

Campbell River School District
District Literacy Plan

2014

Jointly Submitted By:
Nevenka Fair, Assistant Superintendent, School District 72
Anne Boyd, Literacy Outreach Coordinator, Campbell River Literacy Now

District Context

Campbell River is located on the east coast of central Vancouver Island extending north to Sayward and south to Oyster River. The district also includes the outer islands of Read, Cortes and Quadra.

Serving a population of 5,240 students in 20 schools, the district administers a budget of approximately \$57 million. Although the community population has remained stable, an aging demographic has led to a steady decline in student enrolment.

The district has maintained its focus on gains in student achievement and providing its students with a broad array of high quality programs and services.

Community Demographics

- City of Campbell River population approximately 32,000
- Strathcona Regional District population approximately 43,000 (including City of Campbell River)
- An aboriginal population of 3,655 – increasing.
- 2.5% of homes are non-English speaking
- 84% dual parent families
- Average family income \$42,533.

District Profile

- 15 elementary schools (two single track French Immersion)
- 2 middle schools
- 2 secondary schools
- 1 alternate program
- 2 provincial resource programs (Oasis and Head Start)

The District Literacy Plan: Opening Comments – Spring 2014

Submitted By Nevenka Fair, Assistant Superintendent, School District 72

The District Literacy Plan is a statement of commitment by our school district to work with our community partners to improve literacy in the communities of Campbell River, Sayward, Quadra and Cortes. We feel very fortunate to be part of the collaborative culture that has become well established as a result of our work together. The process to develop a District Literacy Plan enables our district to gain a stronger understanding of the literacy needs and strengths within our communities. The work that has been accomplished over the years has been impressive.

While this plan describes the initiatives and work being done *outside of our schools*, it is important to note that literacy is very much a district focus for all of our K-12 learners within our schools. Therefore this District Literacy Plan is not intended to duplicate information already contained in other documents prepared by our school district that outline this work such as our Achievement Contract and Aboriginal Enhancement Agreement which are posted on the school

district website at www.sd72.bc.ca , as well as the literacy goals found within the Student Success Plans for many of our schools. These can be found on individual school websites.

In addition, all our schools host Ready, Set, Learn and Welcome to Kindergarten events sometime between November and May. The purpose of these events is to help preschoolers and their families become familiar with their neighbourhood school as well as some of things associated with school success, many of which focus on literacy. Our StrongStart programs currently located at Cedar, Georgia Park, Sandowne, Sayward, Quadra, Willow Point, and Oyster River schools provide opportunities for preschool aged children and their parents/caregivers to participate in many literacy experiences in a safe and nurturing environment.

As we look ahead to the 2014-2015 school year, we aim to further expand our relationships with our community partners. We are currently in the process of forming an Early Learning Leadership Team, bringing classroom, district and community partners together. In all of our work together, the district's beliefs about learning will form the foundation of our actions:

- **Respectful relationships are fundamental to successful learning.**
- **All learners vary in their learning styles, prior knowledge and experiences, abilities, and rates of development**
- **Learning is an active process.**
- **Positive learning behaviours and attitudes lead to greater student independence, success, and lifelong learning.**

(To learn more about our learning beliefs visit the [SD72 website](#))

On behalf of the school district, I would like to thank the efforts and dedication of all members of the task force who bring our District Literacy Plan to life.



Campbell River Literacy Now

2013-2014

Submitted by Anne Boyd, Campbell River Literacy Outreach Coordinator

Campbell River Literacy Now is dedicated to providing quality intergenerational experiences to enable all citizens to reach their personal goals.

1. Task Group

a) Who takes part in the Task Group?

Name	Organization
Anne Boyd	Literacy Outreach Coordinator
Kat Eddy	Adult Literacy Outreach
Eleanor Gee	Pacific Care
Donna Bayne	Retired Educator
Tony Bellavia	Dean, North Island College
Bobbi Smith	North Island College ABE Instructor
Joyce McMann	Family Place Coordinator, Trustee School District 72
Darlene Zamluk	Retired Educator
Cheryl Jordan	Success by Six Coordinator
Brenda Wagman	Coordinator – Living Better at Home
Kathy Rae	Sunrise Child Development
Justin Unrau	Vancouver Island Regional Library
Chris Button	Altrusa Club
Bruce Izzard	Daybreak Rotary Literacy Representative
Rene Quintin	Chair, Campbell River Literacy Association
Jo-Anne Windsor	Altrusa Literacy Coordinator
Lynne Stone	North Island Constituency Office Manager
Tom Knutson	Vancouver Island Regional Library
Nevenka Fair	School District 72- Assistant Superintendent

b) How is the work of this group organized?

- The Campbell River Task Group meets four to five times a year.
- Meetings are generally the last Monday of the month unless organizing around a special event.

- The Task Group is always open and we encourage anyone with an interest in furthering literacy in the community to attend when possible.
- Representatives from other groups attend as needed.
- The Literacy Outreach Coordinator attends several other community tables and gathers information that is shared with the Task Group.
- A spring meeting is used to assemble Books for Babies bags.
- The June meeting is dedicated to planning for the next year by reviewing the previous plan and setting priorities based on community input.

2. Community Context

Campbell River is the third largest community on Vancouver Island with a population of 32,000 and a trading area of 60,000. As a result of large projects currently underway the economy has improved over the past year. House prices and rents have increased which has made it more difficult for low income families. The school population has continued to decline which places more stress on the school system.

- Absent dads continues to be an issue identified by the school system as many families adjust to men working away.
- Young families continue to face issues of poverty as they work at one or more low paying jobs in order to make ends meet.
- Daycare is difficult to secure, spaces are at a premium.
- Seniors continue to move to Campbell River and demand services at an increasing rate, a large seniors group has formed.
- Government programs that support families continue to face cuts.
- There is a need for upgrading to allow underemployed local people to qualify for new jobs that will require skills training.
- Teacher job action has impacted some of the work of the task force

3. Community Development and Literacy Collaboration

What are the collaborations that have taken place to support literacy and the work of the task group?

