

# Expressions

Each One **E-Magazine**

Teach One

Volume 5

Issue 3

Fall 2011

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

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corner!**

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If you have any comments or questions or ideas for articles please feel free to email Robyn Cook-Ritchie: [ritchieg@execulink.com](mailto:ritchieg@execulink.com)

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# NEWS FROM THE OFFICE

MTCU funds LLO to support our member agencies to deliver coordinated quality LBS services, develop and provide accessible quality resources, support professional development, and support the production and integration of research and development results and products.

Last April, LLO surveyed members about their training needs, particularly regarding how LLO could best provide support around implementing the Ontario Adult Literacy Curriculum Framework. Most of you responded that the biggest issue was how to integrate this new paradigm into tutor training, and into tutor practice. Because LLO has a nationally-recognized training system for tutors and tutor-trainers, we felt we were well placed to provide this support, and MTCU agreed. They funded us to provide specific OALCF training at our June Conference, and we delivered three workshops focusing on OALCF. Two were delivered by Robyn Cook-Ritchie, the “go-to” person for OALCF, and one was delivered to adult literacy learners by Jennifer Ellis. Both Robyn and Jennifer are also certified Laubach trainers.

The summaries of these workshop evaluations are available at <http://www.laubach-on.ca/getinvolved/facts/news/2011-annual-conference>

Another part of the OALCF project is to develop online tutor training modules for our Moodle Classroom, Training Post. Tutor trainers will have access to these modules which can then be used in a face-to-face workshop, or new and existing volunteer tutors (or new staff) can access on their own. These will be available in late February.

Because there is some money left in the project fund we are delighted to announce that LLO is offering a **ONE DAY FACE-TO-FACE OALCF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT EVENT**. We have not decided on a date or location as yet, but it will be before the end of March, 2012. Space will be limited to 30 participants, and will include a presentation of the four online OALCF tutor modules with tips on how to integrate it into your tutor training workshops. In the afternoon TDAC members will be leading roundtable discussions and hands-on tasks based on member feedback.

Members will be surveyed in December and January so if you want your say on what you want the training and/or discussions to focus on, make sure you participate in the survey.



*Lana Faessler*

Executive Director



We are on **FACEBOOK**.

Be sure to visit and click on **LIKE** so our posts appear on your newsfeed!!!

**Deadline for Facebook contest is December 31st.**

LLO is tweeting! Click on the link to follow us: <http://twitter.com/lontario>



# Student Success

## Marg's Story

I remember the first day I walked into the Literacy class in November, 2004. I was so embarrassed about being in a literacy class that I only told one person, my mom and she was proud of me. I quit school when I was 16. My Mom and sister tried to talk me into staying in school but I didn't like school so I didn't listen.

I got a job and worked and gave up on my education. I continually worked through my life. With no education I didn't get the greatest of jobs. That was okay with me because I had a job and I didn't have to go to school.

In October 2004, my factory job I had for 12 years down sized and I lost my job. I was devastated. Now what was I suppose to do? Things were a lot different now, you needed your grade 12, you couldn't walk into a factory and come out with a job. My last job a friend was working there and she told her boss that I was a good and reliable worker. When I went for the interview, I walked out with the job.

I went to the EI office to apply for EI, I was shocked at how things had changed. You didn't even have to fill out any paper work because everything was done on the computer. I'd never touched a computer before; I was so lost and embarrassed. I had to ask for help, and I hated doing that.

The week I received my first EI cheque, I made my decision to go back to school. Every time I walked in the mall, I saw a sign about the Literacy class that was down stairs. I've seen that sign so many times and thought about it so many times. I was always working and busy with life, now was my chance to get the help I needed.

I was really nervous the first day I walked into class. The teacher's name was Judy at that time. She made me feel so welcomed. She gave me some lessons to do in class. There were things I remembered and there were a lot I didn't. The next day she gave back the work that she marked, and I always spelled chicken like "chickhen" and that day I found out it was spelled chicken. I knew that day this was the best class for me.

