

# EDCLS

## Newsletter

### Edson and District Community Learning Society

#201, 111-54 Street, Provincial Building, Edson Alberta, T7E-1T2  
Phone: 723-6247 Fax: 723-6253 [www.edcls.ab.ca](http://www.edcls.ab.ca)

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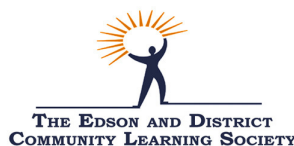
Where has 2008 gone? It hardly seems possible that we are preparing to celebrate the Christmas season and bring in another new year!

As you make your resolutions for 2009, we encourage you to resolve to be a lifelong learner. In Canada, International Adult Learners Week will be celebrated from March 3 to 9, 2009. Watch for more details in the coming months. We are planning some special events to mark the week. We hope that our celebration of learning will help our community realize that learning is important, that learning comes in many shapes and forms, and that many learning opportunities are available right here in our community.

I encourage you to check out our new program brochure as a starting point. This is our biggest brochure ever, and it chronicles a wealth of learning ideas. Perhaps this is your year to finally master the computer, or to figure out what to do with all of your digital photos. If so, we have the course for you! We can help you learn the basics of Spanish or English, rev up your cooking repertoire, or upgrade your first aid and safety skills. These are just a few of the courses you will find in the new Expand Your Horizons brochure.

We are always looking for new course ideas, instructors, or ways to improve the services and programs we offer. Please call our office (723-6247), or drop in for a visit if you have suggestions for us, or need some help finding the courses or services you need. We look forward to helping you meet your learning goals!

Vera Calvert  
Executive Director



*What Did You Learn Today?*



Regional Meeting May 2008

## Petroleum Safety Training (P.S.T.)

Petroleum Safety Training (PST) is an interactive multi-media program with video, audio, and interactive lessons. This safety training program has been designed and produced for all workers in the petroleum industry. PST meets all of the requirements for the IRP 16 - Basic Industry Safety Orientation.

This CD\_ROM based training program enables users to work at their own pace. This program is very user friendly and has been specifically designed so learners do not need significant computer skills. Learners can relax and enjoy the training process, as they are easily guided through each lesson. Total running time of the program is approximately six hours.

The PST is an interactive multi-media program with actual video introductions and tutorials. Topic quizzes and lesson testing aid the learner through the program.

Once the program is completed, Enform issues a PST wallet card that indicates PST certification, program options completed, WHMIS certification, a PST wall certificate, and a hardhat sticker.

The Petroleum Safety Training (PST) CD-ROM Program and the Construction Safety Training System (CSTS) have been granted equivalency by The Construction Owners Association of Alberta (COAA), Enform, and the Alberta Construction Safety Association (ACSA).

We are a recognized third party trainer. To make an appointment for this course, please call our office at 723-6247

Software purchased from <http://www.enform.ca/1854>



## Registration Night Sept 3, 2008 Contest

The question asked was, **What did you learn today?**

### Winning Answers

#### Adult Category

(\$100.00 Gift certificate to EDCLS)

*"Where to go to take the bookkeeping workshop".*

#### Youth Category

(two tickets for Jubilations donated by Youth Interagency)

*"I learned that trees produce oxygen and fires use oxygen to burn and then produce carbon dioxide".*

#### Child Category

(\$40.00 gift certificate donated by EDCLS)

*"There are a lot of things to do".*

Thank you to all who submitted entries.



## Family Literacy News- by Barb Cant



On January 26<sup>th</sup>, we rang in the New Year with our annual Family Literacy Celebration, which was held at the Edson Public Library. We had over 30 families attend, and every child left with a book and a smile on their face.

We provided chili, buns and beverages as well as a delicious cake for dessert. Everyone had a great time participating in crafts, storytelling, the scavenger hunts as well as making Flubber. Some children even asked their parents if they could stay all day.

