



Family Literacy Week

Page 2



Winter

Page 3



Home

Page 4

A newspaper for learners

January 2020

Finn and Traveller

Finn and Traveller are sniffer puppies. They work at Vancouver General Hospital. They started work on October 25, 2019.

What is a sniffer puppy's job?

Sniffer puppies are trained to smell bacteria that makes people sick. They sniff for bacteria in hospital washrooms, hallways and waiting rooms.

Sniffer puppies and dogs can smell the bacteria *C. Difficile*. It is a superbug that is very dangerous.

How do sniffer puppies keep people safe?

Sniffer puppies and dogs help hospital workers keep areas clean.

BC is a safer place for patients and families thanks to sniffer dogs, says BC's Minister of Health, Adrian Dix.

Did you know?

- BC became the first province in Canada to use sniffer dogs. The first dogs started in 2016.
- Sniffer dogs found bacteria 391 times out of 659 sniffs between 2017 to 2018.

Adapted from *Vancouver Sun*; CTV News
Photos: Vancouver Coastal Health



This is Finn.

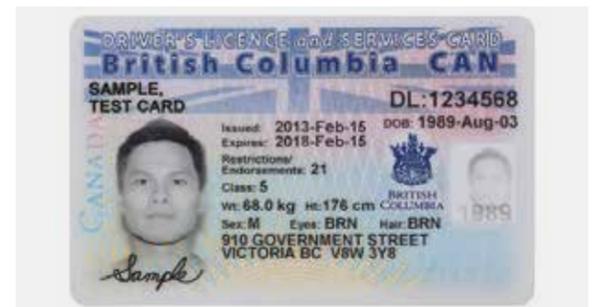


This is a sniffer puppy at work.

No more MSP premiums

There is a change to the Medical Services Plan (MSP). Starting January 1, people living in BC will no longer pay monthly fees for public health insurance.

"Eliminating MSP premiums is one of the largest tax cuts for people in BC's history – and one that was long overdue," said Finance Minister Carole James.



This is a BC Services Card.

Save money

The government says people can save money when they do not have to pay MSP premiums. Single people can save \$900 a year. Families can save \$1,800 a year.

No change

All eligible BC residents still need to enrol in the plan. They must:

- register
- prove their identity
- keep their information up to date

The government will collect money for any unpaid bills before January 1.

Adapted from *Daily Hive*
Photo: Government of BC

Stolen statue returned

A statue was stolen outside a Vancouver art gallery. It was stolen on November 4, 2019. The bronze statue is by local artist Fahri Aldin. It is of a horse and rider. It weighs almost 350 pounds.

How was the statue stolen?

A man used a dolly to wheel the statue away. It took him three minutes to steal the statue. The man got on a bus. He took the statue to Gastown.

How did the police find the statue?

The police used public video cameras to find the statue. It took 10 days. They did not catch the thief.

Where is the statue now?

The statue is back at the gallery. The owners are keeping it safe inside.

Adapted from *CBC News* • Photo: Kimberley Alcock



This is the stolen statue.

Family Literacy Week

Family Literacy Week in BC

Canadians celebrate Family Literacy Day on January 27.

In BC, family literacy is celebrated for a week.

This year, Family Literacy Week is from January 26 to February 2.

The theme is “Let’s Read Together!”

Reading together is fun.

Families can learn new things about people, places and things when they read together.

Tips for reading together:

1. Try to read together every day.
2. Let your child choose what to read.
3. Talk about what you’re reading.



This is a family reading together.

Submitted by Decoda.ca • Photo: Joan Exley

Enter the Family Literacy Week Photo Contest!

You and your class can enter the Family Literacy Week Photo Contest.

The contest runs from January 26 to February 2.

Here’s what to do:

1. Take a photo with a “Let’s Read Together!” or “I Spy a Reader” theme.
2. Post your photo on social media. Use the hashtags #LetsReadTogether or #ISpyaReader.
3. Or, send your photo to contest@decoda.ca.

You or your class could win:

- family literacy prize package
- \$100 Amazon gift card

Submitted by Decoda.ca

Story Time from Space

Story Time from Space is a fun way for children to learn.

Astronauts videotape themselves reading children’s books. The astronauts read to children on earth from the International Space Station (ISS).

Children learn about science and space.

About the program

Patricia Tribe started Story Time from Space with astronaut Alvin Drew. “Astronauts love to read,” said Patricia.

Story Time from Space videos are free to use.

Learn more at storytimefromspace.com.

