

DISTRICT-COMMUNITY LITERACY PLAN

**SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 20
(KOOTENAY-COLUMBIA)**



**Kootenay-Columbia
School District No.20**

JULY, 2013

DISTRICT-COMMUNITY LITERACY PLAN

SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 20 (KOOTENAY-COLUMBIA)

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A. Context & Literacy Partners

School District No. 20 (Kootenay-Columbia) includes two regional districts (RDCK & RDKB) and six municipalities (Rossland, Warfield, Trail, Montrose, Fruitvale and Castlegar) for a combined population of approximately 35,000. The district is located in southwestern BC, along the Columbia River nestled below the Monashee and Selkirk mountains.



The district serves over 4000 students, supports four StrongStart centres and numerous literacy programs and services in the community for learners of all ages.

Our district works closely with the Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy (CBAL) in creating and monitoring the plan. CBAL is supported by two Community Literacy Advisory Committees (CLACs)- one in Greater Trail and one in the Castlegar Area. The Greater Trail and Castlegar Community Literacy Coordinators lead the process and are responsible for the ongoing support of the plan. The community coordinators and advisory committees have steered the implementation of the 2007-2013 plans and the development of the 2013-2014 District-Community Literacy Plan.

The two advisory committees within the district represent: School District 20, Success by Six, Understanding the Early Years, StrongStart, Children First, Family and Individual Resources (FAIR), Kootenay Family Place, Selkirk College, Interior Health Authority, aboriginal representatives, municipalities and regional districts, public libraries, youth outreach, seniors, parents, teachers, employment agencies and community schools. For a complete list of members of the advisory committees please refer to **Appendix 1**.

B. July 2013 Literacy Plan Development Process

This year, a new process was undertaken to breathe new life into the plan and address the current climate of literacy within the communities of School District No. 20. The following plan is the result of the ideas, thoughts, inspirations and aspirations of those who attended the planning session. The meeting reached a consensus of three priorities that would guide our work for the ensuing year. The goals are:

1. Enhance, promote, coordinate and communicate information on existing programs. Create centralized service and information centers providing print, digital, and visual information on literacy initiatives and activities to all communities in the district.
2. Ensure accessibility to programs and provide high quality community literacy programs that are welcoming and inclusive for all.
3. Cooperate, collaborate, communicate and coordinate among all agencies to support families and adults in overcoming barriers to “personal success”.

Meetings to Develop the July 2013 Community-District Literacy Plan

The Community Literacy Advisory Committees within the district, Castlegar & Area and Greater Trail Area, met both individually and collaboratively on the following dates to examine progress on the 2012-13 plan and to update the plan for 2013-14: September 26th, 2012, October 1st, 2012, December 5th, 2012, January 16th, 2013, February 26th, 2013, April 30th, 2013, June 7th, 2013 and June 17th, 2013.



ESL Conversation Club

Board Meeting – June 13, 2013

At its regular open meeting on June 13, 2013 the Board approved the District-Community Literacy Plan 2013-2014 for submission to the Ministry of Education.



Reading at the Library

C. The Plan 2013-2014

Goal 1: Enhance, promote, coordinate and communicate information on existing programs. Create centralized service and information centers providing print, digital, and visual information on literacy initiatives and activities to all communities in the district.

Objectives	Partnerships	Activities	Timeline/Progress
1. Increase and improve access to information regarding literacy programs/services.	Alana Murdoch- CBAL Tiffaney Thompson- CBAL Lynnene Lewis & Sherry Tolman- Kootenay Family Place (KFP) Katie Albright- Rossland Public Library (RPL) Heather Maisel- Castlegar and District Public Library Joanne Richards- Kootenay Library Federation Alana Medeiros- Blueberry Creek Community School (BCCC)	Establishing community hubs across the district providing information and resources on programs/services Explore online service directory/literacy program app accessible for learners, service providers and facilitators	July 2013- October 2013 Fall 2013
2. Locate a centralized space to deliver family programs and services in Greater Trail.	Desneiges Profili- CBAL Sonia Tavares – WK Early Years Family Action Network	Community agencies will identify key locations and partner to apply for funding opportunities	Ongoing Winter 2013- establish space and offer programs in downtown Trail with satellite programs in Warfield, Fruitvale, Montrose and Rossland

Goal 2: Ensure accessibility to programs and provide high quality community literacy programs that are welcoming and inclusive for all.

