



Little Readers
Preschool Book Club

Helping Langley preschoolers develop a love of reading – one free book at a time!

News for Parents

December 2009



Website: www.littlereadersbookclub.ca

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"When you look at your life, the greatest happinesses are family happinesses." Joyce Brothers

To All of Our Little Readers Families: We wish your family a wonderful holiday season, filled with laughter, love and memorable moments. Enjoy your little ones! Happy New Year to you all!



Literacy Tips for Parents of Club Members

- Stories aren't just found in books. Many of **your child's favourite stories** are the ones about you: your family, your heritage and your culture; often, these little tidbits, which allow our children a glimpse into our own histories, are the ones he/she will remember as an adult.
- Today we have so many alternatives to **the oral tradition of telling stories** (e.g. books, newspapers, movies, TV shows, the internet). Yet a good storyteller is irreplaceable; he/she can tell us things about people of other times and places that we can't learn from books, in part because he/she can entertain listeners and capture the imagination in a special way.
- With some creativity and practice, you can join in this ancient tradition and become a storyteller yourself. When finding a story to tell, **choose something personal or familiar:** a story about yourself (When I was a little girl...); a family story (When you were a baby...); a story about your heritage (A long time ago, great grandpa...); or a fairytale (Once upon a time...).
- Children are the perfect audience because they love you **unconditionally** - whether your story is amazing or not! They just want to learn from you, laugh with you and spend time with you.
- You can develop stories together, and later, once your child understands the **structure of stories**, he/she can practice telling his/her stories to you. Enjoy telling stories together!
- This month's reading tips come from **The International Storytelling Centre**. For more ideas about how to develop your story-telling skills, go to www.storytellingcenter.com



Merry Christmas to Our Little Readers!!

Once again, **Black Bond Books** has donated a Christmas coupon for each of our members to redeem at their local book store (directly across the street from Toys R Us on Willowbrook Drive). We are proud to include Black Bond Books as one of our corporate sponsors and thank them for their kindness and willingness to give to programs within the community of Langley. Thank you Black Bond Books!



Volunteer of the Month

Thank You to: Susan Meier - retired Kindergarten teacher, grandmother of Little Reader Nadia
Commitment to our Program: Susan helps clean and wrap our Little Readers' "Birthday Books" each month
In Susan's words: "Every time I help wrap birthday books I remember the look of joy on my grand daughter's face when she got HER book, and I visualize this same gift of joy reaching so many other children. Blessings indeed!"



Sponsored by:



Community Events for Families:



- **Aldergrove Christmas Lights Parade:** Saturday, December 12th from 5:30 to 6:30 pm. This super parade will march down Fraser Highway from 273rd to 269th Street. And who doesn't love a parade? Prior to the parade, the **Aldergrove Elks** will be hosting fun activities for children from 3:30-5:30 at the OAP Hall (3015-273rd St). For more information, go to www.aldergrovefestivaldays.com
- **Christmas in Williams Park:** December 11th & 12th - Enjoy a lovely walk through Williams Park (238th Street and 68th Avenue) and enjoy the beautiful lights and entertainment with your children.
- **Holiday Festivities at The Fort:** Your children are never too young to visit The Fort! From December 19th to January 3rd (10:00 am to 3:30 pm) families are welcome to visit The Fort and experience what Christmas was like 150 years ago. Fun for all ages!



Fun with Finger Plays!

Finger Plays are essentially **nursery rhymes** that have been passed down from generation to generation. Each storyteller has his or her own creative style of presenting (e.g. facial expressions, hand, feet and body movements). Finger Plays have captivated children for many years. Have fun playing with your child!



Five Little Bells

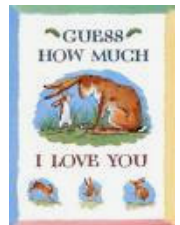
Five little bells hanging in a row (hold up five fingers)
The first one said, "Ring me slow." (hold up one finger)
The second one said, "Ring me fast." (hold up two fingers)
The third one said, "Ring me last." (hold up three fingers)
The fourth one said, "I'm like a chime." (hold up four fingers)
The fifth one said, "Ring us all at Christmas time." (hold up five fingers)



Spotlight: Great Books for Preschoolers

"I love you to the moon and back!" - Little Rabbit

Check out **Guess How Much I Love You** by Sam McBratney at your local library. Your child will have fun imagining and sharing all the ways to express their love for you!



Cooking With Kids



Gingerbread Cookies in a Jar Cookie mix makes a lovely gift to anyone from a child. Preparing this gift with your child is a gift you also give yourself: sharing time together! **Cooking and baking** lend themselves perfectly to **telling stories** about yourself when you were growing up - it's a great time to bond. Enjoy!

- Mix: 2 cups all-purpose flour, 1 teaspoon baking powder, 1 teaspoon baking soda
- Mix: 1 ½ cups all-purpose flour, 2 teaspoons ginger, 1 tsp cloves, 1 tsp cinnamon, 1 teaspoon allspice
- 1 cup packed brown sugar

In a one-quart, wide-mouth canning jar, layer the 3 mixtures above. Place a circle of "Christmassy" fabric between lid and ring, and tie a gingerbread man cookie cutter onto the jar with ribbon. Attach a card to the jar with the following directions (a pre-printed recipe card may also be found on our website at www.littlereadersbookclub.ca under "News for Parents"):



Gingerbread Cookies (makes approximately 18 cookies)

- Empty contents of jar into a large mixing bowl. Blend together thoroughly.
- Add ½ cup softened butter or margarine, ¾ cup molasses and 1 slightly beaten egg.
- Mix until completely blended. Dough will be very stiff so you may need to use your hands.
- Cover and refrigerate dough for 1 hour.
- Roll dough to ¼ inch thick on a lightly floured surface. Cut into shapes with a cookie cutter.
- Place cookies on a lightly greased cookie sheet about 2 inches apart.
- Bake at 350 degrees for 10 to 12 minutes. Decorate as desired.

