

The Updater

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Your CESBA Literacy Committee

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Lakehead DSB

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Waterloo Region DSB

Secretary, Lianne Calvert
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Bev Brandenburg
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Karen Burwell
Durham DSB

Pat Duern
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Maria Makrakis
Ottawa-Carlton CDSB

Lorri Sauve
Waterloo CDSB

From the Literacy Office

By Donna Zener

Linda DePiero, Chair of the Literacy Committee and I recently attended and Ontario Literacy Coalition Meeting. We represent school board issues at that organization. I want to inform you about some of the issues that were discussed there and also to pass on important information about activities or events.

OLC Survey

The Ontario Literacy Coalition has undertaken an organizational review conducted by external consultants from SMC, an Ottawa based company.

You will be receiving a survey (or you may have already received it). I urge you to spend some time to answer and return it. The OLC is our anglophone voice to the Ministry and we want it to truly speak for all LBS programs in all sectors. The structure of the OLC will determine how effec-

tively it can represent all of our needs.

OLC Communication Strategy Report

You should have also received from me an e-mail containing the Communication Strategy that the Ontario Literacy Coalition has sent to MTCU on behalf of all Anglophone LBS deliverers.

At this point they know that the cost of mounting that campaign is above what the Ministry will provide and they are seeking funding from other sources. Please let me know if you did not receive a copy of that report and I will re-send it to you.

Workplace Strategy

Robert Dupuis from MTCU gave a presenta-

tion about the Ministry's new strategy for workplace. The announcement is available on the MTCU discussion of AlphaCom.

It is important to know that they will not be paying for training in the workplace! They are looking for projects that raise awareness about the importance of a literate workforce and establish linkages in communities.

Robert informed us that there will be a question on the new business plans asking about steps you will take in your communities to form links with business. It will also be a discussion for your LLC.

If you have any questions about any of the above, please send me an e-mail at dzener@cesba.on.ca or phone me at the CESBA office.

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Projects Co-ordinator Report

Seamless Transition

Thank you for your enthusiastic support of CESBA's project for 2000-2001 entitled "Seamless Transition to More Learning." The reference group for this project includes the following people: Geraldine Waud, Trudy Lothian, Angie Cunningham, Linda DePiero, Barkley Hawkins, Ron Ellis, Marian Wragge, and Bev Brandenburg.

This group truly reflects the diversity that exists in continuing education in Ontario. Project consultant, Mel MacLeod, has identified sites that he will visit and has begun his research.

Clear as MUD!!

CESBA's project entitled "Professional Development for Learning Outcomes Demonstration" is right on track! Jane Barber is the project coordinator and together with Lianne Calvert and Lisa Hagedorn has developed an approach to as-

sist instructors in making and using learning demonstrations called MUD-Works. The workshops will give instructors hands-on tools that are simple and useful. Contact Jane at (416) 247-8710, jbarber-lets@home.com if your area code is 416, 519 or 905. If your area code is 613, 705 or 807, contact Lianne at (613) 239-5951 or lianne_calvert@ocdsb.edu.on.ca to book your date for training.



Announcements

Project \$\$\$ Available

ABC Canada and Honda Canada have once again partnered to provide funding for Family Literacy activities across Canada. The information will be distributed by the OLC sometime in December. Each project is for \$15 000, so watch for the proposal call.

Project Requests

Many projects have been funded by NLS and MTCU that require input from the field. You will be receiving requests from a variety of different organisations.

Sometimes the organizations come to CESBA first and ask for our support. If they do we try to accommodate their requests, but this fall it seemed like every few days another request came in for a "school board rep."

You should know that CESBA will not release your names or addresses without your permission. Usually we agree to pass on the information in a group e-mail. It is then up to you or your practitioners to respond if you are interested. Many of these projects are very valuable to the literacy field and would benefit from a school board perspective.

If you choose to participate

in any of these projects you may do so in two ways. You can provide your expertise from a personal perspective or you can agree to represent school boards as a group.

