



Maple Ridge - Pitt Meadows - Katzie

Community
Literacy Committee

Quarterly Newsletter

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LOL does not mean Lots of Love

You may have seen the online joke about a text exchange between a mom and daughter.

>Honey I'm sorry to have to tell you Grandma died. LOL

>What? Why are you laughing - that's terrible!

>What do you mean?

>LOL means laugh out loud.

>Oh no I thought it meant lots of love! I have to go apologize to lots of family

Far fetched? Not really. The CLC has just signed on to Twitter and we are learning about hash tags, retweeting and Twitter etiquette. Overall I am literate but texting, Facebook, Twitter, Tumblr and social media in general all present challenges. I find myself struggling to understand and be understood.

What is LMFO, why *do* people insist on kk when you could just type ok, WHAT'S WRONG WITH UPPERCASE, and IDK if I should be worried or reassured when my teenager claims to be an angel complete with halo. 0:)

Some people say that texting is eroding language skills. Eroding or evolving – that's a debate for another time. But we can't deny that millions of people successfully communicate in this new way with emotion, subtext, and subtlety.

Not me. I have low literacy in social media. It takes me 3 times as long to do anything. It's frustrating and embarrassing when I ask someone under the age of 25 for help and they look at me like I'm a talking dinosaur. I'm ready to throw my phone at the wall on some days and it's tempting to just avoid the hassle and *not learn it*.

How difficult it must be for an adult to struggle with reading, writing, numbers or computers. How easy it might be to just avoid the hassle. Hats off to anyone who takes up the challenge of learning - whatever that may be.

Meanwhile we, like the LOL mom, will continue to make mistakes, correct them, apologize and keep learning as we try to become social media literate.

By Shanti Ang, LOC

If you have a comment on this article, send me a tweet @MRPMLiteracy

Visit us at the
Haney Farmers Market

Memorial Peace Park
Saturday May 25, 2013
9 am to 2 pm

We will be joined by:

- Fraser Valley Regional Library
- StrongStart
- Family Education & Support Centre
- Child Care Resource and Referral
- WorkBC



Calendar of Events

Check out the Calendar of Events for public events and other important dates that the Literacy Committee will be involved in. For more information on any of these events, call 604 721 3738 or email coordinator@communityliteracy.ca

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2013 - 2014

May

- Mon May 13 Video Brainstorming, TBA (see page 6)
Sat May 25 Literacy at the Haney Farmers Market, Memorial Park

June

- Wed Jun 19 Literacy Committee Quarterly Meeting and Year End Celebration, CEED Centre *change in time see below

September

- Wed Sep 18 Literacy Committee Quarterly Meeting, TBA

January 2014

- Wed Jan 22 Literacy Committee Quarterly Meeting, TBA
Sat Jan 25 Family Literacy Day, Maple Ridge Public Library

March 2014

- Wed Mar 19 Literacy Committee Quarterly Meeting, TBA

We will add more events as time goes on so check back with us often.

*YEAR END CELEBRATION

Wednesday June 19, 2014, CEED Centre
11739 223rd Street, Maple Ridge

3:30 – 4:30 Committee Quarterly / Working Group Meeting
5:00 – 6:30 Year End Celebration

Everyone welcome!





Youth Week is a provincial celebration of youth held annually during the first week of May. The ACT Arts Centre & Theatre is holding a series of workshops for teens 13-18 yrs.

CRE8

Thursday, May 2, 2013
Fee: \$5/youth

Great workshops led by Industry Experts including Songwriting with Laurell, Vocal Master Class with Angela Kelman, Dance, Film and more. Your participation also includes snacks, a free ticket to One Man Star Wars Trilogy on May 3 and more.

Community Information

Family Place Community Parenting Centre

Family Place welcomes families with children ages 0-6 to come and share the joys and challenges of parenting in a fun, interactive and supportive environment. Staff create a safe and nurturing program where children can explore and discover.

Contact: Maple Ridge/Pitt Meadows Community Services, www.comservice.bc.ca 604-466-8484 or 604-467-6911, email: jwhite@comservice.bc.ca

Community Parenting Program

This program provides positive parent support, helping parents create healthy environments for their families, connecting families with community resources, and building on family strengths and confidence. Free, however referrals required from Family Physicians, Public Health Nurses or Social Workers.

Contact: Maple Ridge/Pitt Meadows Community Services, www.comservice.bc.ca 604-788-9163 or 604-467-6911, email: jwhite@comservice.bc.ca

Raise A Reader Community Book Bins

The Literacy Committee will be placing new and used books (children, youth, adult) in book bins for distribution / exchange in the community. We want local families to enjoy the books and pass them on. To distribute these books, we need "homes" for the book bins in public spaces. The books can either be read while waiting or a book can be taken home, read, and passed along. The exchange of books will be tracked using Bookcrossing.com. *If you would like to have a book bin in your facility, please contact Elaine Yamamoto or Angie McLeod at 604 721 3738 or coordinator@communityliteracy.ca*

Teen Resume Workshop

Maple Ridge Public Library and WorkBC Employment Services Centre present a workshop on how to create a resume that employers will notice. For high school students only. Tuesday May 7, 5pm-7pm. For more information and to register call the library at 604.467.7417



The big fish in the lobby of The ACT at Earth Day



Learning Together Literacy Event

On January 29, 2013, the CLC hosted a modified PALS (Parents as Learning Supporters) training workshop for family service workers. Workshop attendees learned how to incorporate PALS modules into their family programs.

