Dear, Members;

Welcome to the publication of the **Literacy Educators' Network of Saskatchewan**. We will be emailing exciting teaching strategies on a regular basis throughout the year.

***Teachers understand the importance of storytelling. In today’s diverse classrooms, stories can bridge the gap between languages and cultures. Have you used finger plays in your classroom for storytelling? Read this review from Erin about a workshop she attended by Kevin MacKenzie.***

Kevin MacKenzie brought stories to life with his hands! He taught participants how to use their imagination and creativity through his use of finger plays. He helped us out of our comfort zones as we reenacted stories that he guided us through. This workshop would be highly recommended for daycare workers, care givers, parents, grandparents, preschools, and anyone in school from Pre K-3. Some of our teachers at school have retold his stories and are watching his DVDs in their classrooms. The students laugh, smile and become highly engaged as they expand their creativity. We are hoping to have Kevin back for a workshop at our school soon. 

*Erin Skulmoski, Library Technician, MacLeod Elementary School*

***Finger plays can be useful in the Before, During, and After stages of reading for determining background knowledge, retelling, determining important information, understanding character, and many others. Want more information? Visit*** [***http://www.storiesbykevin.com/about1.html***](http://www.storiesbykevin.com/about1.html)***. Also check out Kevin’s storytelling and finger plays on YouTube.***

To access **past** ***LENS Focus on Literacy***strategies and activities, visit <http://saskreading.com/l-e-n-s-focus-2/>

**WANTED: Student Writing**

* Select your best!
* Grades K-12!
* Any language!
* Info: [lori.burton@rbe.sk.ca](mailto:lori.burton@rbe.sk.ca)
* Deadline Feb. 1, 2019!

***Please see attachment for more information.***

**LENS Events around the Province:**

* To celebrate **Education Week and Saskatchewan Library Week**, LENS-SE hosted a **Storytelling Tour** in their area. During the week of October 15-18, Kevin MacKenzie did storytelling and finger play presentations in several schools in Estevan, Carlyle, Manor, Redvers, Wawota, Wapella and Moosomin. His tour also included two evening workshops for early childhood educators in Estevan and in Moosomin. Overall it was a great learning experience for many and a wonderful literacy opportunity for a great number of students.

Submitted by Pam Foy

* Kewetin Nene local network literacy events for the month of December include:

***Christmas Cookie Crawl, December 12, 2018***

***Gift of Reading Book Drive. December 12, 2018***

***Gift of Reading Book Swap, December 20, 2018***

Please see attachments for our Christmas Cookie Crawl Poster and Passport that describes the festive literacy event. The complete Christmas Cookie Crawl package includes literacy activities (Christmas theme word searches, word scrambles, vocabulary development cloze activities Grade K-9) and life skills recipes with grocery lists which are available upon request. We wish you a very Merry Christmas and extend heartfelt thank you to LENS members throughout our province for their dedication to literacy!

Yours truly,

Magi McFadden, KN-LENS President

**Other PD Opportunities around the Province:**

* **The Saskatchewan School Library Association (SSLA)**: Two opportunities to see **Ruth Culham, author of The Writing Thief and 6+1 Traits of Writing**.<https://www.ssla.ca/conference.html>

Saskatoon: April 11, 2019, Western Development Museum

Regina: April 12, 2019, Queensbury Convention Centre

**Follow Us!**

You can stay up-to-date on literacy activities in the province by following us on **Facebook** (Literacy Educators' Network of Saskatchewan) **and Twitter** (@SaskReading).

You can also look forward to hearing more about **activities in your area** of the province from your local council president (<http://saskreading.com/local-councils/>).

***Thank you for your membership!***

**Benefits** of membership include:

* Regular LENS Focus on Literacy strategies right to your email
* Information about local council programs
* Meet other educators with similar interests
* Opportunities to participate in professional development activities in literacy
* Your support in promoting the development of literacy in Saskatchewan

**Membership is free and ongoing.**

* Membership can be discontinued by emailing the Membership Director at [saskliteracymember@gmail.com](mailto:saskliteracymember@gmail.com).
* If you know anyone else who would like to become a member, please direct them to <http://saskreading.com/membership/>.
* Past issues of Query (our previous publication) can be accessed at <http://saskreading.com/query/>.

Until next time!

***LENS Executive***