

Your Literacy Connection Westshore

NEWSLETTER

FALL 2017

“Fall” into Literacy



September is Literacy Month in BC!

September is Literacy Month in BC and September 8 is International Literacy Day (proclaimed by UNESCO in 1966). It's time to spotlight the importance of literacy in all lives. Literacy skills include reading, writing, computers, finances, health, social media and digital devices (smartphones, tablets, laptops, mobile devices etc.). Over 500,000 British Columbians have challenges with literacy (16% of British Columbians are at Level 1 literacy or below.) Due in part to limited literacy skills, 45% of British Columbians aged 16 to 65 have difficulty accomplishing some daily living tasks including filling out a form, shopping, understanding instructions, reading a scale, using information on a graph, creating a budget and calculating dosage for medicine.

Literacy for Life Contest!

Decoda Literacy Solutions sponsors the Literacy is Life Contest. Write about a time you fostered literacy in your community. Get creative. It can be a letter, a poem, a story, a photo, a sketch or a video. Follow this link to submit your story and enter for a chance to win a \$100 Amazon giftcard.

<http://www.decoda.ca/support-us/events/literacy-is-life-homepage/literacy-is-life-letters-contest>

Sock it to Literacy

Buy a pair of purple socks on Blue Sky Clothing's website

<http://www.blueskyclothingco.com> or at one of its nine BC stores. All proceeds from "sock it to literacy" support local literacy programs in British Columbia, helping children and families, youth, adults and seniors improve their quality of life at home, at work and in the community.

Get involved. Do your part for literacy!

Family Literacy: Take 15 minutes a day to unplug from electronic devices and read, write, play games and tell stories together.

Local Programs: Volunteer with a literacy program in your community.

For information on local literacy programs and services visit

<http://www.southislandliteracy.com>

For information on literacy in BC visit

<http://www.decoda.ca/literacyislife/>

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Literacy Tips for Teachers



September 8 is UNESCO's International Literacy Day and the month of September is 'Literacy is Life' month in British Columbia. To honour and celebrate this month, along with the return to school, here are some tips on how to encourage literacy in your schools and in the classroom:

1. Allow time for quiet independent reading in the classroom.
2. Invite guest readers into the classroom to read to your class.
3. Create a reading corner with inviting and comfortable seating and interesting book displays.
4. Start a book club.
5. Invite authors to come to your classroom.
6. Visit the local library.
7. Explore a variety of genres with your class.
8. Read to your students, even in the higher grades. Choose texts that are slightly more difficult to encourage vocabulary development.
9. Decorate your classroom with text-rich eye catching posters.
10. Have a classroom self-serve library where shelves are organized in a student-friendly fashion.

For more tips on how to encourage literacy in the classroom visit: <http://www.decoda.ca>
