



THE BUZZ ON LITERACY

Literacy Now, South Okanagan-Similkameen
literacynowsos@gmail.com

A Meditation on the English Language

Let's face it, English is a crazy language,
There is no egg in eggplant, no ham in the
hamburger,
And neither pine nor apple in the pineapple.
English muffins were not invented in England, and
French fries were not invented in France.

We sometimes take English for granted,
But if we examine its paradoxes we find that:
Quicksand takes you down slowly,
Boxing rings are square,
And a guinea pig is neither from Guinea, nor is it a
pig.

If writers write, how come fingers don't fing?
If the plural of tooth is teeth,
Shouldn't the plural of phone booth be phone beeth?
If the teacher taught, why didn't the preacher
praught?
Why do we call it a building when it's already been
built?
If a vegetarian eats vegetables,
What on earth does a humanitarian eat?
Why do people recite a play, yet play at a recital?
Park on driveways, and drive on parkways?
How can it be hot as hell one day, and cold as hell
another?
You have to marvel at the unique lunacy of a
language
Where a house can burn up as it burns down,
And in which you fill in a form by filling it out,
And a bell is heard only once it goes!

English was invented by people, not computers,
And it reflects the creativity of the human race
(Which of course isn't a race at all).
That is why when the stars are out they are visible,
But when the lights are out they are invisible.
And why it is that when I wind up my watch,
It starts,
But when I wind up this poem,
It ends. (Author unknown)

In This Issue

A Meditation on the English Language	1
Pre-school Free/ Nearly-Free Literacy Activities	1
Family Literacy Day: Celebrate on Jan 24 th !	2
Book recommendation for your 4-7 yr old	2

Pre-school Activities to build literacy and pre-literacy skills.

These simple to check, double-sided sheets of information on all the pre-school literacy-related activities in your area, are available now at your local libraries, rec. centres, through Communities for Kids etc. If you would like a copy, please email literacynowsos@gmail.com

Please specify which of the two areas you are interested in:

Osoyoos, Oliver and Okanagan Falls

Penticton, including Kaleden, Naramata and Summerland

There are plans to put together a similar one-page document for Keremeos and Cawston in the new year, if the community feels it might be useful. Please email me with your thoughts if you are a parent, caregiver or service provider in that area.



Mark it in your Calendars! Bring the Family! Family Literacy Day Celebration!



Literacy Now
South Okanagan-Similkameen
Working Together for Literacy

Family Literacy Day Celebration

Saturday January 24th, 2009 10 am - 5pm

Cherry Lane Shopping Centre, Penticton

A FUN day out for the entire family: Celebrate with us!
There will be lots of activities for kids of all ages, adults, as well as information about learning. Hourly draw prizes and Book Crossings too!

Join us throughout the day at the center stage, where there will be entertainments, from storytelling, to dance, drumming and even an open-mike for you budding writers and readers.



Participants include Communities for Kids, Libraries, Interior Health, Raise a Reader, The Friendship Centre, Strong Starts, Okanagan College and more.....

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When?
Saturday,
January 24th, 2009
10 am - 5 pm

Where?
Cherry Lane
Shopping Centre,
Penticton

Note to Service Providers:
Posters are in the final stages of being designed and will be distributed to you in hard copy and by email in early January.

Books for Christmas: Kids (ages 4-7) The Littlest Sled Dog by Michael Kusugak

You-too is the small, beady-eyed terrier at the centre of this delightful picture book. Her adventures take her to Nunavut, where she hopes to fulfil her dream of being a sled dog: until she meets the real thing, a whole team of dogs, "who snapped their jaws at each other like alligators," as their food, chunks of frozen fish, was thrown to them, and growled menacingly, teeth bared at little Igvillu (You-too) in her protective red booties. A chance encounter makes her reconsider her dreams. A dog who wants to be a movie star? You and the kids will love this story and the illustrations.