CR Literacy Now has collaborated with:

- City of Campbell River
- School District 72
- Vancouver Island Health Authority
- Success by Six
- Vancouver Island Regional Library
- Family Services
- Supported Child Care
- Early Childhood Learning Table
- Strong Start Centres
- Parks and Recreation

- John Howard Society
- Aboriginal Success by Six
- Aboriginal Head Start Programs
- Laichwiltach Family Life Society
- Campbell River Mirror Newspaper
- Local Businesses: Coho Books, Party Shop
- Daybreak Rotary
- Altrusa Club of Campbell River
- Campbell River Community Literacy Association
- Aids Vancouver Island
- North Island College
- Campbell River Multi-Cultural Society
- Decoda Literacy Solutions
- First Book Canada
- M'kola- BC Housing
- Volunteer Campbell River
- KDC Aboriginal Health
- Strathcona Regional District

Collaborations work well as groups are able to share resources of time and money. Large events become manageable when many groups are involved in the planning and production of events.

The Children's Health Fair is an example of collaboration that allows literacy to reach over 300 families in a single day. Many groups work together to sponsor the Health Fair including: School District 72, Success by Six, Vancouver Island Health Authority, Aboriginal Success By Six, Family Services, Supported Child Care.

City Parks and Recreation offer Literacy Now space at no cost to offer computer classes to seniors. This collaboration results in costs being reduced to CR Literacy, we provide only the instructor and tutors.

Another important collaboration for Literacy Now is with the John Howard Society. They run a program for youth at risk and Literacy Now provides the literacy component. The School District is now working with this group as well to work out school credits for these youth.

Our partnership with the Campbell River Literacy Association is vital to all the programs we offer. Through working together we have expanded the CALP funding stream to include Family and Aboriginal Family Literacy.

4. Goals and Actions for the Past Year

Our Core Goals:

Goal 1: Increase awareness of literacy issues and of services to address these issues in the community with the help of a community literacy coordinator.

Goal 2: Create new programs and provide support for the underserved age groups identified by the CR Literacy Now needs assessment.

a) Things we have accomplished 2013-2014

- Sponsored Family Literacy Week 2014
- Promoted literacy at Health Fairs.
- Sponsored Books for Babies – Prepared 400 bags of books.
- Continued partnership with Campbell River Community Literacy Association and jointly sponsored an adult literacy outreach position.
- Planned and implemented Family Literacy and Aboriginal Family Literacy with Campbell River Community Literacy Association
- Worked with several community groups to provide afterschool care, including homework support, in a low income housing project – Gathering Place.
- Sponsored computer courses for seniors at the library and at the community hall.
- Worked with youth at a John Howard program and offered literacy opportunities to at risk youth – Delaware.
- Worked with the city and the School District to provide summer programs for kids at risk in two sites.
- Provided books to children of young parents at Christmas through Family Services.
- Provided support and advice to the Aboriginal Success by Six working group.
- Provided funds to support a homework support program for ESL students.
- Literacy Outreach Coordinator chairs the Success by Six community table.
- Established a Youth Table to coordinate efforts for youth in the community
- Planned and implemented Family Literacy and Aboriginal Family Literacy with Campbell River Community Literacy Association
- Worked with several community groups to provide afterschool care, including homework support, in a low income housing project – Gathering Place.
- Sponsored computer courses for seniors at the library and at the community hall.
- The Literacy Outreach Coordinator attended many community meetings to take the literacy message to more places, some groups don't have the resources to be part of the task group, such as Aboriginal Infant Development Program, Early Learning Table, Early Learning Working Group, Crave (Aboriginal Youth).
- The Task Group met regularly to support the implementation plan.

b) What actions were taken to reach these? What organizations and groups participated in these actions?

- Our goals and actions were planned and supported at the Task Group.
- The Literacy Outreach Coordinator and Adult Outreach Coordinator were responsible to implement these actions.
- The Literacy Outreach Coordinator met with many other community groups to organize these events.

Family Literacy Week -15 Minutes of Fun, Families Learning Together

- Task Group began planning in October 2013.
- Contact was made with ABC Literacy/Family Literacy Day.
- Task Group members took responsibility for contacting event sponsors.
- Local newspaper developed an insert around Family Literacy that is released the Friday before the event – 4 pages sponsored by local businesses.
- Ads sponsored by: Claire Trevena, MLA, SD72, Campbell River Indian Band, Thrifty Foods, Coastal Eyecare Centres, Coho Books, Campbell River Optometry Centre, H@R Block, Canadian Tire, John Duncan, MP, Sunrise Learning Centre
- Radio stations promoted the events over the week.
- Rotarians Read took place in 56 classes and involved 30 Rotarians on Jan. 21, Rotarians donate books to the library in every school they visit
- Literacy Outreach Coordinator and Adult Literacy Coordinator attended all events.
- Sun. Jan. 26 – Strathcona Gardens Swimming Pool partnered with Literacy Now to sponsor a free family swim, coordinators made contact with 300 people.
- Library sponsored events for all ages on Jan. 27th.
- Co-sponsored Generation Squeeze with Paul Kershaw, 90 community members attended on Jan. 27th to culminate Family Literacy Day
- Books were donated to Children’s Centres with a sticker honouring our sponsors as a thank you



Visiting district Rotary Dignitary participates in Rotarians `Read

Children’s Health Fair

- The Literacy Outreach Coordinator is part of the planning committee for the Children’s Health Fair.
- Coordinators attended the Children’s Health Fair to provide information on literacy to community members.
- 200 families attended the Children’s Health Fair.
- Planning involved Success by Six, School District 72, Family Services, Supported Child Care, Pacific Care (childcare support), and many other community providers who had booths, screening for vision, hearing and speech was provided, families were given lunch.

Books for Babies

- Literacy Now is the major sponsor of Books for Babies in Campbell River.
- Support is provided by Day Break Rotary, \$1000.00, Success by Six, \$1,500. Coastal Community Credit Union, \$2800.
- Task Group members assemble 400 bags with Literacy Now logo, bags contain a high quality board book, a CD (Charlotte Diamond, provided at cost by Hug Bug Music), a DVD from the I Love When We... Series, provided by School District 72, Book Mark, donated by Coastal Eyecare Centres, information about programs for babies in the community, information about Literacy Now and Success by Six, a developmental booklet.
- Bags are assembled, boxed and moved to the Public Health Centre by School District 72 staff.
- Health nurses distribute bags to all new babies at their first visit, nurses have been in-serviced about the importance of early reading.
- Bags are sent to KDC, Aboriginal Health Centre for distribution to Aboriginal babies.



