

CALENDAR
OF EVENTS:

- **Used Book Sale**
June 19-21,
Kildonan
Place
- **Gala**
Nov 5, , Inn
at The Forks

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Greetings from the Office

Well, the calendar says it is now Spring even though our white streets and yards still scream Winter!

Spring always brings changes and we're excited to announce a change here, too! We have hired a new Executive Director; **Rob Pollett** started working with us on Monday, March 30.

Rob is warm and friendly, and comes with a lot of great skills that will help LiteracyWORKS grow over the coming years. Rob has worked at places like (SMD) Society for Manitobans with Disabilities, CSSM Ministries and the Salvation Army in Ontario.

Rob will be working side-by-side with Lorraine until the end of June, learning about literacy and learning disabilities, then will replace Lorraine, who will retire at the end of June this year. More on that in the May newsletter.

April is Volunteer Appreciation Month and, to celebrate you, our volunteers, we are having another all-day breakfast. See National Volunteer Week article on page 2 for



Rob Pollett,
Executive Director

details, and come on down to enjoy breakfast on us! While you are here, you'll have a chance to meet Rob.

In June we will hold our 7th annual used book sale at Kildonan Place. Can you believe it? Seven years! If you are able to help out, be sure to phone us and let us know so we can add your name to the schedule.

A sneak preview into

next year's calendar: the Gala planners have announced we will be holding a second fundraising Gala on Thursday, November 5, 2009, so be sure to mark your calendar.

Has your student been working hard to learn to write? We would like to honour their hard work by printing their stories in the "Write Stuff" column. Help make your student a star by encouraging them to submit a story for "The Write Stuff".

Just a reminder that we do not send newsletters to your students, so please be sure to use this newsletter for reading practice with your student.

Hope to see you at breakfast. Happy Spring!

Chairperson's Corner

Diane Lonergan
Chairperson

It's official.

We are all now living in "interesting times" to say the least. In many parts of Canada unemployment is skyrocketing, houses are hard to sell and even harder to afford, and the economy looks anything but rosy. Up to now, Manitoba has escaped the worst of the recession, but there are signs we're not immune. This province's growth rate for 2009 is only 0.5%, down from the 2.7% that was forecast.

These are tough times too for non-profit organizations like LiteracyWORKS as governments and donors tighten belts and cut back. Raising funds in this atmosphere is, to say the least, a bit challenging. Seven years ago when I first signed on at LiteracyWORKS, I was surprised to find there was no annual fundraising event. So our annual Used

Booksale was born. Then last year the first Annual LiteracyWORKS Gala was launched. These events make money for our organization and help keep us in the public eye. But when a major funder like the federal government steps away from the plate, the hole left behind cannot be completely filled by book sales or galas.

So: is there a better way to raise funds? That's the question the Board will try to answer on April 23rd when we spend time with one of the leading professional fundraisers in the province. We've been thinking about this for some time, and have considered different approaches: maybe we could run a business, say, a used book store, and use the profits to support our work; maybe we could generate a support organization of Friends or Champions

in the community who would provide a steady source of funds; in the past we've tried the corporate world, but not in any consistent way, and without much consistent success. Now it's time to kick our search up a notch. And needless to say, we welcome any ideas any of you, our readers, would like to suggest.

By happy coincidence, just as that fundraising meeting is being arranged, LiteracyWORKS welcomes Rob Pollett as our new Executive Director. Rob is already job-shadowing with Program Manager Lorraine Kaczor until she retires this summer. After that, he will replace her. And it just so happens Rob has ideas about fundraising too. So let's seize on that synergy and next time you're in the office, welcome Rob to LiteracyWORKS. The timing could not be better.

By Diane Lonergan

National Volunteer Week-April 19-25

All Day
Breakfast
to say
"Thank
You!"



This year we have set aside a day to celebrate and recognize our volunteers for your contribution of time and skill.