I had a lot of turmoil that happened in my life, from 2004 – 2006. I was in and out of Judy's class until 2007. Judy would call and let me know that my seat was being saved for me, and not to give up. I always remember what Judy said when I told her that one of my biggest goals was to graduate. She said start with your small goals first and call them baby steps, and the baby steps will help you reach your biggest goal.

I came back to Judy's class in September 2007 and I started working on my baby steps. Judy was a very understanding teacher who had faith in me when I had none. I thought of Judy as my mentor and when I had to talk to someone I went to her. She was always willing help and I always felt good after we talked.

It was the summer of 2010, I received an email from Judy. She was emailing all her students that were coming back in September, to let them know that she was not returning in September. She had found another job and there would be a replacement teacher in September. This was really upsetting news for me. I didn't want to go back to school because I don't like change.

In September of 2010 I walked back into class, I was nervous again it was like starting over. The new teacher introduced herself as Kari. She was young and I was old enough to be her mother. At first I thought, this isn't going to work. She was nice and I wanted to give it a chance. As time went on I found out that Kari was cut out of the same teaching cloth as Judy. She also was understanding and she also had faith in me. She also was willing to help me reach my biggest goal of graduating. Kari suggested that I try the credit class when I return in September.

I got a phone call in August to come into the Grand Erie Learning Alternatives Centre, to make plans to start the credit class in September, 2011. The first thing I thought was, I just turned 50 and I'm too old to reach my biggest goal now. I was telling my niece and my close friends that I would be going back to school in September. I get a lot of support from my niece Terrie and my close friends. I asked Terrie if she had to, could she wheel me up in my wheel chair to get my diploma. She laughed and said she would. She has faith in me and said I'll be walking up to get it.

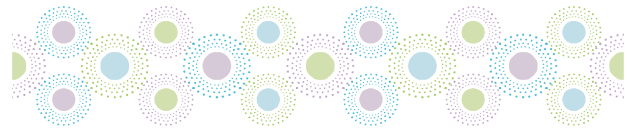
# Success Stories!!!

September 2011, I started the credit class. Again I was nervous and I thought I was going to be the oldest in my class. When I walked in class there were a mixture of ages trying to achieve the same goal as I was. I met the teacher Kate whom is nice and friendly. When I got home I called my niece and said I don't think I can do it, and she said yes you can and you will.

The next day I went to school, in the mornings I'm in Kari's class until 12 o'clock. In the afternoon I go to Kate's class. Over a week has passed in the credit class. Now it's time for my first test. Even the word test scares me. I got my test back and I saw my mark 18 Out of 30, I thought I failed and wanted to quit. I talked to Kari she told me I passed and to relax it was just the first test. It was time for the second test and I relaxed like Kari suggested and I got 30 out of 30, I was ecstatic. My midterm mark was 78% and my final mark was 81%. Hearing Kari and Kate saying they were proud of me, made me so happy and proud of myself. I know if I work at it and have faith in myself I can achieve my biggest goal.



Jacobb and Marg at the Grand Erie Learning Alternatives City Centre Campus.



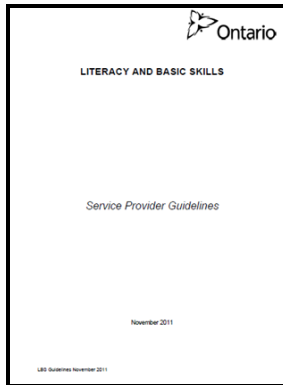
## Jacobb's Story

Well, well time to talk about me! However, I do wish to talk about just how much this program has helped me. Last year when I started the Adult Literacy Program I could function at a good level when it came to reading, but only a basic level when it came to writing and I often made errors doing so. Now my skills in both have greatly improved to the point that I no longer feel any embarrassment in either. In fact, as I am writing this I just received the results of a spelling quiz I took in my literacy class and I got perfect on it. Also, my math skills greatly improved. When I started this program I could only do basic forms of math. As a measure of how far I have come in that area I recently got a mark of 100% on a math P.L.A.R. test.

