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Please consider a donation to:  
the Centre for Family Literacy



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website: [familit.ca](http://familit.ca)

## International Literacy Day

Kimberley Onclin, Program Manager

As the new Program Manager with the Centre For Family Literacy, it was very exciting for me to be taking part in my first ever Edmonton International Literacy Day. On September 6<sup>th</sup>, I attended the event at Edmonton City Hall that marked both International Literacy Day (ILD), which is September 8<sup>th</sup> each year, and the start of International Adult Learner's Week. Both of these are UNESCO (United Nations) declared events that are celebrated around the world.

I have taken part in other ILD celebrations in Saskatoon since 1992 as a member of the literacy community there (I just moved to Edmonton in August), and in 1996 I was on holiday in the African country of Lesotho on September 8<sup>th</sup>.

By the way they celebrated ILD, the people of this poor country showed how much literacy and education are valued there.

There was a general holiday attitude that day in

Lesotho, with half-day office closures, posters everywhere, and lots of dancing and music (and some beer drinking, I think!)

We are not surprised when literacy levels are low in developing countries -- there is widespread poverty, limited public schooling, and gender and class imbalances in who gets educated. But how do we as a developed, affluent, globally-competing country explain that 36% of Albertans, and 48% of Canadians have literacy skills below those required in our sophisticated, technological and communication-based society?



*continued from page 1*

But that's an article for the next newsletter. . .

So, I didn't know exactly what to expect as I headed off to ILD celebrations in Edmonton. I packed my yellow rain jacket and my umbrella into my briefcase, bemoaning the rainy day we were getting for our event. What a surprise when I found out that we would be indoors, in the beautiful City Hall! You see, in Saskatoon, we had to have our celebrations outside of City Hall by the public clock tower. It was difficult to get city councilors, the mayor, MPs, MLAs or media out to recognize this important day.

There were many other pleasant surprises on my first ever Alberta ILD celebration. It was the first time I saw a Rhymes That Bind group of parents and toddlers doing rhymes and songs together – what a treat! A good reminder that learning is always best when you're having some fun doing it. I have always heard what an eloquent speaker and strong literacy advocate Senator Joyce Fairbairn is. This was my first opportunity to hear her speak -- the reputation is well deserved! ECALA's

(Edmonton Community Adult Learning Association) "What did you learn today?" slogan and display really encapsulated the idea and importance of lifelong learning -- a great way to kick off International Learner's Week. Local T.V. newsreader Lynda Steele did a fabulous job of MCing the event, and I got to brag afterwards about meeting this local celebrity.

Of course all of the speakers, performers and displays focused on the importance of literacy, and how it is part of almost everything we do, but the learners who have the courage to get up and tell their stories always have the most impact -- personal tales of overcoming challenges, and of the value of learning, of numeracy, and of literacy.

But Senator Fairbairn is right – the work continues, there is more to do, and we all have a role to play. Yes it is challenging work, but it is also rewarding work. My thanks to those who organized my first ever Edmonton ILD event– well done! – but also, thanks and congratulations and good luck to everyone working in literacy – and that should mean all of us.



Senator  
Joyce Fairbairn

## Information Kit Supports Family Literacy Across Alberta

The Centre for Family Literacy recently sent out its new information kit "Family Literacy: Growing and Learning Together" to over 130 family literacy programs and community agencies across Alberta. This work was part of our contract with Alberta Learning last year under the Parent-Child Literacy Strategy. Developing materials such as this is part of our provincial mandate of supporting family literacy programs through training, information, resources, and advocacy.

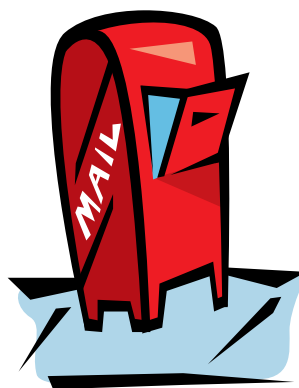
The information kit will help practitioners to raise awareness of family literacy in their own communities. It includes key messages, a tip sheet on partnerships, a PowerPoint presentation on family literacy on both overheads and CD, speakers' notes, and handout masters. Programs can adapt the materials to meet the needs of specific audiences, and can add their own local information to what is provided.