On April 18<sup>th</sup>, we hosted the second Annual Scrabble Tournament at the Pioneer Cabin. During the evening, we gave away many door prizes as well as game prizes. The silent auction was a lot of fun, pizza and pop were consumed, and laughter rang throughout the building. Thank you to all who participated and to all the volunteers who came and helped make this a successful evening.

Since January, a number of family literacy programs have been completed, such as Books for Babies, Storysacks, Laps and Rhymes that Bind. We are so lucky to have dedicated facilitators for each of these programs.

The C.O.W. bus was in the area October 14<sup>th</sup> through to the 16<sup>th</sup>. We had a busy three days and visited Niton Junction, Peers, Small Boys Mountain Cree Camp, Marlboro and Edson. The ladies that drive the COW bus are very dedicated and make every visit fun and informative. They went the extra mile and drove around Edson "mooring" to announce the arrival of the bus.

We will be hosting Family Literacy Fun nights at the FCSS Family Centre, Wednesdays, 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm, November 5 & 19 and December 3 & 17<sup>th</sup>. Please join us for some family crafts, fun, food and beverages.

Thank you to our sponsors, <http://www.edcls.ab.ca/sponsors.html> who generously donated funds to help make these special events happen.

A special thanks to our literacy committee: Janine LeBlue, Dian Dennison, Joann Hooper and Charlene Parker, for all your hard work in helping with whatever event we decide to do. We would be lost without you.

View more pictures on our photo gallery page  
<http://www.edcls.ab.ca/photogallery.html>

## The Challenge of Darkness- Super Heros to the Rescue

When I was younger, there was a popular party game called 'Walking In Another's Shoes'. We would blindfold our eyes to block all vision, and for several hours we could get a small idea of what it was like to be blind. It was tough. At times, it was scary when I lost my orientation, but at least I could take off the blindfold. How terrible it must be for folks who couldn't. I gained a huge new appreciation for the gift of sight and the wonderful world of color and beauty I lived in. LIVING IN DARKNESS was a challenge I hoped I would never have to deal with.

Now, I am a Grandma and Great- Grandma, (of course, I always was a GREAT Grandma.) I have discovered that there are many challenges in life where folks live in darkness. When the power goes out and nothing electrical works can be pretty challenging, but it is small potatoes compared to another form of darkness that challenges a truly surprising number of folks today.

I invite you to take a couple of minutes out of your busy day to play a game of pretend with me and walk in someone else's shoes.

Pretend that you are a young adult man living in the same town as you. You have just completed high school and are looking for a job, but not just any job. It has to be within walking distance, pay enough to live on, and not require advanced education or specialized training. You are bright, eager, healthy, strong, a good worker and a reliable person. You are looking forward to setting up your own family and taking care of them because, in a just a few months, you and your beloved will be parents.

You have to find a place to live but your friends have told you that even a small apartment will probably cost close to a thousand dollars per month, plus damage deposit. Electricity and phone are extra. You also have heard that non-skilled jobs might work if you share that apartment with a couple of other renters, but that would be pretty crowded, especially with a new baby.

A camp job somewhere like Fort McMurray pays good wages and could be done, but you would be away from your little family for weeks at a time, not an option for you. You decide to be a waiter in a restaurant. After only a day on the job, your boss puts you in dishwashing at a lower pay.

You get your friends to coach you in memorizing the driver's manual to get your beginner's license. You thank your good memory that got you through school. Now, to memorize the signs around town to make you look good. Your friends are having a good laugh at your expense, and lately they seem to be too busy to help you very much. They are busy with their own lives.

Now you are living on your own, sleeping on a friend's couch and shopping and cooking for yourself. Hey, most labels have pictures and you can invent some pretty darn good recipes yourself.

Someone gives you a newspaper with want ads for great jobs and trades people are looking for apprentices. You buy a coffee for a friend and ask him what he thinks about the jobs after he reads them. You carefully memorize the details, and apply for a couple of the jobs. The resume' isn't hard because your girlfriend types, but when the boss hands you a questionnaire to complete before you leave, you regretfully tell him that this job isn't really, what you wanted after all.