LiteracyWORKS' volunteers fill many jobs

from tutor to board member to book sorter, and we couldn't do without any of you. We are thankful for each and every one of you and to show our grateful-

ness please join us on Wednesday, April 22, 2009 from 8 am to 7 pm for an all-day breakfast here at the office.

See insert for details.

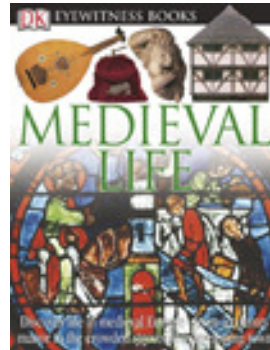
The Write Stuff - Medieval Life

I liked the workbook on medieval life. I learned about the parts and people of a castle. Some of the people were jesters, minstrels. I liked their jobs. The instruments were interesting. Some of the foods were

gross, they ate really weird things.

The speed wheel helped me find answers and I could use stars to mark my progress. I want to learn about Egyptians next.

By Kenny Paddison



**Tutors,
please pass
this
information
on to your
students!**

Student Spelling Course

Students, would you like to learn how to be a better speller? Can you be at the office on Wednesdays between 4:30 and 5:30 p.m. for

about one hour? There are only eight spots open for this course. If you're interested you need to call Sherry at 786-1212 before April 8.

She will give you more information and answer your questions.

Phone soon, as seats will fill up fast.



Make Your Student A Star

We're looking for student stories! Please encourage your student to submit a story for printing in the newsletter.

Or, if your student has a good news story about something they have done, a

new skill they have gained, a promotion at work, anything big or small, let us know! They do not need to use their name if they don't want to.

Have any pointers or tips about a lesson that went

well with your student? Let us know!

Your good news uplifts others.

We're looking forward to hearing from you.

And the Winners are...

Congratulations to the mega readers of the "I Love to Read" contest! First, in the volunteer tutor category, winners are:

Chris Lavigne who read 48 items and **Joan Honsberger-Siemens** read 23 items.

Chris' prize package is:

- Conair Colour Lights candle
 - I love to read pencil
 - Change purse
- And Joan's prizes are:
- Memo pad/pen
 - 3 colour highlighter
 - Travel clock

Our student winner is **Kenny Paddison** who read 8 things. Kenny's

prizes are:

- LiteracyWORKS blue t-shirt
- 3 colour highlighter
- Memo pad
- I love to read pencil

Do you love to read? Maybe you will be a winner during next year's "I Love to Read" contest to be held February 2010!

"I love to read!" Winners

"Reading" used to mean paying someone read TO you!

Only 10% of people could read in ancient times!



What is Literacy?

I read a book by Bart Ehrman, *Misquoting Jesus*, which you can find at the library.

I found it very interesting and thought others might like to learn what it meant to be literate at the time of early Christianity. Here's what I learned.

A long time ago, most people could not read. Today most people can read some things and many people read a lot.

How and why we read today does not have anything to do with what they

thought about being literate a long time ago.

Until recently, only a few people in the world could read. This was true even in ancient Rome (during early Christian days) and in Greece.

A Columbia University professor, William Harris, found that only about 10-15% of people in those times could read or write. He also found it was hard to define what it means to read and write both then and today.

Not very many could read and even fewer Christians could read.

What rich people did

was to hire someone who could read, to do it for them.

In ancient times reading did not mean doing it yourself. It meant reading out loud to others. A person would say they "read a book when in fact one had heard it read by others."

Books were almost always read out loud in social settings, such as when they were together to worship.

So, even though believers mostly could not read for themselves, they were thought to be very literate!

By Joan Honsberger-Siemens

What's New on Our Bookshelf?

Two books for students, written by students:

- **My Mummy Couldn't Read**, by Carey Rigby-Wilcox

This Canadian author and illustrator is from Saskatchewan. She wrote this book as though her son is telling the story. You could read this book

with your children or grandchildren. It has great colours in the pictures. Carey even signed the book.

