



Opening Doors to Learning

Volunteer News

of Kingston Literacy & Skills

March/April 2010

*"My spelling is Wobbly.
It's good spelling
but it Wobbles,
and the letters
get in the
wrong places."
- A.A. Milne*

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Kingston Literacy & Skills' Mission Statement

Kingston Literacy & Skills' furthers the development and growth of adult and family literacy in Kingston and neighbouring communities.

Structured Word Inquiry: A Paradigm Shift

On February 16, Peter Bowers, an experienced teacher and currently a PhD candidate at Queen's, presented a workshop on "structured word inquiry", a new approach to teaching spelling.

Structured word inquiry recognizes that English spelling is in fact well-ordered. It is an approach to spelling that focuses on developing critical-thinking and problem-solving skills, rather than relying on memorizing irregular rules.

The process of structured word inquiry is as follows:

1. Catch learners when they have an interesting spelling question (e.g., why "g" in "sign"?)
2. Present a set of words that make the pattern more obvious.
3. Assist learners in thinking out a solution based on carefully presented evidence.
4. Test the learners' solution and identify the precise pattern.
5. Practice the identified pattern with appropriate tools.

The workshop was incredibly dynamic, practical and thought provoking. Those who attended had this to say:

"I felt Peter Bowers' presentation was informative, interesting and full of enthusiasm. It was a fun evening."

"It was well worth my time ... I would love to have more information and practice!"

"Good mix of theory and practical material. Excellent energy from Peter. I will try this approach with my student."

For more information about structured word inquiry, visit www.wordworkskingston.com.

Kingston Literacy & Skills
(613) 547-2012
www.kingstonliteracy.com

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Volunteer Opportunities with Kingston Literacy & Skills

Committee Member

If you have experience in marketing or fundraising and can spare a few hours per month, Kingston Literacy & Skills is recruiting people for the Marketing Committee, a committee of the Board of Directors. If you are interested, please contact Allison at (613) 547-2012 or ahandelman@kingstonliteracy.com.

Childcare Volunteer

The childcare program at our Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada (LINC) location is in need of someone who would read to children, assist with sleep time as well as help with dishes. This volunteer opportunity occurs a couple of days each week, from 12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. For further information, please contact Catherine at (613) 547-2255.

Upcoming Events

International Adult Learners Week Open House: March 5, 2010

The week March 1 to 7 celebrates adult learners across the country and the joy of learning throughout life. Join us for an Open House at 859 Princess Street on Friday, March 5 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

A Recipe For Disaster: March 28, 2010, 6:00 p.m.

Chez Piggy presents a gala fundraising dinner in support of Kingston Literacy & Skills. The evening will feature a fabulous six-course meal at Chez Piggy (includes beer and wine), local authors Marilyn Simonds and Larry Scanlan reading from selected works, a silent auction and the presentation of the Zalman Yanovsky Award for Outstanding Service to Literacy. Advance tickets are \$150 each with charitable receipts of \$110 available. Reserve your tickets today by calling Chez Piggy at (613) 549-7673.

Teaching Math to Adult Learners: April 6, 2010

Join Kingston Literacy & Skills math instructor Darren MacDonald for an informative and practical workshop on how to teach math to adult learners. This presentation will take place at 859 Princess Street starting at 7:00 p.m. Light refreshments will be served. All welcome.

Wonderful volunteers, we sincerely appreciate all that you do for us! For your information, if you are ever interested in making a donation to help support the family literacy programming we offer, please visit our website at www.kingstonliteracy.com and click on "Donations".

Comments?

We would love to hear from you. Please email your comments or ideas to Allison at ahandelman@kingstonliteracy.com.