

# Literacy WORKS

a newsletter for friends of Literacy WORKS

WINTER EDITION

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2009

## Happy New Year from the Office!

The worst of the cold spell has broken and are we glad, since all three of us ride the bus to work! It may be winter, but February in Manitoba has a lot going for it, as you will see on page 4.

But first, let's look back to November. Our annual general meeting went well although we almost had to meet by candlelight. (We blew a breaker!)

Congratulations and welcome, Chris Bellamy, to your new role as Publicity Officer and congratulations to Diane Lonergan for taking on the role of Chairperson of the LiteracyWORKS' Board. Chris has some great plans to make sure people have heard of us. And you can read Diane's first column on page 2.

Thanks to all the students and volunteers who came to the Christmas party, and thank you for bringing all the yummy food. It was amazing!

On a stormy night in November, a small group of LiteracyWORKS volunteers put on our first fundraising Gala. It was a huge success and a lot of fun. You'll see more about this in the special insert

Page 3 has a great story written by one of our students. We want to put more student stories in the newsletter, so please encourage your student to send in what they write—or to share their good news for us to put in the newsletter.

We three have been volunteer tutors and we know there are times when tutors can

feel discouraged. We would like to include more tutor tips, but we need your help. If you have a story to tell about something that worked, a good news story, please share it. No matter how small you may think it is, you never know what will encourage another pair. You may have come across exactly the



Chris Bellamy

student and tutor over a bump! The best way to send your ideas is by email so we can copy and paste, but any method will work.

Now, back to February—We have the rare opportunity to host a workshop for all of our tutors in February. If you are working with your student on spelling or if your student has been asking for help with spelling, you won't want to miss this workshop! See page 5.

And, speaking of February, we are having a contest again to celebrate "I Love to Read" month. See page 4 for details about how to enter.



### Inside this issue:

Chairperson's Report—A New Year's Resolution	2
The Write Stuff—Student Story	3
February is... I Love to Read Month Black History Month Festival du Voyageur	4
Don't Miss This Workshop	5
Provincial Workshops	5
Christmas Party 2008	6
AGM 2008	6
LiteracyWORKS Fund-raising Gala 2008	Special Insert

### Did you know:

- Nearly half (46%) of Manitobans, age 16 to 64, do not have enough literacy skills to thrive in our knowledge-based economy, or
- About 362,000 Winnipeggers.
- In 2006, only 2,700 adults went to adult literacy programs.
- Or less than 1% (0.75%) of the people who need it, went back to school.
- LiteracyWORKS volunteers have helped more than 2,000 students since 1978!

## Chairperson's Report—A Resolution for 2009

First she read the speech. That was impressive enough. But then she pushed it aside and started chatting and joking with the audience with the confident wit of a star on Oscar night. Afterwards, they gave her a standing ovation. And no wonder. If you'd heard the challenges Avril Chartrand had to overcome to learn to read and write, to take her childcare exams, to get her life in gear, you'd clap too.

Avril is an inspiration to all of us at LiteracyWORKS. She is the kind of success story we hope for every time a new student signs on with us. But it's a success that can't happen without tutors, training, intake work, computer software and the great goodwill of a group of people working together to change the world - one life at a time. And none of that can happen without money.

That's why 2008 was not a good year for LiteracyWORKS. Because it's the year we learned that as of 2009, we'd no longer be eligible for federal funding... money that accounts for about half of the work we do, and for at least one of the

office positions that keeps that work going.

But sometimes a challenge brings out the best in us! With some new faces and fresh ideas your Board is embarked on finding ways to raise our public profile, make alliances in the community and replace that federal cash. When Avril shared her life-story with us, it was at a fundraising Gala we hope to build into an annual event - an event we hope no one in this city will want to miss. And event that raised \$15,000 in a single evening. It was a stellar start to a new era for LiteracyWORKS - one that will make us more financially independent. (Check out the full report on the 2008 Gala in this newsletter.)

On Gala night, it was clear that many people had not heard about LiteracyWORKS before... many well-connected, even powerful people had no idea of the work we do. It's time for that to change. As your new Board Chair, if there's one thing I'd like us to achieve in 2009, it would be that every single person in this city would know

who we are and be as excited as we are about the work we do.

So here's the deal: let's start telling people what we do so they can share that sense of pride and accomplishment that comes with helping people get control of their lives. Tell your friends, tell your local councillor or MLA; when you're at your book-club or service organization, talk us up, and get the

LiteracyWORKS name out there! Maybe you can get a friend to join you when you volunteer at the booksale, or on our Bingo night this year. Think about next year's Gala - maybe you can

get a handful of friends to share a table at the Second Annual LiteracyWORKS Benefit Gala! Mark those calendars now for November!

