

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

November 2005



Belinda Stronach Visits READ Saskatoon

Belinda Stronach, Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development and minister responsible for Democratic



Minister Stronach received a tour of READ Saskatoon by Board President, Mary Leggett, and staff member Sheryl.

Renewal announced more than \$3 million in funding for 22 employment projects in Saskatchewan. This funding will help 816 youth make a successful transition to the workplace.

“The Government of Canada is committed to helping young people in Saskatchewan gain the skills and knowledge they need to reach their full potential,” said Minister Stronach. “These projects will help youth overcome barriers to employment and gain valuable experience that will help them to integrate into the labour market.”

Service Canada is providing financial assistance for these projects through the

Skills Link program, a component of the Government of Canada’s Youth Employment Strategy. The Skills Link program helps young people facing barriers to employment to acquire the skills, knowledge and work experience they need to participate in the job market.



Staff member, Mavis, explains the impact family literacy and story sacks have on Saskatoon families.

Spot the correct spelling

One of the words in each of these pairs is spelled incorrectly. Can you spot which words are wrong?

1. realy/really
2. library/liberry
3. please/pleese
4. writting/writing
5. useful/usefull
6. begining/beginning
7. accomodation/accomodation
8. untill/until
9. becuase/because
10. Wednesday/Wenesday
11. chilern/children
12. friend/freind
13. forty/fourty
14. college/colledge
15. wrong/rong
16. adress/address
17. permission/permishun

Project Ready: shaping my potential

What is Project Ready?

Project Ready is a seventeen-week program that provides



participants opportunities to improve literacy skills, physical fitness, good food and nutritional awareness and employability. Classroom learning, workshops, tours of community organizations and facilities combine in this holistic educational program.

Who?

At the core of Project Ready is a group of enthusiastic and determined adults who have committed to continued learning and positive change in their lives. All of the participants have children and are bringing the lessons they learn in the classroom back to their families. In addition to the wonderful participants are a number of individuals and organizations that are contributing to the program.

Where?

The Project Ready classroom is located on the second floor of the Avenue Building, however the program often reaches out to a number of communities in Saskatoon.

When?

The first installment of Project Ready, for adult aged 23 to 30 years old with children began on October 3rd. The next installment, for adults 17 to 28 years of age with children begins February 13th 2006. If you or someone you know may be interested in knowing more about Project Ready, please call Nancy or Belinda at 652-5448.

The following writing is provided by a participant of Project Ready.

Dear Readers,

*Down the stony path I walk
Destination unknown
Fearing not the winding curves in life
But the fact I walk alone.*

I had written the poem above when I was about fifteen years old. I didn't know where I was heading in life and felt there was no support out there. Lately the poem has taken on new meaning for me.

Since being at Project Ready I have realized that there are people willing to guide you to the right doors. Still this poem is a reminder to me that it's up to you to turn the doorknob.

I found that Project Ready helps provide the skills and the confidence to try. I have also been taught that around every curve there may be a good thing and any stone that you may trip over might be a nugget of gold.

I am now twenty-two years old and taking the walk that I have feared so much. Why?

Because the biggest lesson I have learned in life is, the path may be scary to walk along, but is sure beats standing still.



*Cathy
Blackburn*

Cathy with her three month daughter.

Project Ready participant

How to get top marks!

Everyone can use some help when it comes to schoolwork. Here are some strategies from education expert Professor Bernie Gaidosch of George College in Toronto to help students succeed during the school year.



Practice Reverse Procrastination.

List the things that can prevent you from getting to your studies – going to a movie, sitting at an outdoor patio, window shopping – and treat them as a bonus for getting the work done, or staying on task.

Do difficult topics first.

The logic of tackling these kind of subjects first lets you lighten your study load as you go. If you save the heavy areas for last, the danger is that you'll never get to them.

During the test, put your watch in front of you. Use this as a visual reminder to divide your time among the questions.

Identify key words.

Words such as explain, discuss, compare, contrast and relate – are trigger words pointing you in a particular direction.

Don't cheat.

Peer pressure can be a powerful influence. If your friends decide that cheating is cool or an easy shortcut, then the possibility that they'll tempt you is high. You have to separate yourself from them.

