

SPECIAL INTEREST ARTICLES:

- ❖ FAMILY LITERACY DAY, JANUARY 27TH, 2001
- ❖ MINISTER JANE STEWART VISITS CENTRE FOR FAMILY LITERACY
- ❖ HELP YOUR CHILD TO READ AND WRITE PILOT UP AND RUNNING



Lieutenant Governor reads to newborn in the Neonatal Unit



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A DAY TO REMEMBER

We had a wonderful day of celebration on Family Literacy Day, Saturday, January 27th! We chose this day to officially launch the Centre for Family Literacy. The morning started with a tour of the Stollery Children's Centre at the University of Alberta hospital. Our Honourary patron, the Honourable Lois Hole gave out book bags to almost 100 children of all ages.

Following this, Her Honour came to the Telus Centre on the university campus where she helped us celebrate our opening in grand style. Our gracious MC once again was Lynda Steele from Global T.V. who did a great job of introducing our guests and speakers. We heard terrific speeches from our Minister of Justice, Dave Hancock, and from the Dean of Education, the CEO of United Way, our own Board Chair, Randy Boissonnault and Her Honour Lois Hole. Dave Brown and

Diane Seemann from the tutoring program also gave wonderful talks about their work together.

Then we were treated to a demonstration of the Rhymes that Bind program by young moms and their babies from Terra Association. As always, they stole the show, and they too received book bags. A mom from the Books for Babies program also read a poem that she wrote while in the program (see page 4).

About 150 people attended the Launch. They included our funders and many of the partner agencies we work with to deliver our programs. We had a reception with refreshments following the program and Her Honour stayed to meet many of the guests and to chat with them. You may have seen this picture of the event in the Edmonton Journal the day after the event.

Everyone seemed to have a great time, and we received many notes of congratulation the following week. Many thanks to Indigo Books and Upper Crust Restaurant for their donations.

MAUREEN SANDERS



Seated left to right are: Anne Smith, United Way, Justice Minister Dave Hancock with his daughter Jeanine, Maureen Sanders, Lieutenant Governor Lois Hole, Randy Boissonnault, Dr. Larry Beauchamp, University of Alberta, and Councillor Michael Phair.
Front: Mums and babes from Terra
Reprinted with permission from The Edmonton Journal

MINISTER JANE STEWART VISITS CENTRE



Above: Minister Stewart

We didn't have time to rest on our laurels for too long, because on March 19th we were visited by the Honourable Jane Stewart, Minister of Human Resources Development Canada, right here at the Centre. Senator Joyce Fairbairn joined the Minister on her tour of the Centre.

The Minister and the Senator had the opportunity to talk with tutors and students in our Learning Centre, see demonstrations of the B.O.O.K.S. program and Rhymes That Bind program and meet with some of our

staff and partners. Following their tour they proceeded to greet the waiting guests.

It was standing room only as Senator Fairbairn spoke about the value of family literacy programs. Minister Stewart then spoke about the **Inter-provincial Family Literacy Training Project** funded by her department which is just underway.

The Minister also visited the C.O.W. bus, which was parked in front of the building. This was a great opportunity to showcase our broad range of programs.

We appreciate the generosity of Starbuck's Calgary Trail for providing coffee for this occasion.



Left: Minister Stewart talks with student Dave Brown and volunteer tutor Earldene Kryz

Right: Colleen Crozier explains her B.O.O.K.S. program to Senator Fairbairn and Minister Stewart



Above: Senator Fairbairn enjoying Rhymes That Bind

Right: Maureen Sanders and Randy Boissonnault talk to Minister Stewart about the Adult Tutoring Program



WRITER'S CORNER.....**INGREDIENTS FOR A SPECIAL BUS DRIVER**

Well I think I have the recipe:

You will need:

- An extra measure of helpfulness
- A heaping spoonful of politeness
- An abundance of tolerance and patience
- And a generous sprinkle of humour

Guess what? You might think this Bus Driver doesn't exist. No, well I have found him and he is real.

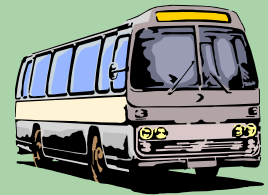
I work with handicapped people, my clients can be slow, noisy or sometimes impatient. This man will talk to the guys, wait for them, share information with them and with the staff's permission give out treats. They love that of

course! But he also explains to the clients the respect they need to give for other people's privacy. My clients love this man and they look forward to taking the bus because they know that he will treat them with great care.