Objectives	Partnerships	Activities	Timeline/Progress
<p>1. Provide ongoing professional development opportunities for facilitators. Topics to include mental health awareness, managing group dynamics and creating welcoming and inclusive spaces.</p>	<p>Denise Talarico- Interior Health (IH)</p> <p>Tiffaney Thompson- CBAL</p> <p>Alana Murdoch - CBAL</p> <p>Alana Medeiros- Blueberry Creek Community School (BCCS)</p> <p>Laurie Watson- Robson Community School (RCS)</p> <p>Bill Ford- School District 20</p>	<p>Training and workshops for group awareness and managing group dynamics</p> <p>Training for mental health awareness</p>	<p>November 2013- family literacy pro-d event</p> <p>Planning in Fall 2013 offer training Spring 2014</p>
<p>2. Increase and expand service delivery for school age children and adults.</p>	<p>Katie Albright- RPL</p> <p>Belinda Wilkinson- Trail & District Public Library (TDPL)</p> <p>Marie Onyett- BVPL</p> <p>Tiffaney Thompson- CBAL</p> <p>Jennifer Cliff- Marks- Selkirk College</p> <p>Desneiges Profili- CBAL</p> <p>Alana Murdoch- CBAL</p> <p>Skills Centre</p>	<p>Increase number of sessions for Community Learning Place and English language classes</p> <p>Local libraries will provide weekend programs for families</p> <p>Libraries/service providers participating in local events</p> <p>Provide settlement support</p>	<p>June – July 2013 Community Learning Place (Greater Trail) and English Language classes will be offered (Greater Trail and Castlegar)</p> <p>July-August 2013 RPL outdoor reading program at Farmer’s Market</p> <p>Fall 2013, Winter & Spring 2014 Ongoing – Spring 2014</p> <p>Settlement Service Facilitators in Trail and Castlegar to provide</p>

	<p>Alana Medeiros - BCCS</p> <p>Sherry Tolman - KFP</p> <p>Heather Maisel- CPL</p>	<p>services to new immigrants in the area</p> <p>Provide English classes for ESL families with child minding in Castlegar</p> <p>Continue to offer and explore offering Parents as Literacy Supporters (PALS) and Roots of Empathy</p>	<p>settlement assistance to new immigrants</p> <p>Fall 2013 KFP and CBAL</p> <p>Fall 2013 plan programs in consultation with School District</p>
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Goal 3: Cooperate, collaborate, communicate and coordinate among all agencies to support families and adults in overcoming barriers to “personal success”.

Objectives	Partnerships	Activities	Timeline/Progress
<p>1. Support adults and seniors in upgrading their literacy skills with a focus on academic upgrading and digital literacy.</p>	<p>Jennifer Cliff- Marks- Selkirk College</p> <p>Ron Greavison- Selkirk College</p> <p>Tiffaney Thompson- CBAL</p> <p>Alana Murdoch- CBAL</p> <p>Skills Centre</p> <p>Lynnene Lewis- KFP</p> <p>Bill Ford- SD #20</p> <p>Brad McVittie- Selkirk</p>	<p>Enhance access to digital literacy programs and expand service diversity (i.e. Ipads for Seniors, explore intergenerational learning)</p> <p>Increase marketing for adult programs</p>	<p>Start planning in September 2013</p> <p>Selkirk/CBAL to create media campaign for adult literacy programs</p>
<p>2. Provide universal access to early intervention screenings for preschool children.</p>	<p>Sherry Tolman- KFP</p> <p>Interior Health</p> <p>Family Action Network</p> <p>Success By Six</p> <p>Lynnene Lewis- KFP</p> <p>Desneiges Profili- CBAL</p> <p>Alana Medeiros- BCCS</p>	<p>Early Intervention Screening Days</p>	<p>November 2013 KFP</p> <p>Winter and Spring 2014 Family Action Network</p>

<p>3. Provide workshops and trainings for parents/caregivers to support their children's literacy development.</p>	<p>Desneiges Profili- CBAL Sonia Tavares- Success by 6/West Kootenay Early Years Denise Flick- SD #20 Lynnene Lewis- KFP Alana Medeiros- BCCS</p>	<p>Speech and language development Literacy Development – One to One workshops, numeracy skills, Stress Free Reading at Home, digital literacy awareness, screen time</p>	<p>Fall 2013 – start planning Winter 2014, Spring 2014 offer at least two workshops</p>
<p>4. Create and distribute adult literacy newspaper called <i>The West Kootenay Reader</i></p>	<p>Jennifer Cliff-Marks CBAL</p>	<p>Create a simple one or two page flyer Distribute one copy in the Spring 2013 as pilot</p>	<p>Fall 2013 – start planning Spring distribute first copy</p>

D. Reflections of the Plan

1) Task group:

a. Who takes part in the task group?