Maybe Social Assistance will pay enough for you, your girlfriend and baby to live on. Maybe your girlfriend will go along with this. What about future jobs? What is available to you besides welfare? Why is your future starting to look so hopeless and dark?

Could it be possible, in this day and age, in this country that you got all the way through school, working the system, and still can't read? Surprising, even shocking, numbers of people in our communities are struggling to survive with the darkness of illiteracy hanging over them. There are many reasons for this. Low intelligence is less that 1% of the cause. Accident, injury, illness, or other trauma accounts for some folks. Undetected visual problems that make letters and numbers fuzzy or jump around the page are common and undetected.

## The Challenge of Darkness- (continued)

A major factor in causing students to fall through the educational cracks in the classroom is that one method of teaching does not fit all learners. Each person learns at a different rate and method of teaching. Our educators are just now starting to address these different methods, but what about all the folks, young and old, who have gone as far as they can in school or dropped out and struggle daily to compensate?

Can you imagine yourself leaving your family and friends behind and living in a far-off country, striving for a better life, and cannot speak, read or write the language? What courage and determination this must take! Often they must take low paying jobs, work long hours and study at night to learn the language and customs of their adopted country. What about the employer who asked his worker to, "Get me a sandwich, and step on it!" An unusual request, but, Ok, if he really wants it that way.

YES! THERE ARE SUPER HEROS TO THE RESCUE who banish the darkness of illiteracy and bring the light of understanding wherever they go. They are called Tutors.



Who are the tutors? What do they do? What special training do they require?

Tutors are ordinary folks like you and me who know how to read, write, and volunteer to help someone who wants to learn. Tutor workshops are held regularly, hosted by Jodi Mantey (780) 723-3630, in a fun and casual manner, free of charge, to help tutors learn the various learning methods needed by each learner.

"What do I get out of becoming a tutor?" you ask. Gosh, I could write a book on this one. I have tutored for about three years, approximately one to two hours once weekly, usually in the public library. I have benefited by the special friendships developed between my students and myself. I have gained a new appreciation for the courage and determination of the students, who come forward to admit the scary and sometimes embarrassing truth that they cannot read, which in our literate society, takes lots of courage.

When a student grasps a new concept, reads a paragraph without the use of a finger on the words, or reads their first book or newspaper or job requirement, or driver's manual and understands what they are reading, I get goose bumps. To know that I have empowered them to switch on the light and help them vanquish this darkness in their lives makes me excited. Yes! I am making a difference, an important one.

I wonder, to myself, who grew up speaking English and use words to paint pictures in the minds of others, how could illiteracy be so rampant in this country? I used to think it was almost impossible. I now know that there are thousands of wonderful folks across Canada who are finding the courage to tackle and banish the stigma of illiteracy from their lives.

I have only awe and deep respect for those who come forward and ask for a tutor. I applaud all volunteer tutors who step forward and say, "I can help someone to improve the quality of their life with just a few hours of my time."

What do I get out of tutoring? Laughs, fun, satisfaction, wonderful new friends. Now I consider myself, not only a great grandma, but also a great tutor.

By Ouita Petty

## Storysacks

Having a group of parents get together to create a "story in a sack" that will come alive within homes in the community is what the Storysack program is all about. During regular sessions, generally once a week for about 8 weeks, the adults meet to combine talents and efforts to create props for a story that has been chosen for the program. While the adults chat, snack and create, and share some laughs, the children are cared for in another area where fun things are in store for them. After the props, characters, games and other activities are completed for the story sack, families within the community have the opportunity to borrow the sack and do the story and activities at home with the entire family involved.

The Edson and District Community Learning Society Family Literacy program funds storysacks. This is a free program. Come out and share in creating more storysacks for your family and others to enjoy.

By Carol Eberharter (Storysacks Facilitator)

For more information on this and other free family literacy programs call: Jodi 780-723-3630 or Barb 780 795-7373

## New Facilitators

We would like to welcome Harmony Roan to our team and look forward to being able to offer even more family literacy programming in 2008/2009.

