

THE READER

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER PUBLICATION OF PROJECT LITERACY KELOWNA SOCIETY
#205-591 BERNARD AVENUE, KELOWNA, BC V1Y 6N9 PHONE: 762-2163

May 2004

And the Winner is...!

A hearty congratulations goes out to J.R. Dubrett, winner of the first PLKS Scholarship! J.R. first came to PLKS in April 2003 because she was experiencing difficulty reading the materials in a parenting course she was taking. Because she had to leave school early in order to go to work, J.R.'s reading skills needed improving. She and her tutor, Barb Smuland, have worked hard on reading as well as spelling and writing. One of the most significant spinoffs of her tutoring program has been J.R.'s enhanced ability to affect her children's literacy skills; JR understands that strong reading skills are the cornerstone of a good education so she reads daily to her children. As a young mom of 3 children under the age of 5, J.R.'s goal is to "make a better life for myself and my three children." Her first step is to obtain her high school credentials so she can attend Nicola Valley Institute of Technology in Merritt to obtain a Degree in Social Work. She plans to use her scholarship money to travel to Merritt for an interview at NVIT. We congratulate J.R. on her hard work and wish her continued success!

The funds for J.R.'s scholarship came from the sales of calendars last fall. The fund-raising committee's next campaign has been launched! Rob MacFarlane's gorgeous artwork featured in the calendars now grace a series of notecards which will be sold at art shops throughout Kelowna as well as through the office. The funds raised by the sale of the cards will directly benefit learners who are having difficulties providing for their basic needs, and are thus unable to fully access the services of Project Literacy or go further in their education and career. Rob MacFarlane, who was a former learner, and now sits on the PLKS Board of Directors, is thrilled to see his art work making a difference in the lives of learners.

Enclosed in the newsletter is an order form so you can have your cards sent directly to your house!



Scholarship winner, J.R. Dubrett with PLKS staff member, Laura



A scene from one of the notecards featuring art work by Rob MacFarlane. Profits from the sales will support learners with their educational goals.

NEW TUTOR RESOURCES ... CHECK THEM OUT!

The Oxford Picture Dictionary/Canadian Edition by Norma Shapiro and Jayme Adelson-Goldstein

Beginning and Intermediate Oxford Picture Dictionary Workbooks by Marjorie Fuchs

These books are practical and easy to use for the ESL learner or for general use. Topics are grouped into 12 thematic areas, several with a vocational strand. The activity book offers vocabulary reinforcement.

English Grammar for the Utterly Confused by Laurie Rozakis

This is a "How To":

- Develop a command of English grammar
- Write with confidence and precision
- Gain a better and more thorough understanding of sentence structure
- Communicate more effectively



504 Absolutely Essential Words by Barron's

Excellent for vocabulary development with exercises, answers and cartoon quizzes.

Gateway to Canada by Virginia L. Sauve/ Monique Sauve

This book is easy to read and provides information about geography, people, history, government, arts and entertainment and sports and recreation. The material is presented with colour photographs, glossaries, comprehension checks, exercises, word games, and engaging discussion questions.

WEBSITES WORTH YOUR WHILE

<http://www.vec.ca/english/11/english-practice.cfm>

"Conversation Cathy", is a "virtual expert at English pronunciation". She uses word-pairs and dialogue to help ESL learners with conversation skills.

<http://www.research.umbc.edu/~ira/Interweb.html>

A wonderful cornucopia of interactive sites for adult learners. Links to math, reading, writing and game sites that are all interactive. Fun and instructive!

UPCOMING EVENTS

TUTOR TRAINING

Our next tutor training program starts in June and will consist of 3 evenings (June 10, 15 and 17) Please call the office if you, or anyone you know is interested in becoming a tutor.

COMPUTER CLASSES

Our next Basic computer class starts on June 4th and runs for 4 Friday mornings. The next "Word" class starts on June 18th and also runs for 4 Fridays. Call the office to register.

THE EMPLOYMENT PAGES

The Hidden Job Market



When people are looking for a job, quite often the first thing they do is look in the classified section of the newspaper. But, about 70-80% of all jobs are never advertised! These jobs are called “hidden jobs” and people hear about them from acquaintances, friends or by making cold calls.

Many employers prefer to hire someone who has been referred to them by someone they know. Instead of advertising, which takes time and money, an employer can find employees referred to them who are well suited to their operation, without the bother of a formal recruitment process. One of the advantages of tapping into the hidden job market is there will be less competition for you than if you apply to a position that is being advertised!

