

# TD Summer Reading Club in Hobbema

## Program goals:

1. To promote reading in summer
2. To provide access to books to FN families

## Community partnerships and resource contribution:

TD Bank Wetaskiwin, Alberta Health Services, COW Bus, Samson High School Music band, Community of teachers, Learning Links in Calgary, Wetaskiwin Credit Union, Statistics Canada, John Maude Financial, My Preferred Book - IFLA Sister Libraries Connection - My Preferred Book, Nutters, First Book Canada, Fish and Wildlife, Ermineskin band newsletter, Prairie Tales, Autoparts, AlbertaWorks, Westlock Public Library, TD Bank, Maskwachis Employment Centre, Facebook page, Ermineskin Social development and recreation department, Ermineskin Mall, Boston Pizza, and ATCO Gas, Toronto Public Library TDSRC Planning Division, Library and Archives Canada, Chinook Arch Regional Library System, and Parkland Regional Library.

**Staffing:** 100% volunteer run

**Location:** First Nations Elementary School Library

**Duration:** May 31 to August 22, 2012

**Time:** Ermineskin school library was open during the summer on Wednesdays from 1 to 4 pm: **3000 books and activity books were distributed from the Ermineskin school library, Walmart and Ermineskin Mall.**

**Timeline:** The four phases for the 11 week program

- Approval from administration & launch (1 week),
- Promotion in schools (4 weeks),
- Run the program (6 weeks with a booster), and
- Program wrap-up (1 week).

## Launch, May 31

- Week 1: May 31 to June 9: Launch

## Promotion in the school, June

- Week 2: June 10-14: Distribution of reading club packages to students, Reading Recommendations by students
- Week 3: June 14-21: Collect resources and ideas from teachers
- Week 4: June 22-29: Prepare for the program
- Week 5: July 2-4: Set up the area for the program

## Program Sessions, July-August

- Week 6, July 4-11: Book brochures and reading reward prizes
- Week 7, July 11th: Bookmarks, collage and friendship envelopes. Endangered animals collage created from brochures and information materials provided by Fish and Wildlife office.
- Week 8, July 18th Booster: 157 participants and five community partners (COW bus, Screening of Prairie Tales and nutritional literacy presentations by Alberta Health Services.)
- Week 9, July 25th: Animal fact folds, family hand tracings, door knobs, and leaf prints. First Book Canada donates books for FN's children
- Week 10, August 15th: Leaf impressions
- Week 11, August 22nd: Wrap-up and first day of school for staff. Clean up day

## After the program

- Thank you's to community partners
- Reading celebrations
- Report and case study distribution

## **Registration Statistics for Wednesday afternoon drop-in sessions at the school library**

- Week 1: 5 students, 4 parents = 9
- Week 2: 16 students, 6 parents = 22
- Week 3: 60 students, 50 preschoolers, 47 parents = 157 (included 5 community partners COW Bus, Ermineskin Daycare, Merv Leibel from Alberta Health Services, Film makers Zoe and Bailey from Prairie Tales and books from First Books Foundation.)
- Week 4: 18 students, 7 parents = 25

**Observations:**

- People who came stayed for two hours.
- Working parents brought their children to library.
- Many visitors from other tribes dropped in.
- Grandparents played an important part in promoting reading.

**Communication:**

- Reading program development and project progress updates  
<http://schoolibraryservices.blogspot.ca/2012/06/t-d-summer-reading-club-progress-update.html>
- Media coverage by the local band newsletter
- Radio and Facebook

**Activity and intensity of use of the library on Week 3 (July 18 Booster):**

- Books donated: 236
- Books distributed: 196
- Volunteer hours: 48 hours
- Number of total participants: 157
- Number of Community Partners: 5 (Centre for Family Literacy Edmonton, Prairie Tales, Alberta Health Services, Ermineskin Daycare, Maskwachis Employment Centre, Ermineskin Mall, and Ermineskin Band Office)
- Number of bookmarks made: 87
- Number of friendship envelopes created: 41
- Number of documentary films viewed: 6
- Number of books read, reading recommendations and book brochures: 63

**Key outcomes:**

1. Promoted reading
2. Provided access to library services; computers and books in community places such as soup kitchen, youth drop-in centre, mall and health centres
3. Created a social opportunity for the community by linking, bridging and bonding with reading
4. Relationship development for staff and stakeholders
5. Leadership skills development
6. Literacy links and capacity creation as the program was run by volunteers

**View pictures at**

<http://aboriginalsummerreading.blogspot.ca>

**Opportunities for the library as a result of the program:**

1. Indigo's Adopt a School program to provide books  
<http://schoolibraryservices.blogspot.ca/2012/11/received-364166-in-indigo-e-gift-cards.html>
2. Home visitation library service with Social and Welfare agencies
3. IODE to provide resources for the breakfast program  
<http://readandfeedthemind.blogspot.ca/>
4. A corporate company to provide BBQ fund raiser and a bus
5. Essential Skills Day celebration at Ermineskin Mall on September 20 at 7:30 am
6. Reading is an essential skill community coffeehouse on September 21 from 3 to 4 pm  
<http://essentialskillreading.blogspot.ca/2012/09/brighstar-says-thank-you-for-giving.html>
7. A possibility winter Reading Program in partnership with the food bank and Ermineskin Mall.
8. Lead in to October as Library Month celebration and Literacy Week

**Accountability and connections plus reading activities and resources generated because of the program:**

Due to the collaborative approach, at the end of 2012, reading program had raised successfully:

- Generated over 55 volunteer hours
- Invested \$5,000 by giving away books and resources
- Fitted 1200 reading minutes time in the life of the FN's children and their families in summer of 2012
- Engaged 50 Canadians to pick up a reading and library cause; and
- Worked with 10+ charitable organizations, corporate institutions, libraries, and local businesses.

**Next steps:**

- Library in a Box service concept testing
- Develop public library services in reserves
- Start reading circles
- Initiate book clubs
- Indigenous storytelling celebrations
- 'How to Read' workshops with parents

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