### Moms creating a Storysack May – June FCSS



**Robyn reading the story  
"A very Hungry Caterpillar"  
and using a Storysack**

### Quote from a learner

"Now I can break up words, helps me to read newspapers better, helps me to find addresses now and I can understand adding and subtracting better"

Wishing you and yours a very  
Merry Christmas



Tutor Training – Sept 25th

*“Studies show that  
higher literacy levels  
result in higher health  
levels and better  
quality of life.”*

## Message from Jodi

The year goes by so quickly. It seemed like yesterday I was wishing you a happy new year; and now the leaves have turned color and the snow is starting to fall. We have some incredible hard working adult learners and equally incredible volunteer tutors. I want to take this opportunity to say: the literacy programs would not run without the support of our volunteers.

We have been using the new tutor training manual from Literacy Alberta to offer regular tutor training sessions. The sessions have been a great success. Not only do we get to learn new skills, but also, we have developed our own little community of tutors. We share information, say hi on the street and have the heart-warming feeling that we are helping people in our Edson and area community. What a great feeling! Sessions for the rest of the year have already been scheduled and are posted on our web site.

Barb and I have submitted a draft of the Family Literacy Annual Report. We were pleased and excited as we pulled together the results. We have a great group of families who have attended the programs and some fantastic facilitators. Look on our web site for a description of the programs we offer. Now we need to start the Family Literacy Proposal for 2009 – 2012.

We are always looking for more tutors, so please help spread the word.

Enjoy the changing of the seasons.

Sincerely, Jodi

## Wanda's Riddle - How is a car like a sentence?

Wanda Kugyelka, an adult literacy student in Edson Alberta has invented an easy fun filled analogy for learning and understanding the various parts of a sentence by comparing them to the parts of a car.

To start the car	fill it with gas
To start the sentence	fill head with a thought
The car needs a	driver & steering wheel
The sentence needs a	noun & subject – (who?) i.e.: I, they, he, she
The car moves by using	an accelerator or gas pedal
The sentence moves by using	verbs (action words) i.e.: ran, crying, throwing
For detailed information the car has	mirrors and an antenna
A sentence has	a participle i.e.: "a" gives general information, "the" gives specific information ("a" ball or "the" ball)
A car is interesting and colorful with	paint and trim
A sentence becomes interesting by using	adjectives to describe nouns and adverbs to describe verbs and both describe the object.
A car drives to it's	destination
A sentence focuses on the	object of the thought (where or what) i.e.: the ball broke the "window".
A driver relies on	road signs, traffic lights and brakes
A sentence uses	punctuation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• quotation ( " ") marks are talking marks.</li> <li>• exclamation ( ! ) marks are excited marks.</li> <li>• comma's ( , ) are yield signs.</li> <li>• period ( . ) is a stop sign.</li> <li>• list follows – colon ( : ) like traffic information</li> <li>• semi colon ( ; ) like a rolling stop.</li> </ul>
A car rolls on its	tires
A sentence moves with	preposition (and, but, or) i.e.: We went "and" we did .....
A car has lots of stuff	seats, bumpers, licence plate
A sentence has interesting parts and details	phrases, fragments ie: just as I thought or but never again.
A car lights it way with	headlights
A sentence becomes more clear when being read or spoken by using	body language, expression and emotions.

## Upcoming Events for 2008

November 2008						
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30						

December 2008						
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28	29	30	31			

**New Expand Your Horizons brochure**  
January 5th

**Family Literacy Fun Nights**  
Nov 5 & 19  
Dec 3 & 17

**Holiday office Hours:**  
Closed from Dec 20 – Jan 4

### Dates to watch for in 2009

**Family Literacy Day**  
Jan 27th, 2009

**International Adult Learners Week**  
March 3rd – 9th

**International Women's Day Supper**  
March 4th

**3rd Annual Scrabble Tournament**  
April 24th

January 2009						
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February 2009						
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March 2009						
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