



ALBERTA SOCIETY for the VISUALLY IMPAIRED



EDMONTON DISTRICT

February 2010

Outta Sight

An Informative Newsletter

For families of children with visual impairments

Annual General Meeting and Election

It's that time of year again! We are looking for people who are interested in sitting on the board of the ASVI. We meet once a month (except July and August) and work to improve the lives and futures of our children who are blind or visually impaired.

If you are interested in nominating yourself or another, please contact the present President, Kelly Baldock, at info@asviedmonton.org or attend the AGM.

Time: 7:30 pm, Tuesday, March 9th, 2010

Place: CNIB Multipurpose Room
12010 Jasper Avenue, Edmonton

Topic: Children and/or their parents will be speaking about their extracurricular activities, sports, hobbies, and other interests. Join us to learn more about what the kids in our community are up to and what's been working for them. Children are invited to attend. If you or your child would like to share, we'd love to hear from you.

Contact us at:

Website: www.asviedmonton.org e-mail: info@asviedmonton.org

Phone: 453-8345 Address: 12010 Jasper Ave. T5K 0P



ALBERTA SOCIETY for the VISUALLY IMPAIRED



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Vision Statement: *ASVI is committed to ensuring that all children with visual impairments or blindness develop their full capabilities.*

Mission Statement: *To provide support, information and advocacy to benefit children who are blind or visually impaired and including those with additional challenges.*

CNIB Children's Department Special Event

Parent Information Night

Children's ILS Information Session – Topics will include eating skills, dressing skills and grooming skills. A focus will be to provide parents with the strategies and skills to help their children work on and develop these skills to use independently.

Please RSVP by March 4, 2010

Date: March 11, 2010

Time: 6:30pm – 8:00pm

Location: CNIB Edmonton Children's Center (12010 Jasper Ave.)

CNIB Reading Is A Right Campaign

Reading is a Right, not a privilege. We read to learn, work and connect to the world. Everyone has the right to read, but if you are blind or visually impaired, that right could go missing.

Library services for blind and visually impaired Canadians are in jeopardy. For 90 years, CNIB has struggled along with charitable dollars, but this is no longer enough.

Government funding is needed, or the consequences will be dire.

Help us protect their right to read. Visit:

www.cnib.ca/righttoread

and join the campaign. It takes only a few moments to sign up and add your voice.

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CNIB Early Intervention Program Winter 2010 Activities

Drop By for a Visit

Our toy lending library is open every Wednesday morning for families to play or borrow toys. We are regularly updating our collection of toys, so be sure to check out what's new. Items may be loaned for one month at a time.

Dates: Wednesdays

Time: 10:00 to 11:00am

Location: CNIB Edmonton Children's Centre (12010 Jasper Avenue)

Winter Play Groups

During the winter we will continue to offer our Music Therapy and Sensory Adventure play groups every first and third Wednesday of the month. Our sensory groups will continue to have different themes each week, giving the children opportunities to develop cognitive, sensory, fine motor, gross motor and socialization skills in a group setting. It is also a great way to network with staff and other parents. These groups are designed for children aged zero to five years. **Parents or caregivers are required to attend.**

Sensory Adventures

Dates: Thursday Jan 14, 2010; Monday Feb 8, 2010; Wednesday March 24, 2010; Tuesday April 13, 2010

Time: 10:30 - 11:30

Location: CNIB Edmonton Children's Centre (12010 Jasper Avenue)

****RSVPs are required as low registration will result in cancellation****

Music Therapy with Soundaffects Music Therapy

Dates: Jan 19, 2010; Feb 16 2010; March 16 2010; April 20, 2010

Time: 1:30 pm - 2:30 pm

Location: CNIB Edmonton Children's Centre (12010 Jasper Avenue)

****RSVPs are required as low registration will result in cancellation****

**For more information or to register, contact:
Megan Brooks at 780-453-8336 or megan.brooks@cnib.ca**

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Special Interest Items Special Interest Items

**“Just because I can’t see the stars,
doesn’t mean I can’t reach for them.
-Space Camp Alumni**

**To learn about Space Camp for
Interested Visually Impaired Students,
Held at the US Space and Rocket Center
Huntsville, Alabama in September,
See: www.tsbvi.edu/space/**

Viviane Forest is attempting to make sport history by being the first athlete to win Gold at both Winter and Summer games. With only 4% vision, Viviane has won 2 gold medals at the Summer Games for Goalball, and now seeks Gold in alpine skiing. Check her out at: www.vivianeforest

The high school science lab has become a little more accessible for our children and students. See this Edmonton Journal article to learn more:

<http://www.edmontonjournal.com/health/Technology+gives+freedom+visually+impaired/2461762/story.html>

ASVI parent wins ‘Reader with a Cause’ contest in Today’s Parent magazine, earning her charity of choice, the Foundation Fighting Blindness (www.ffb.ca), \$2000.00 and a chance at an additional \$8000.00.