Revise thoroughly.

Proofread carefully and often, correct all errors and print your final copy to look neat and professional.

Organize your notes.

This allows you to effectively segment your notes which makes it easier to identify which segments you'll need to focus on when it comes to prepare for an exam or test.

Be on Time.

Lateness is an indication of a student's negative attitude toward the course. It's an impossible sign for any teacher to ignore or feel good about.



- From the Professor's Secrets – How to get top marks on test and exams by Professor Bernie Gaidosch, www.profsecrets.com

I'm illiterate, Fantasia reveals in memoir

American Idol winner Fantasia Barrino reveals in her memoirs that she is functionally illiterate and had to fake her way through some scripted portions of the televised U.S. talent show, which she won in 2004.



"You're illiterate to just about everything. You don't want to misspell," Fantasia told ABC's 20/20. "So that, for me, kept me in a box and I didn't, wouldn't come out."

The 21-year-old R&B singer says she's signed record deals and contracts that she didn't read and couldn't understand. But the hardest part, she said, is not being able to read to Zion, her four-year-old daughter.

"That hurts really bad," she said, adding that she is now learning to read with tutors.

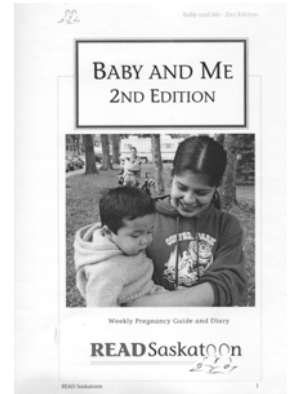
In her memoir, Life Is Not a Fairy Tale, which she dictated to a freelance writer, Fantasia also said she was raped in her early teens by a classmate. She says the boy was disciplined, but she blamed herself for the attack.

She dropped out of high school that year and became an unwed mother at 17.

READ Saskatoon receives funding to

publish *Baby and Me* – 2nd edition

READ Saskatoon received funding to update and republish READ Saskatoon's plain language pregnancy diary and journal, Baby and Me.



The journal provides information and checklists and the back pages can be altered to apply to any community. The guide is also useful for volunteer tutors, instructors and advocates working with youth-at-risk, new Canadians or parents with literacy challenges. The book will be distributed free of charge, to participants in READ Saskatoon programming and to other interested individuals and community/ service agencies. It will also be made accessible free of charge from our website.

In May of last year, READ Saskatoon received funding from the *United Way's Community Initiatives Fund* to assign staff hours for reformatting the handbook. Now, *Youth Granting for Youth* has provided the financial assistance to publish 400 copies of Baby and Me – 2nd edition, all of which will be provided "free of charge" to youth parents.

Look for it in the new year!

Adult Program News!!!!

Things have been very busy once again this fall:

- We hosted a tutor training session at the beginning of October and now have 12 new

tutors as part of the READ Saskatoon organization. Many have been matched already. Our next tutor training session is at the end of November.

- Time for the winter conversations and updates; we will be calling all the learners in late November or early December.
- This fall we have over 100 learners and tutors. We continue to seek new tutors to become involved...so if you have a friend or neighbor who might be interested in becoming part of READ Saskatoon have them call Mavis at 652-5448.

Family Literacy Update

Season's Greetings! We have been very busy working with preschool and kindergarten children and their families



Terrance Taniskishayinew and his son enjoyed an evening of Halloween reading at the public library.

to encourage reading and playing together. Over the next few months we will be facilitating family literacy orientation workshops. If you know of any groups or organizations that might be interested in integrating family literacy sessions into existing programs give us a call at 652-5448

Beloved Canadian children's author Robert Munsch will make a special visit to one lucky Canadian family this January.

Robert Munsch is honorary chair of ABC CANADA Family Literacy Day™, held January 27, which encourages parents and their children to read and learn together. This contest gives any family in the country the chance to have him visit their own Family Literacy Day™ (FLD) party on Monday, January 23 to kick off a week of FLD activities.

To enter the contest, families only need to fill out a form, describing what activities they are planning for their FLD party. Entry forms are available on the ABC CANADA website, www.abc-canada.org, and must be received by ABC CANADA by 5:00 p.m. EST, December 9, 2005.

