

Spread the Word

A Quarterly Literacy Newsletter for the North Okanagan-Shuswap

There will be many fun activities for families at the Family Literacy Celebration and Early Years Fair on Saturday, January 29th at the Downtown Activity Centre from 9am to 12noon.



Let's Celebrate Family Literacy Week! - January 24th to 29th, 2011

Free Family Literacy Celebration on Saturday, January 29th

This free family event will be taking place on Saturday, January 29th, 2011 from 9am to 12noon at the Downtown Activity Centre in Salmon Arm. Family Literacy Day is a national event and this year's theme is "Play for Literacy!" Children are encouraged to come dressed as their favourite book character and celebrate literacy and learning with their family.

Some of the activities include: a free breakfast from 9:00 to 10:30am, play areas, crafts, face painting, family game stations, buddy reading with the Silverbacks, storytelling with James Murray, music with

Roxy, local author readings, resource booths, and free book draws.

Games for Literacy

On Tuesday, January 25th from 6:30-8:00pm there will be a special Games Night in the SA branch of Okanagan Regional Library (in Piccadilly Mall) to help celebrate the "Play for Literacy" theme for Family Literacy Week. Come play Scrabble, Scrabble JR, Boggle or Cranium. Feel free to bring a game with you, especially if it involves reading, writing, or creativity. This event is aimed at ages 7-18.

Literacy Activities at Local Schools

Many local schools and family programs throughout the North Okanagan-Shuswap will be celebrating Family Literacy Week with a variety of activities such as the "Heap the

Honda" Children's Book Drive challenge, "Dress Like Your Favourite Book Character", hosting a school wide book exchange for students and adults, "Unplug and Play" Day, "Talk Like a Pirate" Day, reading buddies, and hosting a Family Game event.

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Winter 2010

The Literacy Alliance of the Shuswap Society (LASS) is a non-profit organization that promotes literacy in the North Okanagan-Shuswap area through awareness, collaborative partnerships, and education in order to enhance the health and well-being of individuals and the community.

Thanks to Our Community Literacy Supporters

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Browne Johnson Land Surveyors

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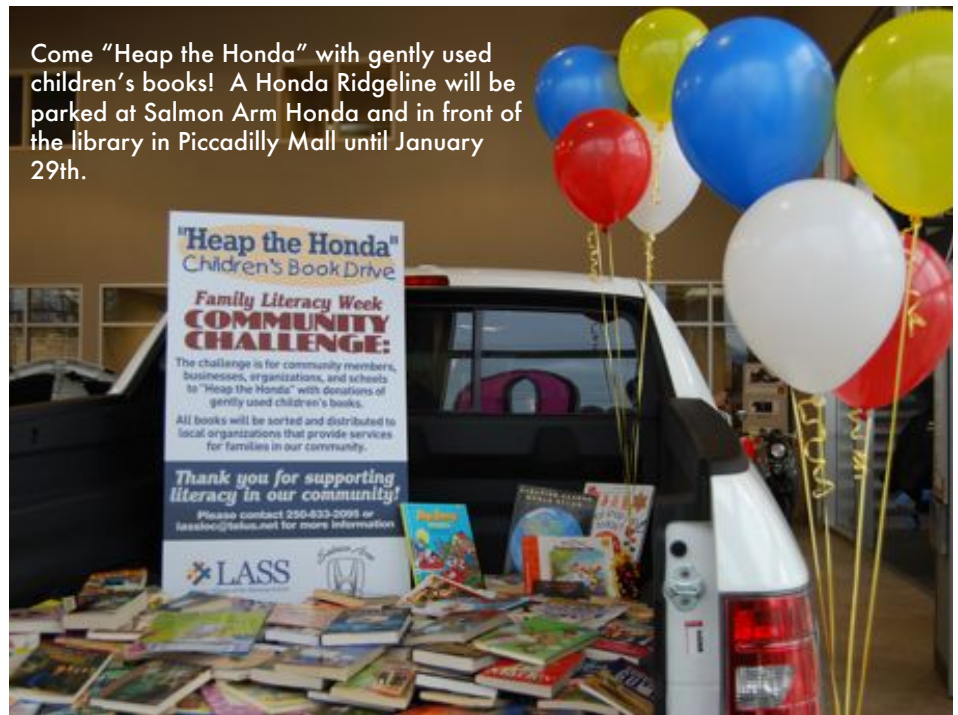
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Seniors' Drop-in Centre (Hudson Ave.)

Come "Heap the Honda" with gently used children's books! A Honda Ridgeline will be parked at Salmon Arm Honda and in front of the library in Piccadilly Mall until January 29th.



