

# **The Literacy Connection**

Yukon Literacy Coalition

**Friday February.4, 2011**

*The Yukon Literacy Coalition is a Yukon-wide literacy organization that is community governed and committed to supporting and encouraging literacy in all languages of the Yukon.*



*Greetings from the Yukon Literacy Coalition!*

## **Important Dates:**

**Yukon Education Week 2010**

**April 11-15, 2011**

***Thanks to all our Partners and all the participants in helping make National Family Literacy Day such a huge success!!!***

***TD Canada Trust Family Literacy Centre (FLC) – 2<sup>nd</sup> floor Canada Games Centre  
Super Star Theatre Saturday 12:00-2:00pm***

Act out fun with kids' theatre – characters, scenes, and exploration of northern tales, children's tales and write your own play! A great introduction to the world of stage, Readers' Theatre develops theatre play, reading, expression and improvisation ranging from real experiences to total silliness. We encourage regular attendance. Suggested Ages 6+

Check out the full FLC winter schedule on the YLC website <http://www.yukonliteracy.ca/flc.htm> or phone 867-668-8698.

## **What's New?**

### **Can Txt Msgs Really Help Kidz 2 Spell?**

OMG but TXTs help me spel L8R

For many teachers and parents, those text abbreviations may spell the end of literacy as we know it, but a growing body of research indicates that text messages can actually help students' ability to spell. <http://abcnews.go.com/Technology/txt-msgs-kidz-spell/story?id=12800449>

## **Community News**

### **Free Family Art Class at the Yukon Arts Centre**

Artist Trading Cards

Not sure what an artist trading card is? Artist Trading Cards (ATC's) are miniature works of art created on a 2 ½" x 3 ½" (64 x 89 mm) surface. They are original artworks or small editions self-produced by artists, however anyone can make them. We'll be making our ATCs out of lots of different materials. This is a great way to meet friends and even trade artwork!

1-4pm in the Lobby of the Yukon Arts Centre

### **The National Outdoor Leadership School**

Are you 14-18 years old or do you have a teenager looking for an amazing summer opportunity? How about getting them outside in the Yukon Wilderness, learning about the natural world, their own leadership capabilities, and have the wilderness inspire them and gain the skills to lead a lifetime of outdoor activity and connection. There will be an information and enrolment session at the Alpine Bakery on February 17th at 7:30 p.m.

### **Three territorial mental health programs extended**

WHITEHORSE—Yukon Health and Social Services Minister Glenn Hart today announced the continued funding of three mental health programs previously funded under the Territorial Health Access Fund. <http://www.gov.yk.ca/news/11-017.html>

### **Yukon Learn Society offering courses!**

#### **Out of the Margin, Into the Community Project**

Date: February 1, 4, 8 & 11, 2011

Time: 10:00 to 2:00 PM

Phone: 867 668 6280 ext: 226

**Or**

Date: January 31, February 2, 7 & 9, 2011

Time: 10:00 to 3:00 PM

Phone: 867 668 6280 ext: 226

Description: Yukon Learn is on location at Victoria Faulkner Women's Centre and C.A.I.R.S. (Committee on Abuse in Residential Schools) to provide Internet Service for people that cannot afford them. The program will teach basis computer skills including surfing the Internet, checking and setting up email accounts, setting up face book. This is sponsored by the United Way of Yukon.

## **Literacy in the News**

### **Peru's literacy programme reaches out to its indigenous peoples**

Fernando, 40, is struggling to steady his hand and write the letter "A" in his exercise book. "Capital A," says Dalia, "the Professor", as they call her in Potsoteni, an indigenous community deep in the Peruvian Amazon. Fernando is finding it hard, but he persists. "I want to learn to read and write," he says in Asháninka, his mother tongue. He could not go to school as a child: "We had no teachers." <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2011/feb/01/peru-literacy-amazon-pronama-barbier>

### **Elizabeth May on Huck Finn**

Reactions to the planned "sanitization" of Mark Twain's **The Adventures of Huck Finn**. <http://www.the globeandmail.com/news/opinions/elizabeth-may-on-huck-finn/article1885530/>

### **Irish politicians' lingo driving electorate loco**

The National Adult Literacy Agency said it had received feedback that people were having difficulty in figuring out what politicians were trying to say. <http://www.irishtimes.com/newspaper/ireland/2011/0204/1224288986950.html>

## **Contests**

### **Postcard Story Competition**

The Writers' Union of Canada is accepting submissions until February 14, 2011, for the 2011 **Postcard Story Competition**. The winning entry will be the best Canadian work of 250 words or less in the English language, fiction or nonfiction. The prize is \$500 for the winning entry.