Adapted from storytimefromspace.com
Photo: storytimefromspace.com



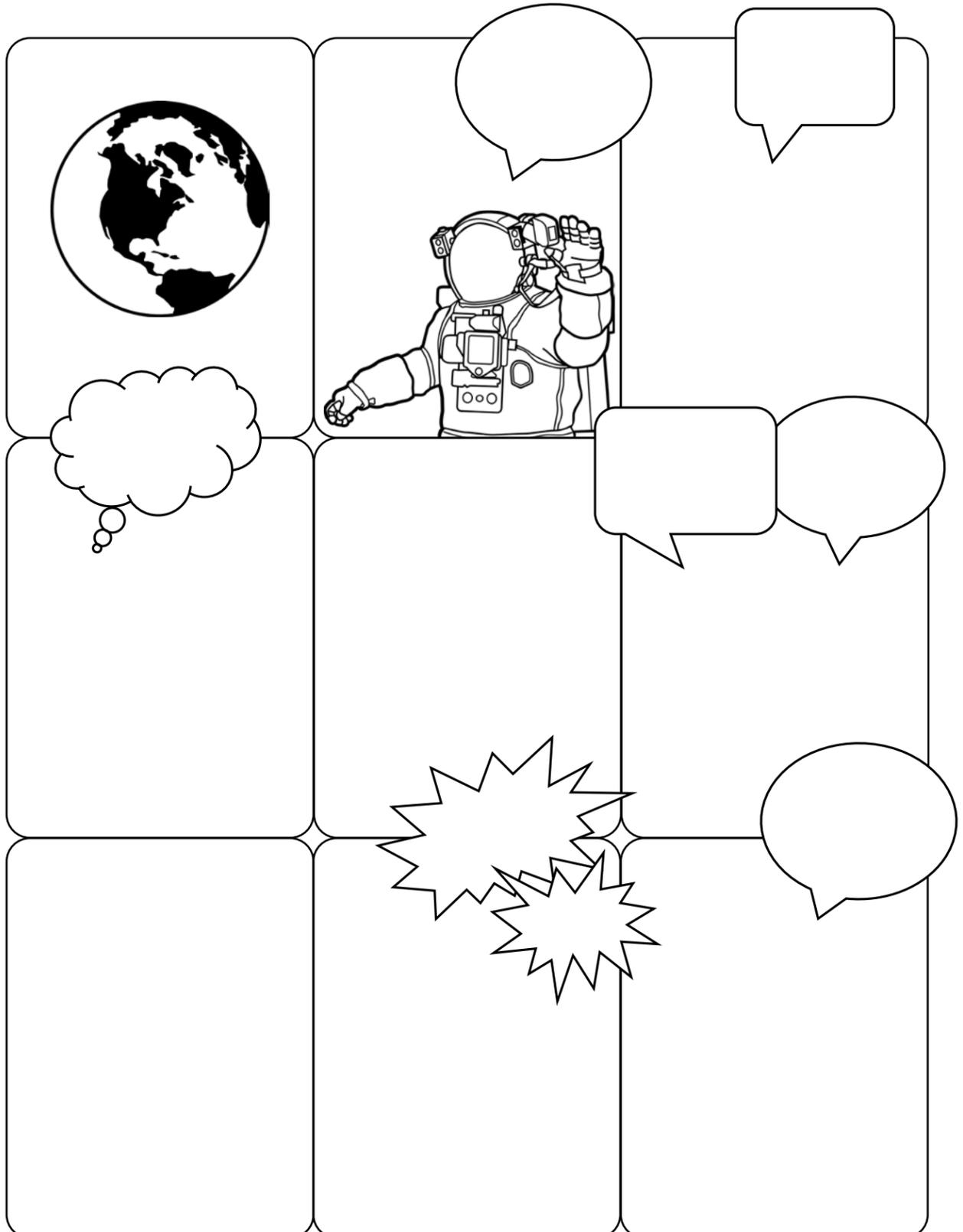
This is an astronaut reading from space.



Scan to watch an astronaut read from space.

Create your own comic

Use the comic template. Add pictures and words to make your own story about space.



Winter

Deer and elk safety

You might see deer or elk when you are out walking or driving this winter.

These animals look cute. But they can be dangerous.

Deer and elk can be aggressive if they are afraid. They can also be aggressive during mating season or birthing season.

Many wild animals are afraid of humans and dogs.

Deer and elk make snorting or hissing noises and raise their front legs when they are frightened. They might run after you or kick you.

