



The
SGB
Youth
Literacy

Letter



Volume 3, Issue 2

Newsletter of the South Grey Bruce Youth Literacy Council
467 10th St, Suite 303 Hanover, ON N4N 1R3

September 2009

Sharing Our Progress

Welcome to the Letter F.

In this issue we are proud to feature the fascinating cyber tutoring arrangement between our volunteer tutor, Evan Moore, attending University of Edinburgh, Scotland and his young learner in Grade 5 in Formosa, Ontario.

Our excellent volunteer tutor program is successfully supporting the one-to-one learning of many young people, in public libraries and schools from Flesherton to Port Elgin, yet we still maintain an active waiting list. New volunteers ever welcome!

Our outreach program promoting cultural opportunities for young people in our region is blossoming with The Rutabaga Rescue and SEEDS Writing Contest for Youth, all possible because of excellent community support. So read on!

Office Hours for Youth Literacy Office

Tuesday through Friday: 9 AM to 5 PM

Other times by appointment.

Summer Help

Ashley Weppler, fourth year University of Western Ontario psychology and sociology student, volunteered at our office this summer and tutored two young learners. Her lively involvement succeeded in a creditable rise in both these young persons' math and reading abilities and self confidence. Ashley is due much success with her future aspiration of becoming a teacher. We also value our learning resources volunteer, Donna Schmidt, active in our office creating new learning games for our Resource Centre.

Gifted Opportunities for Learners

This summer heralded dynamic new opportunities with free sponsorship to learning camps. Bruce Power Visitor Centre welcomed one of our young learners into the Science Camp for Girls. We are also grateful to the Tom Thomson Art Gallery for arranging a sponsorship for another of our young learners in their summer art program. Both students had a fine experience!

United Way Backpack Program

We are proud to be a member agency of United Way of Bruce Grey. In preparation for school each fall we distribute new backpacks full of school supplies to families free of cost, upon request, as part of the United Way Backpack Program. Thanks, as well, to Mandy Sproat for her considerate donation.

Frontier College

Our Co-ordinator, Dyan Jones, is participating in a pilot certification program engineered by Frontier College, Canada's original literacy organization. This excellent program, being offered to twelve Ontario and Quebec literacy co-ordinators will result in expanded and insightful training to be passed on to our volunteer tutors, enhancing our community learning program.



THE LETTER

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SGB Youth Literacy Council

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The editor welcomes submissions of news, facts, links or articles written by community members on topics of interest. Submissions by youth particularly welcome. Please send submissions to our office or by email to:

info@sgbyouthliteracy.org

View our website www.sgbyouthliteracy.org

Tutor's Tool Bag

Evan Moore is one of our volunteer tutors who has launched volunteer tutoring into the cyber realm!

International Tutoring Via WebCam

In September 2008 I accepted a position at the University of Edinburgh for a year to obtain my Masters Degree in Criminology. For the past year, however, I have been tutoring a young learner living in Formosa, Ontario and I wanted to continue his tutoring. Before leaving, we discussed the possibility of tutoring by webcam although this seemed out of reach. We maintained contact and the young learner did receive a webcam for Christmas, therefore arrangements were made to see how tutoring would work via webcam.

Special consideration had to go into the time, since there is a 5 hour time difference, but we were able to find a time that was suitable for both, being 5:30pm for the student and 10:30pm for myself. The first encounter did not go well, we used MSN chat and neither one of us could hear each other. However, before leaving Canada I was made aware of a web-based communication program with video chat capabilities, known as Skype, which would allow me to talk through my computer to any other computer with Skype for free. (and no paid promotion here) I told my learner's family about this program and that we should try again the next night. Success, the quality of the conversation was good!

