



NEW FRONTIERS in Literacy

www.frontiercollege.ca

HAPPY OLD YEAR! HAPPY NEW YEAR!

First of all, we'd like to thank you for your continued interest in Frontier College. We've had a great year with lots of success and happiness and we're looking forward to a fantastic 2012.

We're grateful to our many supporters and we'd like to remind you that there are a variety of ways to ensure that Frontier College continues to bring literacy to all Canadians.

Are you able to volunteer as a tutor? Are you looking for a meaningful gift for someone? Our holiday cards are just a click away. Or perhaps you'd like to start the new year with a commitment to being a monthly donor? However you choose to support us, we thank you.

Most of all, we want to wish every one of our readers, from coast to coast to coast a fulfilling and Happy New Year.

JUNIOR CHEFS PROGRAM



Sometimes, getting kids involved in improving their reading skills is a real challenge. But an innovative program in Saskatoon has removed the barriers by turning the process into something comfortable and familiar-cooking. What could be



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In This Issue

- [Junior Chefs Program](#)
- [Volunteer Profile](#)
- [Kids Talk](#)
- [Welcome Board Members](#)
- [Alumni Story](#)
- [Event Report](#)
- [Funding News](#)

December '11

Double your gift! Check out our Matching Gift Challenge.



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[MORE...](#)

VOLUNTEER PROFILE

Every issue we plan to profile some of our dedicated and inspiring volunteers to explore their stories. How did they come to Frontier College? What motivates them to stay? This issue our subject is Catherine Lee, a University of Alberta student who volunteers her services in Edmonton as a tutor for Reading Circles. Catherine knows she is making a difference and that is what motivates her. She has been a volunteer for 5 years and during that time has been able to see some of "her" children developing their literacy skills. As she says, "The most rewarding thing for me is seeing the children growing up, watching them learn how to read and write, and knowing that I am a part of that." [MORE...](#)

WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Four new members were appointed to our Board of Governors at the Annual General Meeting held in Toronto in September. They are:

Gilbert Boucher (Quebec), Will Bujold (Ontario), Louise Hayes (Alberta) and Darren McKee (Saskatchewan). [MORE...](#)

Contact us:



Find Us On:



Upcoming Events

JANUARY: Bonspiel for Literacy: Thursday, January 19, 2012 at The Toronto Cricket, Skating and Curling Club.

FEBRUARY: Eighth Annual Scrabble®Corporate Challenge: Wednesday, February 29th, 2012 from 4:30 to 9:00 pm. Sony Centre for the Performing Arts.

To register for either of these events or for more information, contact Kendra Telford Devine at 1-800-555-6523 or 416-923-3591, ext. 324 or kdevine@frontiercollege.ca

MARCH: Celebrating our 100th Anniversary in Quebec, March 21st. Details to come.

JUNE: Forum on Youth, Criminal Justice and Literacy. June 5, 2012 in Winnipeg. Concurrent Connecting Community workshops will be held in Vancouver, Calgary, Toronto and Halifax. Details to come.

KIDS TALK ABOUT HOMEWORK SUPPORT



Geneviève Perrault, a volunteer at Anne-Hébert primary school in Quebec City, asked Vanessa (4th grade) and Camille (3rd grade) what they thought of the homework club run by Frontier College and its volunteers. [MORE...](#)

ALUMNI STORY: FROM FRONTIER COLLEGE TO BHUTAN



Noorin Shivji began her career with Frontier College as a Literacy Camp counsellor in Northern Ontario on two remote Anishinawbe communities. There, working with the students and their families, she came to understand the aspirations of the people in these very special communities and the right of every human being for literacy. [MORE...](#)

EVENT REPORT



The Scotiabank Giller Light Bash celebrated its 10th anniversary this year and went nationwide with events in Toronto, Vancouver, Calgary, and Winnipeg. There were over 800 participants attending in the four cities and over 500 in Toronto alone, which is a new record. [MORE...](#)

FUNDING NEWS

Our funders represent a diverse array of corporations, foundations, philanthropic organizations and government entities at many levels. In each newsletter we highlight one of the donors who are so important to our mission. In this issue we would like to talk about CIBC:

Since 1982, CIBC has supported Frontier College. Over the last thirty years, they have donated almost \$650,000 toward our literacy programs. The majority of their funding has been directed to our core, enabling us to use their dollars to support programs that might not otherwise be available. The tagline at CIBC is "For what matters" and we feel very fortunate that they believe Frontier College matters!

CHECK OUT OUR BOOKSTORE!

The [Frontier College New Readers Bookstore](#) is a social enterprise division of Frontier College. Revenue generated by the Bookstore is reinvested in our free literacy programs in communities across the country.



THE JUNIOR CHEFS PROGRAM

Sometimes, getting kids involved in improving their reading skills is a real challenge. But an innovative program in Saskatoon has removed the barriers by turning the process into something comfortable and familiar—cooking. What could be more universal? The only restriction is the size of the kitchen which is usually made available by the program sponsor. If the kitchen is too small to accommodate those enrolled, a second session is added.

Typically, working with students between the ages of 8 and 13 (although a program with Grade 9s is starting in the New Year) the volunteers help write up a different recipe each week. The recipe is posted on a flip chart and copied onto index cards. The kids then learn how to double the recipe so that some can be shared or taken home. The recipes are simple and the ingredients readily available. At the end of the term, all the kids are given an index card cookbook so they can continue to make the recipes for their families. Students learn basic reading and comprehension skills, writing, math, nutrition and practical kitchen management—all while having fun. It has been hugely successful as exemplified by a lovely story about a very withdrawn little boy, Jordan, who, over time, began to participate, to smile and eventually to take out a Public Library card. A big step for Jordan that might never have happened in a more traditional reading program!