- Variety of stakeholders from the community including: community service agencies, educational institutions (both K-12 and college level), Interior Health, literacy professionals, regional and local governments, community members and program participants. For a complete listing of members on respective committees please refer to Appendix 1.

b. How is the work of this group organized?

- Meets spring times per year in the Fall, Winter and Spring. Meetings serve as opportunities to network, discuss progress, adjust as necessary
- CLAC members along with interested community members are invited to attend to review DLP
- Most Advisory members also sit on our ECD committee and inter-agency meetings. This offers additional venues for networking and information sharing

2) Community context:

a. What has happened in the community over the past year that impacts people in the community and the ability of organizations to support literacy development? Consider both positive and negative impacts.

- Growing senior population, more involvement in family and adult programs
- Increased adults and families attending programming
- Increased participation of young mothers in programs
- Welcoming Communities project
- Increased number of adults attending the Community Learning Place programs demonstrates a need for this kind of universal programming in the community on a continual basis
- Many young moms with infants are joining the ABE program to work on their upgrading skills and courses
- Change in employment services model
- Increased volume of inquiries and referrals from Ashland Training and Kootenay Career Development Society, and Worksafe BC

3) Community development and literacy collaboration:

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

- CBAL, Selkirk College and Castlegar Public Library- Community Learning Place, English classes
- School District No. 20 continued commitment to literacy and lifelong learning
- CBAL and Kootenay Family Place - ESL family classes, ABE Upgrading program

- School District No. 20 commitment to the early years with the continued support of Blueberry, Fruitvale, MacLean and Robson StrongStarts
- CBAL , Kootenay Family Place, School District No. 20 and Selkirk College- ABE Upgrading program
- CBAL, local libraries, School District No. 20 and StrongStarts- Mother Goose
- CBAL, School District No. 20, Blueberry Creek Community School, Robson Community School- Ready Set Learn, Parents as Literacy Supporters (PALS), Roots of Empathy

b. What are the essential ongoing collaborations?

- CBAL, Selkirk College, Kootenay Family Place, School District 20, Decoda Literacy Solutions, Robson Community School, Blueberry Creek Community School Hub, local libraries, Interior Health and service agencies- without these effective, relevant and necessary collaborations for literacy programming would not be possible

c. What makes collaborations work well?

- Effective communication
- Honesty and trust
- Common goals and objectives
- Commitment of partners
- Clear boundaries
- Acceptance for other's ideas and beliefs
- Understanding and flexibility

4) Goals and actions for the current year:

a. What priorities, goals or objectives have you addressed this year?

- Social media outlets have been an effective way to communicate information about programs and events and an effective way to share knowledge about literacy- CBAL, local libraries, Kootenay Family Place, Strongstarts, School District 20, Decoda Literacy Solution and other service providers
- Mother Goose, Adult Basic Education, and Seniors workshops have expanded to meet demanding needs - CBAL, local libraries, Selkirk College, Kootenay Family Place, School District 20, Blueberry Creek Community School Hub, Robson Community School
- Reach a Reader Campaign raised funds for local literacy programming in Castlegar and Greater Trail- CBAL and Black Press
- Collaboration to offer professional development opportunities for service providers included Plain Language Training, Family Literacy Training, One to One Children's Tutoring Training, One to one Adult Tutor Training, Learning For Life Conference for professionals working with adults, Early Years Conference, Stuart Shanker Presentation StrongStart regional training- School District 20, libraries, Blueberry creek Community School Hub, CBAL, Decoda Literacy Solutions, Success by 6, Selkirk College
- School age literacy programs were offered in many schools in the district including:

PALS, Root of Empathy, Boys' Time, Girls' Night Out, 360 and Afterschool clubs- School District 20, CBAL, Robson Community School, Blueberry Creek Community School Hub

- Community Learning Place programs continue to be integral part of the community, learners access the program for a variety of needs
- Several events occurred over the past year to promote literacy in the communities. These events included: International Literacy Day, Reach a Reader, Family Literacy day, Books Under Every tree, Scrabble Tournament, Champions for Literacy, National Child Day, Expectant Parents, Family Action Screening Day, Hearts at School and Teddy Bear Picnics
- ESL classes, ESL Conversation Classes, ESL Family Time continued to be offered in Castlegar and Trail. ESL learners and their families were invited to events, field trips and gatherings throughout the year- Selkirk College, Kootenay Family Place, CBAL
- Interagency meetings occurred every 2 months in Castlegar and twice in Greater Trail- Several agencies, organizations and service providers

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

- Collaborated and encouraged the use of websites and social media to share information
- Continued collaborations and support from new and existing partners have made these goals attainable- CBAL, local libraries, Selkirk College, Kootenay Family Place, Robson Community School, School District 20, Blueberry Creek Community School Hub
- Community Literacy Advisory Committees (CLAC) attended 4 meetings throughout the year to discuss, plan, and collaborate on the delivery of literacy initiatives in the district.

c. What adjustments were made to the plan? That is, as the year progressed were there new opportunities or were there changes that did not allow for some actions to be taken?