The story of Nadine and her son, Erick, will be available mid-March.

This young pianist, Patrick Henry Hughes, is AMAZING! See him at:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9xwCG0Ey2Mg>

ASVI

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ASVI Executive Members:

Past President: Linda Stirrett

President: Kelly Baldock

Vice President: Garnet Boutette

Secretary: Maren Hasse

Treasurer: Edna McLafferty

Members at Large:

Debbie Royer

Niels Nicolajsen

Lawana Titiryn

Anita Rolleman

John Andrekson

Wendy Benckhuysen

Tricia Wack

Visit our website to e-mail any member of the executive.

www.asviedmonton.org

Resources...

www.asrab.ab.ca

Alberta Sports & Recreation Association
for the Blind

www.afb.org/braillebug/games.asp

Games and information site

www.actionfund.org/freebooksmain.htm

Free braille books

www.wonderbaby.org

Resources for parents of blind and disabled
babies and children

www.nbp.org (National Braille Press)

Braille and audio books and other items

www.vision.alberta.ca

Resource for parents and professionals

ASVI Tidbits

Cool Products Alert! Here's a company website that offers independent living products, assistive technology, and accessibility solutions. Cool! www.aisquared.com

National Federation of the Blind is an American organization of blind people and their parents. They put out a quarterly publication, Future Reflections. www.nfb.org/nfb/Future_Reflections.asp?SnID=1285339486

Free DVS audible movies with description: A good selection of movies that can be downloaded easily onto the Victor Reader Stream - http://www.blindmicemart.com/assests/product_images/movies2.html

Technology: Funding and technology loans may be available for many items, including Perkins Brailers and VictorReader Streams. Email: info@asviedmonton.org for applications or more information.

Fee





Vision Resource Centre - North

O&M Basic School Skills:

A Two-Day Workshop on Promoting
Independent Student Travel

Date: Thursday & Friday, March 18th & 19th, 2010

Time: 9:30 am - 3:00 pm, both days

Location: Vision Resource Centre-North
East Wing, Newton School
5523 - 122 Avenue NW, Edmonton

Cost: **Free!** (Lunch is not included, but a braille-labeled microwave is available)

Day 1 of the workshop is for adults only; Day 2 will introduce the adults and their respective students to the travel skills learned the day before. This workshop focuses on how to encourage and support independent indoor travel for our students in schools. Topics will include trailing along a wall, protective techniques, trailing with a cane, diagonal technique, room familiarization (including washrooms),

This workshop is open to children/students any ages (on Day 2 only), and their parents, educators of the visually impaired, school staff, and paraprofessionals (Day 1 & 2). Transportation to/from the location is the responsibility of the attendees.

Instructors for this workshop are qualified Orientation and Mobility Specialists.

Register on or before Friday, March 12th, 2010
(please use form on next page to register)

“O&M Basic School Skills”

REGISTRATION FORM

Who will be attending on Thursday (Day 1) & Friday (Day 2), March 18th & 19th, 2010?
Please make a checkmark in the box of all who will be attending!

- Student – **DAY 2 only** (name: _____ age: _____)
- visual impairment: _____
- does the student use... large print (yes / no)? braille (yes / no)?
- Parent/guardian (name: _____)
- Phone/email: (_____) _____
- School Staff (name: _____)
- Phone/email: (_____) _____
- Vision Professional (name: _____)
- Phone/email: (_____) _____
- Other (name: _____)
- Phone/email: (_____) _____

If the student is attending and is under the age of 18, please have the parent/guardian sign the consent below:

I, _____, the (circle one of the following) PARENT / GUARDIAN of the above named child, give permission for my child to attend this one-day workshop along with the individuals named above, and as the parent/guardian I am responsible for the child's transportation to/from the site.