This year I started credit classes, while still attending my literacy class. Starting with only two credits to my name, I have now reached in to the low to mid 20s. This year I have got 100% on two tests in my credit class and have never gotten below 80% on any of them. On an end of term project I got 83%. We had to make a study guide on the course we just took. All together my end mark was 88%. Also I have started as I said before taking P.L.A.R. tests. I have taken three of them so far and the last one as I said earlier I received a mark of 100% on it. I still have one more to take and am currently studying for it. I hope to graduate from this program by the end of the year. I am grateful for what this program has done for me and for being given this chance. The staff at the Literacy Program have been of great help and I would like to take this opportunity to thank them all. Most of all I would like to thank my Adult Literacy instructor for all she has done.

# Program Administration

## Updated LBS Service Provider Guidelines



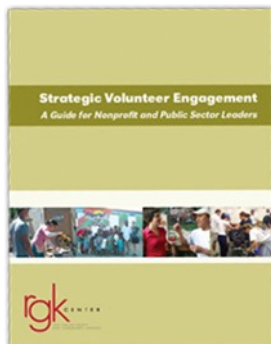
Did you know the updated service provider guidelines include a new definition for “literacy”?

**Literacy** is defined as the ability to read, write, calculate, speak, and

*understand, as well as sign (for the Deaf) and communicate in other forms of language, according to need. Literacy is a continuum of these skills necessary for everyday life in the home, at work, in education and in the community (page 7).*

The new guidelines come into effect in April 2012. Click on the link to download your copy:

[http://www.tcu.gov.on.ca/eng/eopg/publications/20111109\\_lbs\\_guidelines\\_2011.pdf](http://www.tcu.gov.on.ca/eng/eopg/publications/20111109_lbs_guidelines_2011.pdf)



## Strategic Volunteer Engagement: A Guide for Nonprofit and Public Sector Leaders

<http://www.serviceleader.org/>

What do nonprofit and public sector leaders need to know to work effectively with volunteers? What systems and strategies need to be in place to effectively engage volunteers? What misconceptions stand in the way of more effective volunteer involvement?

These are just a few of the questions answered in the e-book *Strategic Volunteer Engagement: A Guide for Nonprofit and Public Sector Leaders*.

This 40-page booklet is available for purchase. If you are interested in ordering print copies of this Guide for your organization, please email [volunteer@rgkcenter.org](mailto:volunteer@rgkcenter.org) or call the RGK Center at 512-232-7062. Cost is \$6.95 per copy plus shipping and handling costs.

## Accessible Customer Service for organizations with fewer than 20 employees

Ontario’s new Accessibility Standard for Customer Service is not about physical changes to your premises — it’s simply about providing good customer service to everyone. Chances are, you’re already making the effort to ensure your organization is providing accessible customer service to people with disabilities.



The Accessibility Standard for Customer Service applies to all organizations in Ontario with one or more employees.

There are two things you need to do:

- create your plan
- train your staff.

For more information:

<http://www.mcsc.gov.on.ca/en/mcsc/programs/accessibility/customerService/>

**Apprenticeship** is one of five goals that LBS programs currently prepare clients for transition. To access the official OALCF [Apprenticeship Goal Path Description](#) document, click on the link below.

[http://www.tcu.gov.on.ca/eng/eopg/publications/OALCF\\_GPD\\_Apprenticeship\\_Oct\\_11.pdf](http://www.tcu.gov.on.ca/eng/eopg/publications/OALCF_GPD_Apprenticeship_Oct_11.pdf)

Learn more about Apprenticeship by exploring some of the resources in this Apprenticeship Focus section!



