

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



February 2007

PGI

Golf Tournaments for Literacy – founded by Peter Gzowski

Last summer READ Saskatoon was invited to host the PGI – Golf Tournament for Literacy in Saskatoon. The PGI is a national fundraising initiative that supports literacy.

In 1986, Peter Gzowski, a well known radio personality with CBC Radio hosted the first PGI hoping to have some fun, raise the profile and hopefully some dollars to support adult literacy programs. Since then PGI's have raised over 10 million dollars for literacy and grown to include a PGI in every province and territory. You can obtain additional information at www.abc-canada.org

Our Board was very thorough as they considered the impact this might have on our agency and the staff. This is a significant undertaking for an agency our size, but we decided to meet the challenge. With the support of the Board, Mavis McPhee has adjusted her schedule to assist with the coordination of the event, and Susan McDonald has taken over the adult program. We are very busy planning to host our first PGI for the fall of 2007!

To make the event a success we need the support of local sponsors, our volunteers and of course, the golfers. If you have any questions, ideas or would like to help out please call Mavis at 652-5448.

A time for recognition

Does your learner deserve a special award? READ Saskatoon is recognizing one learner who has shown extraordinary commitment to the learning process and their tutor. If you think your learner deserves special recognition, please write or e-mail us a letter highlighting the following facts:

- How your learner has challenged your preconceptions about learning
- An example of how your collaboration has benefited your learner and yourself
- How your learner has achieved his or her goals
- How your learner has exceeded your or their own expectations

READ Saskatoon is committed to ensuring that learner anonymity and confidentiality is maintained. We ask that you keep your nomination private. Only the selected candidate will be contacted. The award will be presented at our annual fundraiser, READ 'n' Feed on May 8th.

Mail your nomination to:

READ Saskatoon

Rigby-Wilcox Nomination Committee

#304-1114 22nd Street West

Saskatoon, SK S7M 0S5

or email to: READSaskatoon@nald.ca

or fax to: 652 4205

From Reader to Published Writer

Hi! My name is Carey Rigby-Wilcox, and I have been an adult learner with READ Saskatoon, for 15 years. I am pleased to present my first book, *Ten Little Ladybugs in my Jar*.



Creating this book was such a wonderful experience, because I used all the resources from my local library. I researched how to use my computer, how to paint, use water color, books in sales, marketing, designing and how to self publish. The library was a place that I never would become my best friend. You see, I never entered a library until I was adult, and now to use the library has opened my eyes to a world that I can't live with out. I realize that a library can answer any question that I have. I was always fearful to ask questions because I thought they would know that I couldn't read.

I want this book to be a tribute to Lisa Vargo, my volunteer tutor for the past 15 years. I want to

show Lisa that her unpaid time with me every Sunday over the 15 years was not a waste. Lisa has been there supporting me every step of my learning process and for that I dedicate all of my success to her. If it was not for Lisa my world would be very limited. But, Lisa has given me more than just reading and writing skills, she has created the confident women that I am today, able to obtain my own personal goals. For that I know that I have used and taken her reading lessons as a way to parent my own children so that I could create strong independent children.

My other goal other is to show READ Saskatoon that their work in supporting volunteer tutors and adult learners is extremely important. To show thanks 10% of each book sold is donated to READ Saskatoon. You can purchase copies through the READ Saskatoon office or go to my website:

www.seeabook.com To view *Ten Little Ladybugs in my Jar* go to: <http://www.seeabook.com/takealook.htm>

Carey Rigby-Wilcox

Return to Training

I have been with READ Saskatoon for over ten years and have worked with a couple of different learners. Last summer I was talking about tutoring with Peter Knelson (another long term tutor) and we both thought that we might benefit from a refresher course. So, in January, Peter and I went back to redo our tutor training.

I would highly recommend taking a refresher course to other long term tutors. It was revitalizing. I remembered some old lessons and learned some new ones. I have a nice new binder with new information and techniques. There have been some good changes in the training since I took it last time. Having learned over the years that tutoring does not always go as smoothly as we hope, the new training incorporates a discussion on what to do when you hit those bumps in the road. Spending a day with Mavis and Susan was energizing and confidence building and I feel I will bring a new vitality and perspective to my tutoring. - *Mary Leggett*



New Faces

My name is Susan and I started volunteering with READ Saskatoon in the office one afternoon a week a year ago. I am presently responsible for the Adult Program as Mavis is taking on the responsibility of the PGI. I am in the office on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. I look forward to speaking with you during my phone rounds. I am a mother of two grown boys and look forward to someday being “gramma” and reading with my grandchildren. I also love to golf and in the summer you will find me on the golf course during my spare time.



