

Readers' Magazine

Winter 1996, Volume 1: #1

for kids & parents

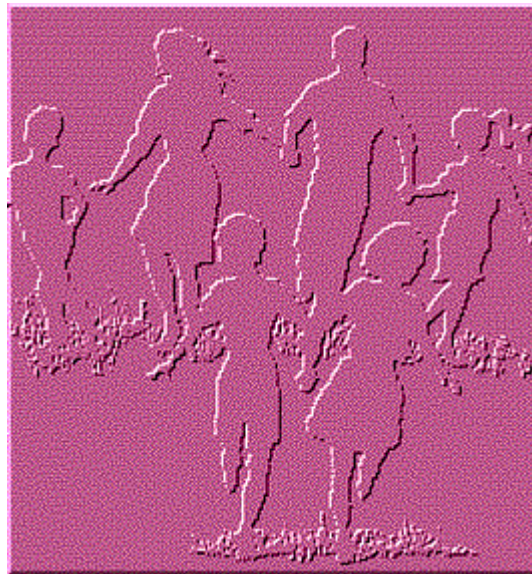
Read! Read! Read!

This is the on-line edition of Readers' Magazine, developed for the children and parents of the elementary schools in Medicine Hat, by the Family Literacy Action Group (F.L.A.G.).

We believe parents and children should spend time every day reading together. This magazine has been developed to help you do that. Inside you'll find articles for younger children, middle elementary children, upper elementary children, and for the parents. We hope you will enjoy many of the stories and activities together.

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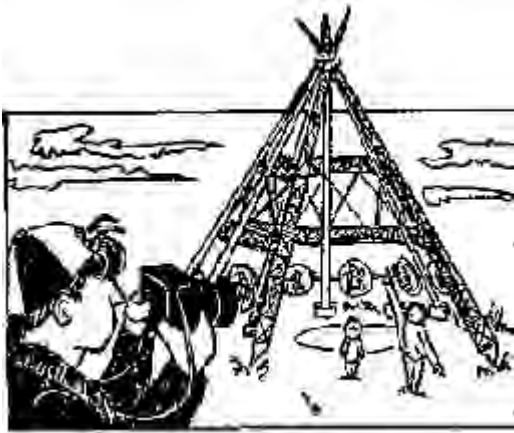


Attention, Parents: *Studies have shown that children whose parents read to them have a better chance of success in school.* This free magazine has been distributed to your children through the cooperation of the Medicine Hat Public School District No. 76 and the Medicine Hat Catholic Board of Education. Funding has been provided by the National Literacy Secretariat.

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What's Different?



Do you recognize the landmark? Find at least six differences in these two pictures. Check your answers on the answers page (click on the word "ANSWERS" at the bottom of this page).



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First Day at the Rink



Betty Lou  and her Mom  went  ing

at the ice  rink. It was  's first time



 ing. She held her  's  while they




 ed around the .  was scared.




There were many other  on the .


All the other  were faster than .




Suddenly, an older  fell in front of  and

her .  could not stop. She fell on top

of the .  was going to , but the

other  was smiling.  's  helped

them both up, then they all held  s and

 ed around the  together.  was in the

middle. She wasn't scared anymore.

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First Snow



Here's a warm scarf,
your hat and some mitts.
Try on your snow suit.
Let's see if it fits.

I'll build a snowman
so round and so fat,
With a carrot for a nose,
Two eyes and a hat.

My sled's by the door,
Let's go for a ride
Down the hill in the park
On a long, slippery slide.

Where are my boots?
These aren't the right size.
The snow'll be all gone,
Before I get outside.



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Word Search

Look for the words from the poem "First Snow" in the box below. The letters can go in any direction - backwards, forwards, up, down, angled:

First Snow

Here's a warm
scarf,
your hat and some
mitts.
Try on your snow
suit.
Let's see if it fits.

I'll build a
snowman
so round and so
fat,
With a carrot for a
nose,
Two eyes and a
hat.

My sled's by the
door,
Let's go for a ride
Down the hill in
the park
On a long,
slippery slide.

Where are my
boots?
These aren't the
right size.
The snow'll be all
gone,
Before I get
outside.



