

The Centre for Family Literacy is dedicated to helping families grow and prosper.



The Centre for Family Literacy

Centre Page

March 2010

Please note that the Centre now locks the office door for lunch between 12:00 pm and 12:30 pm daily. We are sorry for any inconvenience this may cause.

2010 Lois Hole Memorial Literacy Award Winners



Learning Together winners with Jim Hole

The banquet room was full for the fifth annual Leading with Literacy Breakfast where the Lois Hole Memorial Literacy Award nominees and winners were recognized.

The Jasper Place Child and Family Resource Centre – West End Parent Link was given the Community Leader Group Award. They were recognized for their innovative and collaborative approach in delivering family literacy programs. A Books for Babies program just for dads and a Rhymes that Bind program involving seniors from an extended care residence were examples of their unique approach.

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“The smallest school in America is the family.”

John Gardner

Everyday Heroes at the Centre for Family Literacy



Linn Pascal and Glenna Gardiner

April 18 - 24 is Volunteer Appreciation Week in Canada, when organizations such as ours extend a very special note of thanks to our everyday heroes—our volunteers.

Our volunteer tutors delivered 7,348 tutoring sessions last year, or 14,696 hours of tutoring. Those working on special events, committees, and our Board of Directors volunteered that much time again, and they helped raise \$153,000 through special fundraising events. Consider this: volunteer hours at the Centre in 2009 were the equivalent of 15 full-time jobs.

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Lois Hole Memorial Literacy Award Winners *Continued from page 1*



Jim Hole, Isabelle Tapp, and Jonna Grad

Dr. Anne Price of the Calgary Learning Centre received the Community Leadership Individual Award for her role as a strong advocate for family literacy. She initiated the family literacy network in Calgary and was responsible for the development and overall administration of numerous family literacy initiatives and programs.

Her interest in sharing her expertise in family literacy has led Dr. Price to work on provincial and national projects including "Foundational Training in Family Literacy". As well, she is active in many community initiatives including Chair of the Learning Disabilities Stakeholders Group, member of Setting Directions for Special Education Steering Committee, and a team leader on projects with Alberta Education, lending her expertise to the development of resources for students with learning disabilities.

The Adult Learner Group Award was given to the adults in the 2008/09 Learning Together family literacy program. Niaz Abdul, Dinh Le, Paula MacNeil, Soo Lee, Rovi Balleza, May Ong, Shu Wu, Mercedes Padilla, Cathy Antoniuk, and Sitiana Mohamed demonstrated a strong on-going commitment to their own learning and that of their children.

“I never knew I could feel so good. It was the best day of my life. I was on top of the world. It is so nice to be recognized for all of your hard work.”

Isabelle Tapp

These women persevered through many personal challenges, and each one improved by at least one grade level in reading comprehension during this intensive 36-week program. Their children, who entered Kindergarten in the fall of 2009, demonstrated a "high degree of school readiness".

Isabelle Tapp received the Adult Learner Individual Award. Improving her reading and writing skills was Isabella's primary focus as she wanted to be able to help her grandson Tyler with his homework. She has, however, learned far more than that over the past three years. She now volunteers, sits on committees, and is a spokesperson for literacy, encouraging others to seek assistance.

Everyday Heroes *Continued from page 1*

These are impressive numbers, but, more importantly, these volunteers are making a difference in the lives of the people who come to the Centre for help. One of our students commented that she doesn't "even put the TV on anymore. I read instead and do crossword puzzles." Another student told us he had read his first novel.

“...volunteer hours at the Centre in 2009 were the equivalent of 15 full-time jobs.”

A special bond forms between tutors and their students as you can see from this comment: "She says things that makes me want to learn. I've never had a teacher like that and I've never wanted to learn before."

For our volunteers there is a sense of satisfaction and pride as they watch their students grow into confident learners striving to meet their own personal goals. Whether it is picking up a pencil and writing for the first time, getting a promotion at work, or continuing their education at NAIT, it is a partnership that brings rewards to both the student and the volunteer.

Our students obviously know that their volunteer tutors' time and efforts are priceless. Additionally, our agency and our society as a whole are richer by far due to the efforts of volunteers. Without them, we could not continue to provide the services and supports we do to improve the literacy of individuals, families, and communities. Thank you, everyday heroes!