Campbell River Community Literacy Association

- The Literacy Outreach Coordinator is a member of this working board and attends monthly meetings.
- Jointly sponsor an Adult Literacy Coordinator who provides several programs in the community.
- Adult Literacy Coordinator – writes for grants and has successfully received grants from: New Horizons for Seniors, BC Gaming, CALP

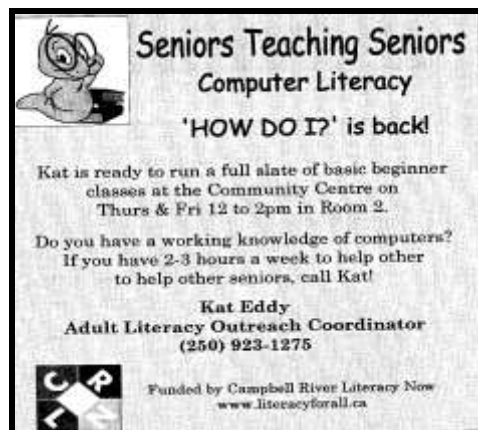
Gathering Place – After School Care

- After school care is provided in a low cost housing project for 30 children three days a week.
- The Literacy Outreach Coordinator manages the programming and Literacy Now Funds provide for the Adult Literacy Coordinator to provide academic support one day a week.

- Laichwiltach Family Life Society provides a Head Start Program four days a week for 12 children.
- Family Services provide trained counsellors once a week.
- Parks and Recreation provide a craft and activity day once a week.
- Literacy Now provides homework and school support once a week.
- Parks and Recreation have a teen program one night a week.
- Food is provided at all programs.

Computer Classes for Seniors

- Free computer classes for seniors are offered by the Adult Literacy Coordinator.
- Campbell River Community Centre offers space for these classes and advertises in their monthly bulletin – four groups of eight people attended a series of eight classes with tutors provided.
- Classes are also offered in the Campbell River Library, clients can meet one on one with the coordinator.
- This program qualified for a Gaming Grant this year due to its success.



Delaware – Program for Street Youth

- Four mornings a week, the John Howard Society provides a safe, caring place for street youth, the program starts with breakfast.
- Adult Literacy Coordinator spends three hours a week at this program offering youth support with portable computers.
- This program is a safe connection point for youth that provides; food, education and literacy supports, life skills, community referrals, and counselling services.
- Youth have applied for social insurance numbers, completed resumes, accessed employment information, resumed studies, and been encouraged to pursue job skills.
- Average attendance is 12-15 youth a day, many move on to the alternate education program at Robron Centre in the afternoon.



Summer Programs in Low Income Areas

- The Literacy Outreach Coordinator works with School District 72 and Parks and Recreation to offer summer camps in high needs areas.
- Programs are offered free and include, a teacher provided by SD72 Summer School, food donated by community stores, recreation provided by Parks and Recreation, field trips including swimming, and books donated by Literacy Now.
- 75 children attend these programs

Young Parents Christmas Party

- Family Services provide a Christmas party for young parents in December.
- Literacy Now provides 70 books as gifts for the children.

ESL Classes for Youth

- Provide funding for a coordinator to offer tutoring to youth who are ESL students in local schools.
- Coordinator trains tutors to offer one-on-one support to students.
- Homework support is offered once a week to students who have parents with English language issues and are unable to help with homework.
- The success of this program has resulted in a Gaming Grant being awarded to continue this program.

Success by Six Community Table

- The Literacy Outreach Coordinator chairs this table that meets monthly to plan and direct the work of the Success by Six coordinator.
- The Literacy Outreach Coordinator is able to connect at this table with: Public Health, Ministry of Children and Families, School District 72, Child Care Society, Family Services, United Way, City Council, Coordinator Campbell River Family Place, Coordinator Aboriginal Success by Six, local business.
- The Literacy Outreach Coordinator and Success by Six coordinator partner to support outlying coordinators in Sayward, Cortes, and Quadra Island.

Task Group Meetings/ Other Meetings

- Our Task Group met in September, October, November, January, February, and June.
- Task Group members receive meeting notices, agendas and minutes via email.
- Emails are sent to keep the group informed of all events between meeting dates.
- Coordinator attends other meetings to keep literacy involved at other community tables.
- Aboriginal Infant Development meets monthly.
- Early Learning Table meets monthly, followed by a working group meeting.
- The Literacy Outreach Coordinator is involved in planning professional development for ELT.
- Attend CRAVE meetings when possible to contribute to Aboriginal Youth table.
- The Literacy Outreach Coordinator meets regularly with senior staff at School District 72.

c) What adjustments were made to the plan?

- We were unable to make any progress on Employment Services in the community, we will continue to work on this issue.
- Our Task Group tries to stay responsive to any emergent needs in the community.
- The Community recognizes our group and calls are received to help with community events when appropriate to our goals

5. Indications of Success

a) How do you know that actions taken are working to support literacy? What impact have the literacy initiatives had?

- **Family Literacy Day** has become a community event that is anticipated by the community.
- Partners step forward and offer support which makes planning much easier.
- This year we reached **over 500 people** with the message that **15 minutes of learning together** at many different activities as a family **supports learning**.
- Our partners also learned that activities other than reading are a part of literacy.
- Our newspaper flyer dedicated to Family Literacy reaches over **20,000 households**, this flyer is completely paid for by advertisers which include business, MLA, MP, School District 72.
- **Children's Health Fair** allowed us to reach hundreds of families with the message that parents strengthen learning and many programs are available to help.
- **Books for Babies** takes the "read early, read often" message to **400 families** a year. Our local health nurses deliver bags to all new families in our region and encourage early reading, children who are introduced to reading early have better vocabularies and **do better in school**.
- **Seniors** have participated in free computer classes. All sessions have been full this past year with a constant waiting list. Seniors complete an eight week series

of lessons which makes them **computer literate** and allows them to **connect with family, friends and the online world.**

