



Literacy Fact

Higher literacy levels result in a better quality of life through reduced poverty, lower unemployment, and decreased public assistance. Additional positive impacts include improving self-confidence and parenting skills, and increasing the number of job prospects and participation in community life in general.

-As taken from: http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/en/hip/lld/nls/Resources/10_fact.shtml

Upcoming Events at READ Saskatoon

READ Saskatoon

- International Day of Volunteers—Friday, December 5
- Human Rights Day—Wednesday, December 10
- Christmas holiday — Tuesday, December 25
- READ Saskatoon office holiday closure—December 22 to January 5
- READ Saskatoon's 30 year celebrations – community forum, tutor & practitioner conference, learner conference, brunch, Friday & Saturday February 6 & 7
- Board Committee meetings Monday February 9, 7:00 p.m. READ Saskatoon Office
- READ Saskatoon office closure, Saskatchewan Family Day — Monday, February 16
- READ Saskatoon office closure – February Break, Feb 17 – 20
- Freedom to Read Week February 22 – 29

Adult Literacy Tutoring Program

- Tutor and Learner Library Tours—Thursday, December 4, 7:30 p.m. Downtown Branch
- Tutor Learner Pot Luck Thursday, December 4, 5:30 – 7:30, READ Saskatoon office
- Volunteer Orientation—Tuesday, January 20, 6:30 - 9:00 p.m. READ Saskatoon office
- Volunteer Orientation—Wednesday, January 21, 1-3:30 p.m. READ Saskatoon office
- Literacy Tutor Training Saturday January 24 9:30 a.m. – 4:45 p.m. Radius Community Centre Staff

Family Literacy

- Tenth Annual Family Literacy Day — Tuesday, January 27
- Introduction to Family Literacy Certificate Training —Wednesday, January 28, 9:30 – 4:30 p.m.
- Come Read With Me Training—February 12 & 13
- Romp 'n' READ Parent and Preschool Camp — March 16–20

Families Together

- Wednesday ,December 3, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m., READ Saskatoon — Explore READ Saskatoon's new office
- Wednesday, December 10, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. Radius Community Centre — SIGA Enchanted Forest Light Tour
- Wednesday January 14, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m., Radius Community Centre — Ring in the New Year!
- Wednesday January 21, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m., Radius Community Centre — Family Games Night
- Wednesday January 28, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m., Radius Community Centre — Family Literacy Day Fun with a Munsch Celebration
- Wednesday February 4, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m., Radius Community Centre — Skating at the Meewasin
- Wednesday February 11, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. Radius Community Centre - The Heart of the Family
- Wednesday, February 25, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. Radius Community Centre—TBA

READ Saskatoon READER Volume 21, December, 2008

Unsure of a meaningful gift to give for the holidays? Give the gift of literacy.

Make a donation to READ Saskatoon on behalf of your loved one and give the gift of lifelong learning.

- \$250 will train, match and support the work of one volunteer and one adult learner.
- \$500 will support one month of *Families Together*.
- \$1,000 will support READ Saskatoon's Good Book Bins for a year.
- \$5,000 will provide training and resources for twenty Adult and Family literacy volunteers.

Please call 652-5448 to discuss other ways to support the work of READ Saskatoon.



Volume

21

December 2008

READ Saskatoon

It's more than words.

this issue

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READ Saskatoon provides:

- free literacy tutoring to adults;
- free family literacy programs;
- free family literacy support and coordination to schools, community based organizations and businesses;
- training to groups interested in building their skills in adult and family literacy;
- group adult learning opportunities. Our holistic classroom connects adults into further education and skill enhancement programs;
- alternative points of accessing literacy supports. Our Good Book Bins, distributed throughout public waiting areas in Saskatoon, encourages families to choose a new or gently used book from the box and read it together. They can take the book home, bring back at the next visit, replace it with another, or keep it;
- award winning workplace literacy model that supports lifelong learning on the job;
- research to the literacy community in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan and Canada.

READ Saskatoon turns 30.