The kit was mailed out in August, and we're already receiving very positive feedback. One coordinator wrote, "The presenters' notes are very, very good. I went through and highlighted what I

especially wanted to say, added my own notes or examples in our own community, and invited input and questions from the group. I will be using the kit again in a presentation to speech and language pathologists in November and hopefully to another group of parents through the health unit. Again thank you for this wonderful resource."

More awareness-raising materials are being planned for the coming year. Stay tuned!

"I will be using the kit again in a presentation to speech and language pathologists."



"We're very proud of our first filmmaking effort".....

## Look Out Hollywood

We can now add "filmmakers" to our list of accomplishments here at the Centre for Family Literacy! We produced our first video this spring with funding from Alberta Learning's Parent-Child Literacy Strategy. The result is an eight-minute introduction to family literacy and family literacy programs, entitled "Family Literacy: Growing and Learning Together."

We're very proud of our first filmmaking effort, and want to give special thanks to the staff, volunteers, parents, and children who took part in its development.

The video was distributed along with an information kit with the same name to over 130 programs across the province to help them raise awareness of family literacy in their communities.

## New Resources Available

For more information or to order, contact Diane Wozniak:

(780) 421-7323

Diane\_Wozniak@eLit.ca

Family Literacy: Growing and Learning Together Information Kit  (Kit provides ready-to-use materials for awareness raising activities. Includes: key messages; partnerships tip sheet; PowerPoint presentation on CD and overheads; notes for presenters; and hand-out masters.)	Two versions of the kit are available:	
	Kit with colour overhead transparencies	\$45.00
	Kit with overhead masters	\$25.00
Family Literacy: Growing and Learning Together video (8 minute introduction to family literacy and family literacy programs)		\$15.00
Literacy Happens: A Resource Manual for Community Literacy Awareness Training (a tool to enable literacy workers to reach a range of audiences to support literacy)		\$25.00
Pathways Sourcebook: A guide for family literacy coordinators and facilitators to attract parents into community programs		\$10.00

## Pathways: helping programs and people connect

There are over one hundred family literacy programs running in Alberta, but it isn't always easy for people to find out about them. When the Centre for Family Literacy asked programs what kind of support they need, help with recruitment was often the answer.

Last year, we went out and talked to program coordinators to find out what they were doing to promote their programs, what worked well, and what was needed. We also talked to parents who had attended programs, and asked them what they wanted to learn about a program before

deciding whether to attend. We also asked them what kept them coming back.

This information has been put together in a book called "Pathways Sourcebook: a guide for family literacy coordinators and facilitators to attract parents into community programs." It has been sent out to family literacy programs across the province to add new ideas to how they promote their programs and reach out to families in their communities.

This project was supported by Alberta Learning's Parent-Child Literacy Strategy.

## C.O.W. Bus News

Our new year has begun with a great first week. Fifty-five families with a total of 87 children came to visit the bus. Everyone was very happy to see us and shared all their exciting summer news. Two families came to the bus to show us their new library cards. Many of the children came on the bus and talked about their new classes.

We now visit 10 sites around the city.

### Tuesday

Youngstown 8:30-10:00  
La Perle 10:30-12:00  
Athlone 1:00-2:30

### Thursday

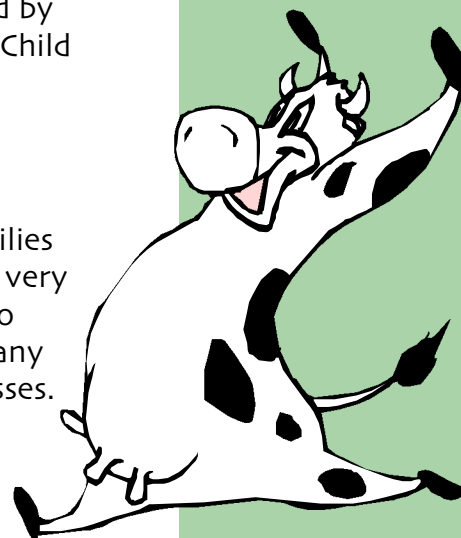
Bannerman 10:00-11:30  
Homesteader 12:30-1:30  
Eastwood 2:00-3:00