"Heap the Honda" Children's Book Drive

Family Literacy Week COMMUNITY CHALLENGE

The challenge is out for community members, businesses, organizations, and schools to donate gently used children's books and "heap" them in the back of a Honda Ridgeline. The vehicles will be parked in the Salmon Arm Honda showroom and in front of the library at the Piccadilly Mall during Family Literacy Week (January 24th to 29th.)

At the end of the month, all of the books will be collected, sorted and then later distributed to local children's organizations to support family literacy in our community. The Literacy Alliance of the Shuswap Society (LASS) has partnered with Salmon Arm Honda, the Salmon Arm branch of the ORL, and Piccadilly Mall to help promote the "Heap the Honda" Children's Book Drive.

FIND US ON OUR NEW WEBSITE & ON FACEBOOK

Please check out our new website:

www.shuswapliteracy.ca

LASS also has a facebook page and a big "THANK YOU" goes out to LASS member, Mary Scheidegger, who has been doing a fantastic job keeping our facebook page up to date. Check it out at:

[http://www.facebook.com/
LiteracyAllianceoftheShuswap](http://www.facebook.com/LiteracyAllianceoftheShuswap)

One to One Children's Literacy Program in Ten Local Elementary Schools

The One to One Children's Literacy program has been successfully running in six elementary schools (Hillcrest, South Broadview, Parkview, MV Beattie, Highland Park, and Armstrong Elementary) and four more schools are coming on board to start the program in February (North Canoe, Ranchero, Salmon Arm West, and Silver Creek.)

Three volunteer training sessions are scheduled during the first week of February for all volunteers new to the program. The upcoming session of the One to One program will run from February 7th to May 12th. There are 12 tutors assigned to each school and each tutor commits to a 1.5 hour time slot once a week for 12 weeks.

A special thank you goes out to the school coordinators in all ten schools who have been working hard to set-up and maintain the program. We have over 120 reading volunteers involved with the One to One program to date which is absolutely incredible! Thank you to all of the volunteers as you are truly making the difference in the lives of the One to One students.

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Community Literacy Programs

Free Computer Tutoring for Seniors

In order to help address the computer literacy needs of seniors in our community, LASS is offering free one-on-one tutoring sessions for seniors to help improve their computer skills.

The goal is for each learner to be partnered with a community volunteer tutor. After completing a computer skills self-assessment, the learner will meet with the tutor once a week in a public location to work on basic skills such as using a mouse, saving files, searching the Internet, and setting up an email account.

Over 90 seniors have already signed up for the program and 52 have been paired up with a volunteer tutor. We are still in need of more tutors for this program so if you can spare one hour per week to help a senior in our community, please contact Jennifer Findlay at 250-833-2095.

Parents as Literacy Supporters (PALS)

LASS will again be facilitating PALS for preschoolers in all five StrongStart programs in the district in February. The February session is "Print in our Community" and pre-registration at your local StrongStart Centre is encouraged.

The goal of PALS is to work with parents and caregivers supporting their children's early literacy development. At each session, preschoolers will participate in a number of literacy activities with their parents/caregivers and each child will receive a book and some learning materials to take home.

The schedule for the February Preschool PALS sessions is as follows:

- *Salmon Arm West on Feb. 8 at 9 a.m.
- *Salmon Arm Downtown Activity Centre on Feb. 10 at 9:30 a.m.
- *Parkview (Sicamous) on February 15 at 2:15 p.m.
- *MV Beattie (Enderby) on Feb. 17th at 9 a.m.
- *Highland Park (Armstrong) on Feb. 25 at 9:30 a.m.



"Spread the Word" Community Book & Magazine Exchange Volunteers Needed

The "Spread the Word" Community Book & Magazine Exchange Program is up and running in seven communities. The books and magazines are being well used and many books are coming in as exchanges or as large donations (over 4500 books to date.)

As there are 45 bins located around the North Okanagan-Shuswap, we are looking for volunteers in each community to help maintain and refill the bins. Thanks to Laureen Mayer (Sicamous & Malakwa), Pat Farmer (Armstrong) and Mary Stewart (North Shuswap) who have agreed to help with the program. If you are interested in helping out in the Enderby or the Sorrento/Blind Bay area, please contact us.

Out and About

Celebrating the Early Years - Sicamous, Armstrong, and Salmon Arm

LASS distributed literacy information to parents and caregivers at the Sicamous Early Years Fair on December 14th and at the Armstrong Early Years Fair on January 24th. We will also have a display at the Family Literacy Celebration and Early Years Fair on January 29th at the DAC.

Literacy Awareness & Plain Language Workshop

A free workshop highlighting literacy awareness issues and the use of plain language to help create a literacy-friendly environment was presented to the staff at The Employment Place in Salmon Arm in December. LASS offers this and other literacy workshops at no charge to any interested organizations or businesses.

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