Family entries (one entry per family) will be judged for originality and creativity of the activities they plan to have during their Family Literacy Day™ party.

For more details, and for entry forms, the public can visit the website: www.abc-canada.org, or contact ABC CANADA at: 416-442-2998 or 1-800-303-1004; info@abc-canada.org.

National contest will see lucky Canadian family get visit from author Robert Munsch

Proofreading factsheet

What is proofreading?

When writing something important, such as a job application or a letter of complaint, it is important to check your work thoroughly for mistakes. This is called proofreading.

These are the different stages of writing:

- listing ideas (sometimes called brainstorming)
- writing rough notes
- first draft
- proofreading
- final copy



Proofreading gives you a chance to make sure that no words are missing and that your spelling is correct. It is also a good idea to check that capital letters and punctuation such as question marks, apostrophes, commas and periods are all in the right place.

During the proofreading stage you should refer to a dictionary or a hand-held spell checker, or use the spell check and grammar check functions in a word processing program to help you.

Many people find it difficult to spot mistakes when reading text on a computer screen, so it is a good idea to proofread the final copy after printing it out on paper as well.

It is also a good idea if possible to get someone else to look over what you have written. A fresh pair of eyes can often spot mistakes you may have overlooked.

Can you answer these 2 questions on proofreading?

1. True or False: The computer spellchecker will find all your mistakes for you.
2. Which of these methods can you use to proofread your writing?
 - a. getting a friend to read it through
 - b. using the spellchecker on the computer
 - c. reading it to yourself outloud or silently
 - d. all of the above

Five common mistakes to look for when proofreading

Here are some common mistakes to look out for when proofreading your work:

1. **Putting the wrong word in the wrong place - especially when using homophones.** Homophones are words which sound the same (or similar) but have different spellings and meanings. Common homophone pairs to watch out for are *of* and *off*; *to* and *too*; and *which* and *witch*.

The men left *there* coats in the hallway. ✗ The men left *their* coats in the hallway. ✓

2. **Leaving letters out, especially in the middle of words.** Many words contain silent letters, or letters that are not sounded clearly when you speak quickly.

lisen ✗ *listen* ✓
Febuary ✗ *February* ✓

3. **Mistakes when adding an ending, or suffix to a root word.** It is easy to make mistakes especially when adding the -ing suffix. It is important to remember the rules for adding the -ing suffix to root words that end in 'e' or a short vowel followed by a consonant. **E.g.** Make + -ing = **making** (drop the final 'e') shut + ing = **shutting** (double the final consonant)

The kids were *makeing* a lot of noise in the garden. ✗
The kids were *making* a lot of noise in the garden. ✓

4. **Using a small *i* as a pronoun.** A pronoun is a word that stands in place of a name such as Sheila or John. Remember that whenever I is a word on its own, you should use a capital letter. E.g. Max and I went to the cinema last night.
5. **Missing words out altogether.** Most people think much faster than they can write, so it is easy to leave out small words such as *a*, *the*, *and*, *it* and *in*. Careful proofreading can help you spot this type of mistake.

- <http://www.bbc.co.uk/skillswise/words/writing/proofreading/factsheet.shtml>

Can you answer these 2 questions on proofreading?

1. True or False: Good writers don't need to proofread their work.
2. When is the best time to proofread your work?
 - a. at the beginning
 - b. after making rough notes
 - c. before you print out or write the final copy
 - d. after the first draft and again when you have the final copy

Following and writing instructions (grammar)

When you see instructions on signs, or in recipes or DIY manuals, they are usually written using the **imperative**. The imperative is formed by using the verb [the action word] without 'to' or any noun or pronoun in front of it. E.G: '**You need to turn** left at the Post office' becomes '**Turn** left at the post office.'

This type of instruction does not say WHO has to follow it.

Here are some examples of instructions written using the imperative:

<i>Sentence</i>		<i>Imperative instruction</i>
You should not smoke here	=	Don't smoke here
You must fix this with glue	=	Fix this with glue
You must not run	=	Don't run
You will need 300g of flour	=	Take 300g of flour

This type of instruction is not written as a full sentence. Imperative instructions are often written as a list, you start at the top and you work down. The list may be numbered, or may have bullet points.

