

E-MAGAZINE!

An interactive monthly magazine for literacy students and practitioners published by
Laubach Literacy Ontario

**Each One
Teach One**

Inspire your New Year Resolutions with **the Story of Stuff**

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Volume 1

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Dec 2007

Family

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Budget?

our cover

If you or
someone you
know would
like to be our
cover model
let us know!

We would like to feature a student or practitioner on the cover of future E-Magazines! If you are interested in being on our cover, email us your name, council, email address and phone number. If you don't want to be a model but have a great picture we could use for a cover send it to us with a paragraph describing it!

Email to:
ritchieg@execulink.com

Please note: Each article indicates the audience focus in brackets. GF refers to the Gunning Fog Index for that article. The Gunning Fog Index value does NOT equate to Ontario curriculum grade levels or LBS levels. This information is meant as a guideline only. Texts designed for a wide audience generally require a fog index of less than 12. Some typical Gunning Fog Indices are:

- Newsweek: 10
- Readers Digest: 9
- Comic Books: 6

Please see LLO's website for more information about the gunning fog index.

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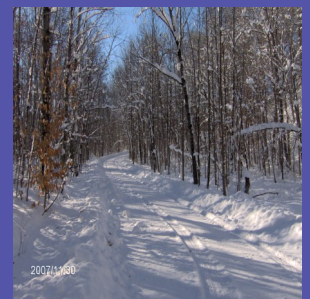
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Editor's Spot

Did you know that the tradition of making New Year's Resolutions dates back to the early Babylonians. Popular modern resolutions might include the promise to lose weight or quit smoking. The early Babylonians' most popular resolution was to return borrowed farm equipment.



Start the New Year by embracing the season.

This month we focus on a new year and new beginnings. Think about conservation, making a budget, and saving some money.

We hope you enjoy!

Celebrate Family Literacy Day!

January 27, 2008 will mark the 10th anniversary of Family Literacy Day. Family Literacy Day started in 1999 when ABC Canada made the movie, "Penny's Odyssey". This powerful movie was about a teenage girl hiding her literacy problems from her family and friends. The movie was so successful that ABC Canada started a national event we now know as Family Literacy Day. Today thousands of literacy organizations, schools and libraries participate by holding events to support and encourage family literacy. Robert Munsch, the famous children's author, is the honorary chair of Family Literacy Day. Many ideas that can be adapted to celebrate family literacy day in literacy programs can be found on the ABC Canada website.



Click on the box to have
the article read to you:



Click here to read
"NAME TAGS", a
special Family
Literacy Day story
written by Robert
Munsch.

Click here to order a copy of "Penny's Odyssey"

http://www.abc-canada.org/fld/downloads/pennys_odyyssey_order_form.pdf

FAMILY LITERACY DAY®



JANUARY 27

Media Doctor: Improving the accuracy of medical news reporting

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

Media Doctor is a website dedicated to improving the accuracy of media reports about new medical treatments. If you hear about a new medical treatment you can check it out on media doctor.

Media Doctor reviews current news items about medical treatments and assesses their quality using a standardized rating scale. You can see reviews of good and bad examples of reports on this website.

The website has been developed to try to improve how the media reports on new medications and treatments in Canada.

Media Doctor does not provide medical advice. It also does not assess the quality of the evidence on which the stories are based. You should always consult with your doctor before starting a new medication or treatment.



THE STORY OF
STUFF
WITH ANNIE LEONARD

Sponsored by Tides Foundation &
Funders Workgroup for Sustainable Production and Consumption

EARTH DAY
EVERY DAY

*"From its extraction through sale, use and disposal, all the stuff in our lives affects communities at home and abroad, yet most of this is hidden from view. **The Story of Stuff** is a 20-minute, fast-paced, fact-filled look at the underside of our production and consumption patterns. **The Story of Stuff** exposes the connections between a huge number of environmental and social issues, and calls us together to create a more sustainable and just world. It'll teach you something, it'll make you laugh, and it just may change the way you look at all the stuff in your life forever."*

To watch this 20 minute video, click here: <http://www.storyofstuff.com/index.html>

Note: It may take several minutes to download (called "buffering") but it is worth it!

Submitted by: Isabel Mosseler, Literacy Alliance of West Nipissing

Student Interest

Did you make a
**New Year's
Resolution?**

Click here to answer our
online poll.