- New partnership with the local library in Rossland has provided opportunities for programs and workshops
- Increased contact with Ashland Training Centre, Kootenay Career Development Society and Worksafe BC has presented new opportunities with adult learners, some adults are requiring tutor support, computer skills or assistance with study skills
- Welcoming Communities Project in the region will offer settlement services to newcomers
- Forest Legacy Foundation– Raise a Reader funding will offer increased family literacy programs in Castlegar
- New partnership with the Castlegar Christian Fellowship for a family literacy program in the fall

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.

- ESL Classes, Conversation Club, and Family Time continue to attract new learner and their families
- Our ABE program continues to be successful, many new participants have joined and will be continuing next fall
- The number of participants accessing the Community Learning Place in Trail has increased
- ESL learners continue to participate in the programs , families are finding support and bridging into other programs
- Events such as Reach a Reader, Scrabble tournament and Champions for Literacy promote literacy in the community

b. What are the things that support literacy work?

- Dedicated , knowledgeable staff and volunteers
- Increased professional development for service providers
- School District #20 continued commitment to literacy
- Continued support from funders such as Columbia Basin Trust
- Partnerships and collaboration

6) Challenges:

a. What are the difficulties?

- Lack of sustainable community space for literacy programming
- CLAC members are unable to attend meetings on a regular basis due to other commitments
- Staff turnover
- Uncertain financial climate

b. What would help?

- Funding for dedicated space for literacy programming
- Continued funding for Literacy Outreach Coordinators
- Provincial wide campaigns to bring awareness to literacy (television, social media events using high profile people to be champions for literacy)
- Professional development opportunities
- Resources to support changes in technology

For the coming year:

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

- Relocation of StrongStart in Rossland, the StrongStart centre will move the last week of June to the new location
- Changes in administration at various schools, this will require discussions and meetings with the principals to discuss existing programs
- Welcoming Communities project beginning May 2013
- Community Learning Place will continue over the summer this year in Trail, we will

continue to monitor program and determine options for next year

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

See The Plan 2013-2014

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

- Support from Decoda Literacy Solutions, provincial literacy organization
- Ongoing collaboration and partnering opportunities with traditional and non-traditional partners
- Continued professional development opportunities
- Continue to support advisory committee members to ensure a strong collaborative partnership
- Dedication to literacy and lifelong learning
- Effective communication between partners



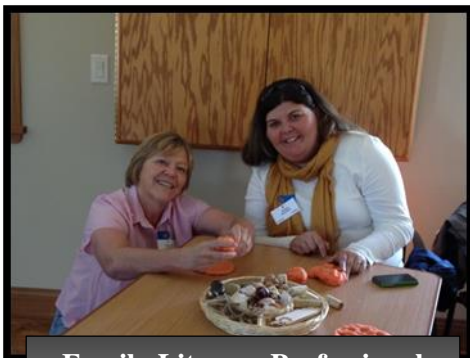
Roots of Empathy



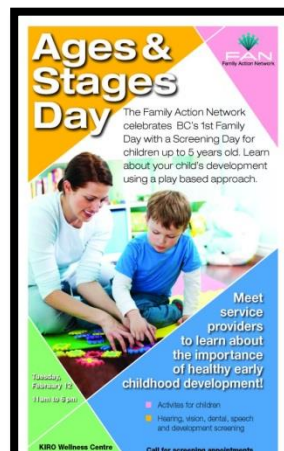
Adult Computer Classes



Webster Afterschool Program



Family Literacy Professional Development



Preschool Screening Day

E. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 - Literacy Partners, Membership & Funders