The main obstacle with web-based tutoring is that if the young learner brought a book I would not be able to see what they are reading. I therefore went on a search for on-line resources. I came upon a website that would let me download PDF's, which I could then email. This way we could both have the same reading in front of us. I also use paper cards and hold them in front on the webcam. This was a challenge at first because you constantly had to adjust the way you were holding the cards so the person could see them. I now have it down to an art. Overall, tutoring via webcam is going well, and I am glad that I got to continue this on my year overseas.

Evan Moore

Recycle, Re-use, Re-purpose: Thanks to the Owen Sound & North Grey Union Public Library for the great book carousel. This is the perfect new home for the influx of quality used children's books donated to us by the Hanover Friends of the Library. Our Learning Resources are available for free loan to all.

More Tutor Tips

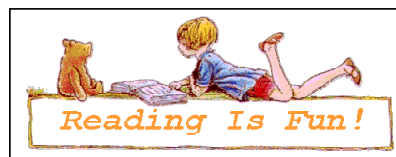
Susan Lindsay reads to her young learner while this young person is drawing and colouring other aspects of her learning activities. The tutor has observed that comprehension is improved dramatically with this relaxed reading arrangement. The young learner is able to follow the story well and provide insightful comments. This is proof again of the variety of learning styles and the importance of fine tuning to the individual needs of the learner.

Sue MacLeod provides her young learner with the activity of making words from one root word. They were both astounded to discover 63 words hidden inside of "peanut butter". Take that as a challenge!

"Teaching is not the filling of a pail,
but the lighting of a fire."
William Butler Yeats

Never Underestimate the Value of a Good Bedtime Story!

As part of good family literacy practice, the most valued and enthusiastic suggestion we make is to read to your family. This can take the form of the traditional bedtime story, delivered with all the comfort and security of being nestled into bed or opt for car trips and camping times. In respect of busy family schedules, mealtimes can also offer a focused point of gathering to read aloud. This is an all ages event and is especially welcome during the winter months. Your child's comprehension skills will increase as well as their background knowledge will expand. What better and simpler way can there be to bond with books!



Congratulations to Tutor Gabrielle Thompson! Gabrielle will be living in Thailand for the next year as an International Rotary Student sponsored by the Walkerton Rotary Club. We applaud her past year's volunteer tutor participation and her wonderful new opportunity for travel and learning.

Student Centred Individualized Learning (SCIL)

People learn in different ways, so they should be taught in different ways. SCIL is based on the premise that everyone has unique interests, strengths and learning needs. To be effective, a tutor needs to select the strategies and techniques that work best for a particular student. The Youth Literacy Council embraces the philosophy of Student Centred Individualized Learning and encourages our tutors in this practice, benefiting our young learners.

Board News

Our Annual General Meeting & BBQ held June 11 at the home of Claire Fanger and Paul Coyne was well attended by many families and volunteers. We are now complimented by two new Board Members as we welcome Cheryl D. Lindsay and Bruce Iserman to add their insight and expertise to our Board. They will be joining our returning Board Members: Maryanne Buehlow, Theresa Filsinger, Elizabeth Hahn, Susan Lindsay, Harvey McFadden, and Mandy Rhody Zuk.

Beyond the Book: Learning from our History

The Youth Literacy Council is honoured to be a featured contributor to *Beyond The Book*, a new publication produced by the Ontario Literacy Coalition, regarding dynamic literacy organizations. A copy is available for loan from our resource library.

When you inspire a love of reading,
you create excitement for learning.

☀ Joseph Filsinger Youth Literacy Award ☀

Due to the generous support of Auditory Health Care in Walkerton, we have established this annual memorial award at Mother Teresa School in Walkerton, in honour of young Joseph Filsinger. Seth Popiez is this year's student recipient as selected by his fellow Grade 6 classmates for his enthusiastic love of learning and dedication to improving his literacy skills.

Suggestions for Parents and Guardians

Make your kitchen part of your "reading and math zone". Have fridge magnets available so children can make words and short sentences. Read aloud at the kitchen table. Recipes provide opportunities for math.