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Joey

by Rosemary Koch



"Girls!" said Chris, stomping on the cold cement of the front step. He turned to his friend Damien who had just joined him. "Mom's at work and my sister just threw me out of the house. Said she didn't want me spying on her when she had her friends over."

"Me too," said Damien, who had just joined him. "I was right in the middle of Cyberwarrior when Mom came in and told me to get off the computer. Said I'd been inside long enough. It's not fair."

"I'm never getting married..."

"Me neither."

A door slammed further up the street. A thin figure in baggy blue jeans, an oversized Rangers jacket, and a baseball cap on backwards, slowly walked up the street and stood at the end of the walk.

"Wanna play ball?"

"Naaa"

"Street hockey?"

They paused.

"I can go get a net." Cool blue eyes looked them over. "I'm Joey. We just moved in."

"Okay Jooney," they deliberately slurred the name. Got to keep the new kid in his place.

It was a good game. Joey got a nose bleed from a loose puck. Chris banged his head against the net and swore he saw stars. Damien made a hole in a brand new pair of jeans and got a large bloody scrape on one knee.

Afterwards they lay panting on the hard winter ground. "That was excellent," said Chris, throwing a few extra punches at Damien.

Joey stood up and pulled off the baseball cap revealing a mop of thick, blond hair. The

boys stared, jaws dropping. Wasn't that a barrette dangling from one long golden strand?

"Thought you said your name was Joey," said Damien.

"It is." said Joey, stuffing her hair back under her cap. "What about it?"

The boys had gone suddenly silent, but she didn't act like she'd noticed.

"Mom said I can bring you back for a snack. That's if you want to come."

She set off down the street. The boys looked at each other.

"I knew she was a girl," said Chris.

"Me too," said Damien. "I just wasn't saying."

"Hey," they cried, running after her. "Wait up. We're coming too."

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Special Pets: Hedgehogs

So your parents won't let you have a dog because it would be too much trouble?
How about a hedgehog?



Hedgehogs, the trendy pet of the '90s, are clean and easy to care for. They are easy to tame and like to be petted.

Hedgehogs are covered with short quills from their heads, across their backs and down to their flanks. Their faces and bellies are covered with soft fur and they can be different colors from black to white.

When they feel threatened they roll up into a ball hiding their soft parts and exposing their quills. However, when they are used to being handled they rarely roll up.

In the wild, hedgehogs like to eat insects, snails, mice, birds, frogs, lizards and snakes. In captivity they can be fed cat food. Like cats, they can be litter trained.

At the pet store hedgehogs cost about \$65.

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Exciting Medical Discovery Made by Alberta Scientist

A killing mechanism in some cells could be the key to curing diseases.

At the University of Alberta a scientist has used his knowledge of cell death to find a way to cure autoimmune diseases such as diabetes, lupus and multiple sclerosis.

Dr. Chris Bleackley, a biochemistry professor, has found a killing mechanism inside cells which can be activated by a substance called granzyme B. Granzyme B goes in the cell, detonates the mechanism, and boom! the cell is dead.

It took 10 years of painstaking work by Dr. Bleackley and his group of scientists to make this discovery.

Companies that make drugs to fight disease are very interested in Dr. Bleackley's discovery. Controlling the killing mechanism could also help fight cancer and rejection of organ transplants.

Clinical researchers are still about 10 years away from producing drugs which humans can use, but the medical community is very excited about this discovery.

Support for Dr. Bleackley's research comes from the Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research.



****Families Learn Together**

Cells are the building blocks from which all living things are made. Each cell is a tiny mass of protoplasm that contains a nucleus and is enclosed by a membrane. Scientists study cells to learn a lot about the whole human body and what makes it healthy or sick.

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Farmers Try Goat Breeding

Alpine, Nubian, Saanan, Boer? You may recognize these as all goat breeds, but only one, the South African Boer, is raised solely for its meat.

Recently, some Southern Alberta farmers have been buying and breeding Boer goats in an effort to diversify their farm income.

Goat meat is popular with people in the Middle East and Central American countries. The Canadian Boer Goat Association is hoping that not only immigrants from those areas, but others here in Canada will try goat meat. It is a healthful and tasty alternative to beef, according to breeders and people who have eaten it.

Currently, however, farmers are selling their stock mainly to other breeders. The Boer Goat Association is working to develop a good market for the meat in this country and abroad.