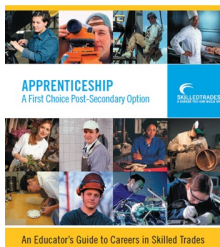
The apprenticesearch.com website is designed to help connect apprentices and employers across Ontario and is a free service operated by not-for-profit organizations and community agency partners in Ontario.

<http://www.apprenticesearch.com/>



Free downloadable 8 page book on the *Steps to an Apprenticeship* can be found on the Apprenticesearch.com website:

[http://www.apprenticesearch.com/userfiles/file/PDFs/Steps To an Apprenticeship 2011.pdf](http://www.apprenticesearch.com/userfiles/file/PDFs/Steps%20To%20an%20Apprenticeship%202011.pdf)



This resource provides educators and career counsellors with the facts about skilled trades, and includes activities and lesson plans that will engage students, and get them thinking about pursuing an apprenticeship after high school. Click on the link to download your copy: [http://](http://www.careersintrades.ca/all/EducatorsGuide-English.pdf)

[www.careersintrades.ca/all/EducatorsGuide-English.pdf](http://www.careersintrades.ca/all/EducatorsGuide-English.pdf)



**How do I learn more about the OALCF?**

LLO is currently working on developing online tutor training modules to introduce the OALCF. The modules will be available on LLO's Training Post (Moodle Classroom). Hard copy segments will also be available for delivery in a tutor training workshop. See Page 3 for an OALCF Professional Development opportunity.

A recorded version of the Overview Training (Fall 2010) and the Fall Implementation Training (Fall 2011) can be accessed on E-Channel: <http://e-channel-login.ca/main/e-channel-organizations/index.jhtml?default=true>

The Overview Training and Spring Implementation Training are also available as a series of Power Point files with voiceover. They can be viewed at: <http://www.lbspractitionertraining.com/oalcf/presentations>

All of the supporting documents and tools are available online through the Employment Ontario Partner's Gateway: <http://www.tcu.gov.on.ca/eng/eopg/oalcf/index.html>



# Fun Stuff!

Office Party Christmas Game Ideas!



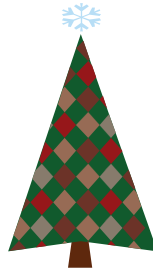
[http://www.centri.net.com/christmas/party\\_games.htm](http://www.centri.net.com/christmas/party_games.htm)



<http://mashable.com/2011/11/24/google-search-infographic/>

Decorate a virtual Christmas tree

<http://www.castlearcana.com/christmas/tree/index.html>



Email, Tweet or send free holiday e-cards in Facebook on the care2 make a difference site!

<http://www.care2.com/ecards/>



Click on the link to download your free printable holiday gift tags

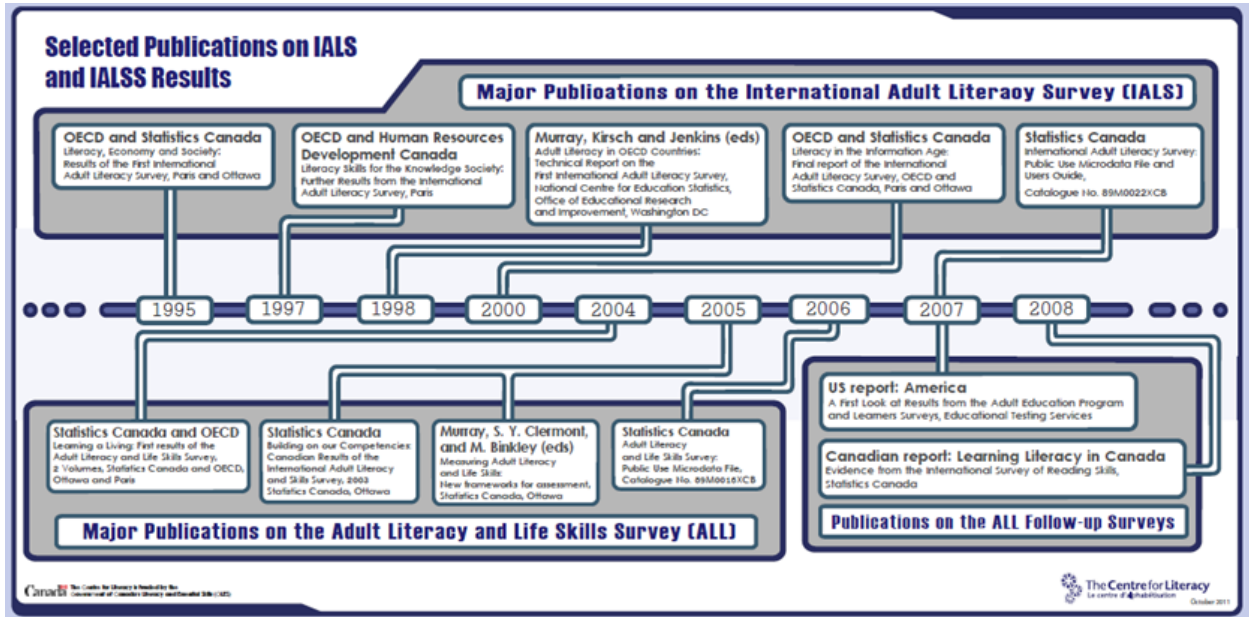
<http://www.welovetoillustrate.com/2010/12/free-holiday-tag-printables.html>