If you choose the latter, then the request has probably come from CESBA and you will receive our "Protocol" hand-out. It generally requires some consultation with other school board colleagues, so that you can give broad based input.

Either way, we know that there is a lot of experience and knowledge in school board programs that many people will benefit from.



School Board Projects

Waterloo Catholic

Lorri Sauve is just finishing a technology literacy project for youth, adults, and seniors. Participants were tested prior to taking a technology course and then retested after the course. The manual is just being completed. If you want more information about this project you can contact:

Lorri.Sauve@wcdsb.edu.on.ca

Lakehead

Linda DePiero (Chair of our CESBA Literacy Committee) is currently working on 2 projects funded by MTCU.

Voice-Activated Computer Literacy Project

The Balmoral Centre for Adult studies is presently researching voice activated computer software and its

usefulness in delivering literacy programming.

The Centre is completing the first phase of the project using Dragon Dictate Software. To date the team has created five reading passages corresponding to the five LO Outcomes. The team is in the process of mapping out the levels of the progressive materials. A workshop will be presented at the December CESBA Conference.

School board Technology Literacy Tracking System

The goals of this project include: creating a software tracking system for LBS that complies with the Human Rights legislation; creating a software tracking system that is user friendly and can be implemented at the "source position"; to

create a software tracking system that can generate program, statistical and financial reports as required by the ministry.

This project is near completion and a report a manual will be available next year.

If you want to know more about these projects you can contact:

LDEPIERO@lhbe.edu.on.ca

The school board managers listed above will be at the LBS Day in December and will be staying for the CESBA Conference. They will be sharing information at our networking meeting that takes place at 9:30 on Thursday December 7,2000. It's going to be a busy and informative day-please join us!!

There's Good News and Bad News

Dave Neumann has been on a leave of absence from his position as CESBA's LBS Coordinator since September, to pursue his dream of becoming Brantford's mayor.

Unfortunately, he was not successful in that quest during the election that took place on November 13.

We all congratulate him on striving to make a difference in his community and running such an ethical and energetic campaign.

The good news is that Dave plans to return to his position with CESBA.

He has made a wonderful contribution to our development as the school board

voice for literacy in our province.

We look forward to his leadership and enthusiasm once again.

Have you reserved your space for LBS Day?

See page 4

LBS Day

By now you should have received your invitation to the LBS Day at the Colony Hotel on December 6, 2000.

You will see that we have arranged for our two project consultants to update you about their current activities.

You will be offered PD training for your staff through the demonstrations project.

Have you arranged your workshop yet?

We also have arranged for a lunchtime speaker this year for the first time. Her name is Marsha Skrypuch and she is an author and inventor. She also struggled with learning to read when she entered school.

Marsha is a fascinating person to listen to and she speaks with unusual insight into a topic that is close to our hearts as managers of literacy programs.

What is Alpha Route anyway?

Pauline McNaughton is joining us on December 6 for a brief presentation and

information sharing session concerning the newly launched Alpha Route.

Last but certainly not least, Sandie Birkhead-Kirk, Senior Manager, Literacy and Basic Skills Program will join us to present any new MTCU initiatives and answer questions that we might have as School Board Managers.

New Website

If you haven't checked you AlphaCom discussions lately, you may not know that there is a new website for LBS Demonstrations. All of the demonstrations from our school board sector project are posted there.

It is being run by Mike Kelly whom many of you know from the old days of the AlphaCom project at George Brown College. The website address is: <http://ils.mergent.ca>

Elections

We will be electing the Literacy Committee at LBS Day.

Please consider being part of that committee. It is our official sector link to the

Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities.

Help to choose CESBA projects for the sector and determine important issues to bring to MTCU.

CESBA - Ontario Association of Adult & Continuing Education School Board Administrators

Contact Information

Donna Zener
2 Robert Speck Parkway, Suite 300
Mississauga, ON L4Z 1H8

E-mail: dzener@cesba.on.ca

Phone: (905) 949-0049 Ext. 2373

Fax: (905) 949-6636

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