The past eighteen months have been busy for READ Saskatoon staff and board as we navigate our way through thirty years of history. With the help of Pat Stuart and two sociologists from the University of Saskatchewan, Dr. Susan Robertson and Dr. Liz Quinlan we have:

- compiled information from Norsask Consumer Interviewing Services who interviewed over 400 Saskatoon residents on their perceptions of literacy;
- studied, reviewed, contextualized and themed READ Saskatoon's history according to delivered programs and projects, impact of unstable funding on agency and program delivery, federal and provincial political climates for support of literacy and agency capacity to support learners, volunteers and Board of Directors;
- reviewed and linked READ Saskatoon's 2004 tutor research to today's work;

- conducted seventeen one-on-one interviews with READ Saskatoon's financial supporters. This includes federal, provincial and civic funders, as well as corporate and private donors;
- phone interviews with groups and individuals we partner with to deliver services.
- literature review exploring the themes of adult learners' persistence, professionalism in the field and varying definitions of literacy;
- Phone interviews with READ Saskatoon's adult learning community from the past ten years.
- Reviewed agency's vision, mission and values working towards developing strategic objectives and a sustainability plan.

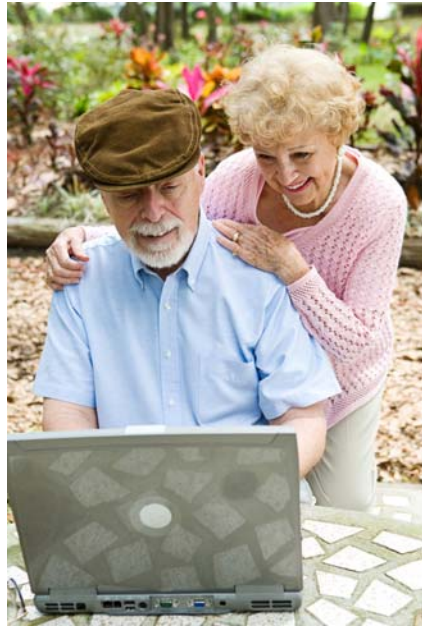
The results from this work will be shared at a community forum the morning of February 6th at the Saskatoon Travelodge. Registration information will be released soon.

Good manners are just as important in e-mails as they are in person

Etiquette is required to help insure that good manners are the rule, rather than the exception in cyberspace.

The simplest way of checking your email before you send it is to ask yourself, "How would I feel if I received this message?" As with letter writing, writing email is subject to misinterpretation since there is no tone of voice or body language for the reader to take cues from. With email one hundred percent of the tone comes from the words you use and how you use them. Below are the ten most common mistakes that are made when writing emails, and their solutions.

<http://www.quality-service.com/training/>



Mistake 1: Not writing e-mail from the reader's perspective Could your message be misinterpreted? Could an innocent tongue-in-cheek remark be misconstrued? Re-read all your e-mails and become sensitive to their "tone" and how readers might interpret them.

Mistake 2: Forgetting about the importance of etiquette It's always a good idea, no matter how rushed you are, to create a positive impression by using an opening and closing (for example, Dear Mr. Smith or Regards, Joe Black), correcting sloppy grammar and spelling, using a clear and descriptive subject line,

Top Mistakes to avoid When Writing Email.

E-mail shouldn't be for every communication.

Mistake 3: CC'ing the world Often, people courtesy copy (cc) others as a means of cyber-gossip or to vent their frustrations. This leads not only to traffic jams in others' in-boxes, but in the worst case, defamation, and in the best case, hurt feelings.

Mistake 4: Believing that an erased e-mail is gone forever Even if you delete an e-mail message from your in-box, it is retrievable from the company's computer, or from the recipient's company's network. With technical know how, e-mails can even be retrieved from your computer's hard drive. Learn to think of e-mail documents as permanent.

Mistake 5: Assuming people have time to read your entire message To be most effective, whenever possible, e-mail messages should contain all the most pertinent and important data in the first paragraph.

Mistake 6: Not re-reading before you hit 'send' As any contractor knows the rule is "measure twice, cut once." By reading your e-mail over before you send it you can catch and correct all sorts of mistakes before they get to the recipient and possibly create a bad impression or put you and/or your company in hot water.

http://www.quality-service.com/training/write_email.html

Tips for Successful Learning

Many working people are involved in learning programs. Most of working individuals are preparing for job, promotion or career advancement. It may take time to adapt yourself to the new learning habits.

For a working adult that goes back for study, you may find that the greatest challenge for you is find your time to work, live and study. Here are 7 tips to help.

Tip #1: Bring a long your book where ever you go. For a working adult time is really constraint for you; you must smartly and fully utilize any free time available. Time spent waiting in line and in the car or time left after lunch hour can be your learning time.

Tip #2: Bookmark



important point with post-it note

Once you have finished a chapter, try to summary it into point form and write these points in post-it note and paste it on the top corner of that chapter. These post-it bookmarks will save you a lot of time when you need re-read

Tip #4: Find a learning environment that is comfort to you. If you are a kind person that can be interrupted during your study time, then you should find a quite place such as library for study, and during your study time, switch your cell phone to silent mode so that your won't be

interrupted by any incoming calls.

Tip #6: Write down notes or highlight important points

While reading a chapter, write down important notes on that chapter or use highlighter to mark the parts that are important so that it will ease your revision and preparation for examination.

Tip #7: Find time to rest & exercise Don't let yourself get exhausted. Allocate enough time for rest and do a bit of exercise so that you keep your body health and your mind always in refresh condition.

http://articles.webraydian.com/article3844-Adult_Education__7_Tips_to_Success_in_Your_College_Study.html

Literacy Fact

In Saskatchewan, 66% of people who are at the lowest level of literacy are employed.

- LITERACY in Saskatchewan Implications of Findings from IALSS 2003

Literacy Fact

Peoples' earnings rise with their literacy rate. A man with higher literacy skills makes an extra \$585,000 over his lifetime. For a woman, the amount is \$683,000. Each additional year of education raises annual earnings by about 8.3%.

- Standing up for Literacy, MCL

Saskatchewan Book of the Year Nominations

Sharon Butala
The Girl in Saskatoon: A Meditation on Friendship, Memory and Murder

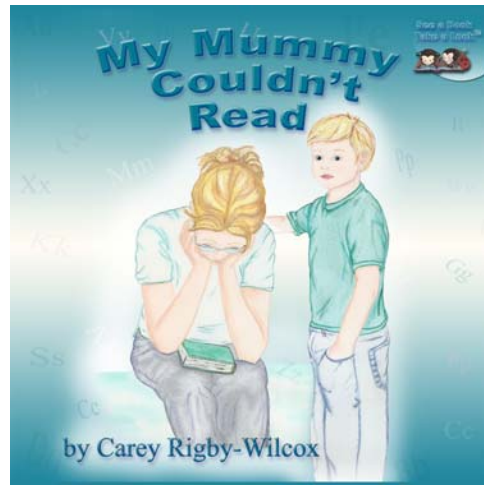
Gary Hyland
Love of Mirrors: Poems New and Selected

Barbara Klar
Cypress

Daniel MacDonald
MacGregor's Hard Ice Cream and Gas

Carey Rigby-Wilcox
My Mummy Couldn't Read

Bill Waiser
Who Killed Jack Bates? Murder and Mercy during the Great Depression



READ Saskatoon's Book of the Year

Saskatchewan Book Awards all-time record number of entries pared down on the 2008 shortlist

The Call for Entries to the 2008 Saskatchewan Book Awards closed with a record number of 113 titles submitted, exceeding the 2006 record of 96. The 113 titles have been entered for 13 juried awards.

READ Saskatoon is proud to share that *My Mummy Couldn't Read*, by Carey Rigby-Wilcox was shortlisted for the Saskatchewan Book of the Year. In this book for parents and children, Carey Rigby-Wilcox uses

both words and her own illustrations to share her struggles with literacy.

Carey Rigby-Wilcox is a mother of four. When her first son was born, she knew that she needed help to learn learning read.

Carey graduated high school but did not have the skills that she needed to be truly happy. Being unable to read limited Carey in many ways, especially the job

opportunities that she truly desired for herself.

She has been with a one-on-one volunteer tutor provided by READ Saskatoon, for almost seventeen years.

Now with a confident reading level she is self-employed and has owned her own company for five years.

If you would like to look at Carey's Saskatchewan nominated book of the year go to: www.seeabook.com.

What's a birthday without gifts for everyone!

Bobby Gudmundson celebrated his birthday with no presents for himself. This year the eight year old decided that he would ask his friends to bring a new book to his birthday so he could donate them to other Saskatoon children. Thanks Bobby! Your books are now distributed throughout the community as part of READ Saskatoon's *Good Book Bins*.



Personal Finances Vocabulary Activity

(http://bogglesworldesl.com/cloze_activities.htm)

Fill in the blanks with the vocabulary items listed above each paragraph:

pay back
interest
debt
purchase
cash advance
funds

Fill in the blanks with the vocabulary items listed above each paragraph:

Credit risk
afford
Mortgage
co-sign
Savings
Default
credit
evaluation

Most people don't have enough in _____ to

limit
default
afford

Credit cards are a convenient way to _____ goods. They also come in handy when you have a shortage of _____. If you need a little extra money for the weekend, you can take out a _____.

