

Supporting lifelong learning



## May 2026 Literacy News

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Literacy news, programs, upcoming events, and valuable resources for all ages in Mount Waddington communities on North Vancouver Island.

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## NEWS

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### **Literacy Society expands adult learning opportunities with new team member**

Denise Idle joins the Adult Literacy team at Mount Waddington Family Literacy Society.

"The addition of Denise in this new supporting role will help strengthen this work," said Jessica Brown, MWFLS Executive Director. "Her warmth, curiosity, and readiness to jump in will allow us to reach even more learners where they are and continue building programs that truly make a difference."

[Learn more about Denise's role](#) as she teams with Adult Literacy Coordinator Jeanne James-Hory.

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## Cooks & Books series on in five communities

A three-part Cooks & Books series kicks off in April with Soup In A Jar, being offered at all five VIRL locations in the North Vancouver Island. The Mount Waddington Family Literacy Society (MWFLS), Island Health, and Vancouver Island Regional Library (VIRL) are teaming up to help you eat - and live - healthier.

"Food is a natural fit for us," says Jeanne James-Hory, MWFLS Adult Literacy Coordinator. "Every step of food preparation – shopping, reading labels, following a recipe, managing a budget – involves literacy. We call this 'food literacy,' and it's something we all need to thrive."

[Read the details in this article in the North Island Eagle.](#)

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## "Literacy: Bridging the Gaps" conference brings new ideas to support community needs

Mount Waddington Family Literacy Society (MWFLS) team members joined more than 200 literacy practitioners from across BC and Canada for professional development April 16-17, 2026 at the Decoda Literacy Conference, "Literacy: Bridging the Gaps"

"Experiencing the conference together as a team was energizing and meaningful. The theme Literacy: Bridging the Gaps came to life through powerful keynote presentations by Zahra Esmail and Alexandra Samuel," said Jessica Brown, MWFLS Executive Director.

"One of the most memorable highlights for me was the youth-led O.W.L. (Opening Worlds to Literacy) program, which showcased the impact of youth leadership in literacy initiatives. We're excited to bring these ideas back to our programs and continue building inclusive, community-driven literacy opportunities."

[Read the details and see photos](#)

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## Cyanotype process introduced at Seedy Saturday

Making cyanotype bookmarks at Port Hardy Seedy Saturday with Mount Waddington Family Literacy Society Adult Literacy Coordinator Jeanne James-Hory.

In addition to the cyanotypes, the MWFLS table featured little soil testing zines/booklets that people could make and take, a spot where folks shared gardening tips with each other, and some fun recipes like nasturtium butter, dandelion frittata, and nettle soup.

[Read the details and see more photos in this article in the North Island Eagle.](#)

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# EVENTS & WORKSHOPS

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## Cooks & Books Workshop Series

These free hands-on sessions at local Vancouver Island Regional Library branches are a cozy way to build practical kitchen skills while connecting with others in the community.

These programs are in partnership with Vancouver Island Regional Library and Island Health.

See details below or view the full [workshop schedule](#) on our website.

### 1. Cooks & Books: Soup in Jar

Participants will learn how to create simple, nourishing soups using pantry staples. Each person will go home with their own ready-to-make soup in jars.

- **Sointula:** Wednesday, May 6 at 4:00 p.m., VIRL 280 1st St.
- **Woss:** Thursday, May 7 at 4:00 p.m.
- **Port Alice:** Thursday, May 21 at 4:00 p.m.

Workshops are welcoming, beginner-friendly, and free to attend. All supplies are provided.

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### 2. Cooks & Books: Energy Balls

Learn simple, practical food skills while building confidence in reading recipes, following instructions, and trying something new. Learners will follow and customize recipes at hands-on food preparation stations.

- **Port McNeill:** Tuesday, May 19 at 1:00 p.m.
- **Port Hardy:** Wednesday, May 20 at 5:00 p.m.
- **Port Alice:** Thursday, June 11 at 5:00 p.m.

Workshops are welcoming, beginner-friendly, and free to attend. All supplies are provided.

These programs are in partnership with Vancouver Island Regional Library and Island Health.