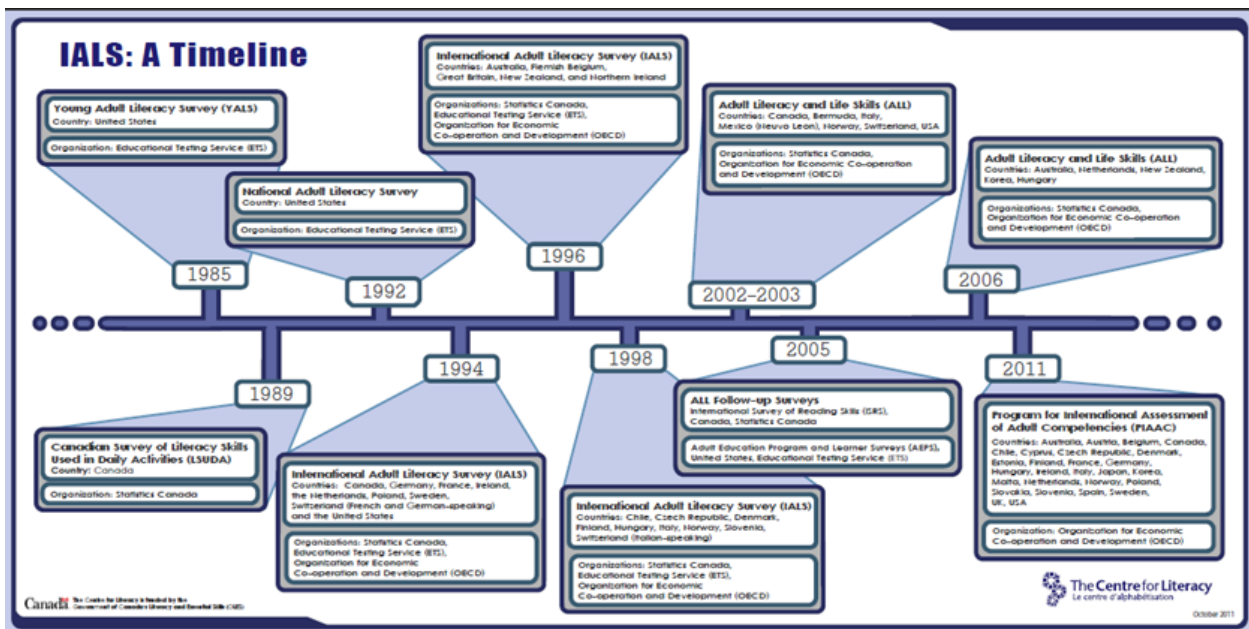
# IALS Institute 2011

About the history and uses of international adult literacy surveys

No time or money to go to the IALS Institute 2011? Check out the blog: <https://ialsinst.wordpress.com/>