Hello! My name is Tara Greenshields and I have recently begun my new position as Project Ready Coordinator at READ Saskatoon. I have not been here for very long yet but I am having a great time and looking forward to all that is coming in the future. I have been living in Saskatoon for five years and for the past year I have been a substitute teacher. Being an educator is wonderful because you get to work with youth and always learn new things. One of my favourite things is food, so in my spare time I like to cook and try new recipes. I also enjoy knitting, traveling, and spending time with my husband and our friends.

Right now I am also looking forward to summer and nicer weather! If you would like to meet me or our Project Ready students you can stop by and say hello at the READ Saskatoon office.

My name is Anita Fengstad. I have been married for 9 years to Cliff Fengstad and we have 2 wonderful children (Parker 7 and Sydney 5). I have been at home with our children and loving every moment of it and it has opened doors to so many opportunities for me. It all began when we started attending a Parent & Tot Group when Parker was 2 and Sydney was 1. I loved the whole idea of it all - a story, songs and craft all on a theme. I was very eager to help out with the group when ever I could. Before I knew it, I was offered to take over leading the group. That was almost 3 years ago. I have training through the Adlerian Society and attended the *Come Read With Me* Program through READ Saskatoon. I have facilitated groups with the Family Support Center and continue to lead two Parent & Tot Groups. I am very excited to now be coordinating the *Family Together Program* and being a part of READ Saskatoon. You never know what life has to offer you as you meet new people and take interest in different things.



Did you know?

Parenting Education Saskatchewan (www.parenteducationsask.ca) has created an on line directory of supports and services related to parent education throughout the province and nationally. Log onto the website and enter your information or email: parent.educ@sasktel.net and an information form will be sent to you. The intent of the directory is to link people working in the area of parent support and education. Organizations and individuals are asked to identify areas of expertise such as literacy, family violence, pre-schoolers, etc. in order to recognize the breadth of working with parents.



Adult Literacy Philosophy:

RIGOR ON TRIAL by Tony Wagner

"How do we create a reform strategy that relies less on mindless, mandate, compliance and computer-



scored, test-based accountability and more on the development of collaborative problem-solving and reasoning skills?" From an article in *Education Week*, January 11, 2006, Wagner recognizes in the article, the challenge in identifying what qualifies as rigor, but in an earlier article, Wagner explores the questions of rigor and introduces the "three R's" of rigor, relevance, and respectful relationships.

He states, "We began to realize that rigor has less to do with how demanding the material the (tutor) covers is than with what *competencies* (learners) have mastered as a result of a lesson. We were

able to agree on this because, in our journey, we had gone from creating a series of *teacher-centered* observations to reaching consensus on a set of questions we would ask *learners*. Learners chosen at random were questioned to determine not only the level of rigor, but also the extent to which there was evidence of the other two R's of relevance and respectful relationships, essential elements in motivating students to want to achieve rigor.

Questions that emerged from this work are the following:

1. *What is the purpose of this lesson?*
2. *Why is this important to learn?*
3. *In what ways am I challenged to think in this lesson?*
4. *How will I apply, assess, or communicate what I've learned?*
5. *How will I know how good my work is and how I can improve it?*

And so we extend these questions to ourselves...

- This information was obtained from:

http://durhamliteracy.org/home/adult_literacy/philosophy?PHPSESSID=c986b6d108d193b8aa6fa807a690a8ed

Adult Program Update

Much thanks to our very enthusiastic Board member Erin Berger. With her help and the ad in the Leisure Activity Guide we had record number of calls about tutoring with READ Saskatoon and this resulted in a great turn out for our January tutor training session. Right now we have more tutors than learners, an amazing situation and a new one for us. If you are a new tutor waiting for a match or an experienced tutor waiting for a second learner it maybe awhile before you are matched. This likely won't last for long!

We have one more tutor training session this year: March 26th or 27th and the 30th (be sure to check our website for location of trainings and times at www.nald.ca/readsask/volnteer.htm). As well as training new tutors it is a wonderful opportunity to refresh your skills as well as sharing your experience with tutoring. It is great to have so many wonderful volunteers out there.