Working with handicapped people can be challenging when using the public transit service. It can be difficult because most people don't know what to expect from these special needs people. This unique bus driver has a sense of helpfulness, politeness, tolerance and patience plus a sense of humour. What an example of caring and making a difference in the community!.

Let me introduce you to : JOHN
Badge # 0632

By A.George



A unique bus driver who we
would all like to meet when
we ride the bus





“We came across an old wooden bench covered in snow.”

Bobby-Ann Warrior enjoys writing poetry when she can find a quiet moment. She is married and has four children – Madisyn, Ryley, Jordan and Jesse – and is actively involved with her community. This poem came out of her experience as a mother, her love of reading to her children and her work as a Books for Babies facilitator.



WRITER'S CORNER.....

We discovered a wonderful place. We often drove by it, but this time we stopped. The Legislature grounds were a beautiful place to walk on a December night. All the Christmas lights were on. The walk through was very romantic and memorable. The pathways had big beautiful trees on both sides. The moonlight

was peeking through the tops of the trees. We came across an old wooden bench covered in snow. I swept the snow off. We sat down for a minute before saying anything. We just enjoyed all the beautiful lights and the frost covered trees in each other's arms. This is one night I will never forget

Mark M.

TELL ME A STORY BY BOBBY-ANN WARRIOR

Tell me a story
 Read me a book
 Use a soft voice
 And then take a look
 Look at my eyes as they gaze at you
 Boy, I love the things that mommies do!
 When you are reading
 Play with my feet
 Choose a book that's soft and sweet.
 Read me a book
 Like a song from your heart
 Reading to me now gives me a head start.
 A head start on life, pictures and sounds
 Just read to me an open mind will be found.
 Let's go to bed and hold me tight
 And read a good book before you turn out the
 light.

HELP YOUR CHILD TO READ AND WRITE

Patience
Patience

Try to understand
what is holding her
back and
concentrate

P
E
R
S
I
S
T
E
N
C
E

Time

MAKE IT
FUN

BOOKS OF INTEREST TO
3 DIFFERENT CHILDREN

Resource material that can
best meet her needs.

These were the needs that parents at St. Patrick School expressed when the first pilot of this program began in November. Nine families enrolled and trekked to school for nine interactive sessions on Tuesday evenings.

Twelve parents, twelve children, Ann Wylie and I talked about children's strengths and abilities, looked at learning styles and how to accommodate them in the home, practiced paired reading, discussed ways to figure out words and make sense of print, learned spelling strategies and made phonics games. Readers' Theatre, using Vivian French's Aesop's Funky Fables, was a hit! (It may be coincidence, but there are now none of these books to be had at book stores in the Edmonton area!)

No coaxing was necessary as, each evening, the children chose books from our mini library. Eager faces lit up when they found something

enticing and watching them settle in to share the books with their families was the highlight of the evening for Ann and I. We saw children better able to express and demonstrate their needs and preferences. We saw mothers and fathers encourage and accommodate their children in many satisfying ways and we developed greater flexibility in our facilitation of the program.

Abbott School is the site of the second, quite different, pilot of the program. No children attend. Instead, I have an enrollment of six parents who meet for an hour and a quarter two afternoons a week to cover the same basic material as the first group. The parents in this program have children in grades one to four and are eager to learn and share ideas with each other. When the assistant principal asked them what they thought of the program recently, the response was "We keep coming back, don't we?" That says it all!



"Parents and children working together in the Help Your Child to Read and Write program."





TRAINING FOR IN-SCHOOL MENTORS

The In-School Mentoring Program is a partnership between the Centre for Family Literacy and Big Sisters & Big Brothers Society of Edmonton and area. BSBB recruits and screens the volunteers, while Shirley Hill from the CFL provides the literacy component of the training.

Since October 2000, seven initial training sessions have been held with 111 mentors attending.

Supplementary sessions with a grade level or subject focus are planned, as well as informal sharing sessions in which mentors can get together to talk about their experiences.

Mentors meet once a week with elementary students in more than 20 schools in Edmonton, Parkland, and Elk Island Public and Catholic School Districts.