Appendix 2 - The Community Literacy Inventory



ESL Field Trip



Roots of Empathy



Reach a Reader
Greater Trail & Castlegar



Appendix 1 – Community Literacy Advisory Committees

Greater Trail Community Literacy Advisory Committee 2012-2013

Name	Organization
Belinda Wilkinson	Trail Library - Director
Carolyn Catalano	SD 20 – Webster Principal
Denise Flick	SD20 - Learning Coordinator
Desneiges Profili	Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy
Gail Lavery	Trail F.A.I.R. – Executive Director
Ian McAlpine	Selkirk College - ABE
Jamie Malcolm	Greater Trail Skills Centre
Jennifer Cliff-Marks	Selkirk College- ABE
Katie Albright	Rossland Library-Director
Lesley Grey	Interior Health
Marie Onyett	Beaver Valley Public Library - Director
Ron Greavison	Selkirk College- ABE
Sheila Adcock	Career Development Services- Coordinator
Sherry Tolman	Kootenay Family Place- Infant Development Program
Sonia Tavares	West Kootenay Early Years Coordinator
Sue McIntosh	CCRR - Coordinator
Teresa Berdusco	SD20 – MES Principal
Tiffany Thompson	Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy

Castlegar and Area Community Literacy Advisory Committee 2012-2013

Name	Organization
Alana Medeiros	Blueberry Creek Community School - Coordinator
Laurie Watson	Robson Community School - Coordinator
Lesley Hastain & Lynenne Lewis	Kootenay Family Place
Heather Maisel & Arlee Venier	Castlegar Public Library – Director & librarian
Margaret Sutherland	Decoda Literacy Solutions
Alana Murdoch	Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy – Community Coordinator
Brad McVittie	Selkirk College
Bruce Switzer	Community Harvest Food Bank & Drop-in
Adriana Huerta	Kootenay Family Place
Denise Talarico	Interior Health Authority – Public Health Nurse
Susan Deadmarch	Kootenay Career Development Society

Funders of SD20 Community Literacy Initiatives 2012-2013

BC Gaming Commission

Columbia Basin Trust

Columbia Power Corporation

Credit Union Central

Decoda Literacy Solutions

Family Resource Programs of Canada

Forest Legacy Foundation

Interior Health Authority

Human Resources and Skill Development Canada

Ministry of Advanced Education Office of Literacy & Essential Skills

Ministry of Children and Family Development

Ministry of Education

Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Innovation

Public Health Agency of Canada

Public Libraries Services Branch

Raise a Reader

Regional District of Central Kootenay

Royal Bank of Canada

School District No. 20

Selkirk College

Service Canada

Teck Cominco Ltd.

United Way

United Steelworkers Local #9705

Appendix 2 - The Community Literacy Inventory

Prenatal and Perinatal	Birth to 5 years	Kindergarten To Grade 3	Grades 4-7	Grades 8-9	Grades 10-12	Young Adults	Adults	Seniors
Beautiful Beginnings	Babbling Babies	Art Camp	Friday Youth Program	—————→	—————→	Adult Basic Education	—————→	—————→
Building Beautiful Babies	Books for Babies	Book Club	—————→			One to One Literacy Tutoring	—————→	—————→
Prenatal & Perinatal Classes	Baby Steps	One to One Reading Program	Girl's Night Out	The Station Youth Centre	—————→	Adult Computer Classes	—————→	Seniors Computer Classes
	Love 2 Learn			Youth Centre Computer Lab	—————→	One to one Computer Tutoring	—————→	—————→
	Nobody's Perfect			Youth Employment Services	—————→	Employment Services	—————→	—————→
	Parent Child Mother Goose					ESL Classes	—————→	—————→
	Toddler Storytime	Summer Reading Program	—————→			ESL Conversation Club	—————→	—————→
	Preschool Storytime		French Camp			Young Parents Group		
	Parent & Tot Drop In	Discovering Loss			—————→	Stress Free Reading at Home	—————→	—————→
	Family Night Out	—————→	—————→	At Risk Youth Camp	—————→	SD20 Continuing Education	—————→	—————→
	C.O.R.E. Child Observation and Response Education for parents	Big Kid Night	—————→	Aboriginal Girls' Camp	—————→	Workplace Learning Programs	—————→	

Prenatal and Perinatal	Birth to 5 years	Kindergarten To Grade 3	Grades 4-7	Grades 8-9	Grades 10-12	Young Adults	Adults	Seniors
	Moe the Mouse	Roots of Empathy	—————→					
	StrongStart Centres	After School Programs	—————→			Parenting workshops	—————→	
	Family Literacy & Parenting Centre	Parents as Literacy Supporters (PALS)	Boys' Time		Youth Transitions Coordinator	—————→		
	Community Schools	—————→						—————→
	Ready Set Learn	SD 20 District Literacy Coordinator	—————→			Community Learning Place	—————→	
	Private Preschools	Boy's Reading Camps	—————→					
	Success By Six	Endless Adventures	—————→					
	Early Intervention Screenings		Children's Communication Programs					
	Supported Childcare		360 Program	360 Youth Mentoring				
	ESL Family Time		Homework Club					