- **Thirty children** in a low cost housing project received computer assisted learning in an after school program – **schools** these children attend **report improved learning.**
- The **Delaware** Youth Program supports up to **20** youth a day, coordinated by John Howard Society. This program has now been in operation for three years, grants were received for the coming year. Literacy Now provides youth **help with literacy issues.**
- Literacy Now has helped over **35** youth with such accomplishments as taking **Serving it Right and Food Safe**, obtaining **drivers' licences**, applying for **SIN numbers**, creating **resumes** and forming connections with other supporting agencies.
- Supporting **summer programs** for **at risk kids** prevents summer learning loss. It is a documented fact (work of Richard Allington) that students who **read six books at their reading level** over the summer **maintain** their reading skills over the break. CR Literacy Now has supported the summer programs with coordination and books. More than **75 children** attend these programs over the summer.
- Family Services organizes a dinner **for young parents** at Christmas time. In the past the children were given small toys as gifts. Literacy Now has provided a book for each child for the past four years. The books were very well received, **70 children were provided with a book** of their own. Children who have books in their homes are **more likely to be ready to read at school age.**
- **ESL classes** were offered to students in the evening. **Fifteen** students attended on a regular basis which helped them keep up with regular school work. **Parents** and **teachers** expressed **appreciation for this support.**

6. Challenges

a) What are the difficulties?

- Not having funding that is assured from year to year, lost funding this year was very difficult.
- Lack of funding causes a need for a lot of time to be spent fund raising and grant writing that could be used for programming.
- Keeping the Task Group involved, balancing time at meetings, actions and interests.
- Keeping the momentum around literacy issues going is a constant challenge in a world where there are many needs.
- Trying to get the community at large to recognize the importance of literacy to community development.
- In this community, engaging employment agencies to recognize the need for work place literacy is an ongoing challenge.

b) What would help?

- Consistent and adequate funding.
- The continued support of a well-funded provincial organization.
- Consistent messaging around the importance of literacy from the provincial and federal governments.
- More recognition within the business community of how literacy impacts the whole community.
- Continued messaging to school districts that they are partners in community literacy planning.

7. For the Coming Year

Task Group Input June 7, 2014 Meeting

a) Are there new opportunities, challenges, or issues in your community? How will you respond to those?

As the growth and construction phase continues in Campbell River, housing and rental prices continue to increase. This growth is resulting in difficulties for low income families as there is increased pressure for services such as housing, daycare, and affordable family activities.

The Campbell River Literacy Association, traditionally our community literacy service provider, has lost a significant funding stream in ESLSAP and struggles to meet the needs of Campbell River's ever-growing immigrant community.

Through initial consultation with a community member table focused on youth services it has been highlighted that youth are struggling with employment opportunities, mental health issues related to anxiety and depression, and lack of resources for leisure activities

Working with our community partners we will monitor services for all families and attempt to connect people and needs within the community.

b) What goals, priorities or objectives will you work on in the coming year? What actions are planned against those goals?

Goal 1: Continue with programs that have been successful

Programs and events that have been successful in the past will be continued.

- Family Literacy Day
- Computers for Seniors
- Health Fair participation
- Attending Community Tables
- Books for Babies
- Youth ESL
- Youth at Risk Program – Delaware
- Summer Programming for at risk students
- Books for community events
- Gathering Place support

Goal 2: Continued Support of the Community Youth Table

- With the support of School District 72 and the City of Campbell River Parks and Rec department the community of Campbell River now has a functioning youth table with wide representation.
- We will continue to encourage and facilitate quarterly meetings of this table and provide literacy supports for youth where applicable

Goal 3: Respond to needs in the community as they arise

- The Adult Literacy Outreach Coordinator and the Task Group will stay alert to needs and changes in the community and respond to those needs as appropriate.

c) What will be required to meet the goals and effectively employ actions for the coming year?

- The help and guidance of the task force will be needed to continue and expand the work of Literacy Now.
- Partnerships within the community.
- Funding will need to be secured to continue some programs.
- Provincial funding will be needed to continue to the work of the Literacy Outreach Coordinator.
- Implementation funding is need to help and support the work.
- Support of Decoda Literacy Solutions, the provincial organization continues to be critical to our success.
- Working with other Literacy Outreach Coordinators in our region will strengthen all of our efforts.
- The support of our closest partners is critical; Success by Six, School District 72, Parks and Recreation, Community Literacy Association



MLA Claire Trevena with Rotarian Bruce Izzard at 2014 Books for Babies Work Bee

d) How will you measure the success of action taken to address those goals?

- Actions will be measured through continued participation in community based events
- In the on-going development and strengthening of the Youth Table and added services and opportunities for youth
- By number of participants in established programs and additional services that focus on early education for lower income families
- Providing resources to community groups that service high risk families
- Participation in other community tables to remain relevant and responsive to community needs as they arise

QUADRA ISLAND LITERACY

2013-2014

Submitted by, Robin Beaton, Quadra Island Literacy Coordinator

Reflections on the current year:

1) Task group:

a. The members of the core task group who meet regularly include the following:

Name	Organization
Robin Beaton	Literacy Outreach Coordinator
Susan Wilson	SD 72 Board Trustee
Dee McPhee	Director - Quadra Children's Centre
Don Kretlow	Principal - Quadra Elementary
Bridget Walshe	Learning Assistant Teacher
Marni McMahan	Kindergarten Teacher
Karen Abercrombie	Educational Assistant
Angela Mac Donald	Teacher
Mia Frishholz	Teacher-Retired
Heather Kellerhals-Stewart	Writer

b. How is the work of this group organized?:

I organize the task group meetings, the agenda is set, then plans and initiatives are discussed at the meeting. I consult with various community members at large to gather further information for specific projects and programs and bring information back to the group for decision-making. Task group members assist at events and support programs when they can.

2) Community context:

Increased ferry fares and a decrease in ferry service affect everyone living on Quadra. There are families choosing to move to Campbell River because of rising transportation costs. Campbell River is experiencing an increase in construction projects and people are moving there for jobs. Low cost housing is at a premium in Campbell River and rent on Quadra has become relatively inexpensive. In the past year, a significant number of families and children in need of more support services have moved here.

Self-employment and resourceful living is common on the island. There is a population of people over 55 who are active volunteers with various groups in the community.

