

## 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.



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## READ 'n' Feed – kick off to the PGI

A celebrity auction supporting READ Saskatoon



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Thursday, May 7 at 6:00 p.m.

Western Development Museum—2610 Lorne Avenue

New Venue - Same Vibe

Tapas style dining is designed to encourage conversation, mingling and making new friends. There'll be plenty to eat and plenty to talk about!

Join Brent Loucks, READ Saskatoon's host and auctioneer, as we celebrate literacy, fun and friends.

## Featuring Saskatoon's Glitterati:

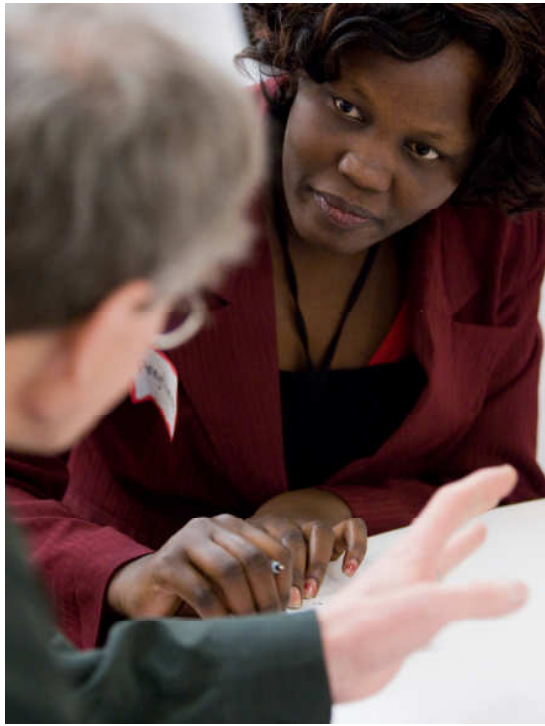
Betty Ann Heggie "The Stiletto Chick", The Saskatoon Blades, "Green Eyed Soul" Carrie Catherine, Mike Lieffers, Canada's Wakeboarding Coach, Mendel Art Gallery's Executive Director Vince Varga, Michael Wyant and a flash car cruise, and our mystery celebrity!

Tickets \$30 available at [picatic.com](http://picatic.com) and READ Saskatoon at 652-5448.

# United Nations Literacy Decade



Launched at UN Headquarters in 2003, the Decade aims to increase literacy levels and to empower all people everywhere. In declaring this Decade, the international community recognised that the promotion of literacy is in the interest of all, as part of efforts towards peace, respect and exchange in a globalizing world.



## Never too late to celebrate International Adult Learners' Week!

UNESCO, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, announced *International Adult Learners' Week (IALW)* March 3–9.

UNESCO works to promote international co-operation in the fields of education, science, culture and communication. Around the world — and close at home — International Adult Learners' Week promotional campaigns and media events will be aimed at celebrating learning in all its forms, at all levels of society and throughout life.

### **Why celebrate Adult Learners' Week?**

Adult Learners have taken the important step of coming to a program to improve their literacy skills. They are excellent proof that lifelong learning matters, and what's more, that it works.

ALW is an excellent opportunity to highlight literacy learners' achievements.

The wider focus on all adult learning allows us to position literacy as an integral part of lifelong learning. It allows us to build alliances with other non-profits and link to areas of adult learning that may be in our learners' future.

ALW provides an opportunity to forge stronger relations with governments, and continue to highlight literacy as the cornerstone of lifelong learning.

### **How can you celebrate**

#### **International Adult Learners' Week?**

Movement for Canadian Literacy is hosting a

Scavenger Hunt on their website. Visit [www.literacy.ca](http://www.literacy.ca) and have a look and have some fun.

UNESCO leads the United Nations Literacy Decade (UNLD) under the slogan of "Literacy as Freedom".

# April Fool's Day ...What makes a Good Prank?

April Fool's Day gives you permission to try a prank before noon. So, what makes a good prank? Keep it above the belt, stop short of total humiliation and, if possible, mix in some irony, some drama.

Psychologists have studied pranks for years. Practical jokes are commonly an effort to bring a person into a group, anthropologists have found — an integral part of rituals around the world intended to temper success with humility. And recent research suggests that the experience of being duped can stir self-reflection in a way few other experiences can, functioning as a check on arrogance or

obliviousness.

- <http://pranks.com/category/how-to-pull-off-a-prank/what-makes-a-good-prank/>

Putting a mustache on a sleeping person who doesn't normally have one is always fun. But, even better is that if that person is a deep sleeper than paint another set of eyes on their forehead.

