



The Centre for Literacy

News from The Centre

June 2006

International Literacy Day events September 2006

Watch our web site over the summer for updates on the annual book sale and for an exciting fund-raising event for HIPPIY at a favourite Montreal children's bookstore.

Be a Friend – Bring a Friend

This year, we are asking if each Friend can find one person to become a Friend. We share many common interests with our personal friends, and often with our colleagues. Requests will be mailed in August, but you do not have to wait. Forms will be on our website this summer. Please ask one person.

Seats on The Centre Board

The Centre has three seats available on its board of directors for a two-year term (2006-2008), beginning in September. The roles and responsibilities are described on our web site. For more information, please call (514) 931-8731, ext. 1415.

Deadline for nominations: August 10, 2006

Interviews with the nominating committee will take place the week of August 14 so a slate can be presented at the September AGM.

Recognition Awards for Adult Literacy

The first annual ceremony of these awards took place on April 6, 2006, at the Blue Metropolis Montreal International Literary Festival Community Writing Event, during Quebec Adult Learners' Week. They recognized learners, tutors and teachers in the Quebec voluntary and school sectors. The sponsoring organizations produced a full-colour booklet containing all the learner submissions, and pictures from the ceremony. It can be viewed and downloaded on our web site.

Poetry Challenge

Poetry Challenge gets better and better. This year's event raised over \$1000. Keeping with the tradition we started last year, we will donate 75% of the proceeds to a literacy project in a developing country – Women for Women in Afghanistan (<http://www.w4wafghan.ca/>) The remaining funds will go to local literacy projects. Details are on the web.

Thanks to all the participants, and to hosts David McGimpsey and Donna Nebenzahl.

We look forward to growing this event in 2007.

Poetry Challenge was supported by the Quebec Writers' Federation, *Maisonneuve Magazine* and the Dawson College Creative Arts, Literature and Language Program



**HEALTH COMMUNICATION
WORKSHOP REVISED!**

**But do they
understand?
Communicating with
users and caregivers**

Dates: October 20, 2006, and
February 23, 2007



Effective tools for adapting written and verbal health communication and creating alternative tools for people with language, literacy, cultural, or disability barriers.

BY POPULAR REQUEST!

**No “quick fix”,
but better than most:
Understanding
structures of learning**

Facilitator:

Professor Michael Hardt,
University of Syracuse

Dates: October 26 - 27, 2006

A two-day workshop introduces and demonstrates practical instructional applications of the concept of structures of learning derived from current psycholinguistic and reading research on document literacy and learning.

We will be contacting past participants in these workshops to gauge interest in an intermediate level workshop. If numbers warrant, we will plan it for spring 2007.

Visit www.centreforliteracy.qc.ca for details and registration instructions for all events.

Community consultation

The Centre is consulting the Quebec adult literacy sector and related sectors including education, libraries, LD, arts and museums, and health, to ask how our services and expertise can be put to the best possible use to increase community capacity. We have contacted many groups with whom we currently work and some with whom we feel we could develop ties in the future. If you have not been approached but have constructive ideas and would be willing to answer a survey or participate in a focus group in the next month, please contact project manager Ronit Yarosky (ronit_litcntr@dawsoncollege.qc.ca) by June 30.

New services

The Centre will begin offering research and consulting services in August 2006. They will include literature reviews for researchers or grant seekers, research guidance for projects, and clear communication audits for social service and health organizations and libraries. A full description of services and fees will be posted on our web site by the end of June.

Staff update

Carolyn Barilko has joined us as Administrative Assistant. After more than 20 years in industry, Carolyn has followed her heart to work in the community sector and is thriving in the short time she has been here.

Equipment and Materials

Thank you to the generous donors who answered our call for equipment and for French storybooks for HIPPY. We will be making requests periodically.

HIPPY – research positions

HIPPY Montreal is currently seeking two researchers, one for a three-month contract to investigate and assess organizational structures and funding opportunities, and the other for three years to conduct an evaluation of the project in terms of impact on the children, the parents, the community home visitors, and the partner organizations. The Centre is managing this component of the project.

Details for both are on our web site.

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