



## 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 outreach programming connects adults to further education and skill enhancement programs;
- alternative points of accessing literacy supports. Our *Good Book Bins*, distributed in public waiting areas in Saskatoon, encourage families to choose a book from the box and read it together, take it home, bring it back at the next visit, replace it with another, or keep it;
- *Grow Your Own Training*: an award winning workplace literacy model that supports lifelong learning on the job;
- research to the literacy community.



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## READ Saskatoon PGI Golf Tournament for Literacy honours Margaret Bear

"I would like to thank READ Saskatoon for giving me this opportunity to be here today and share my learning path.

My journey has been challenging. I was kicked out of high school. I got sick of wandering around being a single mom, with no direction. It was not the life I wanted for me or Dane. After three years out of school, I made a decision to honour my family. I enrolled at SIIT and got my grade 12.

After SIIT, I found myself in a relationship where I got pregnant again and I decided to join READ Saskatoon's adult literacy program: Project Ready. The program gave me the opportunity to build a portfolio that including getting certificates in: First Aid, Family Literacy, WHMIS, Food Safe as well as lots of work experience. I built my resume and found that I wanted a better life for me and my family. I made new friends and most importantly, I learned I wanted to continue my education and nothing was going to stop me. The doors started to open. I got a job at Whitecap as an Educational Assistant. Then I got my Youth Worker Certificate but wait...there's more! I learned I could get a degree and today I'm in my second year of Indian Social Work at First Nations University of Canada.

So, what does literacy mean to me? It means a lifelong learning, the ability to listen to my children, the ability to reduce the struggles that are out there. It has opened the doors to summer employment, to being a better worker, and being a better mother. I believe in a world where families don't have to struggle. Where systems support, not confine. Where families are strengthened, not broken. Where literacy is a part of life not just a word or a commercial or a billboard. In closing, I would like to thank the Kinsmen Club of Saskatoon for supporting this award."

# READ Saskatoon Learner Award

Does your learner deserve a special award? READ Saskatoon is recognizing one adult 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;
- Examples 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. The award will be presented at our annual fundraiser,

*READ 'n' Feed Celebrity Auction*  
March 10, 2011.

**READ**Saskatoon  
It's more than words. 

**Nomination  
Deadline**  
**February 11, 2011 at  
4 p.m.**

Mail your nomination to:  
READ Saskatoon  
Rigby-Wilcox Nomination  
Committee

#304-1114 22<sup>nd</sup> Street  
West  
Saskatoon, SK S7M 0S5

**or email to:**  
[READSaskatoon@nald.ca](mailto:READSaskatoon@nald.ca)

**or fax to:** 652 4205

## 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

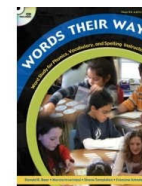
## Check out our NEW Resources!

### Words Their Way

A great set of books which assist with sight words, word patterns, and root words.

They are multi-sensory, using

a word sort technique to introduce a physical element to the process. This can be especially valuable for kinesthetic learners.

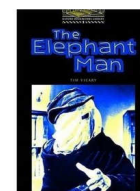


These word sorts span a wide range from basic vowel concepts to creating compound words. There are sorts for prefixes, suffixes, silent letters, and many more, based on spelling rules (generalizations!) Most groups include examples of common 'oddball' exceptions to the rule, to help learners expand their sight word vocabulary.

These resources are available to tutors through our office, please just phone ahead to view or photocopy portions of them!

### Oxford Bookworms Stage 1 Readers

These books are riveting adaptations of books and plays designed for the adult learner to build vocabulary and practice reading at various stages. They include a glossary at the back, and practice activities for before reading, while reading and after reading. We now have the following copies in our office available for borrowing: The Elephant Man and The Monkey's Paw.



# Education Going Viral: Broadcast your Learning



On September 21, Manitoba's Education Minister, Nancy Allen, announced a pilot project intended to assist

students with learning difficult math concepts. The project, piloted by Pembina Trails and Frontier School divisions, credits YouTube as its inspiration for the idea. With the growing trend to access the Internet for information, using social media as an

educational tool seemed not only to be an obvious step but a practical one. "The Pembina Trails and Frontier school divisions are pilot testing a new way to teach students about difficult concepts using short, informal

video presentations in a YouTube-inspired format that is familiar to today's youth," Allan said. "This innovative approach has

**Students can choose to watch short animated or videotaped lessons produced in a YouTube-like video format. They will also be able to download notes, watch the lesson presented by a different teacher, or see a fellow student explain a concept he or she also had difficulty understanding.**

been spearheaded by the Pembina Trails School Division working with key industry partners to develop solutions that are expected to have a significant impact on the way students receive help with in-class learning and homework."