Words are everywhere – take everyday opportunities to read with your child. Your child's world is filled with words – on cereal boxes, street signs, stores, posters, billboard ads, etc. Wherever you go, you can always find new words and point them out.

Books make great gifts. Ask family and friends to give a book instead of a toy as a gift. Make sure to tell them about your child's reading level and interests. To build up a home library find almost-new books at garage sales and school fairs.

Be a reading role model. When your kids see you reading, they will want to imitate you. It won't be long until they learn that reading is fun, interesting, and a "grown up" thing to do.

Learning Support Websites <http://www.learning.ca>
<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/publications.html>
<http://www.peopleforeducation.com/resources/tips.html>
<http://www.classroomconnections.ca/en/>

Friends of Youth Literacy

Contributors in Kind

Kristan Anderson	Garafraxa St Bookstore
Katie Barclay	Hanover Public Library
Bluewater Radio	Elizabeth Hahn
Holly Bowen	Scatter The Cats
Brick Books	The Thogs
Bruce Telecom	Back Eddies Café
Leigh Butler	Ainsley Lewin
Maryanne Buehlow	Susan Lindsay
Chesley Public Library	Mosaic Magazine
Chicory Common	Randy Martin
Colour Jar	Mudtown Pottery
Christine Forand	Harvey McFadden
Craig, McDonald, Reddon	Millennia Books
Rudy Derksen	Elspeith Reid
Doc Stedman's Antiques	Saunders Book Company
Mandy Sproat	Scholar's Choice
Paul Coyne	Victoria Jubilee Hall
Rudy Derksen	Isaiah Walters
Alison Hunt	Elizabeth Zetlin
Jennifer Dimeck	Varney Inn
Theresa Filsinger	Mandy Rhody Zuk

Donors

Auditory Health Care	Holtz Office Supplies
Colour Jar	Anne Ingham
BDO Dunwoody	Dyan Jones
Liz Barningham	Susan Lindsay
Anne Black	Cheryl D. Lindsay
Maryanne Buehlow	Marlene Markle
Bruce Dale Press	Joan Martin
Paula Butterfield	Don B. Marshall
CFUW members	John McPhee
CWL – Holy Family Parish	Municipality of Brockton
Myke Dyer	Municipality of West Grey
Eden Grove Women's Inst.	New-Life Mills Ltd
Betty Anne Elliot	Judy Philbrook
Claire Fanger	Royal Canadian Legion-Chesley
Joseph Filsinger Memorial	Saugeen Music School
Ilse Gassinger	David Sugarman
Elizabeth Hahn	Rachel Walters
Don Holman	Town of Hanover
Honda Hanover	Frederick Turner
Rural Learning Association	Walter Kuz
Hanover Rotary Club	Catherine Vassiliadis
Neustadt & District Lions	Wayne Schwartz Construction
	Walkerton Rotary Club
	Liz Zetlin

Sponsors

Bruce Power	Meridian Credit Union
CIBC	Ontario Trillium Foundation
Community Foundation Grey Bruce	
Power Workers' Union	
George Lunan Foundation	Rotary Children's Fund
Gore Mutual	United Way of Bruce Grey

Affiliate Organizations & Working Partnerships

ABC Canada, Bluewater & District School Board, Bruce-Grey Catholic District School Board, Bruce County Public Libraries, Durham Art Gallery, Edge Hill Country School, Frontier College, Hanover Public Library & Friends of the Library, Keystone Child Youth and Family Services, League of Canadian Poets, Ontario Early Years Centre – Hanover, Ontario Literacy Coalition, Project Canoe, QUILL Learning Network, Walkerton & District Community Living, West Grey Public Libraries, Victoria Jubilee Hall, Words Aloud Spoken Word Festival, Youth Roots.

Fundraising Activities and Support

We are sensitive to the challenge of the unsteady economy and its impact on the families that we serve. Since our program is supported entirely by grants and donations, we ever heighten our appreciation of the ongoing creative funding support of our patrons.

