

The **READ** Saskatoon **READer**



Season's Greetings!

What an amazing past few months! The staff and board hope that you have had as much fun, excitement and learning as we have! International Literacy Day, Raise-A-Reader, our Annual General Meeting, our Open House, Tutor Training and Lisa Vargo's award presentation are just some of the events that have occurred since September... **What will be happening in the new year?**

December 15 – January 4, 2005 Office closed for holidays

January 27th – Family Literacy Day. READ Saskatoon in cooperation with the Star Phoenix will be hosting a family literacy bingo game. Watch for details.

April Tutor Conference – TBA

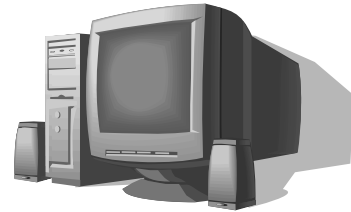
May Year End Event - TBA



Save a tree!

READ Saskatoon now posts its newsletter on-line. Please e-mail us at READSaskatoon@nald.ca if you would prefer to receive it by electronic mail.

You can win 1 of 5
READ Saskatoon
t-shirts!



How do you do this?

1. Visit READ Saskatoon's online:
<http://www.nald.ca/readsask>
2. Answer the following questions
 - a) What do you like about the site?
 - b) What is challenging?
 - c) What links do you find helpful? Can you suggest other links to add?
 - d) Other suggestions?
2. E-mail your answers and suggestions to:
READSaskatoon@nald.ca
3. Deadline January 15, 2005

Did you know...?

You can book private space for tutoring in the following libraries:

- Alice Turner
- Carlyle King
- Cliff Wright
- Frances Morrison (Main)
- Mayfair
- Rusty MacDonald



Please be aware that these rooms need to be booked *ahead of time*, as they are used for other purposes. The **private space at Frances Morrison** is an office and can only be booked on evenings and weekends, when staff are not using it. **Please call Community Relations at 975-7596 to book this office** (called the Outreach Services satellite office). The library requests that you book it by the Thursday of the week before you need it.

The READ Saskatoon office is also available for tutoring during weekdays – *please call ahead* (652-5448) to book tutoring time.

Congratulations Lisa!

Long time board member, tutor and current president, Lisa Vargo accepted a significant recognition from Canada Post receiving the Educator Award on September 18th. We thought we'd share it with all of READ Saskatoon's tutors and learners.

I cannot begin to express how delighted I am to receive this award. I wish to thank READ Saskatoon for nominating me for this honour. I became involved in



Left to Right: Sheryl Harrow, Honourable Ralph Goodale, Lisa Vargo and Carey Rigby-Wilcox

literacy work quite by chance, in the summer of 1986, when I was living in Toronto, and noticed a poster on a street light post on Queen Street West. I took one of the tear off slips from the bottom of the flyer, phoned the number, and became involved with a cause in which I have gladly invested my

heart and soul. I love doing literacy work because I love reading. Words are my life. I'm happiest when I have a book or a magazine or a newspaper in hand. So I couldn't think of a better thing to do than to try and share my deep love for reading with people who have not had the benefits of education that I have had, to take the work I do in the world of university teaching, a rarified and privileged world, and get connected with that world outside the ivory tower. This has been very important to me.

The greatest joy I have had in doing literacy work is in helping individuals with reading. That is the real work of literacy. For the past 13 years I have met weekly with a very special individual who has made my life richer for knowing her and for having the privilege of sharing her journey with her. Our learning partnership is a profound and deeply meaningful one. In fact I feel a bit guilty getting an award when I have already received so much and have had such fun in doing so!



Yet as I reflect on 18 years of service, I can't help but feel sad and more than a little frustrated that the dream of stable funding we looked for in 1986 still has not been achieved. And after 25 years READ Saskatoon remains in a position of uncertainty from year to year as to whether we will be able to carry on our work. And there is so very much to do. As you know, problems with literacy affect some 8 million adults in Canada. This should not be. Literacy is crucially important because it is a measure of the wellness of a society. It improves our economy and the health of our nation. It allows our citizens to participate more fully in our society and with their families. I know this is true because my learner has taught me this. In our years together I have seen her start a business, become a regular user of the public library, become a volunteer and a voter, as well as become a

Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It turns what we have into enough and more. It turns denial into acceptance, chaos to order, confusion to clarity. It can turn a meal into a feast, a house into a home, a stranger into a friend. Gratitude makes sense of our past, brings peace for today and creates a vision for tomorrow.