Two years ago, the Wiens family imported 14 frozen Boer embryos from South Africa which they implanted into seven nannies (female goats) of mixed breeds. From those 14 embryos they ended up with five pregnant nannies and eventually, four purebred Boer kids (baby goats). They named the kids Hans, Scarlet, Celeste and Nubbins.

Last year Scarlet, Celeste and Nubbins were bred with a Boer buck the Wiens rented from another farmer. From them, 27 embryos were extracted and implanted into nine other nannies of mixed breeds. Whew!

This was a lot of work for the Wiens family. From those 27 embryos they ended up with 19 kids including sets of twins and triplets. In order to insure that no diseases were passed on from the mothers to the babies, the Wiens milked the mothers themselves, pasteurized the milk, then fed it to the babies in bottles. Mr. and Mrs. Wiens put a baby monitor in the barn with the kids and kept the receiver in their own bedroom. Mrs. Wiens said it was very hard to sleep while listening to all those little goats moving and snoring!

Now the Wiens have begun selling their goats, mostly to farmers in the U.S.

Would you like to try goat meat?



****Families Learn Together**

An embryo is a baby at its earliest stage of development. The purebred Boer kids which grew from the embryos implanted in the mixed breed nannies are not related to their "mothers" at all. But the nannies didn't know that!

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Korean Pen Pals

Students in the Seattle Action English Class Academy would like to correspond with students in Medicine Hat schools. Boys and girls are invited to write to any of them. The following names are written with last name first, as is the Korean custom:

Kim, dong wook

Han shin A.P.T. a1314 - 1201 green town, jung2-dong
Wonmi-gu
Punchon City, Korea

Dong wook is an 11-year-old boy who likes basketball, soccer, biking and tennis and science.

Jung, yeh won

ban dal maul A 1801-205, sang-dong,
Wonmi-gu
Punchon City, Korea

Yeh won is an 11-year-old girl who likes music.

Lee, min ah

Luck-ki A.P.T. 1210-603, jung-dong,
Wonmi-gu
Punchon City, Korea

Min ah is a 12-year-old girl who enjoys tennis, billiards and music.

Im, su youn

709-11 29/1 ban jung-dong
Wonmi-gu
Punchon City, Korea

Su youn is a 13-year-old girl who enjoys bowling, tennis, computers, math and English.

Lee, sang hyun

Han shin A 1317-901 green-town,
jung-dong,
Wonmi-gu
Punchon City, Korea

Sang hyun is a 12-year-old boy who enjoys computer games, soccer, baseball, science, math, reading and biking.

Lee, tae woo

Luck-ki A.P.T. 1210-603, mujigae ma ul jung-dong
Wonmi-gu
Punchon City, Korea

Tae woo is an 8-year-old boy who enjoys soccer and computer games.

Kim, bo kyung

Han shin A.P.T. 1316-102, jung2-dong,

Kim, jeong eun

Han shin A.P.T. 1316-102, jung2-dong
Wonmi-gu

Wonmi-gu
Punchon City, Korea

Bo Kyung is a 12-year-old girl who enjoys collecting postcards.

Hong, soon mi
Han shin A.P.T. 1316-1901, jung2-dong
Wonmi-gu
Punchon City, Korea

Soon mi is a 12-year-old girl who enjoys shopping.

Jung, ju sun
Gun-Young goksagul 1708-1202, jung2-dong
Wonmi-gu
Punchon City, Korea

Ji sun is a 12-year-old girl.

King, dong wook
Luck-ki A.P.T. 1210-803
mjuigae ma ul jong-dong
Wonmi-gu
Punchon City, Korea

Dong wook is an 11-year-old girl.

Punchon City, Korea

Jeong eun is a 12-year-old girl who enjoys drawing, reading and painting.

Oh, yu yeon
Han shin A.P.T. 1303-301, jung2-dong
Wonmi-gu
Punchon City, Korea

Yu yeon is a 12-year-old girl who also enjoys shopping.

Kim, dong hee
Luck-ki A.P.T. 1210-803
Mujigae ma ul jung-dong,
Wonmi-gu
Punchon City, Korea

Dong hee is a 14-year-old boy.

Kang, jan joong
Gun-young boksagul 1712-101, Jung2-dong
Wonmi-gu
Punchon City, Korea

Yun joong is a 12-year-old boy.

Hong, seung pyo

Luck-ki A.P.T. 1213-1302,
Mujigae ma ul jung-dong
Wonmi-gu
Punchon City, Korea

Seung pyo is a 12-year-old boy.



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Parents' Page

Choosing Books for K-Gr.2

by Karen Nelson, B.Ed

Standing in the children's section of a library or bookstore can be an overwhelming experience for many parents: "Which books are good? Which books would my children like?"

Although individual tastes differ, there are some features to look for. Children are attracted to brightly colored illustrations. The most popular books for children in the K-Gr. 2 age range usually involve a rhythmic text that can be easily memorized, repeated and chanted. Like adults, children enjoy a good story with interesting characters, new, exciting vocabulary, and a happy ending.

A book that I just purchased for my young nieces is called *Miss Spider's Tea Party* by David Kirk (Scholastic Inc., 1994). The illustrations are wonderfully bright, busy and clever. Every page has at least one unfamiliar vocabulary word that is used cleverly in a rhyming pattern.

An important consideration for parents of primary age children is the introduction of novel reading **to** their children. A child's desire to read independently grows out of having been read to by someone else. Novel reading is an excellent strategy to encourage reluctant Grade 2 readers. When children hear stories it increases their appetites to read that book or others like it for themselves. When you hear your children begging, "Just one more chapter", you can encourage them to try the next chapter on their own if they can't wait until tomorrow. For younger children, novel reading is a marvellous opportunity to introduce wonderful stories that may in time become a treasured part of family history. I can still recall myself and my sisters huddled around my mother as she read aloud many of the classics such as *Treasure Island*.

How do you know what novels to read?

As a general rule, children at this age still enjoy some pictures along with the text. Pictures draw the children into the story, facilitate meaning, and maintain interest level.

A favorite author in our house is Dick King-Smith. We have read many of his novels and there hasn't been one we haven't enjoyed. I asked my children to choose a favorite for this article and they highly recommended *The Water Horse* (Puffin Books, 1992).

As Christmas draws near, don't miss out on the opportunity to share *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* by Barbara Robinson (Harper Trophy, 1972). Kids and adults of all ages will love this story.

(Karen Nelson is co-creator of Medicine Hat College's Homespun Curriculum, a family reading workshop for parents. For more information on how to organize a Homespun session in your community, contact her at 362-1677 or 362-6426.)

Story Stretching Ideas

It is important for parents to read to their children. It is also important for parents to spend play time with children. Through "story stretchers" reading and play time can be combined.

The Homespun family reading program, developed at Brooks Campus of Medicine Hat College by Karen Nelson and Bonnie Annicchiarico, recommends story stretching activities to parent participants. During the workshop time when parents come together to talk about the stories they've read to their children, they are also encouraged to share story activities they have tried. Ideas can be as diverse as crafts, field trips, dramatizations or songs.

The following are some activities past Homespun families have shared:

- For Roch Carriers' *The Hockey Sweater*, the family created a map of North America, found stickers for every NHL team, and placed them on the map. They then discussed where the majority of teams were and why.
- For Paulette Bourgeois' *Franklin In The Dark*, the children drew pictures of what they were afraid of.
- How about acting out the story, *Three Billy Goats Gruff*, with Dad under the table playing the troll?
- Alphabet books such as Bill Martin's *Chicka Chicka Boom Boom* lend themselves to a variety of ABC activities such as putting together a family ABC book using pictures cut out of old magazines.
- Puppets and masks encourage children to act out the stories but it also allows them to use their creative genius as they create masks and puppet from materials around the house. Put on a wild mask, some wild music, and you'll be all ready to have a wild rumpus just like Max did in *Where The Wild Things Are*, by Maurice Sendaks.
- There can be so much more to a book than just the words on the page. Let yours and your children's imaginations run free.

Remember, when you spend story stretching time with your child, you are supporting and encouraging what will lead to a love of books and learning.

The **Southeast Alberta Council of the International Reading Association** commends the *Family Literacy Action Group* for its Readers' Magazine for Kids and Parents. We hope the families who receive this paper will be encouraged to spend reading time together and support each other in lifelong learning.