Rubber ducks and rubber chickens are staples of comedy. So, the prank ideas involving these props is to put them in interesting places like the refrigerator, bottled water tank and one of my favorites is to put a little rubber ducky floating in the toilet.



Superglue coins to the sidewalk is always a tried and true prank idea. Watch people's reactions in a public place as they try to pick up the coins, kick them and otherwise dislodge them from the sidewalk.

## At READ Saskatoon

most of the adult learners are in the lower income level, with 28% earning less than \$20,000 annually.

## At READ Saskatoon

80% of program participants are employed.

Thank you to all the READ Saskatoon Volunteers who have committed hours in the promotion of our Playhouse Fundraiser



READ Saskatoon has been very fortunate to be the recipients of a fire hall playhouse created and built by E.D Feehan students, with materials donated by Saskatoon Co-op Home Centres.

Did we mention...the playhouse is 10.5 feet high, has a pole from the second to first floor, tickets are \$5 each or 3 for \$10, it will make you the best aunt, uncle, mom, dad, grandma, grandpa, friend in the entire world, all money raised supports READ Saskatoon's family literacy programs.

The playhouse will be on display at Market Mall March 30—April 4th, Circle Park Mall April 6—11 and the Farmer's Market April 25th.

Call 652-5448 to purchase tickets. Draw date is May 8th.

## We listen for different reasons:

**Just for pleasure** music, birds singing, the crackling of a log fire.

**To take part in conversation** exchange news with family and friends, make arrangements.

**For information** the news or weather forecast on the television or radio, or announcements at a station or airport.



Listening and hearing are not the same. We hear all sorts of noises in the world around us, but we do not listen to them all.

People who live near busy roads get used to the sound of traffic and don't hear it anymore. These are not things we want to listen to so we 'tune out' and don't usually notice them.

Listening is a form of communication and is an active process.

When you listen you must get **meaning** from what is being said before you can respond

### Listening in three different situations

#### 1. Face to face

When we talk to someone face to face we pick up a lot of information other than what they say:

- body language
- gestures
- tone of voice
- the words they use

These are called **non-verbal cues**.

The way we listen is influenced by our relationship with the person we are talking to, how well we know them and what they are talking about.

We listen differently to the same person depending on the situation; we might listen more intently to a colleague or supervisor explaining about something to do with work than if they are telling us about their weekend.

#### 2. In a large group

When we are talking to one person it is easier to notice their *non-verbal cues* than when we are talking in a large group.

In a big group lots of people may be talking at once, or there may be more than one conversation happening. We do not have the opportunity to take in all

## How to Improve your Listening Skills

the details. In a group situation we might only get the gist of what is being said and not everything that everyone contributes.

#### 3. On the telephone

Listening on the telephone is more difficult because we can't see the other person, we rely on them to make responses so that we know they are listening to us. There are no *non-verbal cues* on the phone.

Try staying silent on the end of a phone call and see how long it is before the other person asks if you are still there!

Because there are no non-verbal signs we also have to concentrate more when listening on the phone because if we miss what is being said there are no other clues to pick up information from.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/skillswise/words/listening/typesoflistening/factsheet.shtml>

## Tips for nurturing your family's literacy

Start with short books.

Read slowly and enjoy the pictures.

Let your child become involved. She can turn the pages, talk about the pictures or act out the story using toys or puppets.

If your child is restless, let him draw while he listens.

Let your child help choose the books.

Have books, magazines and newspapers around your home.

Tell your child stories about your childhood



or the day they were born.

Make books with your child. Staple pages together, write a simple story, and illustrate it with your child's drawings or with pictures cut out of magazines.

Turn off the tube and turn on to afterschool reading. But also recognize the tool that television can be. Many books have been adapted to movies or television shows. Read the book then watch the movie.

Spend some time in the kitchen together. This is an excellent recipe if you have allergies to deal with.

### Crazy Chocolate Cake

3 cups flour  
6 tbsp. cocoa  
2 tsp. baking soda

2 cups sugar  
1 tsp. salt  
¾ cup oil  
2 tbsp. vinegar  
2 tsp. vanilla  
2 cups water



Mix together in an ungreased 13 x 19 inch pan. Bake at 350° for 15 – 20 minutes. Eat and Enjoy!

## At READ Saskatoon

female adult learners stay longer than men. The average time is almost double their male counterparts.

