



The Centre for Family Literacy

Centre Page

Musicians Perform for Literacy

Our Mission

Statement:

The Centre for Family Literacy builds, develops and improves literacy with families and communities.

The annual Richardson GMP Evening of Wine & Words in support of the Centre's Books for Babies program was a smashing success.

Returning for a fifth year seemed to be a theme with Jim Cuddy, Mark Scholz and about two-thirds of the audience in the room. The evening began with cocktails in the foyer adjacent to the Empire Ballroom at the Fairmont Hotel Macdonald. The silent auction had an eclectic mix of items from a 40-year-old bottle of port to a one-piece two flush Toto toilet.

The incomparable man of many hats, Mark Scholz, acted as Master of Ceremonies, auctioneer, and wine "commentator". Mary Pinkoski, Edmonton poet, had the sold out audience on their feet after her stirring reading of the poem *Words*.



Jim Cuddy, Melissa McClelland and Luke Doucet

Mark Scholz was just about to begin the final live auction item, a private concert with Corb Lund, when Corb appeared on stage and played "I wonder what all the ugly people are doing

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Literacy Impacts Your Bottom Line

Edmonton business leaders learned at an Edmonton Economic Development Corporation breakfast that 40% of adult Albertans between the ages of 16 and 65 lack the basic literacy and essential skills to function effectively in the workplace.

"Alberta's future competitiveness and productivity hinges on the degree to which we can raise literacy and learning levels" said Bob Bowhay in his opening remarks. Jim Carter, former President and COO of Syncrude Canada Ltd. echoed this statement as he described the workplace programs initiated in his company.

The Canadian Task Force on Business estimates that low literacy levels cost businesses \$1.6 billion in lost time due to workplace accidents and \$2.5 billion in lost productivity. Statistics Canada estimates a 1% increase in literacy skills would yield a 2.5% increase in productivity.

Panelists Dr. Jodi Abbott, from NorQuest College, Dr. Lori Campbell, from Enbridge Pipelines, Jonna Grad, from the Centre for Family Literacy, and Gary Trigg, from PCL, gave their perspective on the issue.

Building on recent research on the positive benefits of implementing basic skills programs in the workplace, attendees were asked to share their ideas on how business and literacy organizations could work together to improve literacy and essential skills in the workplace.

Working together is one of the nine essential skills needed to succeed in the workplace and the partnership of EEDC, NorQuest College and the Centre on this breakfast demonstrated how effective that can be.

Contact us

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June
2012

Musicians Perform for Literacy

Continued



Corb Lund



Melissa McClelland and Luke Doucet



Mary Pinkoski

tonight". In addition to the private concert, someone went home with the guitar Corb used and then autographed.

The main event of the night was the performance by Jim Cuddy, Luke Doucet and Melissa McClelland. "I have been coming to this event for the past five years," said one guest "and this was by far the best performance. I don't know how they will top it for next year, but I know they will."

A special thank you to the volunteer committee who put endless hours into making the evening a success. Thank you to our sponsors, donors and attendees for their continued support of our work.

Sponsor Listing

- Richardson GMP
- Sobeyes Spirits, Wine and Cold Beer Stores
- Ecologic Builders Inc.
- mkm
- Sobeyes
- Swish Flowers

Register Now!



Golf Tournament

Wednesday, August 29, 2012
The Links at Spruce Grove, AB
6:30 a.m. – registration and breakfast
8:00 a.m. – shotgun start
Registration fee \$250
Early bird registration \$225 (by June 29, 2012)
Register online at:
<http://linksforeliteracygolf2.eventbrite.com/>

 Centre for
Family Literacy

Bringing Family Literacy to Belize

Literacy Without Borders has been working in Belize since March of 2011 building relationships with a range of partners to prepare for a program dedicated to literacy development in Belize.

They successfully secured local partners in Belize to begin the project with a dynamic literacy training institute held in June of this year. The Centre was approached to provide the family literacy training portion of the institute. "Literacy Without Borders is thrilled to partner with the Centre for Family Literacy on our first in-country literacy training in Belize" said Randy Boissonnault, Chair of the Board.

The objectives of the training were to increase capacity in the principles of family literacy and to train individuals in specific program models that would fit well with the needs of the partner organizations. The training took place in mid June with three sessions each running for a full day: Principles of Family Literacy, Rhymes that Bind, and Computer Assisted Literacy Solution.

After the institute, a number of the partner organizations indicated their interest in running pilot programs in Belize City and in San Ignacio.

The local partners included:

- United Nations Development Program Belize
- Youth for the Future, Ministry of Education
- Literacy Unit, Ministry of Education
- Rotary Club of Belize City Sunrise
- Peace Corps Belize
- Sacred Heart Junior College



“ The ripple effects of this models training will be felt throughout the summer and the next year across the country. We look forward to a long and fruitful partnership with the CFL and with our new colleagues in Belize, ”
stated Boissonnault, who was delighted with the response.

Dates to Remember

June 14

Centre for Family Literacy Blog launch

www.famlit.ca/blog

August 29

Links fore Literacy Golf Tournament

www.linksforeliteracygolf2.eventbrite.com/

September 8

International Literacy Day

September 20 – 22

Alberta Early Years Conference

www.albertaearyyears.ca/

October 1 – 5

READ IN Week



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



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



Government of Alberta



Pitch'N'Putt Game Built on Nine Workplace Essential Skills

What do the nine workplace literacy and essential skills have in common with golf? Employees at Mixcor Aggregates found out April 10 when they attended their company's annual general meeting.

The Centre's Literacy Links staff in partnership with Mixcor Aggregates developed a Pitch'N'Putt course that tested each team's skill at "golf" and the nine essential workplace skills. The event began with a shotgun start at 1:15 p.m. with each team positioned at one of the nine holes.

A player on each team was handed their "club" and "ball" and they were off. To keep it fun, the golf clubs came in many shapes and sizes, as did the golf balls. Once the team member had successfully put the ball into the hole, the team was then asked to complete a task involving one of the skills.

- Reading
- Document Use
- Numeracy

- Writing
- Oral Communication
- Working with Others
- Thinking
- Computer Use
- Continuous Education

The activities were based on actual tasks they would have to do at work. At one hole they were asked to watch a video and then write an incident report. At another they demonstrated their computer skills by going online to complete a vacation request form and email it to a supervisor.

The Pitch'N'Putt game was designed so that everyone had fun and the rules ensured that everyone had a chance to be a lead hacker, caddy, and ball guard. At the final hole, each player was asked to write down one thing they wanted to learn at work and one thing they wanted to learn at home.

Many of the employees at Mixcor Aggregate have young families. During the event wrap-up the Centre's staff stressed the important role that parents play in supporting their children's

learning. They also showed the link between the literacy and essential skills used in the workplace and the day-to-day activities parents do with their children.



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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.

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