And while you're at it - don't forget to give yourself a big pat on the back for what you already do for literacy. It's an exciting thing to be part of - now let's tell the world.

- Diane Lonergan



**Diane Lonergan**



**Avril Chartrand**

# The Write Stuff

## Missing My Grandpa

I wish my grandpa was here. I loved when we were together. Yes, he was stuck in his ways! But I loved him for that!

I can remember when he would yell at us kids if we had our elbows on the table! My sister would get

mad at me because she was the one who always got yelled at!

I wish I could cook for him just once and see his smile on his face! But I know one day the whole family will be together!

- by Amber Mayne



Help!  
**We're running out of room**  
**We're getting a few people together on a Saturday morning to sort out the book storage room and move some tables.**  
**Know a student who wants a big old desk and can come pick it up? Or...**  
**Anyone have a strong friend with a truck who could help us haul out some old desks, etc. to charity?**  
**Call Lorraine at the office at 786-1212**



## Be a Star; Make Your Student A Star

Have any good news to share about your student? Or some pointers to share with other tutors?

We are looking for any tips about a lesson that went well with your student or any good news stories your student would like to share, no matter how big or small! We would

like to print these in upcoming newsletters to help encourage other students and tutors.

Also, student stories... please encourage your student to submit a story for printing in the newsletter. They do not need to use their name if they don't want to.

## Welcome New Students

Welcome to our newest students:

- Anita
- Chris
- Heather
- James
- Mark

We wish you all the best in your studies!



## February is “I Love to Read” Month

I Love to Read month means we’re having a contest.

Here’s what you do: Write down the name of every book, comic book and magazine you read starting in February, ending March 5. They can be short or long.

This contest is for

students and tutors.

We will add up the numbers for each group and one student will win a prize and so will a tutor.

Send your list to Deane [dmcDonald@litworks.ca](mailto:dmcDonald@litworks.ca)

Or fax: 786-1249

Or you can mail it or drop it off at our office.



We need to have your list by noon on Thursday, March 12.

If you read a few or a lot, you should still enter. After all, you never know how many other people are reading.

You might win!

### The Value of the Teacher

This is the value of the teacher,  
who looks at a face and says there’s something behind that and I want to reach that person, I want to influence that person,  
I want to encourage that person,  
I want to enrich,  
I want to call out that person who is behind that face,  
behind that color,  
behind that language,  
behind that tradition,  
behind that culture.  
I believe you can do it.  
I know it was done for me.  
- Maya Angelou, author

## February is Black History Month

Wikipedia.org says: Black History Month is a way to remember important people and events in the history of the African diaspora. It is celebrated annually in the U.S. and Canada in February. It was started in 1926 by historian Carter G. Woodson as "Negro History Week". Woodson chose the second week of February because it marked the birthdays of two Americans who greatly influenced the lives and social condition of African Americans: former President Abraham Lincoln and abolitionist Frederick Douglass.

These are a few of the links that came up with a quick Google search for “black history month”:

[www.infoplease.com/spot/bhm1.html](http://www.infoplease.com/spot/bhm1.html) (links to various websites, including trivia games

[www.history.com/minisites/blackhistory](http://www.history.com/minisites/blackhistory)

[www.biography.com/blackhistory/](http://www.biography.com/blackhistory/)

We also have some books you can borrow. Drop in to the office to have a look.

## If it’s February in Winnipeg, it’s Festival du Voyageur and Louis Riel Day

February in Winnipeg has lots to offer. Now that is warmer than -40, you might want to check out the Festival du Voyageur. You could take a walk down Marion and look at all the amazing ice sculptures. To find out more, go to: <http://festivalvoyageur.mb.ca/wp/>

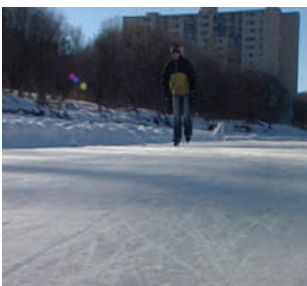
Have you heard of Louis Riel Day? A government

website says , Louis Riel was the driving force behind Manitoba becoming Canada’s fifth province. His dream of a province that embraces all cultures is still shared by Manitobans today.

On the third Monday of February, get out and join others from all across our great province to celebrate Louis Riel’s vision. Bring

along your family and friends and choose from some of these exciting and fun events. (see website) [http://www.gov.mb.ca/february\\_holiday/index.html](http://www.gov.mb.ca/february_holiday/index.html)

Who has the longest outdoor skating rink in the world? To find out, go to: [www.cbc.ca/canada/manitoba/story/2008/01/11/forks-skating.html](http://www.cbc.ca/canada/manitoba/story/2008/01/11/forks-skating.html).



