

Supporting lifelong learning



April 2026 Literacy News

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

NEWS

Funding Announcement!

We are so grateful for this funding from BHP.



BHP invests \$150,000 in community learning

BHP has awarded Mount Waddington Family Literacy Society (MWFLS) \$50,000 funding per year for the next three years, for a total investment of \$150,000.

Literacy Fair Photos and Summary

Click the article below to see loads of event photos!



Books, Smiles and Connections at Literacy Fair

More than 100 people came together to celebrate reading and learning at the Mount Waddington Literacy Fair on February 28. The free event was held at Sunset Elementary School in Port McNeill.

Celebrating our Volunteers during National Volunteer Week

National Volunteer Week is April 19-25 and we are celebrating our volunteers and their importance to nonprofits and to their communities.

"We're so grateful for the volunteers who pour their time, energy, and genuine enjoyment into stewarding literacy in our communities. From our dedicated Board of Directors to the tutors in our children's and adult learning programs, their commitment is opening doors, building confidence, and supporting a lifelong love of learning," said Jessica Brown, Executive Director. "Seeing our volunteers in action at the Literacy Fair — especially the young women who were so warm, friendly, helpful, and genuine — reminded me just how much heart is behind this work."

Thank you to our volunteers!

MWFLS Board of Directors

- Laura Kaminker – Board Co-chair
- Donna Merry – Board Co-chair
- Kathy Martin – Board Director
- Stacia Johnson – Board Director
- Jill Cook – Board Director
- Kathleen Cooper – Board Director
- Joyce McBride – Board Director

One-to-One Reading Tutors at local elementary schools

- Lindsey Dyck
- Sue Haskins
- Amber Underwood
- Gavin Scott

Adult Literacy Tutors

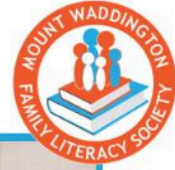
- Shelley Griffiths
- Amy Nold
- Melissa Magill
- Gavin Scott

Helpers

- Shannon Barry
- Amber Nastrom
- Shauna Topper
- Melissa Tonkin

Teen online pizza-making workshop during Spring Break

ONLINE PIZZA CLASS

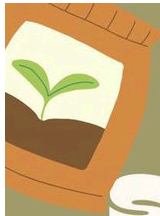


On March 14, nineteen students from Port Hardy Secondary School, North Island Secondary School and Eke Me-Xi Learning Centre joined online to make pizza together. The teens were provided with ingredients the day before Spring Break..

"It was fun to see everyone on screen together and we took time to talk about our favourite toppings like olives or mushrooms, and then take a group photo at the end," said Literacy Outreach Coordinator Kelly Anderson, who ran the event. "The goal was to help the teens have an easy meal to utilize this spring break. I was pleasantly surprised to see how many enlisted their younger siblings to make pizza with them."

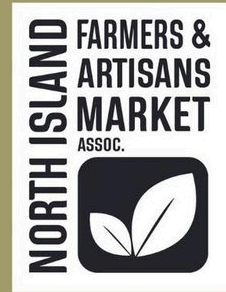
EVENTS & WORKSHOPS

April 11: Seedy Saturday



North Island Seedy Saturday

Bring seeds or plants you'd like to share or
choose something new to grow!



When

April 11, 2026
11 am - 2 pm



Where

St. Columba Church,
Port Hardy

Details

- Door Prizes
- Kids Activities
- Vendors Welcome (contact Myra
250-949-9941 to register)



Mount Waddington Family Literacy Society will be at Seedy Saturday with cyanotype printing and more!

Saturday, April 11 from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. at St. Columba Anglican Church in Port Hardy.

April-June: Soup-in-a-Jar Roadshow

In April and May, we will be offering a Soup-in-a-Jar Roadshow in partnership with the Vancouver Island Regional Library... taking this workshop to each of the North Island library branches.

Our first session, is on April 29 at the Port Hardy Library.

Join us to layer your own take-home dry soup mix, complete with simple instructions - just add water at home and enjoy!

Sign up now to be added to the waiting list!
Contact the library or Jeanne at adult.literacy@mwfamilyliteracy.org



April-June: Cooks & Books Workshop Series

We're working on a new hands-on workshop series in partnership with Island Health and Vancouver Island Regional Library.

Each session focuses on 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.

Three separate sessions at local libraries throughout April - June will include:

1. Soup-in-a-jar (see above)
2. Energy Balls
3. Savory Sauces and Popcorn Spices

Sign up now to be added to the waiting list!
Contact the library or Jeanne at adult.literacy@mwfamilyliteracy.org

Coming soon... Forage Feast Event

In this new workshop for adults, participants will learn about local foraging then prepare and share a foraged meal.

Sign up now to be added to the waiting list!

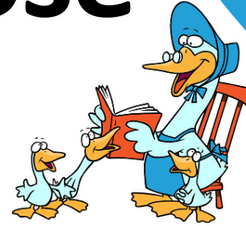
Contact the library or Jeanne at adult.literacy@mwfamilyliteracy.org

PROGRAMS

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

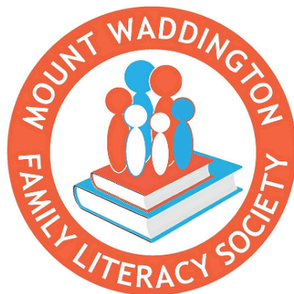
Fridays, 10:30 a.m.

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



Supporting lifelong learning



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.

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.

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

Adult one-on-one tutoring

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

Contact Jeanne at adult.literacy@mwfamilyliteracy.org

Volunteer as an Adult Literacy Tutor

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

RESOURCES



Parent Resources - Stigma-Free Student Mental Health Toolkit

In this section, parent(s) will find conversation cards that they can use to talk to their youth about mental wellbeing, along with a comprehensive Parent Resource Guide.

ABOUT US

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.

Contact us

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Mother Goose On-the-Go Coordinator

Kelly Anderson

mother.goose@mwfamilyliteracy.org

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

Follow Us



Thank you to our supporters



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

Get our latest updates

Visit our social accounts



Check out our site 

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