### **Canadian Aboriginal Arts and Writing Challenge**

Deadline: March 31st, 2011

Are you an Aboriginal Canadian between the ages of 14-29? Showcase your talent and creativity, have your work reviewed by the foremost Aboriginal storytellers! You could win cash prizes and even have your work published in a national magazine! <http://www.our-story.ca/wc>

### **Arctica's Writing Space Contest**

Submit poetry, creative non-fiction and short fiction that explores the theme of space and the circumpolar region. Deadline is midnight April 1, 2011. Email entries to [WritingSpace@ArcticaMag.ca](mailto:WritingSpace@ArcticaMag.ca) or submit online to Arctica Magazine. <http://www.arcticamag.ca/current-issue/1-today/70-writing-space-contest.html>

## **Conferences, Workshops, and Awards**

### **Nominate Your Role Model Now! Deadline is March 4, 2011**

The National Aboriginal Health Organization is looking for First Nations, Inuit and Métis youth between the ages of 13 to 30, who are positive role models. If you know a youth that has shown leadership in school, in sports or in their community, submit a nomination today! [More...](#)

### ***The PeaceJam Foundation***

Provides five curricular programs that explore the stories of 12 Nobel Peace Laureates and the ways they overcame problems in their communities. Youth study the personal experiences of these amazing world leaders and then engage in service-learning activities that address local needs. <http://www.peacejam.org/education.aspx>

## **Funding Opportunities**

### ***Opportunities Fund for Persons with Disabilities***

The Opportunities Fund for Persons with Disabilities provides funding for national, regional and local projects that assist people with disabilities in preparing for and finding employment or self-employment, as well as acquiring the skills necessary to maintain that new employment. For more information go to:

[http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/eng/disability\\_issues/funding\\_programs/opportunities\\_fund/index.shtml](http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/eng/disability_issues/funding_programs/opportunities_fund/index.shtml)

### ***Aboriginal Funding Tool***

There are some deadlines for scholarships, bursaries, etc. that are coming up. Visit the Aboriginal Canada Portal at <http://www.aboriginalcanada.gc.ca/acp/site.nsf/en/funding.html>

### ***New First Nations Literacy Resources***

For more information go to: <http://firstnationliteracy.com/>

## **Resources**

### ***AlphaPlus Pathfinders***

AlphaPlus pathfinders are guides on specific topics that help you quickly find relevant websites and information to support your literacy practice. Find AlphaPlus at

<http://alphaplus.ca/newsupdates.asp?eventID=275>

### ***Canadian Heritage Aboriginal Peoples' Program***

The Aboriginal Peoples' Program (APP) supports the full participation and cultural revitalization of Aboriginal People in Canadian society. It enables Aboriginal Peoples to address the social, cultural, economic and political issues affecting their lives. Find resources and more at

<http://www.pch.gc.ca/pgm/pa-app/index-eng.cfm>

### ***Canadian Parents for French (CPF) Yukon***

To help you support your child's French learning, CPF Yukon is offering current and new members a half price subsidy towards adult French classes offered through either L'association franco-yukonnaise or the French Language Services Directorate. Spaces are limited to first-come, first-serve. For more information, contact [yukoncpf@gmail.com](mailto:yukoncpf@gmail.com) or call 667-8611.

### ***Canadian Council on Learning***

The Canadian Council on Learning is a rich resource related to learning throughout all stages of life, from early childhood through to the senior years. Visit their site at <http://www.ccl-cca.ca/ccl>

### ***CYFN Language Classes***

The Council of Yukon First Nations is offering language classes FREE of charge to the general public. Contact Anna Fraser at 393-9200 for more information!

### ***Healthy Aboriginal Network***

Youth Comic Books for social and health issues. For more information go to:

<http://www.thehealthyaboriginal.net/>

### ***Kaska Language Lessons***

Liard First Nation Language Coordinator, Leda Jules will be offering language lessons every Tuesday and Thursday @ the Community Lunches located at the 2 Mile Community Hall in Watson Lake. So please come out and enjoy lunch served with free language lessons. Souga sin la! For more information please call 867.536.2912.

### ***Ningwakwe Learning Press Resources***

Ningwakwe Learning Press publishes culturally appropriate resources for the Aboriginal literacy field in North America. This Ontario-based company has several new releases. Its catalogue can be found at <http://ningwakwe.on.ca/catalogue.htm>

### ***The Training Policy Committee -- 2010 Training Program Handbook***

This handbook identifies public, private and volunteer organizations that offer credit and non-credit training and educational opportunities for Yukon people. Contact the Training Policy Committee for copies at [tpced@northwestel.net](mailto:tpced@northwestel.net) or 867-668-7812

### ***The Vanier Institute of the Family***

This site has some excellent resources for parents. Go to:

<http://www.vifamily.ca/library/resources/resources.html>

### ***Daily Sudoku***

<http://www.cbc.ca/diversions/sudoku/>

Contact us if you have suggestions for our newsletter!

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