VOLUNTEER PROFILE

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Catherine has been highly successful at recruiting tutors based on her own experience. Her “sell” consists of reinforcing to volunteers that they will be contributing to something that makes a genuine difference with a time commitment of only 1-2 hours a week. To make her point, she uses the story of a newcomer family whose child attended reading circles regularly. During one of their sessions, the mother approached Catherine to thank her for all the work she had done and proudly announced that her little boy had made so much progress he would not have to be placed in a special ESL program. He would, in fact, be attending regular classroom instruction. That, says Catherine, is what ‘making a difference’ is all about.

Volunteers needed! Check your local link for more information

<http://www.frontiercollege.ca/english/literacy/programscanada.html>

WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Four new members were appointed to our Board of Governors at the Annual General Meeting held in Toronto in September. They are:

Gilbert Boucher (Quebec). Gilbert has been the Executive Vice President and General Manager for Quebec at Compugen since October 2005. His career has been marked by a series of increasingly responsible jobs in the high tech sector where his leadership, determination and charisma helped to foster growth in each of the corporations he worked for. Gilbert has also worked extensively as a volunteer in the not-for-profit sector, including the Alzheimer's Foundation and the United Way.

Will Bujold (Ontario). Will was a student in Frontier College's GED preparation program in 2010 and received the Pat McNeil Memorial Award that year. He was nominated for the Award by his peers in the GED program for the positive changes he made in his own life and for the enthusiastic support and encouragement he provided to his fellow students.

Louise Hayes (Alberta). Louise is Manager, Organizational Liaison, First Nations Relations and Aboriginal Relations for Alberta International, Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Relations. Born and raised in Ottawa, Louise worked in the House of Commons on development of the first national organization representing Metis and non-status Indian people in Canada. She has chaired or served on many not-for-profit boards, including Big Brothers and Big Sisters, United Way and the Canadian Native Friendship Centre.

Darren McKee (Saskatchewan). Darren is currently the Assistant Deputy Minister, Saskatchewan Ministry of Education. He started out as a classroom teacher and then moved into administration. For the last number of years he has been with the Ministry of Education as a Superintendent, Director and Executive Director, culminating in his present appointment. He has recently become the Executive Director of the Saskatchewan School Boards Association.

For a complete list of the Frontier College Board of Governors and the Frontier College Foundation Board, please click [here](#).



Kids Talk about Homework Support

Geneviève Perrault, a volunteer at Anne-Hébert primary school in Quebec City, asked Vanessa (4th grade) and Camille (3rd grade) what they thought of the homework club run by Frontier College and its volunteers.

Here is what these two students had to say:

Vanessa: "I like homework support because I get to finish my homework from school, but also because we laugh. We learn things and volunteers learn things too."

Camille: "We have fun, we meet people, and even if the volunteer is older, it doesn't matter because she knows more things and more jokes."

Vanessa: "At home, I have to wait before I get help because of my little brother who is two years younger than me."

Camille: "I like the surprises we get at the end of the homework session."

Vanessa: "I like to read a story when the volunteer brings books."

And our volunteer adds: "After ten years of volunteering for a helpline offering listening for adults experiencing difficulties, I find it very refreshing to work with kids. I am particularly lucky since both young girls are smart and bubbly."



ALUMNI STORY: FROM FRONTIER COLLEGE TO BHUTAN

Noorin Shivji began her career with Frontier College as a Literacy Camp counsellor in Northern Ontario on two remote Anishinawbe communities. There, working with the students and their families, she came to understand the aspirations of the people in these very special communities and the right of every human being for literacy.

Following her time in the north, Noorin was able to get an internship with Frontier College in Ottawa which was followed by her appointment as Community Coordinator for the City of Ottawa. This was a new position created for her as a result of her highly successful internship. During her three years as Community Coordinator, Noorin increased the number of recruited volunteers from 20 to 60, doubled the number of programs, and initiated a new summer camp. It was a period of huge growth for Frontier College in Ottawa and for Noorin, personally.

Most recently, Noorin has been involved in teaching and working in several First Nations communities, which has afforded her the opportunity to learn skills and participate in activities beyond her imagination. She credits Frontier College with giving her an appreciation of working with indigenous groups and rightly points out that it is one of the few NGOs in Canada committed to serving First Nations people.

And now, Noorin is on her way to the remote Kingdom of Bhutan to teach and learn—one of the happy outcomes of her time spent with Frontier College.

For more Alumni stories click [here](#).



EVENT UPDATE

The Scotiabank Giller Light Bash celebrated its 10th anniversary this year and went nationwide with events in Toronto, Vancouver, Calgary, and Winnipeg. There were over 800 participants attending in the four cities and over 500 in Toronto alone, which is a new record.

The Giller Light Bash started in Toronto as a house party for a group of friends who loved books, and has now grown—with the help of Scotiabank—to be a must-attend event on the Canadian publishing scene. Guests gather to celebrate Canadian literature, watch the Giller Award live on the big screen and to cheer on the winner. Money is raised through ticket sales, raffles and Giller betting. This year, each city had its own dedicated volunteer committee working with Frontier College staff to make their city's event a success. Many thanks to those volunteers who worked so hard to pull these events together and to Scotiabank for making the 2011 Giller Light Bash bigger and better than ever.

A special shout-out to our Alumni in Guelph and Ottawa for their Scrabble®fund-raising evening.