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### 3. Cooks & Books: Sauces & Popcorn Spices

Learn simple, practical food skills while building confidence in reading recipes, following instructions, and trying something new. Learners will follow and customize recipes at hands-on food preparation stations.

- **Port McNeill:** Tuesday, June 23 at 1:00 p.m.
- **Port Hardy:** Wednesday, June 24 at 5:00 p.m.
- **Port Alice:** Thursday, June 25 at 5:00 p.m.

Workshops are welcoming, beginner-friendly, and free to attend.

All supplies are provided.

These programs are in partnership with Vancouver Island Regional Library and Island Health.

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### May 4-10: Screen-Free Week



#### Find time to dream, connect, and play - Screen-Free Week

Join the movement! Screen-Free Week is here. Celebrate Screen-Free Week - Any Week or May 4-10, 2026. Discover fun activities!

Screen-Free Week is an annual, global celebration, held the first week in May, when families, libraries, schools, and even whole communities swap digital entertainment for the joys of life beyond the screen.

Visit [screenfree.org](https://screenfree.org) for [101 Screen-Free activities](#), [Screen-Free Bingo](#), and the [latest research on the impact of screens on development](#).

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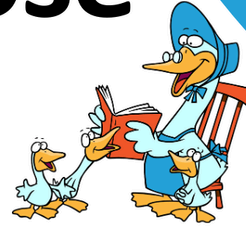
## PROGRAMS

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### Mother Goose On-the-Go family program

# Mother Goose on the Go!

Free  
Program



**Saturdays, 10:30 a.m.**

Vancouver Island Regional Library,  
Port McNeill

**Saturdays, 11:00 a.m.**

Preschool Room,  
Sointula

**Thursdays, 10:00 a.m.**

Roberts Scott School (StrongStart)  
Port Hardy

**Thursdays, 11:00 a.m.**

Roberts Scott School (Promising Babies)  
Port Hardy

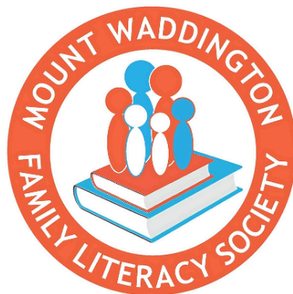
**Fridays, 10:30 a.m.**

Roberts Scott School (Parents of Young  
Children)  
Port Hardy

## A Family Literacy Program

A trained 'Mother Goose' leads a group of parents and children in fun and engaging rhymes, songs, stories, and crafts. These basic activities with children provide the building blocks for early attachment and literacy.

- Everyone welcome!
- Drop-in



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[mwfamilyiteracy.org](http://mwfamilyiteracy.org)

Facebook: @mwfamilyliteracy

Mother Goose On-the-Go fosters early literacy and is an experience for the whole family! A trained 'Mother Goose' leads a group of parents and children in fun and engaging rhymes, songs, stories, and crafts. Free!

Children have fun and parents learn how to sing, rhyme, and read with their child, and weave those skills into their day-to-day routines. These basic activities with children provide the building blocks for early attachment and literacy.

Watch our [Facebook page](#) for current schedule.

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## Storytime 5 days a week at Vancouver Island Regional Library



Visit Port Hardy VIRL for family Storytime!

**Tuesday – Saturday 11–11:30 a.m.**  
7110 Market St., Port Hardy

Free! No need to register.

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## Adult Literacy Drop-In

Look for details about upcoming drop-in sessions being offered again in May.

We're doing something new this time. Drop-ins will now open with short fun mini workshops from, journals and cookbooks, to creative writing, art, and board games!

Our Literacy Program offers one-to-one help with things like:

- Using a cell phone, tablet, or laptop
- Filling out forms or reading mail
- ESL (English as a Second Language) support
- Working toward a personal goal, such as:
  - finishing school
  - returning to school
  - building confidence with reading and writing

To be on the notification list, contact Jeanne at [adult.literacy@mwfamilyliteracy.org](mailto:adult.literacy@mwfamilyliteracy.org)

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## Conversation Circle at the library: Practice your English

Vancouver Island Regional Library and Immigrant Welcome Centre of the North Island offers Practice Your English Conversation Circle for adults.  
Free! Bring a snack or drink and drop-in!

