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# The RCCUP Reader

Newsletter of the Renfrew County Community Upgrading Program

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Issue #40

December 2004

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## Family Literacy Day

January 27, 2005 is Family Literacy Day. This special day was created by ABC CANADA Literacy Foundation in 1999 to promote the importance of reading and learning together as a family. Literacy organizations, schools and libraries coordinate themed events and promote awareness of family literacy.

Robert Munsch, best-selling childrens' author, is the Honorary Chair of Family Literacy Day. On January 27, from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m., he will answer questions from children and their families across Canada in a special live chat online. Just before 7:00 you can go to [www.ytv.com](http://www.ytv.com) and click through to the live chat.

Around Renfrew County, organizations who work with families and children will be marking the day with special activities. Watch for information in your local newspapers.

For some hands-on family activities for the holiday season and for every day, see the tips in this issue.

## Christmas Holidays

The office will close for two weeks over Christmas, starting Monday, December 20. We will reopen Monday, January 3. Happy Holidays to all!

## Paper for Christmas

For the third year in a row, Literacy Plus is pleased to have received a generous donation of paper from Domtar's Paper Christmas for Literacy project. Programs pay a token fee of \$50 and receive 20,000 sheets of white copy paper, as well as assorted other special papers.

Many thanks to the Literacy Foundation of Quebec and Community Literacy of Ontario for facilitating this wonderful Christmas gift for literacy programs.

## Calendars

Literacy Plus's 2005 calendar went into circulation November 24. Each card printed came with a donation towards our services. A new feature this year is the index inside the front cover showing the first page listing for each donor's card.

**Please** support the people and businesses that support us!



## Dates to Remember

Jan. 11 – computer classes start  
Jan. 12 – Board meets, 5:30 p.m.  
Jan. 17 – book club meets (11:00 a.m.)  
Jan. 19 – Workready workshops start  
Jan. 26 – Employment Networks class starts  
Jan. 27 – Family Literacy Day  
Feb. 28 – book club meets

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## Golden Oak Book Club

Just a reminder that any of our students and tutors can join the Golden Oak Book Club. The purpose of the club is to encourage reading for pleasure. You will also learn about some great Canadian books. You can read on your own, with a tutor, or as part of the book club which meets at our Eganville office on the last Monday of the month from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. (Note: there will be no meeting in December. The January meeting will move up to January 17.) Call Sue to confirm your attendance in this group.

You can read one, two, or all of the books. There are six books on this year's reading list:

1. *Beginnings: Stories of Canada's Past*, edited by Ann Walsh
2. *Bobbie Rosenfeld: The Olympian Who Could Do Everything*, by Anne Dublin
3. *Tales from the Isle of Spice*, by Ricardo Keens-Douglas
4. *Tom Finder*, by Martine Leavitt
5. *The Tunnel King: the True Story of Wally Floody and the Great Escape*, by Barbara Hehner
6. *Truth*, by Tanya Lloyd Kyi



We have one copy of each book at the office. The books may also be available at your local public library. Once you have chosen a book to read, you can contact the office to get a kit to help you get the most from reading your book. Each book has a kit with pre-reading activities, discussion questions for beginning and more advanced readers, and additional learning activities to help you get the most from reading your book.

If you have access to a computer, you can also check out the website for Golden Oak

at [www.accessOLA.com/goldenoak](http://www.accessOLA.com/goldenoak). You can even vote for your favourite book!

Whichever approach suits you, tutors please encourage your learners to be active readers in the book club!

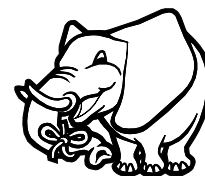
## Library Project

On December 8, volunteer librarians Tish Smith and Jean Lopushanski led a hands-on workshop for staff, board members and other volunteers on how to use the new library catalogue system. More than 1,200 books have now been entered in the computer database and placed on the newly labelled shelves. These are our core resources for teaching and learning.

Like 95% of public libraries in Canada, our library now uses the Dewey Decimal System to categorize books. The Dewey system divides all knowledge into 10 numbered categories. Subdivisions of these categories are indicated by decimals.

The new database allows us to search for books by subject, as well as by title and author. This will help staff and tutors more easily find resources for particular needs. The database will also be used to manage the borrowing and return of books. We will be asking volunteers to help us with that and to help us keep the library organized and efficient.

Again, we gratefully thank Tish and Jean for all the time and expertise they have given to this project.