ARTicles Art Exhibit

The Youth Literacy Council has banded together 50 regional artists to participate in a fundraising art show to be held at Doc Stedman's Antiques & Books in Durham, Oct. 17 to Nov. 14/09. The ARTicles Show is composed of 50 six inch shadowboxes which each artist has embellished with their own flair. These precious art pieces will be sold for \$100 each, greatly benefiting our program. The opening reception will be Saturday Oct. 24/09, 7:30pm with artists present. Our marvelous curators are Susan Lindsay and Heather Murray.

Blossoms to All who supported our Vesey's Flowerbulb Fundraising Campaign.

We appreciate the 2009 Foundation support received from the Community Foundation Grey Bruce, George Lunan Foundation, Hanover & District Rotary Club and the United Way Rotary Children's Fund, permitting new Learning Resource acquisitions.

Music Benefits Us All

Thanks to Back Eddies Café www.backeddies.com in Paisley for hosting the Celtic Music Night Fundraiser for Youth Literacy. Our sell-out audience regaled by the music of Scatter the Cats and The Thogs and outbid each other in a most exhilarating pie auction led by auctioneer, Tony Massett. Many thanks to the bakers! Randy Martin of Track 6 Studio is donating his time and expertise to record musicians/songwriters of our region who are contributing songs for a compilation CD, **Word Play**, our major fundraising event for 2010, complete with CD Release Celebration. Watch our website for details.

Tutor-Learner Matches

This year we have supported 26 active tutor-learner matches, and have a steadily growing waiting list of young learners. Help us grow!



Words Aloud 6 Spoken Word Festival

The Rutabaga Rescue

And speaking of rutabagas, mark November 7/09 on your calendars for Threadbare Theatre's performance of **The Rutabaga Rescue** at the Victoria Jubilee Hall in Walkerton! In collaboration with Words Aloud 6 Spoken Word & Storytelling Festival www.wordsaloud.ca, the Youth Literacy Council curates the Children's Program and is excited to announce this year's performance featuring larger than life puppets and original music. Threadbare Theatre is propelled by the lively vision of Ron Schweitzer and Joel Brubacher, two talented puppeteers and musicians who give recycled and repurposed props a new life in the theatre. This is an all ages event. Stayed tuned for more details!

...SEEDS...

To link with The Rutabaga Rescue, we invite young people to enter the 2nd Annual Poetry and Short Story Writing Contest for Youth, centred on the theme of *Seeds*. There will be four cash prizes of \$100 awarded: one each in poetry and short story categories for youth up to 12 years, and one each in poetry and short story categories for youth 13 to 18 years.

Winning writers will be invited to present their work at the performance of **The Rutabaga Rescue** Nov. 7/09, 1 PM, at the Victoria Jubilee Hall in Walkerton. These works will also be posted on the Words Aloud and Youth Literacy Council websites and printed in The Walkerton Herald-Times, The Post and Mosaic Magazine.

Sponsored by South Grey Bruce Youth Literacy Council www.sgbyouthliteracy.org
Words Aloud 6 Spoken Word & Storytelling Festival www.wordsaloud.ca

Bruce County Public Library System, Hanover Public Library, Owen Sound & North Grey Union Public Library, QUILL Learning Network, West Grey Public Library System, Walkerton Herald-Times, The Post and Mosaic Magazine.

Send your entries to the **Seeds Writing Contest** by October 16/09 to info@sgbyouthliteracy.org, either pasted into the body of an email, or attached to the email as a Word document, by postal delivery or drop by our office: 467 10th Street
Suite 303
Hanover, ON
N4N 1R3

Start sprouting your ideas!

The South Grey Bruce Youth Literacy Council, a community-based organization, will strive to assist youth, ages 6-18, who are struggling in school, in their quest to improve basic reading, writing and math skills, so that they may enjoy full participation as citizens in the community.

--Mission Statement