



Literacy Wave

A Quarterly Newsletter from the Saanich Peninsula
Literacy Task Group

April 2012

Number 2

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Play some word games
online with your kids

www.topwordgames.com
www.greatdaygames.com

The Saanich Peninsula Literacy Task Group

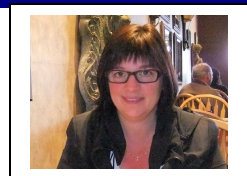
The Saanich Literacy Task Group meets monthly to plan and develop initiatives to ensure that everyone has the literacy skills they need to participate in today's society. In 2010-2011, the Task Group distributed implementation funds to four programs which provided educational resources to pre-school children and teens.

Based on input from the wider community, this year the Task Group will focus on developing and implementing a communication campaign, working to develop a HUB for literacy activities and planning to develop community-defined projects here on the peninsula that are supporting already existing programs or addressing gaps in our literacy services. Your Task Group Members are listed after the content along the blue Margin.

Thanks to the funding from Decoda Literacy Solutions, the Task Group will be carrying on this work over the next year. We welcome any feedback, assistance, volunteers or input you may want to give us. We are looking for new members from business particularly so let us know...

Email Chris Leischner, Literacy Outreach Coordinator at
cleischner@shaw.ca

People around the Peninsula Meet Laura Chambers



Laura is the Mom of a nine year old boy who love sports and is very active but for whom reading is difficult and who, with a family history of dyslexia, is probably going to need lots of support and services. We all know kids like this, some of them make it and others don't. We can ask the question "what is the difference with those kids who learn to function despite their

www.theproblemsite.com

Meet your Literacy Task Group Representatives:

Janis Johnson: PCEC



Diane Kirby: Saanich Adult Education Center



Elaine Venables: Beacon Community Services



Diana Wiseman: School District #63

Claire Ready: Read Society

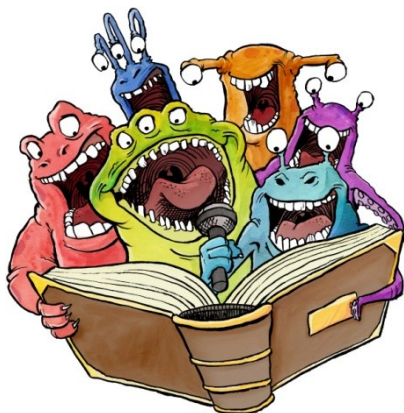
disabilities and those that aren't functioning well and often spiral down into a life that is a struggle"?

Literacy makes a difference but it doesn't exist out there on its own. Literacy requires a commitment from someone and for this young boy that commitment is his Mom. She advocates for him all the time. They knew early on that something was not working with his learning so she started asking questions and hasn't stopped. And, if she isn't asking questions for her own child then it is for someone else. Laura is always ready to help others find out "what's out there". She assists other parents in getting services for their children and supports them in looking for answers about their children's learning and literacy. When asked why she does this Laura said "It is who I am. I look at things differently and, well, others come before me." She became involved in our Task Group to advocate for others and spread knowledge about resources.

Laura is an avid reader. She defines literacy as "life" "It is what you do everyday and reading really does matter". Laura loves the library. It is her first stop no matter where she lives. She encourages others to get their library card cause the library is a wealth of knowledge.

Laura doesn't only do work towards literacy, coming from a family with few resources, she learned that she can't "just sit back". Laura works at the food bank and soup kitchen. She runs the Sidney elementary Breakfast Program and is helping to raise \$10,000.00 for the school library to buy furniture. They just purchased 2 benches and a table but they want comfy couches to curl up and read in too.

Laura is a powerhouse and strong advocate for parents with children with learning disabilities. She is a tireless networker and we are very happy that Laura is a member of our Task Group to help enhance literacy on the Saanich Peninsula.



Summer Learning Camps- creating *ah, ha* moments, and finding ways to bring learning home.

Campers will create

a summer memory box and fill it with games, hands on activities and stories linked to learning **language arts or mathematics.**

Camps have a minimum of three and a maximum of six people, all in similar grades.

LOCATION: 302B-9975 4th Street, Sidney

Call for information: 250-388-7225 www.readsociety.bc.ca



Marc Bissley and Jill Auchinachie: Camosun College

Bernice Smith: Pachoquin Head Start Program

Laura Chambers: Parent Representative

Contact Us

cleischner@shaw.ca



Camosun Students: A Good News Story

This term one of the Camosun College students at Literacy Victoria completed Fundamental English 025. “Doug” worked in the oil and gas extraction industry in northern BC for a number of years before having to leave because of working conditions and mental health issues. Doug found himself living in Victoria on income assistance and started to deal with some of his long-term issues which included basic literacy. His first stop along his journey was at the Victoria READ Society where the one-on-one instruction not only helped him with his reading and writing skills but also gave him the confidence that he could learn. Following his time at Victoria READ Society Doug continued to work with a reading partner but slipped back into depression and agoraphobia. Through much encouragement he connected with Literacy Victoria, which is close to where he lives, and decided to continue with his education. After going through an informal assessment, Doug was placed at the fundamental English level and started his course in the fall. Throughout the course Doug continued to deal with confidence and health issues and there were times when he decided that he couldn’t continue. However, Doug did persevere and very successfully completed his course and in the process gained a confidence that has carried through to other areas of his life. Doug credits his academic success to his positive experience with Victoria READ Society and to his instructor at Literacy Victoria who “refused to let him quit!” Doug is now focusing on doing a creative writing course and will be back in the fall for his next level of Fundamental English.

Marc Bissley

Literacy is not just about reading.

Literacy is about learning, and in our world today there is so much we can learn about every day. What is ...

Health Literacy?

<http://www.ccl-cca.ca/ccl/Reports/HealthLiteracy.html>

Political literacy?

<http://www.citizenshipfoundation.org.uk/main/page.php?252>

Media literacy?

http://www.media-awareness.ca/english/teachers/media_literacy/what_is_media_literacy.cfm

Financial literacy?

<http://www.theccfl.ca/home.aspx>

Computer literacy?