- Melody Beattie

reader of our daily newspaper. And if her personal achievements are astounding, even more significant is the impact her learning is having on her children. What I cannot understand is that while government, business, and community organizations recognize that literacy is a priority, we continue to struggle with limited resources and inadequate funding. Every year we have to do more with less. And we face the stark knowledge that only 1 in 10 adults who could benefit from literacy programs is receiving support.

I am grateful to Canada Post, to the Canadian Community Newspapers Association and to the other sponsors of this award. You are doing important work and I know you will remain committed to this great cause, so that all our citizens can share that fundamental human right of literacy.

A special thank you to Deborah Morgan. Deborah is the author of *Writing Out Loud*, a fabulous writing handbook. She has given READ Saskatoon copyright permission to include parts of *Writing Out Loud* in our tutor training manuals. The benefits to daily writing are amazing: writing allows people to look at their lives in a more positive way and it connects ideas and thoughts. Even more significant it identifies values and hopes and goals and validates writer's stories and lives.



PUZZLE FUN

Find 7 words in this puzzle by moving in any direction from one adjoining square to another. Each letter may be used many times.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| D | E | P | N |
| L | A | E | P |
| L | S | T | E |
| I | P | S | R |

Come to the READ office to do your holiday shopping...

If you would like to get a head start on your Christmas shopping, or just own a marvellous memento from READ Saskatoon, consider a T-shirt, coffee mug or canvas bag with our fabulous new look! You can fill out the order form below and mail it in or drop by the office with a **cheque payable to READ Saskatoon**. We cannot accept fax orders, as payment must accompany the order. Orders can be picked up at the READ Saskatoon office; if you would like your order shipped, please call the office for details.

Promotional items price list and order form:

T-shirts (short-sleeved)*: \$12.00 T-shirts (long-sleeved)*: \$15.00

*T-shirts sizes are small to XX-large; there is a small logo on the front left side and a large logo across the back.

Coffee mugs: \$7.00 Canvas bags: \$8.00

GST is included in all prices

Please send item orders with cheques to:

READ Saskatoon
#405 – 220 3rd Avenue South
Saskatoon, SK S7K 1M1



| | |
|---|---------|
| _____ short-sleeved T-shirts @ \$12.00 each | = _____ |
| _____ long-sleeved T-shirts @ \$15.00 each | = _____ |
| _____ coffee mugs @ \$7.00 each | = _____ |
| _____ canvas bags @ \$8.00 each | = _____ |
| TOTAL | = _____ |



Questions? We can be reached by phone at 652-5448, or by e-mail at:
readsaskatoon@nald.ca

Two Writing Activities to try with your Tutor

What's in a Name? Tell your name and say something about it: What you like or don't like; what it means; whom you were named for. For example: "My name is Linda Dawn. I was born during W.W.II to teenaged parents; my father was at sea, so my mother named me Linda, after the name of a popular song and Dawn because that was her favourite time of day. Linda means pretty in Spanish. I like the sound and meaning of my



name. It makes me think of beautiful sunrises. When my Dad got the telegram it said: "Linda and Don", so for a few days, until he could get to a phone ashore, he thought I was twins, one named after his brother Don! - *Linda Dawn Pettigrew - Toronto, Ontario. There are similar Writing Out Loud activities: My Name (Writing Out Loud - Having Fun, pp. 66-68), and By Another Name (More Writing Out Loud - Writing What You Know, pp. 74-75).*

Alphabet Exercise Write the alphabet down the left-hand margin of the paper. Then on the count of three, and writing as quickly as they can, write a word next to the letter. For example, "apple, bear, cucumber, dog..." Do this as quickly as you can and not to think about what you are writing.

After this is complete, talk about the process. What was going on for you? Was that fun? Was it difficult? Do you notice any themes? Like food, names of people, and so forth. This is good "first" writing activity because it gets words on a page. It gets us thinking that writing can be fun. It also gets us talking about the issue of how we edit ourselves before we even put words down on the page. The second part of the warm-up is for them to take one of the words, usually the one above or below the letter of their first name. I ask them to write that word on the top of a new page. Using that word we do a 3-5 minute free-writing exercise. *Diana Twiss - Langley, British Columbia*

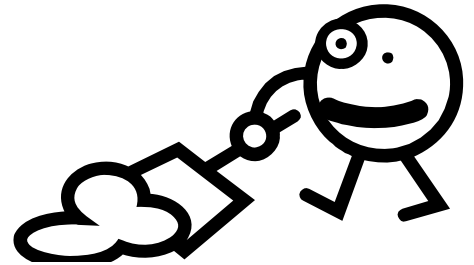
READer Family Fun Page

December's Family Fun Page Contest

How will you spend your time over the December break? We want to know.