### Wednesday

Sakaw 10:30 – 12:00  
Richfield 1:00 – 2:30

### Friday

Caernarvon 8:30 – 10:00  
Balwin 10:30 – 12:00



## Books for Babies receives \$20,000 US from the Starbucks Foundation

In July the Centre for Family Literacy applied for grant money from the Starbucks Foundation for the Books for Babies program. This program addresses the focus area of "Family Literacy for children 0-5 and their families: by promoting important early literacy experiences by involving young children and their parents in sharing books together.

This grant will enable the program to maintain several of the sites now available to

parents throughout Edmonton.

Starbucks Southpointe and other Starbucks Coffee Co. staff have participated in various events, such as, International Literacy Day, the opening of the Centre and a Read-in event at an inner city school.

The Centre for Family Literacy gratefully acknowledges the support from Starbucks Coffee Co. employees and the financial support from the Starbucks Foundation.

## Library gets a face-lift!

The Centre for Family Literacy library has a new look, thanks to the Edmonton Lotteries Corporation.

This grant was used to buy new shelves, tables, chairs and other furniture for the library.

Our goal was to create a warm and inviting atmosphere for our Tutors and Students when they meet and for all patrons of our library. So far, responses have been positive. Many local organizations benefited from this project since we were able to donate almost all of our old furniture.

When you get the chance, please stop by and see our new library.



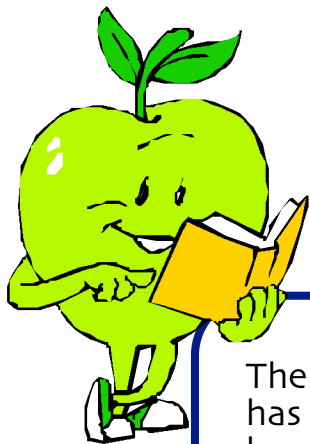
## Student and Tutor Bursaries

2002 PROVINCIAL LITERACY CONFERENCE  
LITERACY: A Blueprint for Tomorrow  
at the  
RADISSON HOTEL CALGARY AIRPORT  
2120 - 16th Avenue NE Calgary

This bursary is available to students and tutors who are active in a literacy program. The bursary will cover the cost of attending the 2002 Provincial Literacy Conference, including travel, registration and accommodation.

For more information or to receive an application form

Call June or Shirley at 421-7323



The Centre for Family Literacy has received a donation in honour of kindergarten teacher Lisa Labbe who teaches at Garneau Elementary School .

She is recognized for her commitment to promoting literacy and the love of reading to her students.

Thank you Lisa for passing on this wonderful gift.

"A Blueprint for Tomorrow..."

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Wheels)

Earle Nault,  
C.O.W. (Classroom on  
Wheels)

Fran Marion,  
Learning Together

**Volunteer Cornerstone**

June Hughes, Volunteer Coordinator

Next tutor training sessions will be  
Thursday October 24th, Saturday November 16th,  
and Saturday November 23rd.



**VOLUNTEERS TUTORS**

REQUIRED

for the

**"STAY IN SCHOOL PROGRAM"**

Helping Immigrant youth to stay in School

3:30 - 5:30 pm Any weekday

Training to start in November

call June or Fran at 421-7323



Thanks so much to  
**Noteables** who  
donated an item to  
our volunteer  
appreciation event in  
May.



Special thanks  
to  
**A Silk Fantasy**  
who donated a  
tree to our Centre.  
Stop by and see how  
nice we look now...

**HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE THURSDAY NOVEMBER 28th**

**3:00 - 6:00 pm**

**Please plan to attend.**