Imperative instructions should never be used when you are writing formally, for example, in a letter to the bank.

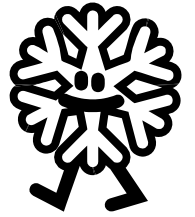
If you see the imperative (E.G: '**Cook** for 5 minutes') then you know you are looking at a set of instructions. You can find imperative instructions all over the place, they may be on a microwave meal, on a jar of medicine, or on a tin of paint. Look out for them especially on signs and notices.

READ Saskatoon will be closed for winter holidays from December 19th - January 2nd, 2006. Have a safe and warm holiday.

READer Family Fun Page

1. "Celebrate Snow!"

The weather has turned cooler and the snow is starting to fall. It's time to pull out the mitts, toques, boots and warm jackets. Once it starts to get colder outside we tend to stay inside where it's warm and dry, but early winter is a great time to play outside too. There are lots of fun things to do to help "celebrate snow!"



2. Fun things to do OUTSIDE when it snows

- go sledding
- make a snow angel
- go skating
- make tracks in the snow
- try to catch a snowflake on your tongue
- make snow art
- build a snow fort
- do a science experiment. Bring in a cup of snow and watch it melt. What is in the water after it melts?

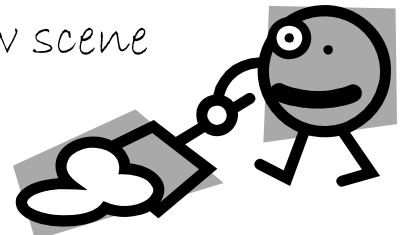
3. Fun things to do INSIDE when the snow falls

Make snowflakes to display in your window or on your fridge using coffee filters. 3 easy steps:

1. Fold coffee filters in half and half again.
2. Use scissors to cut pieces out of the filter.
3. Unfold to see a beautiful snowflake!

4. Make a snow scene picture.

All you need is some popcorn, cottonballs or white chalk, some glue, paper and then let your imagination run wild!



5. Feed the birds of winter.

Make pinecone birdfeeders.

1. Coat a pinecone in peanut butter.
2. Roll the coated pinecone in birdseed.
3. Attach a string to the pinecone and hang outside on a tree branch. Watch the chickadees munch, munch, munch!



READer Family Fun Page Winter Contest

As a family, complete **3** activities. Fax or write us outlining the activities you completed together. Fax to 652-4205 or mail us at:

READer Family Fun Page Contest

#405-220 3rd Avenue South

Saskatoon, SK S7K 1M1

We have 5 family prizes to give away! **Deadline January 31, 2006**

6. Snowflakes Finger-play

Snowflakes, snowflakes dance around. (dance fingers)
Snowflakes, snowflakes touch the ground. (touch floor)
Snowflakes, snowflakes in the air. (dance fingers upward)
Snowflakes, snowflakes everywhere! (dance fingers outward)



7. SNOW FUN

Lead children around the room, pretending to stomp through the snow. Then have them lie down on their backs to make pretend "snow angels".

Make a cup of hot cocoa and cuddle up with some stories.

8. Hot Cocoa Recipe

2-3 tbsp cocoa
2 tbsp sugar
dash of salt
1 cup of water
Combine and bring to a boil then add 3 cups of milk.

*Top with marshmallows and enjoy!

10. Snowman Snack

Stack 2 scoops of vanilla ice cream on a plate
Sprinkle coconut over the top
Add a gumdrop hat, chocolate chip eyes and nose and a maraschino cherry mouth. Yummy!

11. Babies and Toddlers Snuggles and Giggles

Play the Leg Game. Lay your child on her back on a firm surface. Holding her ankles, bend and straighten her legs to the following rhyme:

"One, two, three, bend your knees. One, two, three, bend your knees."

Sing the words above to a familiar tune, or make up your own tune.

9. Book Ideas

Thomas's Snowsuit by Robert Munsch

Polar Bear, Polar Bear by Eric Carle

The Mitten by Alvin Tresselt

Snow on a Bear's Nose by Jennifer Bartoli

