



Tutor Connection

Fall 2016 Edition

Tri-County Literacy Council is a community-based, non-profit organization that enriches both community and individuals by addressing literacy needs

“No other investment yields as great a return as the investment in education. An educated workforce is the foundation of every community and the future.”

Brad Henry

By Carol Anne Maloney, Coordinator of Volunteers

Tea and Talk for Tutors

September is here. Children are back to school. Slowly we are saying goodbye to summer and getting back to our regular routines. On September 28, 2016 from 1:30 to 2:30 we will be holding another Tea and Talk for Tutors meeting, where we will be showcasing the free website tools offered by Khan Academy. Khan Academy is a non-profit educational organization established in 2006 with the aim of providing a “free, world class education for anyone, anywhere”. It offers great videos and exercises for students to practice concepts and get immediate feedback on their performance. Drop by our Tea and Talk, meet other tutors, and learn more about this valuable website.



Why literacy matters?

Community Literacy of Ontario recently published a study titled “Painting a picture of literacy. Literacy - Why it matters!” Following are facts which show the benefits of investing in literacy:

- **Literacy: A Critical Issue for Ontario**
Literacy is an essential foundation in our world. In our province, 42% of adults do have the literacy skills they need for home, work and life. 1.3 million (16% of Ontarians) struggle with very serious literacy challenges and have trouble reading even the most basic text. Another 2.1 million people (26%) can read but not well enough to meet the demands of today’s society. As well, in 2011, 22.4 % of Canadians between the ages of 25 and 64 did not have a high school diploma. (*Statistics Canada, IALSS, 2003 and Statistics Canada, 2012*)
- **Literacy and Employment**
People with low literacy skills are more likely to be unemployed. In Ontario, just 61% of adults with the lowest literacy levels, while 82% of people with the highest levels of literacy are in the workforce. (*Statistics Canada, 2003*)
- **Literacy and Poverty**
Close to 50% of adults with the lowest levels of literacy live in poverty, compared to 8% of those with high levels of literacy. (*Statistics Canada, 1998*)

“Education is the most powerful weapon we use to change the world.”

Nelson Mandela

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We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.tricountyliteracycouncil.ca

Visit our website regularly; to learn about the latest FREE courses being offered.

- Literacy and Health**
Canadians with low literacy skills are more likely to suffer poorer health than Canadians with high levels of literacy. A person's level of literacy is a key determinant of overall health. (*Canadian Public Health Association, “A Vision for a Health Literacy Canada. Report of the Expert Panel on Health Literacy”, 2008*)
- Literacy and Digital Technology**
Canadians with lower literacy skills are significantly less likely to use computers. (*Statistics Canada, Canadian Internet Use Survey, 2008*)
- Literacy and Justice**
Upon arrival at correctional institutions, approximately 65% of offenders test at a lower level than Grade 8, and 82% test lower than Grade 10. (Correctional Services of Canada's website, *“Overview of Education and Employment Programs”, 2010*)
- Literacy and the Economy**
A 1% increase in literacy skills would lead to an increase of 18.5 billion per year in Canada's Gross Domestic Product (GDP). (*Statistics Canada, “Literacy Scores, Human Capital and Growth across 14 OECD Countries”, 2004 and the Council of Ministers of Education Canada, 97th CMEC Meeting, March 2010*)

“Literacy is a bridge from misery to hope. It is a tool for daily life in modern society. It is a bulwark against poverty, and a building block of development, an essential complement to investments in roads, dams, clinics and factories”.

Kofi Annan



The website www.gcflearnfree.org is a great place to start learning. It has over 125 tutorials on topics such as basic computer, reading, fractions, multiplication and division, cover letters, interviewing skills and so much more. There is no signing in, and best of all, it is FREE.

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