In spite of these benefits, credit card _____ can also cause serious problems for people.

purchase a house so they take out a house loan, which is called a _____. Before you get a mortgage, the bank will do a thorough _____ to make sure you can _____ the loan. If the bank feels you are a _____ they may ask you

People spend more than they can _____. And because of the high _____ on money borrowed, the credit card debt becomes harder and harder to _____. Eventually, some people are forced to _____ on their payments. This is why credit card companies put a _____ on the amount that people can borrow.



to find somebody else to _____ your mortgage. This person will be responsible to pay your mortgage if you _____.

- www.bogglesworldesl.com

A question for Carey...

Q: Why is it important to spend time with other adult learners and how can I connect with them?

When I restarted my learning journey, I felt alone. The chance to work with other adults allowed me to connect and feel part of a larger community. I listened to their stories, and learned about the challenges. I realized that my learning was going to be a slow and steady process and was not going to happen overnight.

If you want to meet and spend time with adult learners call READ Saskatoon at 652-5448. To read more about adult learners and their journeys visit the Movement for Canadian literacy website at:

www.literacy.ca

Mind Map® Laws

- Start in the centre with an image of the topic, using at least three colours.
 - Use images, symbols, codes and dimensions throughout your Mind Map®.
 - Select key words and print using upper or lower case letters.
 - Each word or image must be alone and sitting on its own line.
 - The lines must be connected, starting from the central image. The central lines are thicker, organic and flowing, becoming thinner as they radiate out from the centre.
 - Make the lines the same length as the word/image.
 - Use colours - your own code - throughout the Mind Map®.
- <http://www.mapyourmind.com/howto.htm>



How to take better notes

A **mind map** is a diagram used to represent words, ideas, tasks or other items. The ideas are linked and arranged around a central key word or idea.

It is used to generate, visualize, structure and classify ideas, and as an aid in study, organization, problem solving, decision making, and writing.

It represents word meanings or other connections between

information. By presenting these connections in a creative way it encourages a brainstorming approach to any organizational task, eliminating the difficulty many writers face when trying to write within a recommended framework.

A mind map is similar to a semantic network or cognitive map but there are no formal restrictions on the kinds of links used.

Mind maps have many applications in personal, family, educational, and business situations, including notetaking, brainstorming (wherein ideas are inserted into the

map radially around the center node, without the implicit prioritization that comes from hierarchy or sequential

arrangements, and wherein grouping and organizing is reserved for later stages), summarizing, revising and general clarifying of thoughts. For example, one could listen to a lecture and take down notes using mind maps for the most important points or keywords. One can also use mind maps as a mnemonic technique or to sort out a complicated idea. Mind maps are also promoted as a way to collaborate in colour pen creativity sessions.

Software and technique research have concluded that managers and students find the techniques of mind mapping to be useful, being better able to retain information and ideas than by using traditional 'linear' note taking methods

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mind_map

How to make a mind map® in 8 steps

Step 1: Start at the center of the page.

Our mind focuses on the center of the page. That's why you should begin with a word or image placed in the middle of the page.

Step 2: Don't be serious! Write down or draw the first things that come up in your mind when you start to think about related issues, persons, object, goals. Put your thoughts around the central thought. These can be everything. Even if they look strange or unimportant.

Step 3: Free associate As ideas emerge, print one or two word descriptions of the ideas on lines branching from the central focus. Allow the ideas to expand outward into branches and sub-branches. Put down all ideas without judgment or evaluation.

Step 4: Think as fast as you can Come up with an



explosion of ideas. Translate them in words, images, codes or symbols.

Step 5: There are no boundaries Everything is possible. Use wild colors, fat colored markers, crayons, or skinny felt tipped pens.

Step 6: Don't judge too fast Again, everything is possible. Unrelated issues might be relevant later on. Think like you are brainstorming. Otherwise your mind will get stuck like a record in that "unrelated word" groove and you'll never generate those great ideas.

Step 7: Go, go, go.... Keep your hand moving. If ideas slow down, draw empty lines, and watch

your brain automatically find ideas to put on them. Or change colors to reenergize your mind. Stand up and mindmap on an easel pad to generate even more energy.

Step 8: Add relationships and connections. Sometimes you see relationships and connections immediately and you can add sub-branches to a main idea. Sometimes you don't, so you just connect the ideas to the central focus. Organization can always come later; the first requirement is to get the ideas out of your head and onto the paper.

