



# THE BUZZ ON LITERACY

Literacy Now, South Okanagan-Similkameen [www.literacynowso-s.ca](http://www.literacynowso-s.ca)

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For more information on any of the items in this month's newsletter or any questions about literacy services please contact Naomi Ludington at [literacynewsos@gmail.com](mailto:literacynewsos@gmail.com) or 250-462-0636.

Congrats to Laurel from The Kid's Club at Trout Creek Elementary School! Laurel won the Literacy Now draw prize at the Communities for Kids Conference! And Congrats to Fiona who won the draw prize at the Senior's Symposium! Both draw prizes (books—what else?) were donated from Coles Books from Cherry Lane Mall in Penticton.

## LITERACY NOW ADDRESSES FAMILY, WORKPLACE AND HEALTH LITERACY ISSUES

the highlights...

### **A Literacy and ESL Practitioner's Workshop**

November 13th from 9:30 to 3:00 at the Penticton and Wine Country Chamber of Commerce. Contact Naomi at 250-462-0636 for more information. Workshop is filling up so register soon! \$40 for two professional facilitators—a light breakfast and lunch included!

### **The Best Western Inn Recognized for Workplace Literacy**

On November 16th The Best Western Inn at Penticton will be recognized for the literacy initiatives they have supported in their workplace. Congratulations Best Western management and staff! Rhonda Allercott, Housekeeping Supervisor, should particularly be commended for recognizing a literacy need and business opportunity and running with it.

Literacy Now wishes to recognize businesses that are providing or encouraging literacy or essential skills training for the workplace. If you know of a business that is taking steps toward literacy/essential skills support, even baby steps, we wish to hear about it. Our goals are to become knowledgeable about businesses engaging in literacy support, recognize businesses for their initiatives, and establish a guide of "Workplace Literacy Best Practices" to share with the business community.



### **Family Literacy Day on January 23rd at Cherry Lane Mall**

A celebration and display of many of the literacy resources in our communities including memorable centre stage entertainment all day. Remember to put aside new and gently used books as we will attempt to 'Fill the Fit' with books! Thank you to Penticton Honda for providing a Honda Fit for this event!

### **Health Literacy Letter Sent to all Physicians**

A package soon to be sent out to physicians including a reminder of the value of Ask Me 3 cards. Everyone facing a health issue should know the answers to these 3 questions:

1) What is my main problem? 2) What do I need to do? 3) Why is it important for me to do this? Included in the package will also be a gentle nudge to doctor's offices to refer clients to the Free Tutoring Program offered at Okanagan College. For more information contact Mary Kiviste at 250-492-4305 ext. 3244.

### **Family Literacy Workshop on March 26/27 in Penticton**

Literacy Now will be hosting a workshop—An Introduction to the Family Literacy Certificate Program offered by Vancouver Community College. The first of its kind in Canada, this certificate offers a knowledge and skill base for those who currently wish to work in the family literacy field. This new certificate program highlights the need for family literacy, and the benefits of such a non-traditional approach to literacy education across cultures. Courses are designed to provide expertise to individuals who will be well prepared to design, develop, implement, and administer community-based and school-based family literacy programs. Good news—VCC is working toward offering this certificate program on line!



## Aestivation

*Oliver Wendell Holmes*

In candent ire the solar splendour flames;  
 The foles, languescent, pend from arid rames ;  
 His humid front the cive, anhelng, wipes,  
 And dreams of errng on ventiferous ripes.  
 How dulce to vive occult to mortal eyes,  
 Dorm on the herb with none to supervise,  
 Carp the suave berries from the crescent vine,  
 And bibe the flow from longicaudate kine !  
 To me , alas ! No verdurous visions come,  
 Save yon exiguous pools conferva-scum,--  
 No concave vast repeats the tender hue  
 That laves my milk-jug with celestial blue !  
 Me wretched ! Let me curr to quercine shades !  
 Effund your albid hausts, lactiferous maids !  
 Oh, might I vole to some umbrageous clump,-  
 Depart, - be off, - excede, - evade,- crump !

*Provided by Rhoda Taylor, OK in Health*

**food for thought...**

## MAKING AN INVESTMENT IN KIDS AND FAMILIES

A new report released from UBC's Human Early Learning Partnership (HELP), commissioned by the BC Business Council, is already creating a stir in the media — by linking the province's future economic performance to its early child development policies.

The report, *15 X 15: A Comprehensive Policy Framework for Early Human Capital Investment in BC*, makes the case that with 29% of BC's children currently entering kindergarten unable to meet all developmental benchmarks, not only are the children left at risk, but BC is left economically vulnerable.

The BC government has established the target of reducing early childhood vulnerability to 15% by 2015.

To achieve this target, HELP's report recommends six policy changes to address families' main needs:

- Extend maternity and parental leave to 18 months
- Redefine full time to accommodate shorter working hours for parents
- Reduce poverty among families with children, through income supports
- Increase pregnancy, health and parenting supports to ensure monthly developmental monitoring opportunities for children 0–18 months
- Build on early education and care services
- Build on ECD coalitions in community planning to enhance program coordination between local services that support families

While the annual costs to the province of implementing these recommendations could reach \$3 billion, over the next sixty years the benefits to society will outweigh the costs by more than six to one.

*From the BC Council for Families Weekly E-Newsletter, September 21, 2009*

## BOOK REVIEW

### The Phantom Tollbooth

When I was floating down the Penticton river channel this past summer with my book club friends, we were discussing books that made a long-lasting impact on our lives. My friend Manisha, a speech pathologist, who was here for the summer but is now back in Saudi Arabia, said that the book that she always remembers from her childhood was *The Phantom Tollbooth*.

I had never heard of it but knew it must be special to have left an impact on my clever friend Manisha. I found the junior novel by Norton Juster in the Penticton Public Library. It was originally published in 1961 and has had over 35 editions since.

This is an entertaining book for any young reader who loves the magic and play of words. Although some of the phrases used may go over a young person's head and could be better appreciated by an adult, regardless, the words and sentences will be considered witty to all.

Set in a land with the Mountains of Ignorance, the Foothills of Confusion, and the Sea of Knowledge, where there is an ongoing feud between the lords of Dictionopolis and Digitopolis, there is sure to be a great deal of play on words and adventure...

*For Milo, everything's a bore. When a tollbooth mysteriously appears in his room, he drives through only because he's got nothing better to do. But on the other side, things seem different. Milo visits the island of Conclusions (you get there by jumping), learns about time from a ticking watchdog named Tock, and even barks on a quest to rescue Rhyme and Reason! Somewhere along the way, Milo realizes something astonishing. Life is far from dull. In fact, it's exciting beyond his wildest dreams!*

A classic, with an Appreciation written by Maurice Sendak, that is sure to entertain and capture young people's imaginations for years to come.

*Naomi Ludington*