MEET OUR NEWEST STAFF PERSON



Shirley Hill taught elementary school for 20 years in Parkland School Division west of Edmonton before moving to Vancouver, where she worked as a Director of Education for a Sylvan Learning Centre. Next, she took specialized training to be a therapeutic tutor and worked at a private school for dyslexic students.

After five years in British Columbia, she is back in Alberta dividing her time between training mentors for the In-School Mentoring Program operated in partnership between Centre for Family Literacy and Big Sisters and Big Brothers, and private tutoring for learning disabled students. Shirley is always happy to offer assistance to tutors. She is in the CFL office on Tuesdays and Thursdays and always available via email at shirley_hill@aaal.ab.ca.

FAMILIES JUST WANT TO HAVE FUN!

If you want to know what the B.O.O.K.S. (Books Offer Our Kids Success) facilitators are up to at the Centre these days, you'll have to follow us to all corners of the city. Theone drives to the southern outskirts of Edmonton to Meyokumin School; Wendy goes almost to St. Albert to Griesbach School; I drive to within spitting distance of West Edmonton Mall at Belmead School; while Christina is smack dab in the middle of the city, at Atonement Home.

And what is going on in our programs? The usual. No, I'm not being facetious. It's just that the B.O.O.K.S. program works so well and so predictably, that it is almost scientific. Put parents, great children's books, interesting crafts and B.O.O.K.S. facilitators together and presto! You get parents and children reading together regularly and enjoying themselves vastly.

From Christina's program: "I didn't know you could read to babies", says one mother. "I've been reading to my four year old, but my nine month old baby listens too. And now, she holds the book right way up and even runs her little finger under the words when I read, copying what I have done

A father in Wendy's class came back full of delight at how his children had enjoyed his expressive reading of *Amos's Sweater*. "I thought when I read it in class, the other parents were giggling at how I was reading," he said, "but my children burst out laughing when I came to that same page." Wendy agreed, saying his tone of voice had conjured up an unforgettable image of the indignant sheep, after the farmer's wife had sheared him. "Amos was old and Amos was cold and now Amos was angry." The father was eager to practice reading with expression and different voices, to please his children.

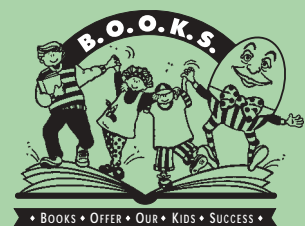
In another program, a mother said her family so loved a book called *Chimps Don't Wear Glasses* that they insisted on reading it to their grandparents, an aunt and uncle, and everyone who visited them that week.

When pre-school children are read to regularly, all sorts of important lessons are being learned – how books work and what book language is like. Children learn how to listen and how to speak; but best of all, parents and children have fun together

COLLEEN CROZIER



Wendy Kowalchuk, left, and Mandy Gillis in a B.O.O.K.S program at Belmead school



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The Honourable
Lois Hole

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Ann Wylie
Books for Babies

LOOK FOR THE C.O.W. BUS IN YOUR AREA

Our C.O.W. (Classroom on Wheels) bus is now visiting 5 Edmonton sites. The Schedule for January to June 2001 is as follows:

Tuesday 1:00 - 2:30 p.m. – Athlone Community

13010 - 129 St. (between the elementary school & the community league)

Wednesday 10:30 a.m. – Noon – Sakaw Community

1275 - 62 St. (at entrance to housing area)

Wednesday 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. – Richfield Community

(corner of 37 Ave. & 78 St. in front of Richfield Hall, tenant centre)

Thursday 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. – Bannerman Community

139 Ave. & 26 St. (near corner by housing area and apartments)

Thursday 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. – Eastwood Community

12023 - 81 St. (by the elementary school & the playground on 81 St.)

For parents with young children, the C.O.W. bus provides:

- A lending Library•
- Weekly stops for 1 1/2 – 2 hours •
- Program development according to the parents input and attendance•

Anne Force, C.O.W. Coordinator 421-7323



VOLUNTEER CORNERSTONE

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION WEEK – APRIL 22-29TH, 2001

We take this opportunity to thank all of our volunteers who give their time to make a difference in the lives of others.

THANK YOU THANK YOU
THANK YOU

Looking for Volunteers who would like to work in the Library, assisting with shelving, tidying, and some reading assessments.

Are you creative???? Would you like to come in once a month and change the bulletin boards???

For information
Call June 421-7323