Manitoba is not the only province looking at social media networks to promote education. University of Western Ontario is using various social networking mediums not only as educational tools but as

promotional tools to draw students to their campus in an effort to increase enrolment. A spokesperson from the university's public affairs department says, "... the university offers Facebook

**Social Media tools like YouTube, Facebook and Twitter allow students and teachers to distribute, post and share learning materials, ideas and feedback.**

groups for incoming classes; student blogs; a Flickr account that posts pictures submitted by students and others; an educational channel on YouTube with

videos of classroom lectures and student submissions; and an iTunes U account that creates a forum for student-generated podcasts about the campus."



**International  
Literacy Day  
September 8th**



Another Celebration, Another Success!

This year's International Literacy Day was another success as citizens, students and organizations gathered together to support and share in the vision of literacy and education as a fundamental human right.

Those in attendance walked away with bellies full of cake, and, more importantly, arms full of books.



## Family Fun Page

Looking for things to do with your children? Here are a few ideas!

### 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.

## Saturday, November 20 is "National Child Day!"

Celebrate by joining us at Market Mall. Admission to the Children's Discovery Museum and the Much More Munsch Exhibit will be FREE from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. (Donations of non-perishable food items will be accepted but are not required for admission). Check out the exhibits and displays presented throughout the mall!

## December 4 is "National Cookie Day"

Did you know that the English word "cookie" is derived from the Dutch word "koekje," which means little cake? Dutch bakers used to test oven temperatures on small amounts of batter so that they would not waste the entire cake mix if the temperature wasn't right. It was not long though before they discovered that these tiny pieces of cooked batter were actually quite tasty! Thus, the birth of the cookie. <http://www.punchbowl.com/holidays/national-cookie-day>

Celebrate by baking cookies with your child. Use a recipe to talk about sequence: "First we will preheat the oven, next we will gather the ingredients, then we will mix the ingredients..." Check out this website for some great cookie recipes! <http://allrecipes.com//Recipes/desserts/cookies/Main.aspx>

## January 27 is "Family Literacy Day: Play for Literacy"

Developed by ABC Life Literacy Canada in 1999, Canadians celebrate reading and learning together as a family. Canadians across the country participate in this initiative in their homes and communities every year.

Join us on Saturday, January 22nd from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Frances Morrison Branch Library for family games, crafts, stories, rhymes and prizes! Check out the website for downloadable games, recipes, songs and ideas to celebrate at: <http://abclifeliteracy.ca/en/family-literacy-day>

# Family Letter Writing Contest



Try this fun writing activity as a family. Fill in the blanks with an appropriate word. Email or send to us for a chance to win a Family Literacy Activity bag loaded with books, games, craft materials and activities for the entire family! **Deadline is January 28th, 2011.**

Dear \_\_\_\_\_  
(name)

Today I got a letter from \_\_\_\_\_. It was really \_\_\_\_\_! In the letter it said that I was going to have a visit from \_\_\_\_\_. This is very \_\_\_\_\_. So I have spent the day getting ready. First I made lots of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to eat. I have never cooked so much \_\_\_\_\_ in my life! I really like the \_\_\_\_\_ icing that I made for the \_\_\_\_\_. I also \_\_\_\_\_ the house with \_\_\_\_\_.

I decided to invite \_\_\_\_\_ friends over to make it a real party. First we played \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. Then we watched \_\_\_\_\_. Then we had lunch. It was so \_\_\_\_\_. We ate everything that was on the \_\_\_\_\_. My favorite was the \_\_\_\_\_.

When my mom came home she \_\_\_\_\_. My mom said she had never seen such a \_\_\_\_\_. She said I can't have any more \_\_\_\_\_ over until I am \_\_\_\_\_.

That really made me feel \_\_\_\_\_. So now I won't be able to have any more \_\_\_\_\_.

I have to go \_\_\_\_\_ now, so I will stop writing this letter. Please write me back.

From: \_\_\_\_\_ Your \_\_\_\_\_  
(name) (relative)

## 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.

**READ**

**Saskatoon is**

**about more**

**than words ...**

it is about literacy:

reading, writing,

speaking, listening

and numeracy.

By providing these

foundational skills

with qualified

staff and trained

volunteers, we can

help people reach

their full

potential.



## Top Five Terrific Tutor Tips and Tricks – Part 2

*Catch your learner doing something right...* Try to consciously step back from looking for flaws and look for things to praise instead.

There is a dramatic increase in willingness to work hard with someone who corrects errors

gently. The added boost of confidence is motivational beyond all expectations.

*Adapted from: The One Minute Manager (Blanchard & Spencer, 1982)*

*Enthusiasm is contagious...*

Work with materials that will engage both you and your learner.