[http://www.centreforliteracy.qc.ca/sites/default/files/major\\_publications\\_chart-final-ai9%20\(2\).pdf](http://www.centreforliteracy.qc.ca/sites/default/files/major_publications_chart-final-ai9%20(2).pdf)



[http://www.centreforliteracy.qc.ca/sites/default/files/IALS\\_a\\_timeline\\_rev\\_Oct19-11.pdf](http://www.centreforliteracy.qc.ca/sites/default/files/IALS_a_timeline_rev_Oct19-11.pdf)

# Training, Development and Certification

Congratulations to **Linda Dubroy**, North Bay Literacy Council, who was recently certified as a Laubach Supervising Tutor Trainer. Linda was one of several apprentice supervising trainers who took 1/2 of the 6-hour Supervising Trainer workshop online on LLO's Training Post, and finished the face-to-face portion at our June 2011 Conference.

The Training, Development and Certification Committee meets twice a year to approve certification packages. The next certification review will take place in June at our annual conference. You can submit your certification package any time before May 30th.

LLO's Training Post, our online classroom for tutors, trainers and literacy practitioners can be found at <http://www.laubach-on.ca/teach/members/onlineclassroom>, as well as instructions on how to access the Training Post.

Check out the ProLiteracy Education Network for **FREE resources**. Includes activities with **audio files on current topics such as budgeting and online banking**.

<http://www.proliteracyednet.org/>



# Laubach Literacy Bookstore



Click here to review the November **LLO Bookstore News** - our electronic monthly newsletter:

<http://us2.campaign-archive2.com/?u=527e811a0c782656b30e7f7f3&id=ad35926625&e=ae576b60da>

# Brought to you by the Laubach Literacy Bookstore

## Literacy Calendars for sale.

One of our members suggested that it would be nice to have calendars for students to keep track of events as a great teaching tool. We listened and came up with an affordable calendar in two sizes.

The large calendar is 11 x 17 when open and shows two months at a time, the small calendar is 8 1/2 by 11 when open and also shows two months at a time.

Major holidays are marked on the calendar and each page is cheerful and sunny with quotes about reading.

Some of the quotes are:

If you can read this – thank a tutor; Reading can open many doors but YOU have to open the book; A library is a hospital for the mind. The calendar also lists member agencies and their phone numbers on the last page.

Each of our members will be receiving a free “small calendar” within the next week. If anyone is interested in purchasing a few, let us know. They are available on regular paper as well as glossy...depending on how much you want to pay. Contact us if you are interested.



# Creative Curriculum

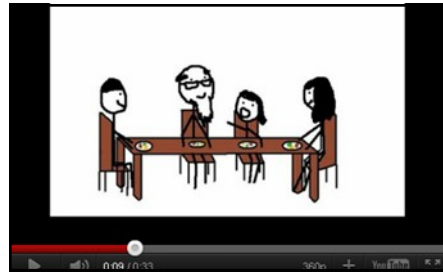
## Order

Khan Academy is a great resource. Click on the link to see some free math exercises:

<http://www.khanacademy.org/video/khan-academy-exercise-software?>



### A Visualization of Punctuation's Importance



"Punctuation is Important" is a thirty second animation of the difference a comma makes in a sentence. Enjoy!

<http://www.freetech4teachers.com/2011/11/visualization-of-punctuations.html>



Check out this blog:  
EDUCATIONAL  
ASPIRATIONS -  
RAMBLINGS  
FROM A 21ST  
CENTURY  
EDUCATOR

<http://educationalaspirations.wordpress.com/>

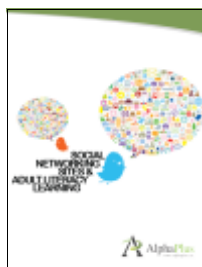
### Don't forget the



<http://www.learninghub.ca/Home.aspx>

Over the last year AlphaPlus has been working on several research documents focusing on the integration of technology in adult education. They recently announced the fourth publication in the series entitled "[Social Networking Sites and Adult Literacy Learning](#)."