## At READ Saskatoon

more than half of men enrolled in the programs are there to improve their literacy so they can improve their job opportunities.

# READ Saskatoon

could be  
considered a “first  
step”

organization:  
most program  
participants have  
not accessed other  
supports in the  
community when  
they come to  
READ Saskatoon  
for assistance.



## Carey's top 10 Reasons to Continue Learning.

10 The moment I think I have learned enough I feel excited to find out I want to learn more.

There is always something new and exciting to learn.

9. The more I learn the more I become more confident. The more learning and obstacles I overcome, less challenge new things seem to be.

8. I feel proud of myself when I am learning.

7. I feel like a great role model for my children.

6. I want to continue leaning to read because

simply it makes me feel better about myself.

5. The more I learn the more I can teach and share with my family and friends.

4. I feel excited to try new learning styles. (I feel less fearful to try a new learning style.)

3. I feel I can do anything I want to make my dreams come true.

2. I like learning because I always feel like I am having adventure.

I don't want to stop because it is taking me into new and exciting directions, places I never thought I would ever go. I can't wait to

## Carey's Connection

Saskatchewan Author, Illustrator and nominee for 2008 Saskatchewan Book Awards, Carey Rigby Wilcox, reminds us that learning is for life.

see where my learning takes me next.

1. I know I am making a better life for myself and for my family.

I know that my learning has help my self confidence. I feel comfortable talking with

**I feel excited about the future for myself but more importantly the future for my children because of my courage to learn.**

others sharing my story and hopefully guiding others to find the help they need to enrich their own lives.

Learning makes me feel more daring in social events.

I feel alive and young. I feel excited about the future for myself but more importantly the future for my children because of my courage to learn.

# History of April Fool's Day

The history of April Fool's Day or \_\_\_\_\_ is uncertain, but the current thinking is that it began around 1582 in France with the reform of the calendar under Charles IX. The Gregorian Calendar was introduced, and New Year's Day was moved from March 25 - April 1 (new year's week) to January 1.

Communication traveled \_\_\_\_\_ly in those days and some people were only informed of the change several years later. Still others, who were more \_\_\_\_\_ refused to acknowledge the change and continued to \_\_\_\_\_ on the last day of the former celebration, April 1. These people were labeled "fools" by the \_\_\_\_\_, were subject to ridicule and sent on "fool errands," sent invitations to nonexistent parties and had other practical jokes played upon them. The butts of these pranks became



known as a "poisson d'avril" or "April fish" because a young naive fish is easily caught. In addition, one common practice was to hook a paper fish on the back of someone as a joke.

This harassment evolved over time and a custom of prank-playing continue on the first day of April. This \_\_\_\_\_ eventually spread elsewhere like to Britain and Scotland in the \_\_\_\_\_ and was introduced to the American colonies by the English and the French. Because of this spread to other countries, April Fool's Day has taken on an \_\_\_\_\_ flavor with each country celebrating the holiday in its own way.

In Scotland, for instance, April Fool's

Day is devoted to spoofs involving the \_\_\_\_\_ and as such is called Taily Day. The butts of these jokes are known as April 'Gowk', another name for \_\_\_\_\_. The origins of the \_\_\_\_\_ sign can be traced back to the Scottish observance.

The Huli Festival is celebrated on March 31 in India. People play \_\_\_\_\_ on one another and smear \_\_\_\_\_ on one another celebrating the arrival of Spring.

So, no matter where you happen to be in the world on April 1, don't be surprised if April fools fall playfully upon you.

All Fool's Day , rebellious, celebrate, general populace, slow, jokes, buttocks, tradition, international, "Kick Me", cuckoo bird, colors, 18th century

## Literacy Initiative for Empowerment (LIFE) 2006-2015

UNESCO's Literacy Initiative for Empowerment (LIFE) is a global strategic framework for the implementation of [United Nations Literacy Decade \(2003-2012\)](#), in order to meet the [Education for All \(EFA\) goals](#), with particular focus on adult literacy and out-of-school children.

It was created when it became apparent that existing literacy efforts would not be sufficient to achieve a 50 per cent improvement in levels of adult literacy by 2015. LIFE targets the 35 countries that have a literacy rate of less than 50 percent or a population of more than 10 million people who cannot read nor write. Eighty-five percent of the world's non-literate population resides in these countries, and two-thirds are women and girls



## At READ Saskatoon

half of the adult learners seeking assistance are newcomers to Canada and Saskatoon. Countries most represented by our learners are China, Japan, Mexico, Taiwan, South Korea, Kenya and Iran.