Mark the following Dates on your Calendar:

Thursday, March 8 th	Tutor Drop-in	6:30 pm	READ Saskatoon office
Saturday, April 21 st	Tutor Spring Conference	10:30 - 4:00	location TBA

Family Literacy Day Update

Saturday, January 17th was a day to remember in our community as we celebrated ABC Canada's National Family Literacy Day! It was great to meet so many interesting families at Lawson Heights Mall, as they ran around excitedly completing their mall contest forms. Special Thanks to Tammie and Paula at the **Giggle Factory's Belly Treats** for their candy bag prizes! Later in the day, families joined us at the **Fun Factory** for the afternoon story and craft sessions. Special thanks to Donna and their amazing staff for all their help in recruiting families! Lastly, thank you to all the families who participated in this year's Family Literacy Bingo Contest and Cartoon Contest! We had 112 entries and congratulations to our lucky winners:



Allison Kuzab

Reece and Kevin Forster

Tyler Dawson

Josh Hamoline

Chelsea Arnelien

Saige Kehoe

Trystan Smith

Olivia Yurach and

Haley Black

Jasmine and Brooke

Kowbel

Khorshida Roknuddin



Special thanks to Fernando at the **The StarPhoenix** for advertising our

contests in the newspaper! It's community partners like you that help make a difference!

In Their Own Words

The Language Experience Approach: A Method to Reach Reluctant or Struggling Readers

What should you do when your learner just can't get the hang of reading or writing? And what should you do when he or she balks at reading the books you have available?



The "language experience approach" is a wonderful way to get learners eager to read and write. Tutors using the language experience approach take dictation from their learners, (or have the students do their own writing) then use the students' own words as reading material. Sometimes tutors will engage their learners in some activity beforehand to provide a topic that learners will want to talk about.

Here's an example of how you might use this effective approach:

1. Ask about a subject (be it a television show, video game or a recent experience) that your student enjoys. Encourage your learner to talk about what interests him most, in whatever manner is comfortable for him.
2. As your learner speaks, neatly write down his experience **IN HIS OWN WORDS**. If he says "don't" where you would say "doesn't", you should still write "don't." This is the time for your student to express his own thoughts in his own way. Of course, you'll want to write with printed letters, not cursive.
3. When your learner has finished his description or narration, review his "writing" and read it together. You may be surprised how easily your student can read his own words--even words that might otherwise be considered difficult.

4. Your learner's creation will be important to him and should be treated as such. Encourage him or her to illustrate it and/or staple it into the form of a book. (Although older students may not be interested in this last step, the language experience approach is useful at any age.)

Many tutors find that the language experience approach is enjoyable as well as effective. What could be more interesting for a learner than reading his own words about a subject that he knows and cares about? Or a story that he has created all by himself?

Former teacher and volunteer tutor Jean Katzenberg writes about how she turned her reluctant tutee into an eager reader by appealing to what most interested her learner. Her sensitive approach also created an emotional bond with her student, which always is an important ingredient for success.

In addition to providing enthusiasm for reading and writing, the language experience approach helps students make the connection that words on paper are really just "talk written down." When Professor Roach Van Allen first described this approach in the 1960's, he showed how it creates a most natural bridge between spoken language and written language:

What I can think about, I can talk about. What I can say, I can write. What I can write, I can read. I can read what I can write and what other people can write for me to read.

- This information was obtained from:
<http://www.literacyconnections.com/InTheirOwnWords.html>

Workers take training to become more effective, not for more money, survey finds

The No. 1 reason Canadians report taking work-related training as adults is to perform more effectively in their current jobs, according to a new large-scale survey released today by the Canadian Council on Learning.

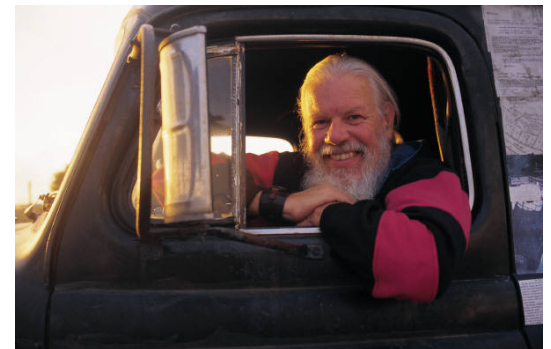
That's one of many findings in the first edition of the Survey of Canadian Attitudes toward Learning—a yearly barometer of opinions, perceptions and beliefs about lifelong learning in Canada.



Key Findings on Work-related Adult Learning

- Canadians are far more likely to participate in work-related training and become lifelong learners if they had positive learning experiences early in their lives.
- A vast majority of Canadians (92%) see a strong relationship between education and success in life, although it is a stronger link for those who have taken work-related training in the past year.
- More than twice as many Canadians report taking work-related training to perform more effectively in their current jobs (69%) than they do to earn more money (32%) or get a better job (31%).

“That Canadians want to improve in their current jobs, as well as make more money or get a better job, is an important signal for employers,” says Paul Cappon, president and CEO of the Canadian Council on Learning. “It suggests that Canadians feel work-related training not only improves workplace productivity, but also helps them to manage one of the most precious aspects of their lives—time.”



