

Community

Sing for literacy ... karaoke style

ABC CANADA Literacy Foundation and Family Literacy Day founding sponsor Honda Canada are encouraging Canadians to Sing for Literacy this Family Literacy Day, Jan. 27, by offering popular English and French songs as free karaoke videos in partnership with The KARAOKE Channel. The free videos are accessible online at www.FamilyLiteracyDay.ca throughout January.

"We are thrilled to offer a fun resource that will inspire families to sing for literacy on Family Literacy Day," says Margaret Eaton, President of ABC CANADA Literacy Foundation. "Singing together is a fun way to strengthen language skills, and an easy way

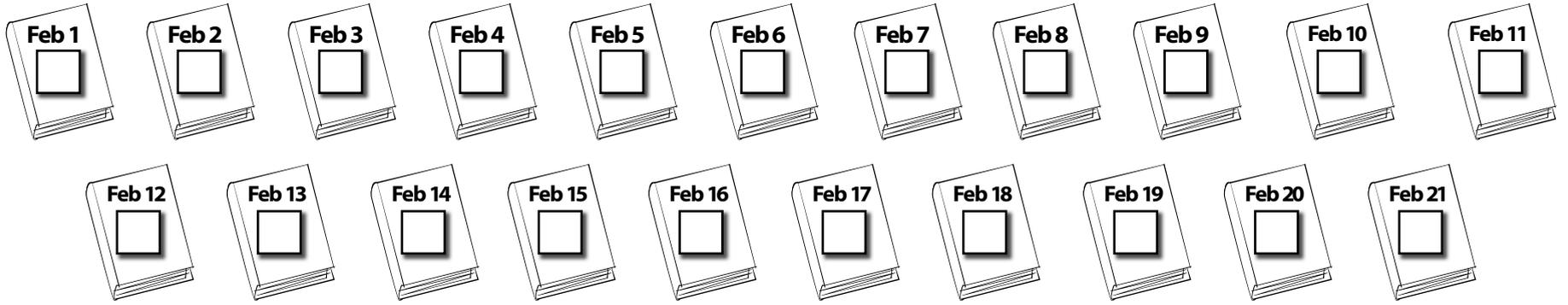
to involve every family member." Research has shown that music can be an effective tool for developing reading and writing skills.

Sing for Literacy encourages Canadians from coast to coast to sing at various Family Literacy Day events and help raise funds by pledging money online via www.FamilyLiteracyDay.ca. Money raised through online pledging will provide much needed support for literacy programs, reaching thousands of Canadian adult learners in the community, at home and in the workplace. Family Literacy Day sing-alongs can take place in homes, schools and classrooms, community centres, or even unexpected places.



City Wide Literacy Challenge February 1-21, 2010

Read as many days as you can from February 1-21. Drop off your completed passports before February 24 at 3:00pm to be eligible to win some **great prizes**. Passports can be dropped off at the following locations: **Any Public School**, **YMCA** - 45844 Hocking Ave, **City Hall** - 8550 Young Rd, **Chilliwack Library** - 45860 First Ave, **Chilliwack Times** - 45951 Trethewey Ave, **Envision Financial** - Sardis & Yarrow branches, **UFV** - 45635 Yale Rd, Building A, Reception Desk and **The Bookman** - 5939 Wellington Ave. Draw will be held on March 1 at City Hall.



Your Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Age: Under 2 2-4 5-11 12-18 19-64 65+

A member of the Chilliwack Learning Community Society would be pleased to contact you if you are interested in:
 volunteering in a literacy program becoming a volunteer tutor joining a literacy committee
 donating to a Community Literacy Program. Your name and phone number will not be used for any other purposes.



Daily reading a healthy habit

The challenge is to read for 20 minutes a day for 21 days starting Feb. 1. In order to track your progress and to become eligible for some great prizes, a passport (provided above) needs to be checked off.

The literacy challenge is part of a concerted effort by the Chilliwack Learning Community Society, Chilliwack Early Years Committee and the **Chilliwack Times** to raise local literacy awareness.

Reading can take you anywhere your imagination is willing to travel and organizers hope the City Wide Literacy Challenge passport is your ticket to ride. The benefits of a more literate community are numerous and go well beyond the skill of being able to read.

"Raising literacy levels means that as a community of people we are open to the concept of 'lifelong learning,'" says Debbie Denault, Chilliwack Community Literacy Coordinator. "It means that we value learning for others and ourselves in the community. A community that

Literacy Challenge is on again

cares about everyone's learning--including those who are most vulnerable, isolated or who currently have the lowest literacy levels--benefits because more people are better equipped to move forward in life."

And in these uncertain economic times, literacy becomes even more valuable.

"There is a link between learning and the economy," says Denault. "For example, during this time of 'economic uncertainty' some people will have a plan of how to 'ride the wave' or buffer themselves, and others will not. The range of what people could learn about at this time is immense. Perhaps one person will focus on understanding the world economic picture because that's important to him or her. Someone else will focus on making changes to their budget, learning to sew or making cook-

ies from scratch. Someone else may decide that it's really time to learn that new skill in order to make more money—it's individual and important—particularly when it helps you, your family or someone else."

One of the keys to literacy success is starting early, and making reading fun is important.

"If moms read to their babies even before they are born, the baby starts to recognize the changes in mom's voice as she reads," says Karin Rempel, Chilliwack Early Years Community Coordinator.

"They start to understand words and what they mean. If they are read to as they grow, they will associate reading with comfort and a sense of security. Once they can read on their own, they will be able to open a world of knowledge and understanding for themselves."