

Washington County libraries play important role in early literacy

Many people confuse the term Early Literacy with images of flash cards and phonics, according to Stephanie Lind, Outreach Coordinator for the Washington County Cooperative Library Services (WCCLS). This is one reason why County libraries are helping to dispel that notion with a series of free classes for parents and child care providers. What children

know about reading and writing before they actually read and write is the core concept behind Early Literacy – it is not teaching babies to read.

Through library-based classes participants learn that early literacy really means building a foundation of language – vocabulary, familiarity with letters, and sounds. These concepts prepare children for learning to

read and write. In addition to offering classes,

An explosion of learning happens in a child's first five years of life. Young children have been described as learning sponges during this period, ready to absorb language. Research indicates that early literacy skills have a long term impact on a child's learning ability.

Children who do not learn to read by fourth grade are more likely to become involved in at-risk behaviors – dropping out of school, juvenile crime, alcohol/drug use, and teen pregnancy. Preparing children for school readiness is a comprehensive task and the Cooperative Library Services plays an integral role in the community support network. Libraries maintain partnerships with the Washington County Commis-

sion on Children and Families school readiness initiative, work with Head Start programs, provide services to the Community Action Organization Child Care Resource and Referral, and more.

Reading is a gateway skill that makes all other learning possible. Books, reading, talking, singing, and playing with language are elemental building blocks for developing a child's capacity to learn – setting the stage for future learning. Parents and child care providers interested in learning more about early literacy resources available through their local libraries are asked to contact Lind to place their name on the list for notification about upcoming classes (503-466-1894 or stephanie@wccls.lib.or.us). Child care providers may earn

continuing education credit for state certification. Classes are offered in both English and Spanish.

Washington County Cooperative Library Services (WCCLS) includes Banks Public Library, Beaverton City Library, Cedar Mill Community Library, Cornelius Public Library, Forest Grove City Library, Garden Home Community Library, Hillsboro Public Libraries, Sherwood Public Library, Tigard Public Library, Tualatin Public Library, and West Slope Community Library. The Oregon College of Art and Craft, and Tuality Health Information Resource Center also make their collections available.

For more information, call the Cooperative Library Services at 503-846-3222.

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Brief meeting handles Banks School Board business

At the first meeting of the 2006-2007 academic year, July 10, Banks School District Board of Directors elected Doug Nordholm board chairperson. Angi Duyck was elected the vice-chairperson.

There were no action items, discussion items or presentations.

Superintendent Marv Ott introduced Simon Levear, who is

the district's new business manager.

The consent agenda was approved and contained the following staff changes:

Resignations: Greg Rohde, Secondary Science Teacher, Luke Holscher, Junior High PE/Health teacher, Darcy Schray, 3rd grade teacher

Hiring: Simon Levear, Business Manager, Grant Zukowski, high school technology teacher, Bradley Dunn-Meier, secondary

science/math teacher.

Transfers: Jacob Pence, high school technology teacher to junior high health/PE teacher.

Retirement: Linda Hedlund, Payroll/accounts payable clerk.

The board will not meet in August. The next meeting will be September 11, with a work session starting at 5:30 p.m. in the conference room and the board meeting at 7:00 p.m. in the district board room.

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