The Survey of Canadian Attitudes toward Learning (SCAL) asked 5,266 Canadians about four aspects of learning throughout the lifespan: early childhood learning; health-related learning; structured learning (elementary, secondary and post-secondary); and work-related adult learning.

The survey was designed by the Canadian Council on Learning in consultation with Statistics Canada, and was also administered by the statistical agency. Results are based on telephone interviews conducted between April 25 and May 20, 2006.

- For more information, please visit www.ccl-cca.ca/scal.

READ Saskatoon's Fundraising Dinner and Auction, **READ 'n' Feed**, is set to go!

May 8, 2007 Amigo's Cantina - Corner of 10th and Dufferin

Cocktails 6 p.m. Dinner 7 p.m.

Hosted by Ramblin' Dave

Tickets \$30.00/person

Limited seating - Contact the office at 652-5448 to reserve tickets

TOWES - New for READ Saskatoon

READ Saskatoon continues to work hard to provide supports for both our tutors and our adult learners. Recently Mavis took training to allow her to administer the TOWES - Test of Workplace Essential Skills. This is a tool that assists adults to determine the skills they presently have and what other skills they might need to develop to support their career plans. We are still trying to determine how best to provide this service as there is a fee that is associated with the testing but this is an exciting opportunity for us.

Here is an example of a sample question that you might want to try at your next tutoring session: You work in the distribution department of the Good Guys Bicycle Shop. This month you have been selling the following parts;

Part	Part Number	Number sold	Cost/item
Rim	14412-tp9	7	9.49
Handle bar	95127-tcj	2	8.12
Seat	964383-bjt	4	12.49
Spokes	762973-tp6	63	1.89
Tire - low tread	3226-kgr	4	9.45
Tire - deep tread	24863-tgw	6	10.49
Rear fender	32163-jg4	1	8.78
Training wheel set (PST exempt)	34354-wwf	3	16.59

Complete your total sales chart. Work out the GST, PST and total amount of sales based on the information provided above.

Total Sales	GST (6%)	PST (5%)	Total



Families Together

March Together with your Family

March 7 – Library visit to Pooh Corner

March 14 – St. Patrick's Day Party

March 21 - Cooking with CHEP

March 28 – Sandra Paulson –
Book Reading: *Strange*



This program is FREE for all families!

We meet every Wednesday from 6 - 8 p.m. at
White Buffalo Youth Lodge (602 20th Street West)

If you need help with transportation call READ Saskatoon at 652-5448



READer Family Fun Page

Saint Patrick's Day is celebrated each year on March 17th. In Ireland, Saint Patrick's Day is both a holy day and a national holiday. Saint Patrick is the patron saint of Ireland as he was the one who brought Christianity to the Irish.

According to legend, Saint Patrick used a shamrock to explain about God. The shamrock, which looks like clover, has three leaves on each stem. Saint Patrick told the people that the shamrock was like the idea of the Trinity – that in the one God there are three divine beings: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. The shamrock was sacred to the Druids, so Saint Patrick's use of it in explaining the trinity was very wise.

Although it began in Ireland, Saint Patrick's Day is celebrated in countries around the world. People with Irish heritage remind themselves of the beautiful green countryside of Ireland by wearing green and taking part in the festivities.

Another tale about Patrick is that he drove the snakes from Ireland. Different versions of the story, tell of him standing upon a hill, using a wooden staff to drive the serpents into the sea, banishing them forever from Ireland.

<http://www.dtk-holidays.com/patrick/about.htm>

Leprechaun Quiz

Five Leprechauns (Ryan, Christina, Samantha, Brianna, and Benjamin) are each different heights (3 feet and 1 inch, 3 feet and 4 inches, 2 feet, 2 feet and 3 inches, and 3 feet and 9 inches). Figure out how tall each Leprechaun is.



Benjamin is not shorter than Ryan.

Christina is taller than Benjamin and taller than Samantha.

Samantha is taller than both Ryan and Benjamin.

Brianna is the tallest Leprechaun.

taken from:

http://www.edhelper.com/StPatricks_Day_Logic49.htm

We want you to Celebrate Green

Have a green day in your home! Wear green; introduce your family to a new green food like kiwi fruit, avocado, green apples, snow peas, celery, honeydew melon, broccoli, jelly beans, or green jello! Read *Green Eggs and Ham* by Dr Seuss! Be a "greenie" and plant a seed in a cup for spring! Try making green by adding a few drops of yellow and blue food coloring to a glass of water! Talk about things that will soon turn green in Spring!