- What books will you read? What books will your parents read to you?
- Send or draw us a picture of you reading your favourite book.
- Why is it your favourite book?
- What is it about
- Give us some reasons why you would recommend it to other kids.

Congratulations to the Bear family. They won family passes to Rainbow Theatre for entering September's Family Fun Page Contest. Will your family win this time? Be sure to enter...



Not only will all the names be entered for a draw, but we hope to include some recommendations in the next READer. We look forward to hearing from you!

Deadline January 15th, 2005.

Snow Activities for the Whole Family

1. Snow Fun

Lead your children around the room, pretending to stomp through the snow. Then have them lie down on their backs and move their arms up and down and their legs open and closed to make pretend "snow angels." If we have snow by the time you get this newsletter, (ha! ha! ha!) head outdoors!

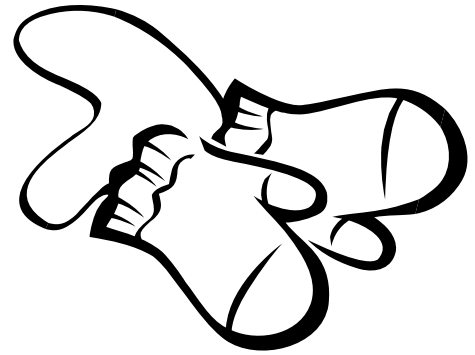
2. Song sung to "Three Blind Mice"

I love snow, I love snow.
Soft, white snow, soft, white snow.
It falls on the ground so soft and white.
Sometimes it falls
All through the night.
Did you ever see
Such a beautiful sight
As soft, white Snow?



3. Mitten Match

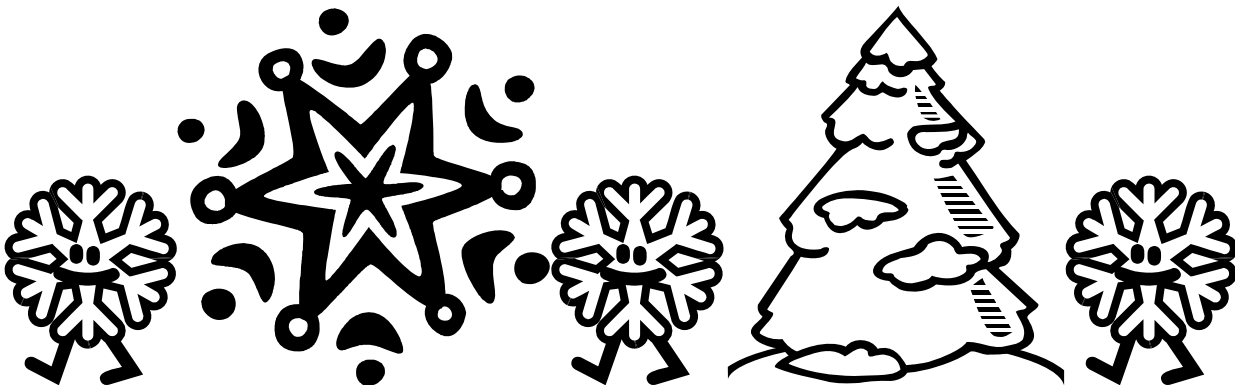
Find several pairs of different coloured or patterned mittens. Mix up the mittens and place them in a box. Then let your children take turns finding the matching pairs. *Variation:* Instead of real mittens, use mitten shapes cut from different colour or patterned paper.



Competence Building activities for your Children

1. Give your children jobs. Their success with regular chores will help them develop a sense of responsibility and the knowledge that they're contributing to the family.
2. Give your children daily or weekly responsibility. Such as feeding pets, taking out the trash, setting the table or planning and serving snacks.
3. Let their teachers know about their special knowledge and expertise. Your children will love knowing more than most adults and will be delighted when their teacher and classmates appreciate their knowledge and ask them questions.
4. Let your children lead. Join them in activities that they enjoy and are good at. Computer or video games are areas where they may have more skills than you do. Permit them to show you how far they can progress while you're stuck on level one, you'll see your children gain confidence that will spill over into other areas of their life.
5. Tell your child that you like them. Give them a couple reasons why.
6. Notice changes in personal appearance or the way your children do something. "The way you're combing your hair is so in style."
Statements of fact will be perceived as positive attention even though the change may not be to your personal taste.

—Nova News, fall 2003



Kids Help Line 1-800-668-6868