3) Community development and literacy collaboration:

With the support of **Success by 6**, we held two presentations and facilitated discussion evenings on Barbara Coloroso's Winning at Parenting at **Quadra Elementary**. Many parents, grandparents and caregivers attended. We collaborated with **Quadra PAC** to host a book study group on parenting in the Literacy Centre. We provided two copies of the book *The Bullied, The Bully and the Bystander* by Barbara Coloroso.

4) Goals and actions for the past year:

Goal One: Strengthening the foundations of the Quadra Literacy Action Plan to ensure that the necessary resources, connections and communications are in place for the Plan's sustainability and vitality.

The Quadra Literacy task group has met six times this year to plan and evaluate programs, projects and events. The task group offers a broad representation of community members interested in promoting literacy.

Goal Two: Literacy skills and services for adults

We have volunteer tutors who work with individuals on literacy needs. This year we have three tutors working with adults learning English. These tutors and tutees meet regularly in the Quadra Literacy Centre at Quadra Elementary and occasionally at various events in the community.

Tutors also meet with people in the Quadra library and in peoples' homes to work on a variety of digital literacy learning needs and interests.

Goal Three: Support for early learning and literacy for children and families

Quadra Literacy Kits (QLitKits), available to parents with young children, circulate through the **Quadra Children's Centre** and the **We Wai Kai Child Care Centre**. Over the past year, **eleven families** have used the kits, borrowing kits **fifty times**.

Sexual Health Resource Kit: This is a resource for parents to share with their children. The kit includes a range of books to share with preschoolers through to teens. There are DVDs by Meg Hickling, RN and Sexual Health Educator, that have specific presentations for parents, primary, intermediate and teenage children.

Our annual **Family Literacy Day** is a popular event, attended by families with young children, the **Child Care Centres** and **Quadra Elementary** students and parents. Participation of representatives from **Emergency Responders, Quadra Quilters, Theatre Quadra, Sing for Joy, the Recreation Society** and a variety of committed volunteers continue to make this event a community success.

Quadra Literacy funded an early childcare educator from **Quadra Children's Centre** to provide an **educational enrichment activity** twice a month at **Parents and Tots**.

Quadra Literacy provided the rent for **Parents and Tots**, two sessions a week at the Community Centre

5) Indications of success:

- a. **Individual ESL tutoring** continues to be important. One young woman has worked with tutors for the past year. Her young child now attends Strong Start with his father while she studies with a tutor at the Literacy Centre. She looks forward to learning English to get her driver's license and work in the community.

6) Challenges:

a) What are the difficulties?

As there is no public transportation on Quadra Island some parents are unable to bring their children to programs like Parents and Tots or events like Family Literacy Day. Car-pooling isn't always an option because there isn't room for the child car seats required.

b) What would help?

We are considering offering transportation to Family Literacy Day next year.

7) For the coming year:

- a. **Are there new opportunities, challenges or issues in your community? How will you respond to these?**

Challenges: Unfortunately, Quadra Literacy no longer has the funds to rent the community centre for **Parents and Tots** in the coming year. This cost will fall on parents and there is a concern that some will not be able to afford this educational, social and physically active, play based opportunity for their child. Adequate funding would mean this growing population of families who need more social and educational support, could freely participate in activities like Parents and Tots.

New opportunities: Quadra Circle – Quadra Literacy: In May, **Quadra Circle** began to share the Literacy Centre. This group "over 55" who meet together for Fun, Education and Service, are dedicated to improving local conditions for seniors. They host a healthy lunch by donation for seniors once a week with an exercise class and a speaker on topics of concern. We look forward to collaborating with Quadra Circle on a

number of projects in the coming year. This may include buddy reading and shared activities with some of the children in the school and creating digital stories.

b. What goals, priorities or objectives will you work on in the coming year? What actions are planned against those goals?

Apply for a New Horizons Grant for Seniors for a digital stories workshop. This workshop will teach a group of computer literate/capable seniors to write and produce a personal digital story. Those seniors would then work individually with other seniors and/or elementary school children to create digital stories.

Apply for a SUCCESS BY 6 Grant to offer a series of presentation/webinar/facilitated discussion evenings for parents and caregivers with childcare provided. Education professionals in our community have identified **self-regulation** as an area of concern for young children and families. Parents have identified **anxiety** as an area of concern for their children.

Session One: "What is Self Regulation and How To Help a Child to Learn Self Regulation"
Facilitated by Shayla Johnson, Occupational Therapist with SD 72

Session Two: "Making Sense of Anxiety in Children & Youth"
Presented by **Dr. Gordon Neufeld**. Dr Neufeld's perspective will be delivered via video. The discussion will be facilitated by Colleen Clark, Parent in Resident with F.O.R.C.E.

Follow Up: Book Study Group on Dr. Gordon Neufeld's book

"Hold On to Your Kids: Why Parents Need to Matter More Than Peers"

Maintain:

- ESL tutoring support with volunteer tutors
- Seasonal rotation of books for children and families at the two medical clinics, the dental clinic and the chiropractic clinic
- Quadra Literacy Kit circulation through Quadra Children's Centre and the We Wai Kai Child Care Centre
- Literacy Task Group meetings
- Family Literacy Day event on January 26
- Bi-monthly educational enrichment for Parents and Tots
- Maintain a digital resources library for seniors

c. What will be required to meet those goals and effectively employ actions for the coming year?

What is required is adequate funding for grass roots community literacy programs and a Literacy Outreach Coordinator to research, stimulate, and organize events and programs to achieve the goals and employ actions.

d. How will you measure the success of actions taken to address those goals?

We will measure the success of actions, first, by attendance at the various events and programs. We will distribute an evaluation/feedback form at the presentation/discussion evenings.

Literacy Now



Cortes Island Literacy Plan

2013 - 2014

Submitted by Susanna Bonner – Cortes LOC

Reflections on the current year:

1) Task group:

a. Who takes part in the task group?

The Cortes Island Literacy Now Task Group (TG) currently has seven regular members and two adjunct members. The adjunct members like to be kept on the regular TG email list and sometimes have input and feedback, but cannot attend most meetings. These numbers are greater than last year's.