World’s longest outdoor skating rink

## Literacy *WORKS* Tutor Workshop



**Robin Millar**

I can't spell. How do I learn to spell? What's the best way to learn to spell? How can I help my student learn to spell?

This is one workshop you won't want to miss. Robin Millar will be presenting a spelling workshop for LiteracyWORKS' tutors.

Robin leads the student spelling group and has been a volunteer and mentor to us for many years.

The students all say what a great teacher she is and they enjoy coming to spelling. It's not everyone who can make learning to spell fun!

And, Robin literally wrote the book on spelling. She is co-author of *Unscrambling Spelling*, available as a reference in our library.

**When:** Sat, Feb 21/09

9:30am-12:30

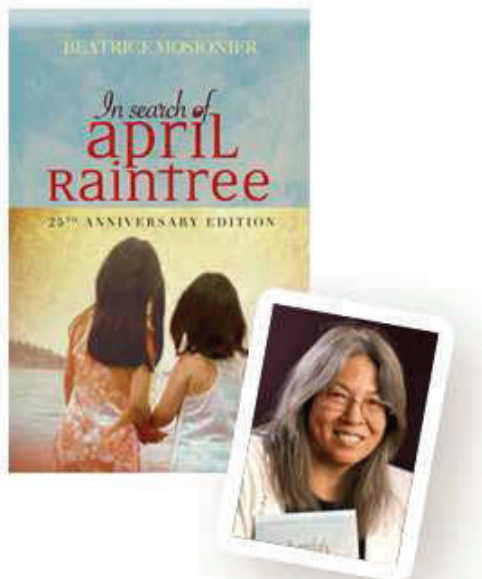
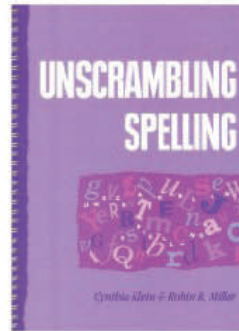
**Where:** Our office

230-500 Portage Ave.

Someone will be at the front door from 9:15 to 9:25 to let people in.

Registration is due by noon on February 12, 2009. Space is limited. To register, please call the office at 786-1212.

See you there!



## In Search of April Raintree

Join a growing number of Manitobans and take part in "Manitoba Reads" by reading *In Search of April Raintree*.

The organizers want to get all of Manitoba reading and talking about the same book at the same time. This will encourage every Manitoban to read or re-read this year's selected title, *In Search of April Raintree*, by homegrown author Beatrice Mosionier.

The goal is to have at least 12,000 people to read *In Search of April Raintree* between October 2008 and April 2009.

The author is the youngest of 4 children and she grew up in foster homes. After losing two sisters to suicide, Beatrice decided to write this book. It was first published in 1983. It is now 25 years later and is a Canadian classic book.

When you read *In Search of April Raintree*, make sure you add your name to the reader tally at <http://www.onthesamepage.ca/readertally.html>.

And remember this book will count when you enter our "I Love to Read Month" contest!



# LiteracyWORKS

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OFFICE HOURS  
Mon & Wed 1-8 pm  
Tues & Thurs 9-4pm  
Fridays CLOSED

We're on the web  
[www.litworks.ca](http://www.litworks.ca)

*LiteracyWORKS provides people with essential literacy skills to enhance self-sufficiency and quality of life.*

## Christmas Party 2008



At LiteracyWORKS, when we're not working hard, we like to play.

Then, we're all about the friends, fun and food.



**TUTORS—Remember to share this newsletter with your student!**

### LiteracyWORKS Who's Who

#### BOARD

- Diane Lonergan**, Chairperson
- Eliude Cavalcante**, Vice Chair
- Mary Switek**, Past Chairperson
- Eva Whitmore**, Treasurer
- Vacant**, Secretary
- Erin Romeo**, Funding Officer
- Chris Bellamy**, Publicity Officer
- Avril Chartrand**, Student Rep.
- Erin Romeo & Eva Whitmore**, Co-Chairs Gala Committee
- Karen Emberly**, Member at Large
- Leslie Eskra**, Member at Large
- Andrew Quarry**, Member at Large
- Susan Wakeman**, Member at Large

#### STAFF

- Lorraine Kaczor**, Program Manager
- Sherry Funk**, Program Coordinator
- Deane McDonald**, Admin Assistant/  
Bookkeeper

## Annual General Meeting 2008

### Meeting by candlelight?



Some of your board members presenting reports at the Annual General Meeting in November