BUILD A NETWORK

Since networking is a huge part of finding unadvertised vacancies, you will need to learn how to build a network. Start with the people you do know or those you meet on a day-to-day basis. Make sure everyone you know is aware that you are looking for work. Don't worry about imposing on people you know - most people enjoy knowing they have helped!

VOLUNTEER YOUR TIME

Volunteering is an opportunity to develop new skills and to expand your horizons and network. In addition, volunteering can help you strengthen your resumé, and give you personal satisfaction. Volunteering can be especially helpful for those with little practical experience in their chosen field. Employers will applaud your initiative and commitment to your career and community. Volunteering is also a great opportunity to add or polish skills that most employers want to see which include: communication (written and oral); interpersonal; time management; problem solving; adaptability; and teamwork skills.

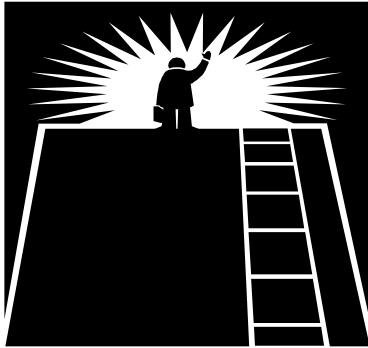
Before taking on a volunteer opportunity, be sure to know what the position involves, how much time will be expected of you and that it is a good fit with your values and career goals. Kelowna Community Resources offers a volunteer referral service and will suggest appropriate organizations. They can be reached at: 763-8058 .

THE ART OF COLD-CALLING

In addition to network-building you will need to learn to do cold calls to employers who are not advertising. This is hard work. It takes a good degree of confidence to walk into a store or company and drop off a resumé and ask to speak to a manager about job opportunities. And it is difficult to call back later to see if anything has materialized. If you are rejected, consider it a poor match for now and keep going! Even though it is easier to stay home and check the newspapers daily or wait until a company phones after you have submitted a resumé, this method of job search is far less effective.

Information taken from: www.workopolis.com

Hard Work Brings Success!



The month of May marks the mid point of our contract year and is a time for acknowledging and celebrating the successes our clients have had during the year!

Finding employment is one of the key concerns clients at PLKS have. They often come to PLKS because they are unable to find or keep work because of poor literacy skills. Most clients are on Social Assistance or Unemployment Insurance and are eager to become financially self reliant. In the past 6 months, over 30 clients have obtained full or part time jobs and are working toward self sufficiency. While some left the program after obtaining employment, others have continued to work with their tutors to improve their skills.

Clients have found employment in a wide range of industries and professions with some of the places of employment being: Okanagan Springs Suspension, Chevron Gas, Wainers Distribution, Okanagan Restorations, Okanagan Radiator, Calona Wines, Argon, Costco and House of Flowers. Congratulations to all the newly employed PLKS learners!

There is a greater demand for a higher level of education and skills in the workplace than ever before. Grade 12 is now a bare minimum and most well paid jobs require more than that. Most PLKS learners left school before grade 12 and now require basic skill upgrading so they can get their grade 12 credentials and go on to further education. Several learners are now enrolled at OUC in the Adult Basic Education, construction and ESL programs. Others have written, and done very well, on exams such as the LPI, IELTS and the CLEP. Well done, everyone!

Celebrations!

On April 20th our hardworking, much loved treasurer turned 80! Maurice Parfitt has been involved with Project Literacy practically since its inception. Originally a tutor, Maurice is now active on the board of directors. He puts in countless hours bookkeeping, collecting bottles (over \$13,000 worth collected so far!) and amusing staff with war stories and anecdotes about his cat, Charlie. Thanks Maurice for all you do!

In April, Project Literacy participated in the 7th Annual Okanagan Opportunities Fair, which was held at Orchard Park. The Fair gives PLKS an opportunity to raise awareness about literacy issues and to recruit interested volunteers. Congratulations to Jennifer Dixon, the winner of the Chapters Gift Certificate. Thanks to all the board members and staff who volunteered their time at the Fair!



Scholarship Notecards - "Bridges to Learning"

- Yes, I would like to support a learner with his/her goals.

Please send me:

— packages (6 cards per pack) @ \$10 each (or 2 for \$15)

- I have enclosed a cheque for \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

Postal Code _____

Cards will be mailed out mid May!



I want to support literacy in Kelowna!

- Please find enclosed my membership fee of \$15.00

- Please find enclosed my donation of:

\$25.00

\$50.00

other

(Please make cheques payable to Project Literacy Kelowna Society)

205-591 Bernard Ave., Kelowna, BC V1Y 6N9

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postal Code: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Your contribution will provide books and training materials for our learners and tutors.

Thank you for your support! We will send you a tax deductible receipt and a year's subscription to our newsletter.

