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*Keeping you up to date on events and resources essential for healthier schools and communities*

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## About Us



**Our Vision:** Children and youth in British Columbia are nurtured in safe, caring, and inclusive schools and communities in order to ensure their well-being and maximize their potential.

**Our Mission:** To facilitate the use of evidence-informed approaches to promoting safe, healthy, and inclusive schools and communities.

**Our Mandate:** To provide research and resources which support the creation of safe and socially just schools and communities throughout the province.

### To learn more about us and what is available through our centre...

Visit us online:	<a href="http://www.bccssc.ca">www.bccssc.ca</a>	Office Hours:	Monday to Friday 8:30 – 4:30 pm Closed Saturdays, Sundays & Holidays
Contact us:	<a href="mailto:safeschoolscommunities@ufv.ca">safeschoolscommunities@ufv.ca</a>		
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## Theme

### Learning to Read: A 'Grade A' Prevention Plan!

The very thing that brings so much pleasure and success for many children is also what has been associated to their present and future failure. Children who are not given the opportunity of learning to read well during their early school years are more likely to experience difficulties throughout their lives. An allegory about a community with a dangerous cliff has been used to compare the way in which we tend to address the needs of children in an 'after the fact' way. The allegory goes:

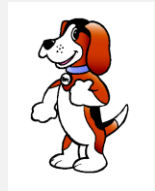
**Then an old sage remarked: "It's a marvel to me  
 That people give far more attention  
 To repairing results than to stopping the cause,  
 When they'd much better aim at prevention.  
 Let us stop at its source all this mischief," cried he,  
 "Come, neighbors and friends, let us rally;  
 If the cliff we will fence we might almost dispense  
 With the ambulance down in the valley." (Malins, 1936)**

The extent to which children learn how to read well in first grade is telling about their future. Children who fall behind are at increased risk for failure in a variety of areas. Research suggests that intervening at an early age results in the need for fewer special education services, decreased contact with the criminal justice system, better economic return for taxpayers, and higher employment and wages for the individual (Askew et al., 2002).

The BC Centre for Safe Schools and Communities provides educators, parents, government affiliates, and other community members with practical resources, research, and referral information to support schools and communities.

For additional quick facts on how to promote literacy go to:

- Literacy BC <http://www.literacybc.ca/>
- Literacy BC Resource Centre <http://www.literacybc.ca/PLRC/ResourceCentre.php>
- Literacy BC Family Literacy [http://www.literacybc.ca/family/family\\_literacy.php](http://www.literacybc.ca/family/family_literacy.php)
- BC Literacy Forum <http://www.bcliteracyforum.ca/>
- Literacy Central <http://www.literacycentral.bc.ca/>



**PAWS** is a fun-filled early learning resource that is in its final stages of development. Through funding received by the Ministry of Children and Family Development, PAWS has been created to support those working with preschoolers and kindergarten children to promote school readiness and personal safety. More information about how your community can benefit from PAWS is available by calling the BC Centre for Safe Schools and Communities.

In this newsletter, you will find various links to events and resources to support adults working with children, youth, and the broader community.

#### **IMPORTANT DATES FOR PLANNING PREVENTION ACTIVITIES:**

##### **February 21 – 27, 2010 – Freedom to Read Week**

Freedom to read can never be taken for granted. Even in Canada, a free country by world standards, books and magazines are banned at the border. Books are removed from the shelves in Canadian libraries, schools, and bookstores every day. Free speech on the Internet is under attack. Few of these stories make headlines, but they affect the right of Canadians to decide for themselves what they choose to read.

<http://www.freedomtoread.ca/>

##### **November, 2010 – TD Canadian Children’s Book Week**

The largest celebration of Canadian books for young people in Canada occurs each November. Authors, illustrators, and storytellers visit communities throughout the country to share the delights of Canadian children’s books. Book Week reaches over 35,000 children and teens in schools and libraries across Canada every year. Sign up your school or library today for the TD grade one book giveaway. <http://www.bookcentre.ca/bookgiveaway2009>

##### **International Literacy Decade 2003-2012**

UNESCO leads the United Nations Literacy Decade (UNLD) under the slogan of “Literacy as Freedom”. Launched at UN Headquarters in 2003, the Decade aims to increase literacy levels and to empower all people everywhere. Linking literacy to poverty reduction, the goal is to increase literacy rates by 50% by 2015. For further information you can view [the Millennium Development Goals](#) .

## Library Corner

The BC Centres' Library collection has children's books that promote literacy while learning about social responsible themes, such as conflict resolution, bullying, and friendship. Below are featured titles which address the importance of learning to read/literacy has on children:

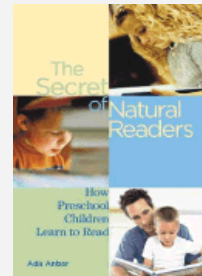
### ***Designing early literacy programs: strategies for at-risk preschool and kindergarten children***

Taking professionals and students step by step through conceptualizing, planning, and implementing an effective early literacy program, this book focuses on preventing reading difficulties and promoting success in at-risk 3 to 5 year-olds. Ideas for tailoring instruction to the needs of culturally and linguistically diverse learners are accompanied by clear assessment guidelines. The book also offers practical how-to-do-it suggestions for setting up literacy activities and arranging the classroom environment. Appendices provide reproducible sheets for conducting literacy assessments and a primer on phonics for teachers.



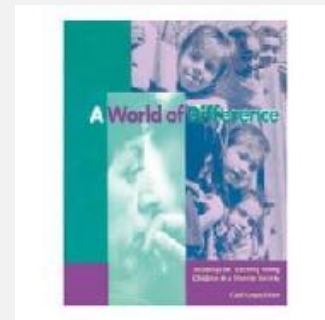
### ***The secret of natural readers: how preschool children learn to read***

Utilizing the actual experiences of six preschool children, 'The Secret of Natural Readers' documents the process of reading development through stories of their early years. The author discusses the implications of natural reading development and its feasibility among preschoolers from different segments of the population. She also spells out, for parents and early childhood teachers, critical information on how preschool children should learn to read.



### ***A world of difference: readings on teaching young children in a diverse society***

As teachers encounter a wider diversity of children and families than ever before, dealing with all the differences can be demanding. This book provides a collection of 45 readings reflecting the strong, continuing current of thoughtful work on teaching young children in a diverse society to help teachers and prospective teachers respond to the challenges and opportunities posed by classroom diversity. Each of the articles contains references. The book concludes with a list of 116 additional publications, and questions for reflection and discussion, organized by section.



**The Centre's library has resources for a wide variety of safety and social responsibility-related themes. We welcome you to search our on-line catalogue at [www.ufv.ca/bccss/Centres\\_Library.htm](http://www.ufv.ca/bccss/Centres_Library.htm) or call us for more information at 1-888-224-7233.**

## Upcoming Events and Activities

### **The Early Years Conference: The Rights of the Child**

February 4-6, 2010, Victoria Conference Centre and The Fairmont Express, Victoria, BC  
[http://www.interprofessional.ubc.ca/Early\\_Years\\_2010.html](http://www.interprofessional.ubc.ca/Early_Years_2010.html)

## **Conference on Adolescents and Adults with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder**

April 14-17, 2010, Hyatt Regency, Vancouver, BC

<http://www.interprofessional.ubc.ca/Adults.html>

## **Childhood and Adolescent Obesity 2010**

October 27-29, 2010, Hamilton Convention Centre, Hamilton, Ontario

[http://www.interprofessional.ubc.ca/Obesity\\_Conference.htm](http://www.interprofessional.ubc.ca/Obesity_Conference.htm)

## **Bullies: Their Making and Unmaking: A Video Course and Discussion Group**

Four afternoon Sessions: March 16, 23rd, 30th, Apr 18, Schou Education Centre, 4041 Canada Way, Burnaby, BC. Workshop costs \$50 and will be facilitated by Bev Ogilvie, Registered Clinical Counselor, Certified Parent Educator, Master Level Instructor in Crisis Prevention. For more information, click [http://www.ufv.ca/bccss/Conferences\\_Workshops.htm](http://www.ufv.ca/bccss/Conferences_Workshops.htm) To register, call 604-664-8338 or email [Kathy.Caddy@sd41.bc.ca](mailto:Kathy.Caddy@sd41.bc.ca).