Using the training we received, Alison and Treena prepared and ran our first family literacy session at the Family Education & Support Centre on March 7th. Nine children and 8 parents attended. During the first part, the parents talked to a staff person while the kids went with a volunteer. We asked the parents two questions. "How do your kids learn?" and "What Literacy activities do you do at home?" Meanwhile, our volunteer engaged the children in two stories, *Chicka Chicka Boom Boom* and *ABC'S of Canada*. Sheena did some Singing English with the children then they sang *The Canadian Alphabet Song*.

Parents and kids came back together to try out four activity stations (described on the following page). Each group stayed at a station for about 10 minutes.

The session came to a close with everyone enjoying a snack of alphabet cookies, fruit cut into shapes, Jello, cheese cut into letters, cinnamon cookies and pineapple boats filled with a variety of fruit. During this time parents had an opportunity to network with each other. Staff debriefed about the session with each parent. All the feedback we received was positive and parents asked for more sessions. We gave them a choice about future sessions and the majority chose "Exploring Literacy Through Play".

Take Home Bag

We sang the Alphabet Song and book bags were given out. Each bag had a book mark, calendar, Alphabet song, *ABC's of Canada* book and a play dough recipe.

Thank you to all childminding staff and volunteers for working to make this such a fun and successful event.

Submitted by
Family Education & Support Centre





Station # 1
 ABC felt board activity where parents and children could place the ABC'S on the felt board on the tree and talk about letters with their children.



Station # 2
 At this station the children and parents use ABC blocks to do stamp painting.



Station # 3
 Parents and children worked together using letter stickers on a bag to create their own take home bag



Station # 4
 Play dough was used at this station with alphabet letter moulds.

If you would like to get the Literacy Committee quarterly newsletter and other literacy related news, please email: coordinator@communityliteracy.ca



Useful Stuff

Online Homework Tutors

If you have a library card from one of FVRL's 24 branch libraries, you have access to free online peer tutors for homework help in Math, Science, and Social Studies for grades 6 to 12:

http://www.fvrl.bc.ca/learn/homework_tutors.htm

Online Homework Help

If you are a Grade 10 to 12 student you can register with www.learnnowbc.ca for access to Live Tutoring, Live Workshops, test preparation software called Study Buzz and Streaming Video content.

Plain Language Health Booklets

These booklets are written in plain, clear language to help anyone learn more about mental health and mental illness. Each booklet is recorded, so you can listen along while you read. <http://heretohelp.bc.ca/factsheet/plainer-language-series>

Plain Language Writing Guide

Thank you to New Westminster Literacy for sharing their Plain Language Checklist and Plain Language Writing Guide *Writing for All, Reading By All*: <http://kidsnewwest.ca/wp-content/uploads/2011/02/Communications-for-all.pdf>

Plain Language Meetup

Vancouver area plain language writers and editors meetup group: <http://www.meetup.com/Plain-Language-Writers-Editors/>

Language Portal of Canada

Check out these plain language tools for writers <http://www.noslangues-ourlanguages.gc.ca/decouvrir-discover/outils-tools/oar-wt-eng.html>

Grass Roots Press

Grass Roots Press publishes adult literacy and English as a Second Language materials. This includes assessment tools, workbooks, photostories, biographies, and literature. <http://www.grassrootsbooks.net/ca/>

Our Vision Statement

We will be a community where:

- literacy programs are available to people of all ages and all backgrounds
- all people are encouraged to learn, read and participate
- all learners are valued for all their skills
- all learners feel safe to ask for help and use community literacy services
- literacy initiatives are coordinated and happen in many parts of our community

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We are launching a crowd funding campaign and need your creativity to design a Super Duper Video.

Join us May 13, 10am (location TBA) for a video brainstorming session.

Email coordinator@communityliteracy.ca if interested.





HELP AND RESOURCES

The Learning Room

The Learning Room is a drop in help centre. We offer these services:

- help with reading and writing
- adult and children's lending library
- help with some government publications and forms
- referrals and information
- computer use
- space for learner-tutor meetings

Address: At the CEED Centre, 11739 223rd Street, Maple Ridge

Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm

Contact Us

Maple Ridge Pitt
Meadows Katzie
Community Literacy
Committee

Telephone
604.721.3738

Programs
facilitator@communityliteracy.ca

Information and Events
coordinator@communityliteracy.ca

Website
www.communityliteracy.ca

Follow us on Twitter
[@MRPMLiteracy](https://twitter.com/MRPMLiteracy)

Programs at the Learning Room

Program	Day/Time
Women's English Group	Thursdays, 10:00 am to 11:30 am
Tax Filing	by appointment, call 604 721 3738

Other Programs / Services

- Adult Learner Book Club – held at the Maple Ridge Public Library. Contact the library at 604 467 7417 for more information and to register.
- Financial Literacy Workshops – free basic money management workshops on a variety of topics are available.
- LINK UP Directory - a list of local literacy services and programs. You can download a copy of the Spring 2013 directory at www.communityliteracy.ca/programs/literacy-link-up/

