

What's Happening!

Winnipeg



(From left to right) Lorri Apps, Alanna Hillis, Yvonne Jordaan, Sherri-Lynn Rollins, and Carol Goossen discuss NLS proposal.

Everyone is busy at LPM. It's that time of year again, when people work late into the night to meet proposal deadlines. On February 8, LPM regional reps **Carol Goossen, Alanna Hillis, and Yvonne Jordaan**, met with LPM Executive Director **Lorri Apps** and board member **Sherri-Lynn Rollins** to discuss the coordination of their proposals to NLS. Beginning next year, NLS requires that regional coalitions, previously funded separately, now become part of the LPM proposal.

Members from a dozen programs gathered at the LPM office on February 4 to share information with LPM staff. One of the hot topics was how to get PGI bursary funds out to learners. Contact us if any of your learners need help with child care, materials, or transportation costs. Following on from this profitable meeting, LPM will host **breakfast** at 8:00 a.m. on **Friday April 15**. Please

call 947-5757 to let us know if you'll be coming.

On February 9, **Lorri Apps, Charles Moody** and **Rob Sarginson** met with **Finance Minister Greg Selinger**. The minister expressed support for our efforts to secure better funding for adult literacy.

Freedom to Read Week

On **February 26 - 27**, Literacy Partners Of Manitoba will be participating in **QUEST: 24-Hour Freedom to Read Marathon**, organized by the **Manitoba Writers' Guild** and **McNally Robinson**. LPM will be recruiting 2 people to take reading shifts during the Marathon and to speak very briefly about the prevalence of poor literacy skills in Manitoba. We will also have LPM informational material available at the Writers' Guild display table. If you would like to take a shift, please phone **Bunny Cobb** at 954-3853. For more information on Freedom to Read Week, visit the Guild Web site: <http://www.mbwriter.mb.ca/24marathon.html>

Clearer Communication

On **March 3**, LPM will be participating in *Towards Clearer Communications* at the **Radisson Winnipeg Downtown**. This is one of a series of conferences given in provincial capitals across Canada by the Fédération canadienne pour

l'alphabétisation en français (FCAF). LPM will take part in a panel discussion and give a plain language session in English. For more information and to register, visit <http://www.clearercommunications.ca/home.html>.

Prescription for Change

On **March 18**, LPM holds its own literacy and health conference – *Prescription for Change* – at the **Canad Inns Polo Park**. We urge literacy practitioners to attend! **Chris McInnis** and **Joan Mollins** will introduce the low reading level text *Going to the Doctor* and their Instructor's Guide. **Margaret Chambers** will share the wisdom of her many years of experience in a presentation on "Health Topics in the Literacy Classroom". Visit www.mb.literacy.ca to register.

Learner Speakers' Training

Learner Speaker's Bureau training will take place on **March 10, 11, 17 and 18**. See the attached sheets.

LiteracyWorks Book Drive

Until **February 16**, you can drop off any gently-used books at Chapters and Coles stores for the **LiteracyWorks Book Sale** at **Kildonan Place** on **June 18 and 19**. On February 9, LiteracyWorks held a special fundraising event at Chapters Polo Park.

What's Happening! (continued)

In the North



Face painting at The Pas Regional Library on Family Literacy Day

Much is happening in the north. First of all, the **Learners' Conference** will be held on **April 15 and 16** in **Thompson**. Learners from Flin Flon, Cross Lake, Norway House, Thompson, The Pas, and other communities will be attending. **LPM Northern Rep Yvonne Jordaan** will give out the Raise-a-Reader books at the conference.

Delia Erickson reports from Cross Lake that her students are currently taking Math and English courses on WEB CT. **Myrna Ducharme's** students at the **Ma-Mow-We-Tak Friendship Centre** in **Thompson** will soon be starting job skills with their employment counsellor.

The Pas Regional Library is competing fiercely in the Battle of the Books. Librarian **Carol Ham** explains that across the province, libraries are competing against themselves to increase their circulation, using a variety of techniques to bring people into the library. Future events at the Library include **Pajama Tales**, in English on **February 23**, and in French on **March 3**. The library held a very successful Family Literacy evening on January 27. This event was covered by the Opasquia Times.

In the West

The **Western Region Learners' Conference** will be hosted by **APPLE** in **Virден** on **April 28-29**.

AL&L Rural Coordinator Marie Matheson tells us of some upcoming training events in the region.

March 4: The Foundations in Math Series, Portage la Prairie

March 11: Strengthening Your Reading Program (Part 2), Brandon Provincial Building

April 22: A Good Start - Networking and Sharing about Good Practice in Family Literacy, Portage la Prairie.

May 13: Just What is 'Adult' about Adult Learning, Swan River.

For a full list of training events, visit http://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/aet/all/training/0405Training_Schedule.pdf

Writing Out Loud

From Minnedosa, **Alexis Harvey** reports that **PULSE** will be hosting **Writing Out Loud**, a "hands on" writing workshop for those interested in exploring new and refreshing ways to write. This workshop will take place at the **Minnedosa Regional Library Boardroom** on **February 18**.

Presenter **Wayne Brown** will share information and ideas based on **Debra Morgan's** resource and related on-line writing opportunity. For more info or to register, please call Alexis Harvey at (204) 867-5007 or Wayne Brown (204) 476-2126.

In the Interlake

The Interlake Regional Learners' conference will take place on **April 16** at **Ashern**. The theme this year is "Life is a Highway!" A tour bus has been booked to transport participants, and travel theme workshops are in the planning stages.

I Love to Read Month will be celebrated in an **Undercover Readers' Adventure** on **February 17** at 10:00 a.m. at **Winnipeg Beach School**. Special guest readers, including the **Honourable Peter Bjornson**, Minister of Education, will read stories to groups of children under the canopy of a tent. Snacks and musical entertainment with **Gary Eastman** will follow.

The same event will take place in the **Gimli Early Years School** on **March 11**, and in **Ashern Early Years School**, featuring Aboriginal storyteller, **Eric Kennedy** on **February 21**.

On **February 17**, **Carol Goossen** and early years school librarian, **Ila Condi**, will make a presentation on children's literature to the **Women's Institute of Gimli**.

Also on **February 17**, **Margaret Chambers**, coordinator of **Interlake Adult Learning Association**, will participate in drafting a proposal that the **Interlake Regional Health Authority** is submitting to **Cancer Care Manitoba**.

February 21, 22, and 26 are Library theme days in **Riverton, Gimli, and Arborg**. For children ages 6-12, these popular workshops include readings, one or two craft activities, a snack, and sometimes a short movie clip. The theme this month is bookmaking for **I Love to Read Month!**

The Interlake Regional Learning Network (IRLN) is working with the **Studios of Wendy j.** to produce generic promotional display materials that will be available to all Interlake communities. IRLN is also producing a descriptive manual for **BagaBook** workshops. Both of these projects should be completed in the spring.