

Live and Learn

The Newsletter of the PEI Literacy Alliance



Fall 2013

Photo courtesy of johnsylvester.com



Tom Hilton, in-coming Chair and Lori Johnston, Past Chair at our AGM September 10.

What's inside

PEI Literacy Alliance Board for 2013—2014

PIAAC

Essential Skills for Halloween

Boys Oh Boys

Live and Learn – Fall 2013

Live and Learn

The Newsletter of the PEI Literacy Alliance

Published by the PEI Literacy Alliance.

Edited, written and designed by Catherine O'Bryan, and Amanda Beazley.

We would like to hear from you if you have:

- learners' stories
- creative writing by learners
- articles or news about teaching adults
- upcoming events
- new resources for adult education

Please send your material to:

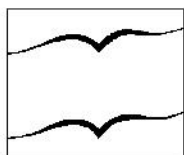
Live and Learn
PEI Literacy Alliance
PO Box 20107
Charlottetown, PE
C1A 9E3

Phone: (902) 368-3620

Fax: (902) 368-3269

E-mail: info@peiliteracy.ca

Web site: www.pei.literacy.ca



**PEI
Literacy
Alliance**

This publication is made possible by funding from the PGI Golf Tournament for Literacy.



Feed kids' minds, not their cavities.
Give brain candy.

Books for Treats

On Thursday, October 31 the PEI Literacy Alliance invites children and their parents to dress in costume and visit our office. We will be distributing new books for children rather than candy.



Spooky Stories

The PEI Literacy Alliance is initiating a new writing challenge for grades K-3.

We are asking classes to collectively write a short story and enter it in our Spooky Stories Challenge.

A bundle of new books will be awarded to the winning classrooms.

2013-2014 Board of Directors for the PEI Literacy Alliance

We held our annual meeting in the Richmond Room of the Charlottetown Hotel on September 10, 2013. The following members were confirmed for the Board.



Trina O'Brien Leggott



Karyn Noble



Lori Johnston, Past Chair



Gerry Seaward



Katherine McQuaid



Judy Bayliss



Cathy Ronohan



Tom Hilton, Chair

We would also like to welcome three new representatives from member organizations:

Association for Newcomers to Canada

Joe Byrne

Native Council of PEI

Carolyn Taylor

Culture PEI

Mark Sandiford



What is PIAAC?

The Programme for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies (PIAAC) is an initiative of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). The OECD provides assessment and benchmarking of foundational skills of working-age adults around the world.

Foundational skills, sometimes referred to as competencies, are important for succeeding in society and participating in today's economy. PIAAC assessed the foundational skills of populations in 24 countries including Canada, in 2012-2013.

Definitions used in the latest OECD PIAAC survey

Literacy

Literacy is defined as the ability to understand, evaluate, use and engage with written texts to participate in society, achieve one's goals, and develop one's knowledge and potential.

Literacy encompasses a range of skills from the decoding of written words and sentences to the comprehension, interpretation, and evaluation of complex texts. It does not, however, involve the production of text (writing).

Information on the skills of adults with low levels of proficiency is provided by an assessment of reading components that covers text vocabulary, sentence comprehension and passage fluency.

Numeracy

Numeracy is defined as the ability to access, use, interpret and communicate mathematical information and ideas in order to engage in and manage the mathematical demands of a range of situations in adult life.

To this end, numeracy involves managing a situation or solving a problem in a real context, by responding to mathematical content and concepts represented in multiple ways.

Problem solving in technology-rich environments

Problem solving in technology-rich environments is defined as the ability to use digital technology, communication tools and

networks to acquire and evaluate information, communicate with others and perform practical tasks.

The assessment focuses on the abilities to solve problems for personal, work and civic purposes by setting up appropriate goals and plans, and accessing and making use of information through computers and computer networks.

PEI Literacy Alliance welcomes PIAAC research

New international study on adult competencies provides insights into performance of Canadians;

Canada's provincial/territorial coalitions are among the key sector partners welcoming the official release of the PIAAC survey.

The PEI Literacy Alliance has been engaged in preparations anticipating the presentation of the new PIAAC study. The literacy sector is strong in its commitment to raising the level of nationwide awareness and action to improve skills, training and lifelong learning for all Canadians.

Outcomes in building Canada's skills include a thriving national economy, profitable businesses, vibrant communities and engaged citizens. The support of government, community organizations, business and private sector partnerships is key to enabling new solutions and building Canada's skills advantage.

PIAAC provides the literacy sector with important insights to work together and raise the opportunity for every Canadian to achieve success in lifelong learning. "Essential skills for working Canadians and job seekers are needed for living a more fully engaged life", says Catherine O'Bryan, executive director of the PEI Literacy Alliance.

Where to find PIAAC reports online:

OECD international results

[OECD Skills Outlook 2013: First Results from the Survey of Adult Skills](#)

[Skilled for Life? Key Findings from the Survey of Adult Skills](#)

[Technical Report of the Survey of Adult Skills \(PIAAC\)](#)

[OECD generated Canada interactive Canada report](#)

Pan-Canadian Report

[Skills in Canada – First Results from the Programme for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies \(PIAAC\)](#)

[PIAAC in Canada – Slide Presentation](#)

Boys Oh Boys

By Amanda Beazley

As Program Coordinator for the PEI Literacy Alliance part of my job is to sort through the book donations that we distribute to children through our Book Bank.