Frances Morrison Public Library has an excellent selection of Adult Learning Resources – . The Information Desk can direct you to them.

Ask about the *Good Reads* books for adults. Many are versions of existing bestsellers, or classics.

*Take a deep breath...*

Sometimes life gets in the way. Meetings don't work out. Homework isn't finished. The rest of Workbook 2 still stretches

**The shift from expecting negative comments to expecting positive ones will allow the learning process to blossom.**

on forever. Learning as an adult carries special challenges for everyone involved, so step back and take a deep breath to release some frustration. It works!

*Take time to regroup and restock...* While a learner's goals may seem clear enough to begin with, these may shift over time. It's a good idea to check in with your learner quite often to make sure that you are still on the right track, especially if you have a learner who is shy or

uncertain in the beginning.

Priorities often shift based on new opportunities, or just life "getting in the way". Touching base monthly with your learner can help keep you both focused on what is most immediately important. A regular opportunity to direct their own learning path is a good confidence booster, and also great practice in goal-setting and leading conversations to meet their own needs.

*Learning is a lifelong process...* Watch for ongoing learning opportunities. The Regina Public Library is offering an Online Tutor Training Course for tutors working with an English as an Additional Language learner. For more information on this course visit the Regina Public Library's link: <http://apps.reginalibrary.ca/moodle>

# Time to plan a lesson?

Having a well-planned lesson when you meet with your learner is important to meeting learning goals and maintaining the structure of your session. However, if you are new to tutoring you may feel like you are missing some tools in your tool box when it comes to sitting down and making a plan. We have created two lesson plans for you to use with your tutor, one on *Cooking and Literacy* and the other on *Goal Setting*. Need more? Keep using the same format of the plans if you liked working with them and you can insert your own topic! If you want to try a different format you can choose from four different templates on our website. To visit the Volunteer Resources page go to our website and click on the Resources link. Then click on the Resources for Volunteers and you will see both of the lesson plans as well as the four different templates.



## How can there be a literacy problem in Canada, when most adults can read and write?

Many people misinterpret low literacy as illiteracy.

In fact, very few Canadian adults are truly illiterate (unable to read or write).

The main concern is regarding the millions who possess some literacy skills, yet who are below the

internationally-accepted standard for coping in a modern society.

Reading the Future <http://www.ccl-cca.ca/ccl/reports/readingfuture/index.htm>

## Skimming for Information

Skimming is a reading technique that people can learn and still have sufficient confidence in their reading fluency. Skimming is used when it is only necessary to get the gist of an article or piece of text. For example, many people skim newspaper articles. They read the headlines and the first and perhaps the last sentences of paragraphs to get the gist of the information. Skimming can be useful in many different reading situations, like looking for an apartment in the Classifieds section of the newspaper. Read the following apartment ads and answer the questions below to practice your skimming technique.

City Park 1Br. Suite avail  
Nov.1 Free laundry, n/s,  
n/p, Reno'd \$850. Lease  
req'd 222.2222

Mount Royal 2&3 Br. f/s,  
shared laundry, a/c, balc,  
ref. req. \$650 + elec. Jon  
444.4444

Avalon 3Br; htd garage, f/s, a/  
c, shared w/d,np,ns,  
fenced,\$1250  
888.8888

1. Which rent amount is the least expensive per month?
2. How much less would you pay for the City Park suite than the Avalon house?
3. Which apartment is the least expensive per month?
4. How much more per year would you pay living in the Avalon house than the City Park suite?
5. Which rent amount is the most expensive per month?

Answers:  
\$650, \$400, Mount Royal, \$4,200, \$1250

# READ Saskatoon PGI Golf Tournament for Literacy 2010

## 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, along with its partners Affinity Credit Union and Kinsmen Club of Saskatoon, raised over \$41,000 for literacy in Saskatoon in September, through the 4th annual READ Saskatoon PGI Golf Tournament.

Following the golf tournament, the Kinsmen Club of Saskatoon Learner Achievement recognized Margaret Bear, an outstanding learner. Ken Gunn was honoured with the Gzowski Award, as one person during the day who "gets it": the spirit, the fun, the camaraderie and literacy.

READ Saskatoon's special guests included Saskatchewan singer and songwriter, Connie Kaldor and Mike DeGagne of the Aboriginal Healing Foundation.

Thank you so much to our sponsors, organizations and individuals who provided funding, in-kind services and items for our auction, our volunteers, our celebrity guests, and to all of the golfers who took part in the PGI this year. PGI Golf Tournaments for Literacy happen in every province and territory across our nation. Each PGI is organized by a local committee and every dollar raised stays in the community to support local literacy programs.



STRONGER COMMUNITIES TOGETHER™

