

THE GIFT OF WORDS – Communicator Article December 4, 2006

Imagine being able to give a gift that lasts a lifetime, a gift that affects generations to come. Also imagine that it doesn't cost a penny, though it does require a commitment of your time. Being able to read is such a gift, and by volunteering with the One to One reading program you can help to make this a reality for children in our community. The One to One reading program pairs community volunteers with elementary-aged school children who need extra help developing their reading skills. Volunteers, ages 16 and up, with excellent reading and English language skills need to commit 1.5 hours a week for 10 weeks. A **free**, 2.5-hour training session, complete with manual, will be taking place in January 2007. If you think this is a volunteer opportunity that fits with your lifestyle, please contact me, Lizanne Eastwood @ 442-2533 to register for the upcoming volunteer training workshop. Remember, children who have good reading skills have a better chance of succeeding in all aspects of their lives. What a gift!

If you who are unable to commit to volunteering with this program the Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy offers you another opportunity to share the gift of words with the children of our community. The Book Under Every Tree drive is now underway. Brightly decorated boxes can be found in locations around town including the schools, the library, Grand Forks Credit Union, Thimble Mountain Books, Boundary Childcare Resource and Referral office, Hutton Family Centre, Jogas, Community Futures and Overwaitea.

Donations of new and gently used children's books will be distributed through the young parents program at BFISS and through the Food Bank's Christmas Hampers.

The Hickity Pickity CD with over 100 rhymes, songs and stories performed by the Boundary Mother Goose group is another great way to give the gift of words and song to any young child on your gift list. All proceeds from the sales of this CD go directly back into funding Mother Goose programs in the Boundary area.

Don't forget to attend the Festive Family Storytime on Thursday, December 7th, 6:30-7:30 at the Grand Forks Public Library. There will be guest storytellers, musicians, refreshments and a surprise for all. This event is hosted by the Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy.

For more information on any of these programs or events please contact Lizanne Eastwood – Family Literacy Coordinator for Grand Forks and the West Boundary. 442-2533 or leastwood@thehub.literacy.bc.ca