- **Ellen's Story**, by Ellen Szita

Ellen, who lives in B.C., wrote her story about learning to read as an adult. She faced many struggles. One of them is

that she has a learning disability. This would be a great book for a tutor and student to read together and to use to improve and work on literacy strategies.

Ellen was in the January, 2009 issue of the Reader's Digest as the 2008 Hero in Education award winner. She also signed our copy of her book.

Tutor Material Tip

I discovered the *Eye-witness series* has workbooks that are ideal for low level adult readers. There is a huge selection of topics that are appealing to adults. This has been an excellent resource to engage my student. We chose Medieval Life.

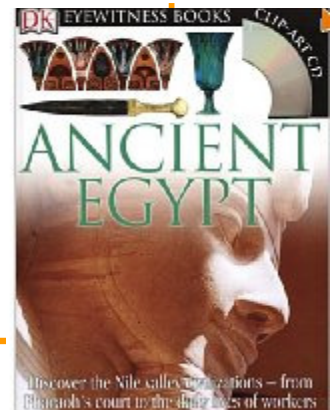
Information is presented in small sections made up of paragraphs, pictures illustrating interesting facts

and includes an activity to reinforce what's being learned. One hands-on way information is reinforced is with the "Turn and Learn Wheel" and fast facts give key information about the topic. The activities are fun and help with recalling and cross referencing the information being learned. There is a quiz section (multiple choice) after each topic which can be tracked on a progress chart that is in-

cluded and a certificate to present to the student on completion of the workbook.

I am looking forward to using more of these workbooks as they keep my student's interest, have lots of visual feedback and with the wide range of topics I can follow his interest on an adult level.

By Chris Lavigne





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OFFICE HOURS

Mon & Wed 1-8 pm
Tues & Thurs 9-4pm
Fridays CLOSED

LiteracyWORKS provides people with essential literacy skills to enhance self-sufficiency and quality of life.

LiteracyWORKS Who's Who

BOARD

Diane Lonergan, Chairperson
Eliude Cavalcante, Vice Chair
Mary Switek, Past Chairperson
Eva Whitmore, Treasurer
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Erin Romeo, Funding Officer
Chris Bellamy, Publicity Officer
Avril Chartrand, Student Rep.
Erin Romeo & Eva Whitmore,
Co-Chairs Gala Committee
Karen Emberly, Member at Large
Leslie Eskra, Member at Large
Andrew Quarry, Member at Large
Susan Wakeman, Member at Large

STAFF

Lorraine Kaczor, Program Manager
Rob Pollett, Executive Director
Sherry Funk, Program Coordinator
Deane McDonald, Admin Assistant/ Bookkeeper

Planned Giving

Does LiteracyWORKS have a special meaning for you?

Choosing to leave a gift from the heart gives meaning and dignity to a life well lived. A contribution from your estate through a bequest can significantly lift the tax burden from relatives and loved ones. At the same time you will enrich lives by supporting the work done by many people from all walks of life at LiteracyWORKS.



The Canadian Association of Gift Planners has some information on their website www.cagp-acpdp.org. To find

out more about LiteracyWORKS check out our website at www.litworks.ca or call us at 786-1212.

One example of Planned Giving

A life insurance policy is an excellent option for those who'd like to leave a substantial future donation for a modest amount now.

There are a couple of ways you can arrange for LiteracyWORKS to benefit from your life insurance. The first is to name LiteracyWORKS as the sole or partial beneficiary. The other way is to name LiteracyWORKS as the beneficiary and irrevocable owner.



Should you name LiteracyWORKS for an existing policy you'll receive a tax credit for its present value. In addition, the premiums you pay are eligible for a tax credit of up to 75% of your gross income and can be carried forward for up to 5 years.

There are many other ways of Planned Giving such as through donations of property, securities, real estate and personal property including, of course, cash donations. For more detailed information, please contact your lawyer or financial advisor.

Please consider giving the gift of a lifetime.