Thomas King Will Be Keynote Speaker



Centre for Family Literacy staff who are organizing the Cultivating Connections: Global Perspectives & Practices in Family Literacy conference were delighted when Thomas King agreed to be the keynote speaker at the conference banquet. A prolific author, photographer, and scholar, Thomas King holds a Ph.D. in English literature from the University of Utah and has worked in Native Studies programs, both as a teacher and as an administrator, in Canada and the United States. He is currently a professor at the University of Guelph.

“The truth about stories is that that’s all we are.”

—Thomas King, *The Truth about Stories: A Native Narrative*

A nominee for both the Governor General’s Award and the Commonwealth Writer’s Prize and the winner of the Canadian Authors Award for Fiction, Thomas King has also been named a member of the Order of Canada. His first novel, *Medicine River*, was published in 1990, and in 2003 he delivered the prestigious Massey Lectures *The Truth About Stories*. The published lecture won the Trillium Award, whose jury praised it as “profound, funny and subversive. Thomas King has created a group of essays that examine the complex and diverse nature of Native peoples and their relationship to North American society. The Truth about Stories is playful, philosophical and deeply political.”

Cultivating Connections: Global Perspectives & Practices in Family Literacy is a national family literacy conference being held from July 15 to July 17, 2010. This conference will provide the opportunity for literacy workers from Alberta, Canada, and around the world to come together to share and learn.

Further information about the conference, registration, its speakers and presenters, as well as the opportunity to buy tickets to attend the Banquet on Friday, July 17 and hear Thomas King speak, can be found at the conference website: www.cultivatingconnectionsconference.ca Enquiries can be emailed to conference@famlit.ca

Online Renewal now available at Centre for Family Literacy Resource Library

The Centre is now able to offer its tutors and students online renewal. Besides being able to access the complete library catalogue from home, they will now be able to renew books and avoid fines. Adult tutor program staff are available to offer training and support to our tutors and students to learn how to renew resources online. A printable page is now available on the Centre’s website—see the Adult Program Page—for step by step instructions on how to renew online.

5th Annual Raise-a-Reader Book Drive & Sale



Book Drive:

April 3 Concordia University College
Ralph King Athletic Centre
112 Ave & 73 Ave, Edmonton

April 17 J.H. Picard School,
7055 99 St NW, Edmonton

Book Sale:

April 23-25 Aviation Museum Hangar
11410 Kingsway Ave

Online donations to the Centre can be made through CanadaHelps.org



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The Centre for Family Literacy gratefully acknowledges the ongoing support of the following:



Learning Styles

Ask yourself what comes to mind when you hear the word dog. Some people see a picture of the animal, others might hear a bark, while others sense the texture of the dog's fur.

If you saw a picture of the dog or saw the letters of the word, then you are probably a visual learner. If you heard the dog bark, then your learning style would be auditory, and if you felt the soft fur of the dog, then your style is kinesthetic.

People can use different learning styles but most show a preference for one of the three basic learning styles. Visual learners would rather see a demonstration or read instructions. They call up images from the past when trying to remember, and they picture the way things look in their heads.

Auditory learners tend to spell phonetically. They can sometimes have trouble reading because they don't visualize well. Instead, they learn by listening, talking, singing, or other activities using their hearing sense.

Kinesthetic learners learn best through movement and manipulation. They like to find out how things work, so

participating in a demonstration rather than watching it helps them learn.

Most preschool children learn best through experience; therefore, they would be considered kinesthetic learners. As we grow older, we are pulled toward one preferred mode of learning. This is the mode we resort to when we are under stress or learning new information that is difficult to understand.

It is not unusual for parents to prefer a different style of learning from that of their child. By having a better understanding of each style, a parent has a better chance of helping their child learn with less frustration.

Experiment with different learning styles. If your child is primarily a visual learner then use diagrams, maps, graphs, and the Internet. Memorizing a jingle, singing songs, and reading aloud are all activities that will support auditory learners. Kinesthetic learners might better remember by manipulating letter blocks, creating a crossword puzzle, or doing math while bouncing on a trampoline.

Trying different methods of learning may prevent your child from feeling frustrated and can improve their feeling of accomplishment.

Literacy Develops in Families First

The Centre for Family Literacy is dedicated to helping Alberta grow and prosper. Our innovative programs, training, and research help Alberta families achieve what they imagine—improved education, jobs, and health.



YES, I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Your support will help us make a difference in the lives of Alberta families! Together we can make Alberta a healthy, literate society where all are able to contribute and succeed.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Mr. Mrs. Ms. Miss Dr.

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