<http://www.mapyourmind.com/howto.htm>

Why are mind maps so powerful?

Since Bill Gates mentioned mind mapping in a Newsweek article, many people suddenly took note - simply because he is one of the best known modern geniuses in the world.

How can tutors and learners apply this information?

Visit www.mindmaptutor.com to find out:

- how to use mind maps in your tutoring sessions.
- how to manage your time.
- how can it help creativity for lesson planning.
- how can it improve our conversations.
- how to bring out the best in your writing.

READ Saskatoon Family Fun Page

Happy Holidays Ho Ho Ho

What letter or letters complete these words?

1. Racket shaped winter footwear _ _ _ _ _ HO_
2. Sweet liquid made by bees HO_ _ _
3. Not tall _HO_ _
4. A Sharp prickle on a rose plant _HO_ _
5. Useful for removing snow from a sidewalk _HO_ _ _



Family
Literacy Day is
January 27th!

Family Literacy Game Challenge!

Adults and children can enjoy games together regardless of age. On January 27th, record the game you played with a child and send it in for a chance to win a backpack filled with books, games, arts & crafts materials and activities for the whole family!

"We played _____ on Family Literacy Day! I liked playing the game with _____ because _____."

Mail, email or fax your entry along with a photo or picture your child has drawn to the READ Saskatoon office for a chance to win!

Fancy Gingerbread Decorations

Trace the shape of a gingerbread man out onto a piece of sandpaper. Decorate with sparkles, glitter, beads or buttons. Poke a small hole through the top and hang as a decoration!

Non Edible Gingerbread Ornament

Mix 1 cup applesauce, $\frac{3}{4}$ cup cinnamon, 2 Tablespoons Cloves, 1 Tablespoon Allspice. Roll out $\frac{1}{4}$ inch thick- lay on foil cookie sheets and allow to air dry for a few days. You can decorate with puffy paint, glitter or beads! These smell wonderful!!

Share a book

There are several versions of the book: *The Gingerbread Man* that adults can share with their children.

- The Gingerbread Boy by Paul Galdone
- The Gingerbread Man by Karen Schmidt
- The Gingerbread Baby by Jan Brett



PGI-READ Saskatoon Golf Tournament for Literacy

September 18 & 19, 2008



PGI

Thank you for supporting PGI—READ Saskatoon!

The \$29,000 raised supports Adult and Family Literacy Programs in our community.

Plan to join us next year on September 18, 2009.
www.READSaskatoon.com



The PGI Committee

Sitting L-R: Marilyn German, Sheryl Harrow, Carm Michalenko, Mavis McPhee, Janea Bellay
Standing L-R: Leanne Nyirfa, Dale Smith, Kristen Hamm, Terri Diener
Missing: Bryan Hnatiw, Mary Leggett, Cheryl Loadman, Rick Peddle, Rochelle Wempe, Kristy Heinbigner, Ian Smith, Marielle Gauthier and Shirley Ryan

Tournament Sponsors (\$5,000 or more)

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(with a full tournament only)
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Rick Dobrow

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Saskatoon Home - Susan Zwarych
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Anita Fengstad - Epicure
Great Western Brewing Company
Limited
MacPherson, Leslie & Tyerman LLP
Blue Cross
The Huskies
The Saskatoon Symphony
Sheila's State of the Art
KKJ Sales
Concorde National
The staff of READ Saskatoon

Celebrity Auction

Brent Loucks
His Hon. Mayor Don Atchison
The SOAPS -
Tammy Zdunich - Boehmer Photography
Kim Fontaine and Jay Semko
Molly Clark
Carey Rigby-Wilcox
Brad Birnie,
Kathleen Podiluk
Erica Musyj
Ramesh Mahibir - The Wine Market
Del Surjik - Persephone Theater
The Barking Fish
Rosine Garabedian
Ryan Henney
ClubMynx - Dawn Wotherspoon
Dr. Carolynn Oleksyn, Sutherland
Dental Group
Millie Reynolds
Gavin and Vivien Harrow
CBC Radio - Regina
Saskatchewan Young Professionals
and Entrepreneurs (SYPE)
Sunday Morning Organic Salon & Spa
DancEgypt Dance Co. - Monica
Kreuger & Elaine Mantyka
Live Five Theater Group
Bev Digout
Cecile Coppens

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St. Joseph Media

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It's more than words.