As the parent/guardian, I (circle one of the following) DO / DO NOT give consent for photographs or video images to be taken of my child during the workshop for VRC-North promotion purposes.

Signature: _____

Date: _____ Emergency Contact # (_____) _____

Fax / mail this form to the following fax number/ address on or before **Friday, March 12th, 2010**:

VRC-North, Newton School
5523 -122 Avenue NW
Edmonton, AB T5W 1S3
Fax: 780-478-7037

Please note: It is the responsibility of the registrant to confirm / check the status of registration. To ensure your registration was received, you must call (780-472-4470) or email (vrc-north@epsb.ca) the Vision Resource Centre-

ASVI

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Vision Resource Centre - North

VictorReader STREAM

A Workshop on Accessing DAISY and Other Electronic Resources

Date: Friday, March 12th, 2010

Time: 9:00 am - 3:30 pm

Location: Videoconference suite, OR Room 19 (Robson Room)
Vision Resource Centre-North, Newton School
5523-122 Avenue NW, Edmonton

Cost: **None!** Plus, lunch is provided courtesy of HumanWare

This workshop will focus on the latest operating system (firmware version 3.1), set to be released by Humanware. This will feature a new way to transfer CD-ROM media onto the Stream device's SD card.

This workshop will also focus on the following: DAISY accessible audio books; MP3 music and e-books; text-to-speech in a variety of electronic formats – txt, html (web pages), brf (braille files), and rtf (rich text); and Audible.com e-book subscriptions.

Please bring your VictorReader Stream to this workshop (as there may not be enough players to go around). If your *Stream* is not currently running at least firmware version 3.0, your player will be updated at the start of the workshop. Please also bring your favourite music CD, and any DAISY books you wish to upload into your player. If you have an Audible account, please bring your login information to activate your Stream as an Audible device.

This workshop is open to children/students grades 6 and up, their parents, educators of the visually impaired, and paraprofessionals. Transportation to/from the location is the responsibility of the attendees.

Registration is limited to the first 12 registrants; deadline is on or before Friday, March 5th, 2010.

To register, please use the electronic VRC-North registration form on the next page



Vision Resource Centre - North



Vision Resource Centre - North

PARENT / GUARDIAN PERMISSION FORM

Name of workshop: _____

Date(s) / Time of workshop: mth _____ day ____ yr _____ time _____ am/pm _____

If the student is attending *and* is under the age of 18, please have the parent/guardian sign the consent below:

I, _____, the (circle one of the following) PARENT GUARDIAN of _____ give permission for my child to attend this one-day workshop along with the individuals named above; as the parent / guardian, I am responsible for the child's transportation to / from the site.

As the parent / guardian, I (circle one of the following) DO / DO NOT give consent for photographs or video images to be taken of my child during the workshop for VRC-North promotion purposes.

Signature: _____

Date: _____ Emergency Contact # (_____) _____

Please send this form via **fax, email or by postal mail** to the address below, **at least one week before the workshop due date!**

Newton School, 5523 - 122 Avenue NW
Edmonton, A l b e r t a, Canada T 5 W 1 S 3
Telephone: 780-472-4470 Fax: 780-478-7037
Email: vrc-north@epsb.ca Web: vision.alberta.ca

Contact us at:

Website: www.asviedmonton.org e-mail: info@asviedmonton.org



**Alberta Society for the Visually Impaired (Edmonton)
Membership Registration**

Please check one: New membership Renewal Date: _____

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Postal Code: _____

Home Phone: _____ Email: _____

Please check all that apply:

Parent of a child with visual impairment Child's age: _____

Other relative of child/person with visual impairment

Person with a visual impairment

Professional (Please specify): _____

Other: _____

Please register me for _____ year(s). I have enclosed \$_____ (\$5.00 fee per year for individual or family). Please note: membership year runs March 1st to February 28th of the following year.

I would like to help out in the following way:

Phoning committee Special event planning Casino volunteer

Sit on executive Fundraising Committee work (e.g. bursary, technology)

I have the following suggestions as topics for general meetings:

I would like to see ASVI improve its services by becoming more active in the following areas:

Please mail this form & your membership fees (cheque payable to ASVI) to:

Alberta Society for the Visually Impaired

12010 Jasper Avenue

Edmonton, AB T5K 0P3

Phone : 780-453-8345