Current Task Group Members:

- Ester Strijbos, Cortes Community WiFi Society
- Mark Vonesch, Reel Youth
- Corrine Corry, Cortes resident and volunteer grant writer
- Brent Wilken, Cortes Elementary / Jr. Secondary School Principal
- Blanca Scanlon-Sharpe, Teen Scene Youth Worker (Cortes Community Health Assc.)
- Odette Auger, Family Support Coordinator (Cortes Community Health Assc.)
- Susanna Bonner, Literacy Outreach Coordinator

Adjunct Task Group Members:

- Marilyn Fitzmaurice, Cortes Community Health Association
- Katie Babb, community member

b. How is the work of this group organized?

The Cortes Task Group meets approximately four times per year to work collectively on projects, plans, issues, budgeting, and anything else of relevance. The TG also shares feedback with the LOC throughout the year, via email and phone.

In previous years, the TG chose a single focus for the year. This was with an aim to not spread financial resources too thin in a number of varying directions, given that a large number of literacy-related issues could be addressed.

This year the TG has chosen to not narrow down a particular focus for the year, such as last year's Youth focus. Instead, with uncertain funding ahead, it has been decided to aim for replicating successful programming from previous years, in an effort to not add unnecessary administrative time to the budget.



Reconciliation Tiles, at the Crafternoons Program

2) Community Context:

- a. Describe your community in one or two short paragraphs (e.g. size, economy, demographics, and trends). Are there any major changes that have taken place over the last year that impact the ability of organizations to support literacy development – positive or negative?**

Cortes Island is a rural, coastal community with a population of about 1,000 humans in Winter months, with a somewhat larger number during tourist season in Summer. The tourists also bring with them the relied-upon influx of money into the economy, and many of the local businesses cater to the tourists more than the year-round residents.

The financial steward for Cortes Literacy Now changed this year from the Cortes WiFi Society to the Cortes Elementary / Jr. Secondary School, which is part of School District 72. This is an exciting collaboration with the school, and one that the last two LOCs on Cortes had been working toward. It means that a closer connection with the school children and Cortes families will be available in joint literacy programming to come.

The Vancouver Island Regional Library (VIRL) has reopened a local branch on Cortes, now housed at Linnaea Farm. The location, while quite central to all three community areas on the island, is not within any of the three community hubs. This makes for the library branch feeling somewhat empty, compared with what it used to feel like when the old branch was located in downtown Manson's Landing. It is wonderful that a branch is open on Cortes again, however, and the LOC and VIRL representatives are interested in strengthening ties and finding opportunities to connect our literacy interests and resources, to better benefit the community.

3) Community development and literacy collaboration:

a. Provide an example of an important collaboration that has taken place to support literacy and the work of the task group.

The Cortes Community Health Association and Cortes Literacy Now have partnered together to provide funding, administrative support, and program development for the very successful after-school Crafternoons program. A solid core of between 6 and 15 children (average 8 years old), with a norm of 10 in attendance, show up each week to listen to a story read aloud, and then discuss and make crafts and art based on the story.

Selections have included a residential school story (with the goal of empathy), an adventure story (mapmaking, character development, drawing), a cedar weaving workshop, a Dr. Seuss story with the theme of We Are All Connected (with a discussion and sharing from youth with autism), and so on.



You Are Stardust by Elin Kelsey, read aloud during the Crafternoons program, which inspired the *You Are Stardust Diorama*, by S, age 8, shown on right.

4) Goals and Actions for the Past Year:

a. What priorities, goals or objectives have you addressed in the past year?

During the past year, the Cortes Literacy Now Task Group has identified the need for a mandate, over and above the Vision Statement identified in the original 2009 Cortes Literacy Plan. Creating a mandate was identified as a need for successful grant applications and for clarification of our purpose for the community.

The Task Group came to the following as a mandate:

Cortes Literacy Now provides enrichment programs that further personal, community and literacy development. We address essential life skills and promote lifelong learning on our rural island, while striving to meet the particular needs of the ever-changing Cortes community. We are proud to collaborate with other local organizations to provide diverse programming to engage the residents of Cortes Island.



The Crows by N, age 12, made during the Crafternoons program

The three main goals identified in last year's Community Literacy Report have been met and are ongoing:

- Literacy awareness in the community has definitely expanded via dedicated community outreach efforts, and member numbers of the Task Group did grow. The number of people connected via Facebook and offering suggestions and ideas to the LOC has also grown. Attendance of programs has also increased.
- The focus on Youth Literacy continued through August 2013, and some further grant money has been secured, increasing the amount and frequency of youth literacy programming available.
- We have been able to continue to offer literacy support to everyone on Cortes, despite the previous Youth focus.

b. What actions were taken to reach these? What organizations and groups participated in these actions?

All of the actions identified in last year's Community Literacy Plan were met and/or are ongoing, including:

- Hosting a table at both Cortes Day and Sandcastle Day, with community outreach and interaction as the goal. We also had an outreach table again and story times at the Cortes Wellness Fair.
- Connecting with VIRL in order to link VIRL and Cortes Literacy Now (ongoing as the local branch is still a new addition to the island)
- Ongoing grant writing, as well as two grants having been awarded in the past year
- Further connections with Quadra Island's LOC to cross-promote our island literacy events, including a Canada Council for the Arts grant applied for in conjunction with the Quadra, Campbell River, and Gold River community literacy organizations
- Adult Literacy tutoring supported as an available option for Cortes residents, along with two computers given to families that didn't have one
- Helped fund the BIG Grant Database subscription renewal, so Cortes organizations can easily search for available grants

In addition to those actions, we also funded, created, and/or supported the following programs, some of which were identified as priorities last year. All programs with an asterisk * were offered on a free/by donation basis. This is important in our community, where many families and individuals are living on very low incomes.



Cortes Day Literacy Now table, with a literacy game for children

- Three adult writing workshops offered (Writing Prompts *, Poetry *, and Memoir Writing)
- 2013 Young Writer's Prize creative writing contest held and two \$100 cash prizes awarded *, with 2014's contest just starting *
- Funded an off-island trip for local teens to Strathcona Park, with a focus on navigational literacy (in partnership with CCHA) *
- Skills for Effective Grassroots Groups Workshop, provided by PeerNet BC with a grant from Learning Initiatives for Rural and Northern BC *
- How to Read Music Workshop Series (Rhythm, Voice / Sight-singing, Guitar, Keyboard / Piano) *
- Funded the additional "Crafternoons" day for the CCHA Kids in Action program – this will also run this coming year *
- Funded the Simplicity Parenting Discussion Group, in partnership with CCHA *
- Contributed to the funding of the Cortes WiFi Society's digital literacy programs, which are provided to the public for a very low cost

c) What adjustments were made to the plan? Were there new opportunities or were there changes that did not allow for some actions to be taken?

