

# The L.O.V.E. Letter ~ No. 15

The Newsletter of Project L.O.V.E. ♡ FALL/WINTER 2003 ♡ PO Box 2000 Charlottetown PE C1A 7N8  
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## BOASTing about this thing called L.O.V.E.!

Project L.O.V.E. stands for Let Older Volunteers Educate, and is our elementary school project. BOAST stands for Bringing Older Adults and Students Together, and we find BOAST volunteers in intermediate and high schools.

In 34 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.

L.O.V.E. Volunteers go to their school once a week, spending between an hour and a whole morning or afternoon in the school.

They 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 to get caught up on missed assignments.

BOAST Volunteers are more flexible - some visit the school once a week, while others work on short-term projects, which may involve more visits over a shorter period of time. The volunteer work is usually focussed on specific areas of expertise of the volunteer.

Teachers whose students work with the Project L.O.V.E. volunteers all agree: Their students benefit greatly from this

help, gaining self-confidence through the interest shown in them by the volunteers.

## Many Ways to say: "Very Good!"

*If a child lives with encouragement, he learns confidence.*

*If a child lives with praise, she learns to appreciate.*

*If a child lives with approval, he learns to like himself.*

*If a child lives with acceptance and friendship, she learns to find love in the world.*

We have all seen how children blossom when they receive positive feedback from someone they respect.

Here are a few phrases you can use when you think you might be over-using the "very good!" line:

- ★ You're on the right track now!
- ★ Outstanding!
- ★ Terrific!
- ★ I'm very proud of you.
- ★ You figured that out fast.
- ★ That's the best ever.
- ★ You're really improving.
- ★ You are very good at that.
- ★ Keep it up!
- ★ Good thinking!
- ★ You got it right!
- ★ I appreciate your hard

work.

- ★ You're clever!
- ★ One more time and you'll have it.
- ★ You did a lot of work today!
- ★ Super Duper!
- ★ That's better than ever.
- ★ You're really learning a lot!
- ★ I appreciate your hard work.
- ★ That's the way!

## Great Resources for Literacy Tutors

In the United States the Northwest Regional Education Laboratory and Bank Street College of Education have partnered in a program called LEARNS.

One of the products of this partnership is a terrific newsletter called "**the tutor**". Each issue offers information on a single topic; for example, Winter 2000 is about "Motivating Reluctant Adolescent Readers", and Winter 2002 has "Tutoring our Youngest Readers".

All the back issues are on the www line at this URL address:

[www.nwrel.org/learns/tutor/](http://www.nwrel.org/learns/tutor/).

You will also find other valuable tutoring resources at this site.

If anyone is interested in

either of the two issues of “the tutor” mentioned above, we have copies at the LOVE office and can mail them out to you. Call 368-4695 or toll-free 1-866-741-5683.

## **A Fine Time at 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary AGM!**

Nine special people were honoured at the Project L.O.V.E. annual luncheon in June. As this is our 10<sup>th</sup> year, we honoured those who have been involved with us since school year 1993-94.

These special volunteers are: Louise Andrew and Sharon Fleming from St. Jean School; Mary Horne and Anne Rankin from Parkdale School; Joye MacKenzie from Glen Stewart School; and Malcolm Patterson from Montague Consolidated School.

In addition, Board members Laura Mair and Bernice Bell were involved from the very beginning, and special teacher Eunice House has supported Project L.O.V.E. in all three schools where she has worked over the past ten years: St. Jean, Parkdale, and now West Royalty School.

Lieutenant-Governor Léonce Bernard presented the honorees with a framed artwork, created by student Katie Langton of St. Jean School. Congratulations and thanks to everyone!

## **Results from Annual Volunteer Survey**

Thanks so much to those who filled in the survey at the annual meeting. This is a valuable information-gathering tool for Project L.O.V.E. to help us plan activities for the following year.

One of the activities for which we have received funding from the National Literacy Secretariat for the next three years is for workshops on new literacy techniques. From your responses, the most popular topic is Phonemic Awareness (phonics), followed very closely by Learning Disabilities and Reading Strategies.

Our plan is to offer workshops on these three topics this year, in various areas of the Island so that our volunteers will not have so far to travel. If anyone has any suggestions or preferences about locations, please get in touch with Mary at the office!

## **Did You Know? Department:**

Do remember, and tell other volunteers (and potential volunteers!), that Project L.O.V.E. will help with transportation where we can. In Charlottetown, Summerside and Montague we use a local taxi service, and elsewhere we pay mileage. Call the office for more information.

## **Many thanks for helping with the Art Contest!**

Thanks to all teachers, volunteers, and especially students who helped with the Art Contest. We were amazed at the heartfelt sentiments expressed to their volunteers by the students. We plan to keep the individual school winners to illustrate reports, enliven our web-site and even create thank-you or other greeting cards!

Of course the grand prize winner, Katie Compton of St Jean School will have her art work remembered for a long time - the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary winners all received a framed copy of her design, and the students who won at their schools received a T-shirt with her design.

It was great fun to have so many of the school winners present at the annual luncheon. The younger element has always been missing at this event and it was great to have the students (and their parents and families!) there to chat with the volunteers and receive their prizes.

Again, thanks and congratulations to all school winners of the art contest, and thanks to all volunteers for making Project L.O.V.E. a very positive experience for these students.

## Lieutenant-governor receives L.O.V.E. T-shirt!

Lieutenant-governor Léonce Bernard was given a L.O.V.E. T-shirt by Chair Liz Nimmo to thank him for coming to present the awards to our special 10-year volunteers at the June Luncheon.

Visitors to Fanningbank may even see him wearing it (on casual occasions of course!).

## Opportunity for Special Volunteers

Does anyone want to try working with really young children in a pre-literacy program? Project L.O.V.E. has had a request for a volunteer to do a weekly "Lap-Sit" program at the Confederation Centre Library with 2-3 year olds (who come with their caregivers or parents).

The program would involve reading simple nursery rhymes and teaching finger-plays (The Itsy Bitsy Spider, etc) which the child - and their adult - would practice.

Children's Librarian Barbara Kissick would help the volunteer find appropriate books and rhymes and we could probably arrange for additional training if it is

needed.

Some volunteers who work with elementary school children have noticed that nursery rhymes are not familiar to children as they once were - and yet they are the basis of much children's literature.

Ms Kissick hopes that introducing very young children to nursery rhymes and finger-plays will help make these basics part of every child's experience, and help teach them a love of language which will make them eager readers when they get to school.

If anyone would like give this challenge a try, please call the office for more details. If we are successful in the Charlottetown area, we could consider helping out at other libraries across PEI!

## Sticker Situation

We will be offering all volunteers stickers again this year to give to your students as reading rewards for good effort on their part.

The stickers are purchased with funds from the Kiwanis Club of Charlottetown and the cards are provided to acknowledge their help. Let us know if you need more.