Safety tips around deer and elk:

1. Do not get close.
2. Do not make eye contact or yell.
3. Do not turn around.
4. Slowly back away.
5. Always keep dogs on a leash.

Adapted from Government of Ontario

Photos: Pixabay



Frightened elk make snorting noises.



These are deer.

Be prepared

Winter driving can be dangerous. Roads can be slippery. It can be hard to see the road when it is snowing.

Sometimes cars get stuck. You might have to wait for help. A winter emergency kit can help you stay safe and warm.

Your winter emergency kit doesn't have to be big. You can keep it in the back seat or trunk of your car.

Here are some things to put in your kit:

- ✓ shovel
- ✓ ice scraper and snow brush
- ✓ blankets and warm clothing
- ✓ salt or sand
- ✓ flashlight, flare or candles
- ✓ canned food and bottled water
- ✓ jumper cables
- ✓ tow rope



Scan to see winter driving tips.



This is a shovel



An ice scraper is useful.

Adapted from the Government of Canada
Photos: Pixabay, Pixabay/Muazzam Zaki

Calendar

New Year's Day



New Year's Day is January 1. Some people make New Year's resolutions. They set goals to exercise more or spend less money.

Photo: PxHere

Blue Monday



Blue Monday is January 20. Blue means sad. People feel sad because of the cold weather and spending too much money during the holiday season in December.

Photo: Pixabay

Lunar New Year



The Lunar New Year Festival is January 25 to February 8. It is the start of the Year of the Rat. People born in the Year of the Rat are said to be clever, energetic, positive, shy and greedy.

Photo: Flickr/Amy

Family Literacy Day



Family Literacy Day is January 27. The day celebrates adults and children reading and learning together.

Photo: Flickr/San Jose Public Library

Home

Two Treehouses 📖

Treehouses for adults are becoming popular around the world.

Treehouse in Whistler

Joel Allen built a treehouse in the forest in Whistler. He used recycled materials.

Joel wanted to do something creative. He built the house in the shape of a wooden egg. It was high up in a tree.



Joel built his treehouse.

The house was built on government land. Joel built it in secret.

Joel took the house apart and sold it in 2013.



This was the treehouse in Whistler.

Treehouse on Pender Island

Geoff de Ruiter built a treehouse on Pender Island.

He bought half an acre of land. Then, he chose the strongest tree on the land to build his house. The tree is a red cedar.

Friends helped Geoff build his treehouse.

Submitted by Kimberley Alcock • Photos: Joel Allen

Life on the water 📖

Some people live on the water. They live in float homes.

Float homes are built on a pad. The pad is filled with Styrofoam. The float home is tied up to a dock.

Types of homes

Some float homes are small. They have one bedroom and one bathroom.

Some are large. They have lots of rooms.

People pay money to keep their float homes at a marina.



These are float homes.

Adapted from *Vancouver Sun* • Photo: Wikimedia Commons/Goran Vlacic

Lane House Living 📖

Lane houses became legal in Vancouver in 2009. Many have been built since then.

What is a lane house?

A lane or laneway house is a small house built behind a larger house.

Some people build lane houses for family members. Others build lane houses to rent.

They are one solution to the city's need for more housing.



This is the first lane house built in Vancouver.

Adapted from *Vancouver Sun* • Photo: Flickr/ Joe Wolf

Tiny Houses 📖

Across Canada, the tiny house movement is growing.

What is a tiny house?

A tiny house is a small house of less than 500 square feet.

The houses are often built on wheels like a trailer. They can easily be moved.



This is a very tiny house.

Why do people want tiny houses?

The cost of living is high, especially in the Lower Mainland.

A tiny house can be an affordable choice.

Some owners of tiny houses want to live simpler lives in smaller spaces.

What are the benefits of a tiny house?

Tiny houses are good for the environment.

They are often made from recyclable materials. They use less energy.



This a tiny home on wheels.

Learn more at bctinyhousecollective.com.

Submitted by Kimberley Alcock
Photo: Flickr/Paul VanDerWerf, Mint Tiny Homes

The Westcoast Reader

Decoda Literacy Solutions
980 – 1125 Howe Street
Vancouver, BC V6Z 2K8

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© The Westcoast Reader
Vol 40/No 5/ISSN 0822-7225

The Westcoast Reader is published by Decoda Literacy Solutions in partnership with Camosun College. We are grateful for financial assistance from the BC Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills & Training.

The Westcoast Reader is for learners improving their reading skills.

Level 1 📖 Level 2 📖 Level 3 📖

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