Our plan actually remained quite intact, and was able to be executed as we expected, including all of our planned actions and goals, and more than we had expected to have resources for. The Task Group was great and supportive, as was the community. Our biggest new opportunity

is with the School as our new financial steward, though the relationship is still so new we have yet to take advantage of the possible connections. Because the summer vacation for the school calendar is almost upon us, we are planning to create some shared programming and fundraisers for the Fall/Winter season, when school is back in session.

5) Indications of success:

a. How do you know that actions taken are working to support literacy? What impact have the literacy initiatives had? It is important to include examples to illustrate the impact.

- We have had greater numbers attending all of our programming, both combined and in individual programs, than the previous year
- We've continued to receive great feedback on this past year's programming, including, "These were the best facilitators of any workshop I've ever been to"
- The interest in joining the Literacy Task Group has grown, and the Task Group itself has almost doubled
- We have been able to address the needs of offering adult programming, while continuing to support and offer Youth programming
- Cross-partnerships with other local and provincial organizations have expanded, and we have grown in the number of partnerships we've engaged in during this last year

6) Challenges:

a. What are the difficulties?

Having met the difficulties and challenges of the past few years, and successfully overcome those obstacles, our greatest difficulty now lies with the uncertainty of continued provincial funding of literacy coordination. Without that continued support, we would have a much more difficult time offering our programming to the community.

We have succeeded in obtaining some grants, and plan to keep applying for and receiving more granted funds. However, even with granted funds, it is often the case that fewer funds are received, if any, than are requested. The granted funds are intended in most cases for the actual program costs, which could include some administrative time, but does not include the ongoing coordination support that keeps the overall program going, in between specific projects.

b. What would help?

Sustained coordination funding at a provincial level would be hugely helpful, not just for the coming year, but for a period into the future that would allow for some expected stability. This would allow our program and similar programs across BC to focus much more on the delivery of program content and encouraging participant involvement and learning, instead of necessitating a focus on short-term plans to stay afloat until the next funding can be found.

The continued uncertainty regarding the literacy coordination funding at a provincial level has taken a toll on the community, with many people concerned that the programs Cortes Literacy Now has been providing will no longer be able to run. Cortes Literacy Now has recently regained wide community recognition, interest, acceptance, and support, after the LOC at the helm has switched three times since its inception in 2009/10. Now that we have stable coordination, stable coordination funding would be a huge boon to programming and the community on Cortes.

7) For the coming year:

a) Are there new opportunities, challenges or issues in your community? How will you respond to those?

The Coastal Community Credit Union, the only financial institution on Cortes, has recently announced it is closing the Cortes location, effective in the height of the tourist season this year. This, combined with increased ferry costs, is leaving the community and local businesses reeling and wondering how these changes will effect Cortes over the coming years. It is a major blow, with as-yet-unknown consequences.

One possible response to this is to start a Hour Bank, as has been done in many other communities across the globe. This would facilitate a promotion of skills-exchange, which makes up a part of the financial economy on the island. The Hour Bank idea has been discussed at a local level, not specific to Literacy Now, but is something we could possibly support or take on the founding of, as a skills-exchange is very related to island literacy.

A Forestry Co-Op Board, made up of members of the Klahoose First Nation and the rest of the Cortes community, has been granted a Community Forestry from the province after 22 years and a finally-successful meeting of minds and efforts on the island. This partnership and a series of community meals have had the effect of helping the island to feel somewhat less of a divide between Klahoose and the settler community.

The Literacy Task Group hopes to partner with Klahoose later this year, with fundraising efforts that would then be given to Klahoose First Nation, if there is interest, for Klahoose-directed literacy programming for the whole community.

b. What goals, priorities or objectives will you work on in the coming year? What actions are planned against those goals?

The two major goals our Task Group has identified for the coming year are:

- Continue and expand upon successful programming from last year, so our limited funds are going towards what we know works, instead of brand new initiatives that require more coordination time and wages.
- Focus on a few fundraisers for the Fall/Winter, so that we have more stability with our finances, no matter what else comes our way. This will in turn give the community a chance to volunteer, support, and engage with Cortes Literacy Now, expanding other possibilities and connections for coming years.



Cedar Rose, by B, age 11, made after hearing the *Mouse Woman* story in the Crafternoons program

The actions planned against those goals include:

- Build relationships with businesses, organizations, and individuals willing to donate their time and/or resources in support of the Literacy Now fundraising efforts
- Strengthen ties, connections, and partnership opportunities with VIRL, the local Cortes School, and Klahoose First Nation, both for programming efforts and potential joint fundraising efforts
- Executing renewed programming with last year's programming as the springboard and inspiration. An example of this would include the Crafternoons program. It will continue to run next year, as is, but it has also inspired new programming this year, in partnership with Friends of Cortes Island (FOCI) Society, and funded in part by a grant from the Campbell River Community Foundation. The new programming will be similar to Crafternoons, including a shared instructor, but the new focus will promote ecoliteracy and knowledge of the oceans and the local landbase. Children will be taken to various Cortes foreshore locations (part of the FOCI foreshore monitoring project) and will learn about the ocean and beaches, with an opportunity for an art project and/or science project on the field trip. While this will be brand-new programming, it builds upon the strengths of two existing programs, and will be easier to implement because of the built-in knowledge and experience that the instructors and administrators bring to the program based on similar programs.

c. What will be required to meet those goals and effectively employ actions for the coming year?

- Continuing to apply for grants, and receive some of the grants, will be important for our funding the programs planned, whether or not provincial funding comes through.
- Continued support from the Task Group, the Cortes School as our financial steward, and the Cortes community will be vital.

- Support from Decoda as the regional representative will continue to be very useful, with training and networking opportunities coming available throughout the year, as well as funding support.