The research paper explores how educators and adult learners might harness the full potential of Social Networking Sites (SNS) in the service of adult literacy teaching and learning.



<http://alphaplus.ca/en/web-tools/online-publications-a-reportsgroup1/social-networking-sites-and-adult-literacy-learning.html>



Excel 2007 is the spreadsheet software in the Microsoft 2007 Office Suite. It allows you to store, organize, and analyze numerical and text data.

Access free online lessons on how to use Excel on the GCF LearnFree Website:

<http://www.gcflearnfree.org/excel2007>



This project is intended to provide an understanding of the relationship between literacy and disability through the use of maps. The combined expertise of researchers from the fields of human rights, disability policy analysis and Geographic Information Science or GIS, allows for a wide array of policy initiatives to be put forth aimed at addressing both the overt as well as covert relationships between disability, literacy, social inclusion and justice, and public policy. This spatial look at these social issues provides a tool for policy and service development.

<http://www.abilities.ca/landscape/>



**Chapter 3 focuses primarily on the landscape of literacy and is an excellent marketing tool for literacy programs.**

<http://www.abilities.ca/landscape/Chapter3.pdf>

## Dealing with Dyslexia

The Power Of Dyslexia video is to create awareness of an educational and collaborative community at <http://www.thepowerofdyslexia.com>

This video [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l\\_qGJ9svUbm&NR=1](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l_qGJ9svUbm&NR=1) is about Dyslexia and Famous Dyslexics.

The Power of Dyslexia is dedicated to serving the dyslexic community by providing a Free online community where dyslexics and those touched by dyslexia can post questions, provide advice and chat with other community members.

### Famous People with Dyslexia:

- Albert Einstein is one of the most well know and respected scientists.
- Tom Cruise is one of the top five movie stars of all time
- Henry Winkler from the hit show Happy Days
- Muhammad Ali is one of the greatest fighters of all time
- Thomas Edison is one of the most prolific inventors of all time
- Winston Churchill is one of the greatest leaders in all of history

## Coping with ADD

Totallyadd.com provides tips and tricks to cope with attention deficit disorder. Click on the link to watch the video on "Making a List".



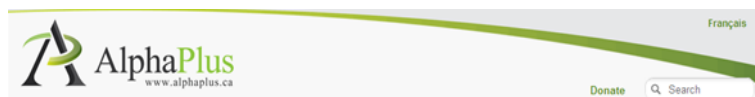
<http://totallyadd.com/make-a-list/>



Click on the link to learn how to embed YouTube video in Microsoft Word document



<http://h30411.www3.hp.com/posts/1171208->



Finding, editing and managing images - Tech Tuesdays webinar–December 20, 2011

<http://alphaplus.ca/en/about/activities-and-opportunities/ap-events-calendar/event/MGh2b29zZDIkYmRsZDhhMzBwaXVOYWE4bnMgZTBsNjAzc2E5a2YydiZ0MTZmMWRvczM2cDBAZw/2.html?start=1324389600&end=1324393200>

If you are searching for good images for yourself or to use with your students, want to learn more about and explore image editing tools, or need to find a good image management software, this session is for you!



**An App for this and an App for that.....** here are a few cool apps that you might find interesting. They are on my list of apps to download.

Shazam (Android, iPhone and iPad)

Ever play that game – who is singing that song or what is the title and then nobody knows the answer? This app will solve that. Set this app next to the song playing, for a few seconds, and it will tell you all about the song...even where you can buy it. It only works on recorded songs – it won't recognize all you wannabe recording stars singing into the device.

Goggles (Android and iPhone) allows you to take a picture of an image (landmark, building, logos) and be directed to the website.