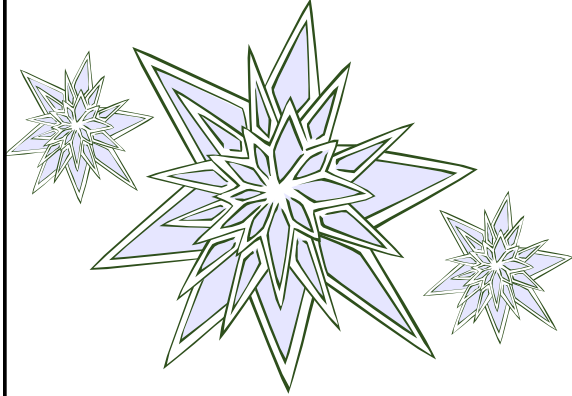
Share your resolution as a
comment.



RELAXATION 101:

Make a *snowflake* and watch it fall

<http://www.popularfront.com/snowdays/>



Frugal Recipes

Save money with these frugal recipe
ideas:

[http://www.betterbudgeting.com/
frugalrecipelist.htm](http://www.betterbudgeting.com/frugalrecipelist.htm)



Daily Horoscope

Click here to find your daily horoscope
from Eugenia Last! Once you get to the
site, you must click on your zodiac sign.
A new horoscope is posted every day.

\$ Moneyscope \$

[http://en.chatelaine.com/english/
moneymavens/splash.html](http://en.chatelaine.com/english/moneymavens/splash.html)

Click here for your "money" horoscope.

Redflagdeals.com

This site contains the hottest deals on the latest items. Find coupons,
special offers and rebates. Site changes daily so check in often!



LSA Update

Community Literacy of Ontario shares up-to-date information on Learner Skill Attainment in its December 2007 Newsletter! To access the full newsletter click here:

<http://www.nald.ca/clo/newslet/dec07/1.htm>

The following topics are covered:

- [LSA Definition and Goals](#)
- [LSA Present and Future](#)
- [LSA Framework Draft: Development Process](#)
- [Success Indicators for Independence Goals](#)
- [Next Steps](#)

"Learner Skill Attainment (LSA) is one of nine core draft performance measures being developed as part of MTCU's Continuous Improvement Performance Management System (CIPMS). LSA is part of the "Performance Measurement" component of CIPMS as one of six core measures related to "Effectiveness". Through the LSA Initiative a validation draft LSA Framework is being developed to support the implementation of this draft core measure in Literacy and Basic Skills (LBS) programming. The validation draft of the LSA Framework will be linked to three of the nine HRSDC Essential Skills: Reading Text, Document Use and Numeracy."

Creative Curriculum

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FOCUS YOUR PROGRAM IN 2008. Start the new year off by hosting a focus group with your students. Find out what you need to know to continuously improve your program while teaching students skills they need to participate in or hold a focus group. Here are six suggestions for soliciting responses in focus groups:

Top-of-mind associations: What's the first thing that comes to mind when I say "literacy"?

Constructing images: Who are the people who use "this program"? What do they look like? What are their lives about? Describe the place. What do you see? What do you feel? What do you do?

Querying the meaning of the obvious: What does "learning" mean to you?

Metaphors: If this office was a flower, what kind would it be and who would pick it? If this group was a family, who would the different members be and how would they relate to each other?

"Man from the moon" routine: I'm from the moon; I've never heard of Literacy Agency A. Describe it to me. Why would I want to use it? Convince me.

Chain of questions: Why do you want to learn to _____? Why is that important? Why does that make a difference to you? Would it ever not be important? (Ask until the respondent is ready to kill the interviewer!)



Navigating the NET one site at a time

Have some fun using your computer skills on this cool web site while supporting world hunger and improving your vocabulary at the same time!

FreeRice has a custom database containing thousands of words at varying degrees of difficulty. There are words appropriate for people just learning English and words that will challenge the most scholarly professors. In between are thousands of words for students, business people, homemakers, doctors, truck drivers, retired people... everyone!

