the way it presents itself to the community.

"This suggestion may be abhorrent to those who have invested a long time and a great deal of energy in making Project L.O.V.E. a 'household name'. However, if Project L.O.V.E. is to move forward and become even more pervasive in Prince Edward Island and beyond, the sentimental brand may not be as effective. A change in name....would show the two areas where volunteers contribute - promoting literacy as a positive and important lifetime habit and letting older volunteers play a role in building a literacy culture in PEI. Books and pictures of reading would help re-focus the corporate image.

"Another point to consider is the word "project" in the name of the organization. This implies not a permanent, but a temporary initiative. This may have been

true at the beginning, but Project L.O.V.E. is more than a "new initiative" or a "special project": it has become a part of the literacy landscape of Prince Edward Island schools and a vital contributor to the community and the culture of literacy in the province."

After a great deal of thought and discussion over three Board meetings, on December 7, 2005, the Board reached a decision to re-name Project L.O.V.E. "Prince Edward Island Volunteers for Literacy", effective January 1, 2006.

Active Living - It's for Everyone!

The Active Living Coalition for Older Adults suggests that we have a look at their web-site (www.alcoa.ca) for suggestions on how to live longer and healthier lives.

Their April 2005 issue of *Active Living Tips* suggests that Ageism (discrimination based on age) is also practised by older people, when they believe that being or becoming more active will be harmful to themselves.

"Research shows that elders can benefit more than anyone from being active 30

to 60 minutes a day”, the article says. It goes on to say that we should choose to be active at what we enjoy doing, rather than suddenly taking up tennis or some other very active sport.

Perhaps there’s something active going on at your school that you could join - not Dodgeball, perhaps, but there may be something you’d enjoy!

Nessie’s Christmas Card

Just before Christmas, Parkside School’s Captain, Nessie Bowden, was talking about her star student this year.

Apparently she has been working with him for three years, and this fall when they got together at school for the first time, his reading had improved - immensely.

Nessie played it big: “Wait a minute! Who are you? I was expecting ____, and he can’t read very well at all. You’re a great reader!”

The boy told her that he and his dad had spent a lot of time over the summer, working on his reading skills, and that work had really paid off!

Nessie was planning her Christmas cards for her students, and, as Robert Munsch’s *“Love You Forever”* is a favourite, she was going to write in her cards, “I’ll love you forever, if a reader

you’ll be”.

Parkside’s principal, Lorna Champion, called just after school started after Christmas, to tell us that Nessie had passed away on Christmas Day.

Thank you, Nessie, for over eleven years of helping Parkside students become readers. You will be missed.



Parkside School’s Captain, Nessie Bowden, receives her 10-year plaque from Minister of Education Mildred Dover, June, 2004.

Study Circles - Coming Soon to a School near YOU

For an opportunity to learn new things about working with children, and an opportunity to share ideas between volunteers and between schools, keep an eye

peeled for our next series of Study Circles.

We usually hold these in five areas of the province: West Prince, East Prince, Charlottetown, Eastern Kings and Southern Kings.

This year we will learn about Gardiner’s Theory of Multiple Intelligences and how understanding it will help you in working with students.

We are also planning to have someone from the Department talk about the language arts program.

Any other topics would be entertained so please get in touch if there’s a special topic you would like to know more about.

Early Literacy Plans

Your Board is discussing ideas for expanding the PEI Volunteers for Literacy experience into other areas, and one possibility is in working with toddlers and children in pre-school. If you are interested in more information, please get in touch with the office. It’s an exciting new area and we are prepared to try a pilot project soon.