Foodies – this app is for you. OpenTable (Android, iPhone and iPad) allows you to find reviews of local restaurants. You can also make reservations with this app.

Google Sky Maps (Android only)

Ever wonder what constellation you are looking at. Point your phone or tablet at the sky, and see where all of the stars, planets and constellations are right now. This is really cool.



## Microsoft PowerPoint

Did you know that you can add bookmarks to audio and video clips in your PowerPoint presentations? Bookmarks allow you to seamlessly transition from a PowerPoint slide to a specific moment in a video:

<http://bit.ly/t43mYg>

Tip: Video of Gary Porter or another student could be inserted into the Power Point on Literacy Issues segment of tutor training.

## The secret to converting your presentation into a video

Did you know that you can share your PowerPoint presentations with people who don't have PowerPoint installed on their computer, by saving your PowerPoint presentations as Windows Media Player (.wmv) video files?



## **10 Helpful Tips for Using PowerPoint for E-Learning**

[http://www.atrixware.com/blog/wp/10-tips-for-using-powerpoint/?utm\\_source=twitterfeed&utm\\_medium=twitter](http://www.atrixware.com/blog/wp/10-tips-for-using-powerpoint/?utm_source=twitterfeed&utm_medium=twitter)

## **5 innovative tools to spice up your presentations**

[http://h30411.www3.hp.com/posts/1331385-5\\_innovative\\_tools\\_to\\_spice\\_up\\_your\\_presentations](http://h30411.www3.hp.com/posts/1331385-5_innovative_tools_to_spice_up_your_presentations)

Spice up your presentations with these five cool web 2.0 tools. From meetings with your faculty to engaging classroom lessons, express your creativity with these presentation alternatives.



In today's fast-paced, media-driven world, the traditional slide-by-slide presentation will not hold the interest of your audience.

# Essential Stuff!

Essential Skills Videos <http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/eng/workplaceskills/LES/videos/videos.shtml>

Office of Literacy and Essential Skills launches new podcast series! Stay current on ES developments [rhdcc-hrsdc.gc.ca/eng/workplaces...](http://rhdcc-hrsdc.gc.ca/eng/workplaces...)

From OLES- Thinking Tip Sheet: improve thinking skills, focus on problem solving, making decisions, organizing tasks [hrsdc.gc.ca/eng/workplaces...](http://hrsdc.gc.ca/eng/workplaces...)

**Is there a tool or topic we should cover in the TECH Corner?  
Send your ideas and suggestions to [literacy@laubach-on.ca](mailto:literacy@laubach-on.ca)**

# LONGEST NIGHT OF THE YEAR

The winter solstice marks the shortest day and the longest night of the year. The sun appears at its lowest point in the sky, and its noontime elevation appears to be the same for several days before and after the solstice. Hence the origin of the word solstice, which comes from Latin solstitium, from sol, "sun" and -stitium, "a stoppage." Following the winter solstice, the days begin to grow longer and the nights shorter.

Read more: [Winter Solstice — Infoplease.com](http://www.infoplease.com/spot/wintersolstice1.html#ixzz1b9R91mB9)

<http://www.infoplease.com/spot/wintersolstice1.html#ixzz1b9R91mB9>

For us in Canada (the northern hemisphere), the winter solstice is on Wednesday, December 21. It marks the longest night and shortest day of 2011.

Late dawn. Early sunset. Short day. Long night.

After the winter solstice, the days will get longer, and the nights shorter. Celebration time!

You can notice the late dawns and early sunsets, and the low arc of the sun across the sky each day. You might notice how low the sun appears in the sky at local noon. And be sure to look at your noontime shadow. Around the time of the December solstice, it's your longest noontime shadow of the year.

Many people have an unfavourable response to this time of short days and long nights. Some people try special lighting. Others take vacations to more southerly latitudes (like FLORIDA!)

<http://earthsky.org/astromy-essentials/everything-you-need-to-know-about-the-solstice-on-december-21>