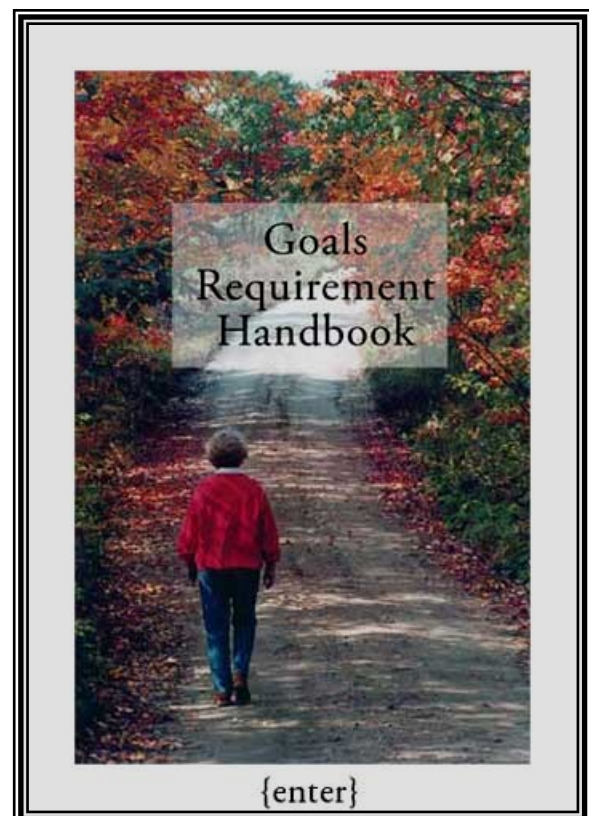
FreeRice automatically adjusts to your level of vocabulary. It starts by giving you words at different levels of difficulty and then, based on how you do, assigns you an approximate starting level. You then determine a more exact level for yourself as you play. When you get a word wrong, you go to an easier level. When you get three words in a row right, you go to a harder level. This one-to-three ratio is best for keeping you at the "outer fringe" of your vocabulary, where learning can take place. There are 50 levels in all.

**For each word you get right, 20 grains of rice are donated to the
United Nations World Food Program**

gates: goals and training for employment success

This resource features:

- 120 entry level jobs (jobs that don't require college or university)
- essential skills
- LBS learning outcomes
- training employers expect
- programs near you
- learning activities and demonstrations
- interactive training plan tool
- tips for key stakeholders



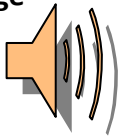
Need a budget?

Three Easy Steps to Making a Budget

1. Figure out how you spend you money now. Write everything down and keep all of your receipts in one place. Make a list of all your regular expenses like rent/mortgage, heat, hydro, insurance, child care, etc. Keep all the receipts for your variable expenses like groceries, coffee, and entertainment. At the end of a month, calculate how much money you have spent.
2. Evaluate your results. Think about these questions. What are you spending? Why are you spending? Is there anything you would like to be able to spend more money on? Is there anything you can spend less money on? Make a plan for spending and saving the way you would like to. When people think about how much money they spend as they're spending it, they gradually and naturally start to shift away from buying things they want, to buying things they need.
3. Once you have your plan in place, FOLLOW IT! Keep your budget with you and consult it when you are making purchases. However, remember you are human and the occasional splurge is okay as long as you have thought it through.

Adapted from: http://en.chatelaine.com/english/moneymavens/article.jsp?content=20071011_111931_5432

Click on the box to have the article read to you:



Ideas to save some money this year

- Plan out your meals each week *before* you head for the grocery store to save time and money! Use grocery store flyers to plan your meals around the items that are on SALE.
- Shop at less expensive grocery stores. Many “no frills/no-name” stores carry the same brand names as national chains at a discounted price. The produce is often fresher at these stores because the turnover is higher. Only shop at the national chains for specialty products not available at the less expensive “no frills/no-name” stores. Don’t forget to take you own bags!
- For the month of January focus on using food from the freezer and pantry. Make a game out of it to see just how low you can keep the grocery bill. It is a great way to kick start the New Year and put some extra money into savings. If you have a lot of food to use up it doesn’t make sense to buy more until you can see some empty space.
- Take your coffee with you when you leave your house and save hundreds of dollars over the year! You can purchase take-out cups with lids from you local grocery store.
- Wait for the movie you want to see to come to the second-run cinema instead of the multiplex. It can be half the price and you still get the movie theatre experience.
- Compare your auto and house insurance rates with other companies every 2 or 3 years. [Click here](#) for a website which allows you to compare rates from various insurance companies.
- Avoid using a credit card unless you are paying the entire balance by the deadline. Credit card companies charge high interest rates (up to 30%!) on unpaid balances. Beware of large purchases on a credit card. Many companies now charge purchase interest on large purchases from the day of purchase instead of the end of the month.

Did you know that in 2005 household debt in Canada soared to \$916 billion, according to a 2007 Statistics Canada report. A recent InCharge Debt Solutions study revealed that 14 percent of Canadians say they always use credit cards for basic living expenses such as groceries and gas.

Source: http://en.chatelaine.com/english/moneymavens/article.jsp?content=20071011_111931_5432



Click on the box to have the article read to you: