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VICTORIA
Literacy Connection

Opening the world of learning in our community.

"The E-Reading Club was one of the silver linings for our family during such a tough time", says Kim, Mom of 7 year old Cole.

In March Cole and his family were adjusting to life in Victoria after a move caused him to miss some school over the winter. He was settled in a new school and excited about finishing Grade 2. Little did they know that by the end of March everyone would be sent home to social distance due to Covid-19.

Cole's mom felt he needed structured reading practice and interaction with other kids. She learned about VLC's E-Reading Club from Facebook. Cole participated in 3 sessions lasting 3 weeks each. The tutors provided the structure and positive reinforcement he needed, and made reading fun. Cole's confidence soared.



Before the E-Reading Club Cole was a bit of an expressionless reader. Tutors helped him engage more with the text, add expression and improve his pacing. He's now much more likely to pick up a book and read for fun, and chooses more challenging books for himself. Best of all - he reads regularly to his 4 year old brother now!

Kim says she was impressed that VLC was able to put together a well organized program so

quickly!



Adult Programs Also Moved Online

When Covid-19 closed the schools in March the VLC staff worked fast to create an online alternative program for our community's children and youth. The English **E-Reading Club** was launched and received with enthusiasm by tutors, learners and their families.

Since then we have expanded our online programs to include more options for youth, as well as our adult learners! **English Conversation** groups have moved online, and we have been working diligently to support our adult learners and tutors in moving their **1:1 sessions** to an online platform.

The silver lining is that we are reaching new learners - physical proximity no longer matters. Now we can match tutors and learners from different areas of Southern Vancouver Island. Even when in-person learning is restored, we now have an established framework in place to serve a broader segment of the population.

Covid-19 Era Program Overview

Core Programs (free):

VLC is committed to providing free programs to children, youth and adults, so our core programs are free of charge.

Children and Youth

E-Reading Clubs connect screened and trained adult tutors with young learners who share books via Zoom. E-Reading Clubs are now being offered in **English** and **French**, as well as **ELL** for learners whose first language is not English.



Adult

Adult 1:1 Tutoring connects learners with a tutor trained to support the learner's reading and literacy goals. **English Conversation Groups** connect skilled facilitators with new English speakers for conversation practice and laughs.

Inmate Tutoring at the Vancouver Island Correctional Centre is on hold as inmates have no access to computers.

Remedial Tutoring (fee based):

Did you know that VLC also offers paid individualized Remedial Tutoring with a qualified teacher in **English, Math, Social and Natural Sciences** or **French Immersion**?

Remedial tutoring is a fee-for-service program pairing a teacher with 1 to 2 learners online. At this time we have openings, and welcome families seeking academic support for their children, particularly the 20% that have opted for home, distance or hybrid learning this year who may need a little extra guided support. All proceeds support our free programming.

Your Munro's Purchases Can Support Literacy

Big thanks to Munro's Books for adding the VLC to the list of organizations people can donate their

Munro's points to! We can redeem Munro's points for

books that we will use for children's programming. You can assign your Munro's points to the VLC by sending an email to service@munrobooks.com or at the till.



MUNRO'S
BOOKS



Rachael's Read-a-thon Fundraiser

Rachael Westgate, a member of the VLC Communications Committee went above and beyond the call of duty when she raised \$1,700 through her 24 hour solo read-a-thon event in July! She did this by posting her event online and inviting her friends to donate and follow along with her reading marathon via Facebook or Instagram.

What a wonderful fundraiser, and we thank Rachael for her imagination and effort!

She must have selected some lively books to be able to stay awake that long!

Could You Help Someone Read?

VLC programs are possible because of our team of passionate and dedicated volunteers. Together we are stronger; together we are changing people's lives. Right now the need to move programs online is adding another important criteria in our volunteer selection process - basic computer skills. If you are interested in helping a child, youth or adult read, write or speak English or French, and you have a reliable computer to use for online sessions, please consider volunteering. Training is provided in the use of the online platforms we utilize.

If you, or someone you know, is looking for a great opportunity to change someone's life, please complete our [Volunteer Application](#), or if you have questions first [contact us](#).



Here are some easy ways to support VLC!

Email admin@victorialiteracyconnection.ca to have a **Thrifty Foods Smile Card** mailed to you.



When you load money onto the Smile Card, then pay for your groceries with the Smile Card, VLC gets 5% of your total, and the best part is it doesn't cost you a thing!

Toonies for Tutoring - Regional book clubs donate funds towards adult literacy's 1:1 volunteering tutoring programs. Members often give \$2 per meeting, and the funds are donated to VLC at the end of the year. We recently received donations from Flyers Book

Club and Songhees Book Club #2, for which we are extremely grateful! If you are part of a book club and would like to know more about our Toonies for Tutoring fundraiser, please contact our Executive Director, Christine Bossi, at ed@victorialiteracyconnection.ca.



Hooray for:

The Times Colonist, Greater Victoria Harbour Authority and Russell Books!

Bless the hearts of Editor and Publisher Dave Obee and his team at the Times Colonist. He was deeply regretful that the annual Times Colonist book drive did not take place due to COVID. However, not to be defeated, he teamed up with the Greater Victoria Harbour Authority and Russell Books to arrange a one day book drop off in August. Once again, proceeds are to go towards supporting literacy in Greater Victoria via the Times Colonist Literacy Fund.



Russell Books and Team Sales Vancouver Island!



During the summer Team Sales Vancouver Island had been scratching their heads trying to figure out how they could help support local businesses while also helping charities during these trying times. They came up with the Our Community United Tee Project. It's simple and clean - buy a t-shirt which supports your local business and the local charity they have united with. The local business that sponsored VLC was Russell Books!

Stay safe and have a wonderful Autumn. You can connect with our staff at any time by contacting our executive director, Christine Bossi ed@victorialiteracyconnection.ca

We are always happy to chat if you have questions, wish to volunteer or make a donation.

Please use that Thrifty Foods Smile Card and stay connected by following us on [Facebook](#).

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