

Community Services

Daily Courier: Kids Connection Fall 2013

LITERACY: More than classroom learning

“If we talk about literacy, we have to talk about how to enhance our children's mastery over the tools needed to live intelligent, creative, and involved lives.” Danny Glover

As parents we want the best for our children; to help them reach their potential and flourish.

One way to do this is to expose our children to a variety of quality experiences that stimulate growth in all areas of life.

Literacy . . . literally

“Ever wonder if illiterate people get the full effect of alphabet soup?” — John Mendoza

Strong comprehension skills, a genuine interest in books and a love of conversation starts at an early age. Expose your children to story times, book clubs, puppet shows, reading clubs and author visits at the library.

Books can be borrowed or downloaded. There are animated, talking picture books, chapter books and books in many languages. Audio books can make driving time more enjoyable.

Physical Literacy

“Just as children need to learn reading, writing and basic math to succeed in life, so too must they know how to move and be confident in their bodies.” Sarah Boesveld

We all have one – a body that is. ‘Physical literacy’ reminds us to develop the basic movement skills needed to remain active in games, sports and physical activities throughout our lives.

It is about the ability to kick a ball, throw a Frisbee, skip, jump, tumble, climb and swim. It is about balance, determination and eye hand coordination. It is about outdoor fun and games.

Activity and recreation guides produced by the City of Kelowna and Districts of Peachland, West Kelowna, and Lake Country list lots of opportunities to strengthen physical literacy.

While on their websites, find a park or two you have never visited and take a hike.

The Environmental Education Centre for the Okanagan (EECO Centre) has a Tracks Walking Club, guided hikes and numerous family events throughout the year. The Kelowna and District Fish and Game Club encourages family participation.

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There are lots of minor sports associations and clubs such as soccer, football, hockey, baseball, wrestling, martial arts, swimming, curling, badminton, ringette, cycling, running, tennis, gymnastics, sailing and golfing.

Creative Literacy

“Art is literacy of the heart.” [Elliot Eisner](#)

Artistically literacy means imagination at work. The focus is to “do” art.

As we experiment with music, dance, photography, acting, painting, weaving, sculpting and writing we become more comfortable with and confident in our ability to create. We value diversity and see possibilities.

Try voice lessons, then take in a concert. Attend a play and check out acting classes. Expose your child to ballet, breakdancing, hip-hop, tap, and multi-cultural dance styles.

Visit art galleries, museums and heritage sites like the Father Pandosy Mission. Participate in cultural events throughout the community like those planned for Culture Days.

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Online Search Literacy

Hone your skills finding activities that enhance your children's development by visiting www.kcr.ca for a '[Community Information Search Central Okanagan](#)'. Check out the recreation, multi-cultural and arts and heritage quick links.

LINKS

Kelowna Community Resources
www.kcr.ca

Community Information Search Central Okanagan'
<http://kelowna.cioc.ca/>

City of Kelowna Activity & Program Guide Fall 2013
<http://www.kelowna.ca/CM/Page4261.aspx>

Peachland Recreation Guide Fall 2013
http://issuu.com/peachlandrec/docs/peachland_rec_fall_2013

West Kelowna Recreation Guide
<http://www.districtofwestkelowna.ca/Modules/ShowDocument.aspx?documentid=11357>

Lake Country Activity Guide Fall 2013/Winter 2014
<http://www.okanaganway.ca/municipal/parks-recreation-culture/activity-guide/>

Culture Days: September 27, 28 & 29, 2013
http://culturedays.ca/en/2013-activities/search/grid?location=city&postal_search=&postal_radius=25&province=BC&city_search=kelowna&city_radius=25&day=&day%5B%5D=2013-09-27&day%5B%5D=2013-09-28&day%5B%5D=2013-09-29&start_time=&end_time=&name=&organizer=&language=&wheelchair=0&type=&type%5B%5D=&category=&category%5B%5D=&keyword=&query=