This summer as I was heading to the dumpster with some books that were in really bad shape, I ran into a couple of neighbourhood boys who were out riding their bikes. When they saw me, they pedaled over to ask me why I was putting books in the garbage. The looks on their faces were of shock and disbelief -- perhaps even horror.

I was both surprised and pleased that they were so concerned; after all, these are 10-year-old boys on summer vacation, free from book reports and class assignments. Also, it's been well documented that boys, especially those falling between the ages of 10 and 12, are far less likely than girls to enjoy reading and writing. I knew I had to seize the opportunity.

So, I asked the boys what they liked to read. They told me their preferences.

I hurried into my office and gathered up some really great books for them, unlike the tattered ones they spotted me carting to the dumpster.

The boys were waiting with eager expressions when I handed them the stack. If I had arrived with an armful of candy bars, I doubt the reaction would have been as enthusiastic.

With many thanks and huge smiles they found themselves a seat on the ground and began excitedly leafing through the pages of an oversized animal encyclopaedia. As I walked back to my office I had an overwhelming feeling of gratitude and satisfaction. Boy – or, in this case, boys – do I love my job.

If you know a boy who is a reluctant reader, try these tips to help him cultivate a love of reading:

- Make it his. Ask what subjects he's interested in. Boys tend to enjoy reading texts that are funny, factual and action packed, such as comic books, newspapers, magazines and adventure novels
- Make a list. Write down the subjects he's interested in.
- Take a trip. Go to the library or bookstore and bring your list along, let the boy choose the materials he's interested in reading.
- Make a space. Create a comfortable reading space in your house and encourage regular reading times.

ESSENTIAL SKILLS

Here are the Nine Essential Skills of Halloween

(courtesy of Decoda Literacy Solutions in BC)

The Canadian government recognizes nine essential skills that are used in nearly every occupation and throughout daily life in different ways and at different levels of complexity.

The nine skills are: reading text, document use, numeracy, writing, oral communication, working with others, continuous learning, thinking skills, and computer use. We use these skills every day, even holidays!



Reading Text	Start reading Salem’s Lot. Get too scared to fall asleep, and borrow your teen’s copy of Twilight (then fall asleep).
Document Use	Use a map to plot the most efficient route to the most generous houses in the neighborhood.
Numeracy	Calculate how many minutes you have to work out to burn off the calories in the 14 mini chocolate bars you just ate.
Writing	Write a note to your child’s teacher because she is missing school with a tummy ache from too much candy.
Oral Communication	Try to convince your kid’s that they won’t actually like Caramilk bars, should just give them all to you.
Working With Others	Negotiate with other parents so that you don’t get stuck being the one taking seven 5-year-olds trick-or-treating in the rain.
Continuous Learning	Try to remember what you learned in grade 8 sewing class, google “how to sew”, call your mother and ask how to set a collar, and finally beg your neighbor to finish the Dr. Horrible lab coat your partner <i>had</i> to have for Halloween
Thinking Skills	Plan how to decorate the house with more spider webs, tombstones and pumpkins than your neighbour, without breaking your neck on a ladder.
Computer Use	Google “how to make a meat dress” so you can be Lady Gaga for Halloween.

The Back Page



Thanks to The Guardian and The Journal Pioneer and all the volunteers that helped us raise \$13,500 for our Family Literacy initiatives.

News from NALD—name change

Well we've finally launched our new branding. Please see our release at http://en.copian.ca/themes/nald/pdfs/media_kit/news_release.pdf

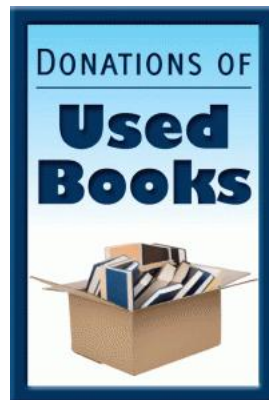
And check out our site at www.copian.ca

Bill Sterling
Chief Executive Officer

A Foal, Five Kittens and Confederation

This intriguing name is the working title for Deirdre Kessler's children's book about Confederation. The Alliance has contracted Deirdre and illustrator Brenda Jones to produce this book as part of the 2014 celebration.

The Alliance was awarded a grant to help us complete the work and honor the 150 anniversary of the first Charlottetown meeting to form Confederation. We expect to launch the book at the Confederation Centre Art Gallery on September 28, 2014.



If you have gently used children's books that you would like to donate to our Book Bank please contact Amanda at 368-1810 or amanda@peiliteracy.ca

\$750 Bursaries for Adult Learners

This bursary is a \$750 grant for adults who are working toward a grade 12 certificate or grade 12 equivalency (GED). Up to ten bursaries will be awarded this year.

To qualify, you must be an adult who:

- **has not completed grade 12 or your GED**
- **has been out of the school system for at least three years**
- **is in or plans to enter an upgrading program in PEI, and**
- **needs financial assistance**

The deadline for applications is October 31, 2013.

Visit <http://bit.ly/1fIJHC4> for details and an application form.