How will you measure the success of actions taken to address those goals?

The actions will be successful if we continue to receive good feedback, hear moving stories of how our programming effects the community, and continue to receive ideas and requests for more programming.

Additionally, if we have raised some financial security for the following year in 2015-16, then this coming 2014-15 year will feel very successful.

If we can say again in next year's report that all of our goals were met, our objectives obtained, and more than we had expected to achieve was achieved, then next year will be as successful as this one was.



Sayward Literacy Now 2013-2014
 Submitted by Ann Vansnick – Sayward LOC

1. Task Group

a) Who takes part in the task group?

Task Group:

Name	Organization
Ann Vansnick	<i>Literacy Outreach Coordinator</i>
Laura Thiessen	<i>Success by 6/ Family Connections</i>
Barb Bowbrick	School Board Trustee
Anne Boyd	<i>Literacy Outreach Coordinator</i>
Cheryl Jordan	<i>Success by 6 Campbell River</i>
Jan Bakker	Computer Teacher
Richard Glover	Private citizen/computer class student
Nancy Bakker	Private citizen /Vancouver Island Regional Library
Gerry Mitchell	Private citizen/computer class student
Hugh Knudson	Private citizen/computer class student
Karen Knudson	Private citizen/computer class student
Tony Friend	Private citizen/computer class student/NIEFS client
Memory Jerome	Friends of the Kelsey Centre
Steve Jewell	Emergency Preparedness Coordinator
Collette Mooney	Private citizen/computer class student
Barry Hall	NIEFS
Donna Neuman	Private Citizen/computer class student
Larry Pickering	Private Citizen/computer class student
Al Harris	Private Citizen/computer class student

b) How is the work of this group organized?

The Sayward Task Group tries to meet 1 to 3 times a year. The Task Group is open to our whole community. It is hard to fit into everyone's schedule but we do our best to make it accessible to all. We advertise meetings in our local newsletter, through email and word of mouth. We work together as a group.

2. Community Context

Sayward has been fairly stable in the past year. As housing costs are low, the population of seniors and low income families continues to grow within our community. There are not many jobs in Sayward and courses or other sources of help are an hours drive away in Campbell River. Cuts to government programs have resulted in less money in all organizations to support the development of literacy.

3. Community Development and Literacy Collaboration:

Provide an example of an important collaborations that have taken place to support literacy and the work of the task group.

Sayward Literacy Now has collaborated with:

- School District 72
- Success by Six CR
- Success by Six/Family Connections Sayward
- Vancouver Island Regional Library
- Strong Start Centre
- Campbell River Literacy Now
- Marine Harvest Canada
- Village of Sayward
- SCRA
- Fisherboy
- Salmon River Inn Hotel
- Kelsey Rec. Centre
- Adult Literacy Outreach Campbell River
- NIEFS
- Canada Post
- Sayward Health Clinic
- Sayward PAC
- Friends of the Kelsey Centre

What makes collaborations work well?

Being a small community working together means a lot. Our community benefits from it in all different ways. Groups are able to share resources of time and money. Helping each other is big.

4. Goals and Actions for the Past Year

a) Goals and Priorities

- Continued computer classes for adults/Seniors
- Donated books for students to take home at different times throughout the year.
- Provided book bags for the whole family
- Promoted Literacy in our community
- Gave books as prizes through the PAC
- Provided support and advice to the Sayward Success by Six
- The task group met regularly to advise and support the plan implementation
- partnered with other community groups/businesses to maximize resources
- Supported family karaoke
- Worked with SD72 on adult education

b) Actions

- Kept computer classes up and running for the adults/seniors
- Created Family book bags
- Offered PAL and CORE courses
- Offered Family Karaoke
- Organized a Spring break activity
- Organized an Easter activity
- Participated in Earth Day

c) Adjustments

We were able to stay on track with our plan. Teens are the hard ones to reach. We had teens out helping with other literacy activities instead of having specific events for them. This has been successful.

5) Indications of Success:

a) How do you know that actions taken are working to support literacy? What impact have the literacy initiatives had?

- Computer Classes-They are well attended. Average age of users is about 70. We have offered classes on certain subjects and some classes are determined by the participants. The smiling faces of clients leaving classes and returning for future classes indicates success. We offer home visits also and that has helped many out.
- Family Book Bags- Working with Family Connections/Success by Six we created bags together. They are placed at certain businesses for anyone to use. We are hoping they get well used in our community. Also a tote full of books for families has been put together to be at our local library and can be signed out for use at home. Many of our bags have disappeared so hoping they went to a good home.

- PAL and CORE courses have been fully booked with a waiting list. This will be offered for third time in our community.

6. Challenges:

a) What are the difficulties?

- Not having consistent funding
- Putting on events/classes that don't cost money
- Keeping the momentum going
- Not knowing if we are going to be able to continue our goals from year to year
- Low number of teens/children in our community

b) What would help?

- Having awareness within the business community of how literacy impacts our whole community
- The continued message to School Districts that they are partners in community literacy planning
- Consistent and assured funding

For the coming year:

a) Are there new opportunities, challenges, or issues in your community? How will you respond to those?

Sayward hasn't had many changes in the last year. More seniors and low income families have moved in. Very few jobs are here in our community. More programs could be brought up to help our seniors in different areas from filling in forms, to getting help when needed. Offer more programs on resumes, etc for all ages.. Have different groups put it together including Sayward Literacy Now. Still working on getting adult education in our class for adults.

b) What goals, priorities or objectives will you work on in the coming year? What actions are planned against those goals?

Programs that have proved successful will be continued, computer classes for adults/seniors, family book bags, a community Health Fair. We will also look for opportunities to bring different courses to our community.

The Task Group and the LOC will watch for needs and changes in the community and meet needs as they arise.

c) What will be required to meet the goals and effectively employ actions for the coming year?

The help and guidance of the task force will be needed to continue and expand the work of Literacy Now.

Partnerships will develop as needs arise.

Funding will need to be secured to continue some programs. Business support will be needed. Support of the provincial organization will continue to be critical to our success.

d) How will you measure the success of actions taken to address those goals?

Success will be measured by tracking attendance at events and programs. Participation in the task force and classes will also be monitored.