## Reminder

Tutors, please return any resources you may have and are no longer using so that they too can be entered into the library catalogue system.

## Winter Classes

Literacy Plus has a great line-up of classes for the winter. Below is a brief outline. Details follow on this page and the next.

The popular **computer-based classes** will continue in Eganville, Beachburg and Barry's Bay. These classes use computers to help students learn word processing, practise business and personal writing (memos, letters, flyers, notices, resumes), work on math skills (personal budgets, spreadsheets) and learn other job skills.



Diane has reorganized her Wednesday afternoon workshops on self-management skills into a 10-week course called **Workready**. It will include some independent work online.

Tutor Leigh Wallace will teach a new **Essential Skills** class in Eganville on Friday mornings. This class will focus on communication skills and math skills for success at work or at further training.

Literacy Plus is also offering short workshops (one or two sessions each) to the Mt. St. Patrick community at the DACA Centre. Topics include math skills for everyday life, managing personal forms and records, communicating with your child's school, helping your children with reading, preparing for a job search, and customer service.

And don't forget the **monthly book club** meeting in Eganville!

The Literacy and Basic Skills Program  
is funded by the  
Government of Ontario.

## Workready Workshops

Are you ready for work? In order to get and keep a job, a worker needs many skills. Many employers state that they can teach a good worker how to do a job more easily than they can integrate a worker with poor work habits into a work setting. A successful worker needs many positive work habits, such as:

- effective communication skills
- the ability to work as part of a team
- the ability to solve problems effectively
- effective time management

Beginning on Wednesday, January 19, Literacy Plus will offer a 10-week course called **Workready**. This course will enhance skills in:

- speaking and listening
- reading
- writing
- working in a group

As well, participants will begin to:

- build their self-awareness and self-esteem
- learn how to find information and to evaluate what they find
- develop goal-setting, time management, problem-solving, and decision-making skills

This course combines both class time and online computer time. Each student will need:

- access to a computer and printer (at home, at Literacy Plus, at the local library, or at a friend's)
- access to the Internet
- an e-mail account
- to know how to send and receive e-mail.

During the 10 weeks we will meet together as a group and also work together, as a team, online. You can expect to spend about one hour a week online. Be ready for a fun, new learning experience!

## Computer-based Classes

Literacy Plus's computer-based classes will start again the week of January 10. Terrie Watson's classes will continue in **Eganville** on Tuesdays and Thursdays and in **Beachburg** on Wednesdays, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

The **Barry's Bay** class will move to a new location and a new time: Tuesday mornings from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the office of Rural-Outreach Employment Services, 19536 Opeongo Line.



In partnership with Employment Networks in **Renfrew**, Literacy Plus is offering a six-week computer-based course for their clients who have literacy needs. It will run Wednesday mornings from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. starting January 26.

## The Learning Edge

Some students and tutors may remember a wonderful online student newsletter called The Learning Edge. Four issues appeared in 2002. The Learning Edge team is now creating two new issues with work-related themes. The first will focus on finding jobs, the second will focus on experiences and challenges in the workplace.

The first issue is expected to be up and running by the end of February. Meanwhile, you can view the original issues at [www.thewclc.ca/edge](http://www.thewclc.ca/edge). There are stories written by students, articles about health and jobs, and activities and quizzes geared to different learning levels. The animated graphics include sound, so you will need speakers to really take advantage of this site.

## Essential Skills

Starting in January, Literacy Plus will offer an Essential Skills class on Friday mornings, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. It will focus on communication skills and math skills for success at work or at further training.

- Do you want to be more confident with reading and writing business messages, notices, charts, graphs, memos, forms, and more?
- Do you need to brush up your math skills so you can calculate sales tax, bills, percentages, fractions, etc.?
- Do you need to upgrade your math skills so you can do correspondence courses, or pass another test?
- Do you need basic skills so you can learn a trade?

This course can help you reach your goals. Students who have some computer skills can continue using the computer while they work on learning other essential skills. The class will use a range of resources including online learning activities.



## Literacy Plus Website

Make sure to visit Literacy Plus's new website at [www.literacyplus-renfrewcounty.ca](http://www.literacyplus-renfrewcounty.ca), officially launched on November 24. We're grateful to Ghislaine Robichaud at the National Adult Literacy Database and to Diane Litchfield, who both gave many hours and great expertise to developing this new site. As well as information about Literacy Plus and its programs, the site includes pictures, a page for news and events, student writing and copies of the newsletter. A section called The Learning Place will allow for interactive online courses and workshops for students and tutors. Watch for news of these in the coming year.