## **Dialectic Behaviour Thereapy – Student Services Staff Development Opportunity**

February 16, 2010, 1:00 – 3:30 PM Schou Ed Centre, 4041 Canada Way, Burnaby, BC

Dialectical Behaviour Therapy blends cognitive and behavioural interventions with acceptance-based strategies derived from mindfulness. Suitable for counselors, Youth & Child Care workers; Social Workers, Mental Health Practitioners. Presenter: Barrie Pollack/Rob McLeod. \$20 cost for workshop. For more info click [http://www.ufv.ca/bccss/Conferences\\_Workshops.htm](http://www.ufv.ca/bccss/Conferences_Workshops.htm) To register, call 604-664-8338 or email [Kathy.Caddy@sd41.bc.ca](mailto:Kathy.Caddy@sd41.bc.ca)

## **GREAT (Girls Reaching for Esteem and Trust) and BLAST! (Boys Life Skills and Safety Training)**

April 2010 (Common Wealth Centre, Cranbrook) and May 2010 (College of the Rockies)

These separate conferences for youth are community-driven initiatives developed in partnership with the West Kootney School District No. 5, local nonprofit, for profit, and governmental groups to empower youth in areas of vulnerability. More information can be obtained by contacting [safeschools@sd5.bc.ca](mailto:safeschools@sd5.bc.ca) email or by visiting their website at <http://socialresponsibility.sd5.bc.ca>

## **Free Non-Profit Law Seminar Information in Kamloops and Fort St. John Region**

Kamloops - Friday, February 5, 2010 and Fort St. John - Friday, February 19, 2010

Pro Bono Law of BC (PBLBC) is pleased to announce free non-profit law seminars in two regions. These half-day seminars will be conducted by volunteer lawyers with the Program and will provide legal information and advice to community organizations of limited means in the area of Employment Law and Tax Issues for Charities. Space is limited! For further information and registration, contact Annie Baric, Operations Coordinator for Pro Bono Law of BC at 604-893-8932 ext. 1501 or email at [abaric@probononet.bc.ca](mailto:abaric@probononet.bc.ca).

## **Hot Topics and Releases**

### **POLICE MANUAL: A BC Practitioner's Toolkit, 2<sup>ND</sup> EDITION**

All officers play an important role in problem solving. This manual provides seven in-service training lessons designed to be flexible in its delivery to fit the needs of police departments. In partnership with the BC Centre for Safe Schools and Communities, Centre for Criminal Justice Research, RCMP, Municipal Departments, and the University of the Fraser Valley, the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of this resource is available for free on the Centre's website <http://www.ufv.ca/bccss/Resources/Curriculum.htm>. Hard copies can be made available to Police Departments on request by contacting [Annette.vogt@ufv.ca](mailto:Annette.vogt@ufv.ca).

### **Grants and Funding Information Available Through RURAL TEAM BC**

Rural Team BC keeps BC residents up to date on grants and project funding options along criteria themes related to inclusive communities and work places, social enterprise technical assistance, sustainability, and northern development. [http://www.communityfutures.com/cms/Funding\\_Sources.2.0.html](http://www.communityfutures.com/cms/Funding_Sources.2.0.html)

### **The Vancouver Foundation Granting Cycle**

Two granting cycles are offered for this year: 1) Spring - for arts and culture, education, children, youth and families grant applications; 2) Fall - all other fields of interest. Grants for the area of health and medical education/research, which were on hold in 2009, will be part of the 2010 fall granting cycle. For deadlines and further information visit <http://www.vancouverfoundation.ca/>.

### **Free Website Hosting Service**

Google is providing free website hosting for those who are creative and wish to make use of this opportunity. They apparently will even provide templates for you. To check it out, visit [http://news.netcraft.com/archives/2006/02/23/google\\_launches\\_free\\_hosting\\_service.html](http://news.netcraft.com/archives/2006/02/23/google_launches_free_hosting_service.html)  
For additional information, the following website provides reviews, ratings, and links for a variety of free-webhosting sites <http://www.free-webhosts.com/>

## **We would love to hear from you!**

If you have information or an event to support the goal of promoting healthier schools and communities, please call or forward your correspondence to [safeschoolscommunities@ufv.ca](mailto:safeschoolscommunities@ufv.ca) for consideration in our next newsletter. We look forward to hearing from you!



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