**Port Hardy**

**Tuesdays, Noon – 1 p.m.**

Vancouver Island Regional Library, 7110 Market St.

**Port McNeill**

**Wednesdays, 4 p.m. – 5 p.m.**

Vancouver Island Regional Library, 1584 Broughton Blvd

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## Adult one-on-one tutoring

Free one-on-one tutoring for adults is available. Get assistance with reading, numeracy and more.

Personal coaching is available to help you reach your goals!

Contact Jeanne at [adult.literacy@mwfamilyliteracy.org](mailto:adult.literacy@mwfamilyliteracy.org)

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## Volunteer as an Adult Literacy Tutor

Help us with adult tutoring - join our volunteer team!

By becoming a tutor, you can help someone confidently manage everyday things—banking, shopping, health decisions—and strengthen our entire region’s future.

You can help learners with reading and numeracy, or test preparation, computer basics, financial literacy, with how to use cell phone or fill out forms.

**Training provided!**

For more information, contact Jeanne at [adult.literacy@mwfamilyliteracy.org](mailto:adult.literacy@mwfamilyliteracy.org)

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## RESOURCES



### Digital Literacy Program For Adults | ABC Connect for Learning

ABC Connect For Learning is a free digital literacy program for adult learners looking to improve their digital skills. Download free resources today!

Improve your digital literacy skills with these free tools that will help you get started using digital devices and learn popular applications you can use on your smartphone, tablet, or computer.

Choose from downloadable activities and workbooks, video lessons, and online courses from the ABC Skills Hub online learning platform.

- [Stay safe online](#)
- [Learn new computer skills](#)
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- [Use email](#)
- [Use Google tools](#)
- [Communicate with others and use social networks](#)
- [Find a new job](#)
- [Play games, watch videos, and listen to music](#)

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## ABOUT US

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### **We're here to help.**

The Mount Waddington Family Literacy Society works with communities, schools and organizations to support literacy and learning for all ages on North Vancouver Island. We offer free programs, events and resources.

We can also help with your literacy projects and program ideas through fund finding, letters of support and by connecting you with our many resources.

Mount Waddington Family Literacy Society is a non-profit support system servicing the literacy needs of the School District 85/Mount Waddington region of Vancouver Island, BC, traditional territory of the Kwakwaka'wakw Peoples.

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### **Contact us**

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Contact us for information about our programs, resources or to share your needs and ideas.

**Executive Director**

Jessica Brown

[ed@mwfamilyliteracy.org](mailto:ed@mwfamilyliteracy.org)

**Adult Literacy Coordinator**

Jeanne James-Hory

[adult.literacy@mwfamilyliteracy.org](mailto:adult.literacy@mwfamilyliteracy.org)

**Literacy Outreach Coordinator**

Kelly Anderson

[literacy.outreach@mwfamilyliteracy.org](mailto:literacy.outreach@mwfamilyliteracy.org)

**Adult Literacy Coordinator**

Denise Idle

[adult.literacy@mwfamilyliteracy.org](mailto:adult.literacy@mwfamilyliteracy.org)

**Mother Goose On-the-Go Coordinator**

Kelly Anderson

[mother.goose@mwfamilyliteracy.org](mailto:mother.goose@mwfamilyliteracy.org)

**Communications Coordinator**

Trish Weatherall

[communications@mwfamilyliteracy.org](mailto:communications@mwfamilyliteracy.org)

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**Thank you to our supporters**



**United Way**  
British Columbia

Working with communities in BC's  
Interior, Lower Mainland, Central  
& Northern Vancouver Island



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**SUPPORT LOCAL LITERACY**



**Your support makes a difference in our communities!**

Your donation will help provide books, literacy programming and other supports that directly benefit our North Vancouver Island communities.

**Ways to give:**

Donate on our [secure Canadahelps.org webpage](https://secure.Canadahelps.org)

Or contact Executive Director Jessica Brown at [ed@mwfamilyliteracy.org](mailto:ed@mwfamilyliteracy.org)


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