## Family Literacy Tips

Family Literacy Day celebrates the importance of each family to the teaching and learning of literacy and numeracy. Here are some ideas that you can try within your own families. Thanks to the ABC CANADA Literacy Foundation for many of these ideas. For more tips you could go to their website at: <http://www.abc-canada.org/fld-jaf/>

- Book family time to read with your children every day. Read to your children; have your children read to you.
- Ask your children questions about the stories you are reading.
- Have them make up their own stories: they can write them down, or you can.
- Encourage children to read everything they come across: words on TV, road signs, cereal boxes, and so on.
- Keep teenagers reading. Have them read about what interests them: music, movies, computers.
- Organize a children's book club in your neighbourhood.
- Pick one night a week to make a regular visit to the library.
- Let children count out the change when making a purchase. Reinforce the importance of math in everyday life!
- Make every day a learning day. Ask your children to make a shopping list, read recipes together or help them make a calendar of their weekly activities.
- Build a story with your friends. Write the first paragraph on a sheet of paper and then pass it on. The person next in line adds a paragraph, building on your paragraph, and passes it on again. Once the paper is passed through the whole line, read it aloud and hear the silly story you built together!



## Family Literacy for the Holidays

- **Make a List, Check It Twice:** Ask the kids to help you make a grocery list of all the goodies you will need over the holidays.
- **Put the 'Read' in Gingerbread:** Following recipes is a great way for children to improve both their reading and math skills. When you start your holiday cooking and baking, get the kids involved.
- **Watch a Book:** Many classic children's holiday stories have been adapted for the big screen. Read these stories with your kids first, then watch the movie. *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer* and *The Grinch who Stole Christmas* are favourites.
- **Signed, Sealed and Delivered:** Do you have a stack of holiday cards that need to be addressed? Ask the kids to help you send them out.
- **Travel the World:** Visit the library with your children to find books on holiday traditions and celebrations from around the world—like Kwanzaa or Hanukkah.
- **Books under the Tree:** Encourage reading by putting a few books or a subscription to a good quality children's magazine under the tree this year.

## Family Literacy Websites

Visit Literacy Plus's website for a list of links to sites that have information and activities for children and parents. A few of these are:

[owlkids.com](http://owlkids.com) - the on-line version of the children's magazines OWL, Chickadee and Chirp

[CanadianParents.com](http://CanadianParents.com) - a Canadian resource for parents including tips on encouraging children to read

[magickeys.com/books](http://magickeys.com/books) - children's storybooks online, plus colouring books, mazes, riddles

## Student Writing

### For my portfolio



*May 25, 2004*

Tuesday the fire alarm started. It was ringing loud. We went downstairs and waited until the firemen came. They checked the building to see if there was a fire. There was no fire. After 45 minutes we came home. Jane was with me.

*July 9, 2004*

I wrote stories about what I did.  
I started to write stories on May 25.  
I can read all my stories.

- *Lauretta Chassie*

## Christmas Treats

Cooking with children is a fun way to work on reading and measuring (math) skills. The following recipe needs no cooking, so it's quick and safe.

### Needles in Haystacks

4 squares semi-sweet chocolate (30 gms each)

1/2 cup sweetened shredded coconut  
1/2 cup slivered almonds  
2 Tbs graham cracker crumbs

1. Line baking sheet with waxed paper.
2. Heat chocolate in a bowl in the microwave at 50% power for 2 to 3 minutes. Stir and heat again for another minute, until melted.
3. Add remaining ingredients and stir to coat with the chocolate.
4. Scoop mounds of the mixture with a spoon and push them onto baking sheet. Chill for about 20 minutes, until firm.

- from *Kitchen for Kids*, Jennifer Low

## Christmas Song Quiz

Can you name these Christmas songs? The letters below represent the first letter of each word in the title. We have done the first one for you.

1. AIAM.....Away in a Manger
2. SCICTT
3. JB
4. ISMKSC
5. IDOAWC
6. RTRNR
7. CROAOF
8. DYHWIH?
9. FTS



- Answers:
1. Away in a Manger
  2. Santa Claus Is Coming to Town
  3. Jingle Bells
  4. I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus
  5. I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas
  6. Rudolf the Red-Nosed Reindeer
  7. Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire
  8. Do You Hear What I Hear?
  9. Frosty the Snowman

## Special Thanks

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