



## *A Note From The Executive Director*

*Well the Christmas season is upon us. A time of good wishes, hopefully good food and enjoying friends and family. So in keeping with the Season I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.*

*This year at the Dartmouth Learning Network we have been able to extend our offering to the community through providing the following programs: One to one tutoring, Level 1 and level 2 classes as well as an Employment Readiness class.*

*In January we will be able to offer an Employment Readiness class to the learners in the One to One program.*

*We have also hired a new staff person, Gary Porter, who will be facilitating the Family Learning Initiative and a Needs Assessment project that will look at awareness around problem gambling.*

*I want to take this opportunity to thank the funders of the Dartmouth Learning Network: The Department of Labour and Workforce*

*Development, the Labour Market Agreement, The Nova Scotia Gaming Foundation, Literacy Nova Scotia and the Dartmouth and South-eastern Community Health Boards. Without their support the programs that are being offered at DLN would not be possible. DLN would also like to thank Stacey Montgomery and the team at Reboot for supplying us with computers to give to our learners. It was greatly appreciated.*

*I also want to thank the Board for their support.*



### *Employment Readiness Update*

*Two of our Employment Readiness Classes are in full swing. Students have been learning the nine essential skills needed for success in the workplace, assessing their own skills and setting goals for the future. A big thank you goes out to Jane Bermingham, R.N., who provided the 2-B class with an excellent presentation on the CCA program, and to the Y Career Resource Center for providing CPR & First Aid training to our students. In the New Year a third Employment Readiness Class begins on January 11<sup>th</sup> and runs every Tuesday afternoon from 1:15pm to 3:15pm. Anyone interested may contact Cathy at Cusack at 464-6001.*

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## *A Word From Our Program Coordinator*

*As volunteer coordinator for our adult learning network my focus is always first and foremost upon the learners whom I serve. Our network believes in creating learner centered programs that meet the learning and logistical needs of our participants. The students provide us with our purpose, however, without volunteers we could not offer quality programs and continue to serve the numbers of people we work*

*with each year. Consequently, it is important that the volunteers' needs are also taken into account. Meaningful and fulfilling work, closely matched to the volunteer's experiences, skills and interests, is created for them. I am constantly striving to better serve both the learners and the volunteers with whom I work.*

*By Zoe Mitchell*



## *C*



### *Christmas*

*by G.G.*

*Christmas is the time of year I love because I get to see my family and friends. I go from house to house and look at the trees with lights. Some of my family's trees don't have lights but I love it anyway so I am looking forward to Christmas.*

### *Christmas*

*by J. J.*

*Christmas is the time of year that is hard on me because it brings bad memories back. On Christmas day I would wake up in the morning and there were no presents under the tree for me.*

*Christmas is much better now because people care about me; they give me nice presents for my new Christmas tree I got last year from my teacher.*





## *More Christmas Stories and Memories*

The level 2 classes have been meeting since early October. There are 13 participants altogether in

### *A Happy Time*

*By Nirmala*

*The level 2 classes have been meeting since early October. There are 13 participants in both classes. The learners have been doing quite a bit of writing this year. Here are some Christmas stories and memories that they would like to share with everyone:*

*Christmas time is a happy time. Everybody goes shopping. I like to see my grandchildren open presents. I go every year to Calgary and come home with presents. I enjoy seeing my children and grandchildren happy.*



### *The Boys and I at Christmas*

*by Mona*

*At Christmas time my children and I popped popcorn and strung them for the tree. As they got older they helped make sweets and breads to give to family and friends for gifts. This is what I did with my boys at Christmas.*

### *Christmas Lights*

*By Mike*

*Christmas was always a special time for me. Every year my mom, dad and I would go driving around to look at all the Christmas lights. We would also go to Tim Horton's to get a nice hot chocolate. My favourite Christmas was when I was a kid and got a hockey stick. I remember grabbing my skates and going to the lake. My friends and I played Hockey all day. I was so proud of my brand new Hockey stick.*

### *The Christmas at Glenwood*

*by Edie*

*We moved into this house in September and we had to get the place ready for Christmas. We had no furniture for the place and we had no wood for the wood stove. There were some people who came over and gave us some furniture, and wood for the stove and then we went shopping for some things for Christmas.*



## Thoughts of Christmas

by Trevor

What I like about Christmas are the gifts, food, family, and friends. What I like about it the most is Christmas Eve because you stay up all night because you can't wait until Christmas morning. I always open one gift every Christmas Eve because I can't wait. I just have to open one. I really love putting up the lights and driving around looking at other people's lights. Seeing the family happy and enjoying Christmas makes me happy.



## Merry Christmas Word Find

### MERRY CHRISTMAS

Our class was trying to come up with a way to wish all of you a Merry Christmas and a Joyous and Wonderful New Year. They wanted to do it in such a way to thank everybody for the great opportunity they have here at Dartmouth Learning Network. One of the students in our class came up with a challenge to all of the students to see how many words they could find within the words Merry and Christmas. It was a challenge the others could not pass up and as a team we managed to come up with a list of 85 words.

a	chair	hit	mirth	sham
act	char	l	miss	shirt
aim	charm	is	mist	sir
air	chart	it	my	sit
am	cram	itch	ram	sitar
arc	crass	its	rash	smart
arch	err	mar	rat	smash
arm	hair	march	rich	stair
art	ham	marsh	rim	star
as	harm	mart	rye	starch
ash	hart	mash	sari	stash
at	has	mass	sash	stir
car	hat	mast	sat	tam
cart	hi	mat	scam	tar
cash	him	match	scar	this
cast	his	math	scat	trim
cat	hiss	me	scram	tram

Merry Christmas  
and  
Happy New Year

See you in  
2011!!!