## Upcoming Events at READ Saskatoon

### READ Saskatoon

- Office closure — Good Friday holiday — Friday, April 10
- Office closure — Easter Monday — Monday, April 13
- Office closure — Mid-term break — April 13-17
- Canada Book Day — Thursday, April 23
- National Volunteer Week — April 26 to May 2
- READ 'n' Feed Celebrity Auction in support of the PGI — Thursday, May 7th — Western Development Museum
- September 18th, 2009 READ Saskatoon PGI Golf Tournament for Literacy — The Willows Golf and Country Club

### Adult Literacy Tutoring Program

- Volunteer Orientation — Wednesday, April 1, 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. **MOVED TO WEDNESDAY, MAY 20** — READ Saskatoon office
- Tutor and Learner Library Tours — Thursday, April 23, 7 to 8 p.m. — Downtown Library
- Volunteer Orientation — Thursday, April 2, **MOVED TO THURSDAY, MAY 21** 1 to 3:30 pm — READ Saskatoon office
- Literacy Tutor Training — Saturday, April 4, **MOVED TO MAY 23** - 9:30 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. — Radius Community Centre

### Family Literacy

- Introduction to Family Literacy — Thursday, April 22— 9:30 to 4:30 — TBA
- Romp 'n' READ Parent and Preschooler Camp — May 11-15

### Families Together

- Wednesday, April 1 — 6:30 to 8:00 p.m — Radius Community Centre — On top of Spaghetti Night
- Wednesday, April 8 — 6:30 to 8:00 p.m — Radius Community Centre — Salute to Easter Bunny
- Wednesday, April 22 — 6:30 to 8:00 p.m — .Radius Community Centre — Fun in the Gym!
- Wednesday, April 29 — 6:30 to 8:00 p.m — Radius Community Centre — Wind up Party.

READ Saskatoon READER Volume 21, March, 2009



## Give the gift of literacy.

Make a donation to READ Saskatoon 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.



## Education

### Pays.

A statistics Canada report says that each additional year of education a person receives is worth an added 8.3% on their paycheque. On a \$30,000 salary that works out to \$2,490.

## Project Update:

### Hear Our Voices: A Documentary Making Workshop

Char Ewert and Dave Trottier have been very busy over the past month. With money provided through Community Initiatives Fund, they combined their personal professional obsessions to create a very successful project with the adult learners and tutors at READ Saskatoon. Together they created two workshops to teach the fundamentals of documentary film making.

Char is a Youth Worker and says, "I really love seeing how a project like this can promote self worth and achievement in individuals. The success of this project comes from participation and fun and it creates lifelong memories for us and for the participants. We sure felt lucky to have such a great group."

Dave Trottier works at the U of S in the division of Media and Technology and has spent years in the film industry on numerous projects. Everyone was very excited to learn that Dave worked on the set of the television series Corner Gas.

The workshops were hosted at READ Saskatoon on February 28, 2009 and March 7, 2009 and filled with hands-on lessons and skill building sessions. Together learners and tutors learned how to use a video camera, conduct an interview, create a storyboard, create a soundtrack and work as a team on a production crew.

The adult learners were given a chance to share their stories about their literacy struggles and describe how they have overcome the barriers. They shared about how they continue to work to improve their skills so they feel more comfortable in their community and better themselves for the sake of themselves and their families.

The learners were given the opportunity to share how the tutors and READ Saskatoon has made a difference for them and contributed to their quality of life. These stories that will be the foundation for the documentary film *Hear Our Voices*.

The documentary will be finished at the end of May and a screening will be held at Paved Arts in June. We will keep you posted with upcoming details on the private and public screenings and we all look forward to sharing these stories with our friends, family and community.

## Grow Your Own Training:

Employee Retention Strategy for  
Saskatchewan Business

*"Helping  
good workers  
become great  
employees"*

### Are you a Saskatchewan business looking to:

- Increase Productivity
- Improve Communications
- Develop a Strong Team
- Build Employee Loyalty
- Retain Good Workers
- Improve Health and Safety

**Grow Your Own Training** is an award winning strategy that helps business grow their new and existing employees' potential by providing employee development, literacy and workplace essential training.

To support Saskatchewan business with their specific training needs the partner organizations have combined their sixty year's experience in adult learning. Workshops and training sessions can be designed and adapted to meet the needs of both large and small business.

**For additional information contact:**

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