

# JR IDEAS

THE  
NEWSLETTER  
OF  
THE  
ONTARIO  
ASSOCIATION  
OF  
JUNIOR  
EDUCATORS

NOVEMBER  
2011



## The Visitor

We had a very special visitor to our classroom last Friday. Earlier this year, one of the children mentioned that his great-grandfather had been a soldier in World War II. I didn't think anything of it until a few weeks later when his great-grandfather showed up for an event at the school and I had a chance to meet him. He was incredibly well-spoken and curious about the programs at our school. He explained that he had been a teacher many years ago, and always loved the classroom. Without thinking much about it I asked him if he would be willing to come into the classroom around Remembrance Day and be interviewed by the students. He hesitated . . . and then explained that in his experience such events are often awkward and that he found them a bit boring. I promised that this would be different - and then set about to make sure it would be.

I started by spending what I thought would be an hour, but turned into three hours, meeting him at a local coffee shop one Saturday so that I could find aspects of his experience and life that would be possible avenues for questions by the students. He was, quite frankly, one of the most interesting people I have ever met.

For a few days leading up to his visit the class brainstormed questions that they would like to ask him about his experiences, both while serving our country and in his life outside the military. Many of the questions that the students posed and were most interested in were about the sacrifices that he had to make in leaving his comfortable life in Canada and going overseas to fight in a war.



So, last Friday we had a very special visitor to our classroom. He brought some artifacts from his life and shared wonderful stories - some sad, some humorous and some very touching. What made this such a success, apart from our visitor's life story and ease in which he spoke with the children, was that we were well prepared before his visit - the key to success for having any guest add to the richness of your classroom program.

*If you break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow  
In Flanders fields.*



On November 11th at 11 a.m. in 1918, the 'war to end all wars' came to an end. By that point, some 16 million people from countries around the world had lost their lives in World War I, and many others were left impoverished and ruined. While there is no need to expound upon the violence and atrocities of warfare to make children understand the significance of the day, it is important to remember the great cost in human life that occurs as a result of war and conflict. You cannot help but have pride for the sacrifices made by members of Canada's armed forces in an effort to preserve the freedoms that we all enjoy today. You can best honour them by using this day as a way to teach students about both the honour and courage these people have displayed in the course of performing their duties . . . as well as the valuable lessons they have taught us - namely that the fighting of any war comes at too high a cost. In the end, Remembrance Day can provide an excellent way to instill in children an understanding of the ramifications of war and give them a reason to work towards a more peaceful world.

Sarah Danielson

## Classroom-ready Ideas for Teachers of Grades Four Through Six

JOIN OAJE FOR  
**FREE!**



The Ontario Association of Junior Educators (OAJE) provides a network for education professionals to share ideas and resources, to assist and support teachers and to advocate on behalf of students and teachers in the Junior grades.

Members of OAJE receive a newsletter outlining news, events, conferences and teaching tips. They are also invited to provide input, information and opinions for the Ministry of Education about issues of importance to Junior Division teachers. And, by joining, you will be sure to receive all future editions of this newsletter, along with lots of other valuable teaching ideas.

To become a member of OAJE, simply register online at <http://oajemembership.eventbrite.com>

Mark Your Calendars!

# EatRight Ontario is Launching its Annual Kids Recipe Contest in November



EatRight Ontario and the Dietitians of Canada are working together to get kids excited about healthy eating and creating kid-friendly recipes.

## WHO CAN ENTER?

Ontario students in grades 1 to 3 and grades 4 to 6.

## WHAT TO DO?

Young chefs, with their parents' help, are invited to submit an original, kid-friendly recipe for either the **school-day lunches** or **after-school snacks** categories. Recipes will be judged on nutrition, taste, originality, ease of preparation and a short answer to this question - "Why would kids like this recipe?"

## PRIZES?

Winners will be selected in each category for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place and an honourable mention. All winning recipes will be posted on our website - [www.eatrightontario.ca](http://www.eatrightontario.ca)

## DEADLINE?

December 16th, 2011 (4:00 p.m. EST)

## NEED MORE DETAILS?

Call an EatRight Ontario Registered Dietitian at 1-877-510-510-2

## STARTING IN NOVEMBER

Visit [www.eatrightontario.ca](http://www.eatrightontario.ca) to download the official entry form, read the official rules, and find out all that you need to know about the contest.

## LOOKING FOR INSPIRATION?

Check out the winning recipes from 2010 at [www.eatrightontario.ca/en/ViewDocument.aspx?id=380](http://www.eatrightontario.ca/en/ViewDocument.aspx?id=380)

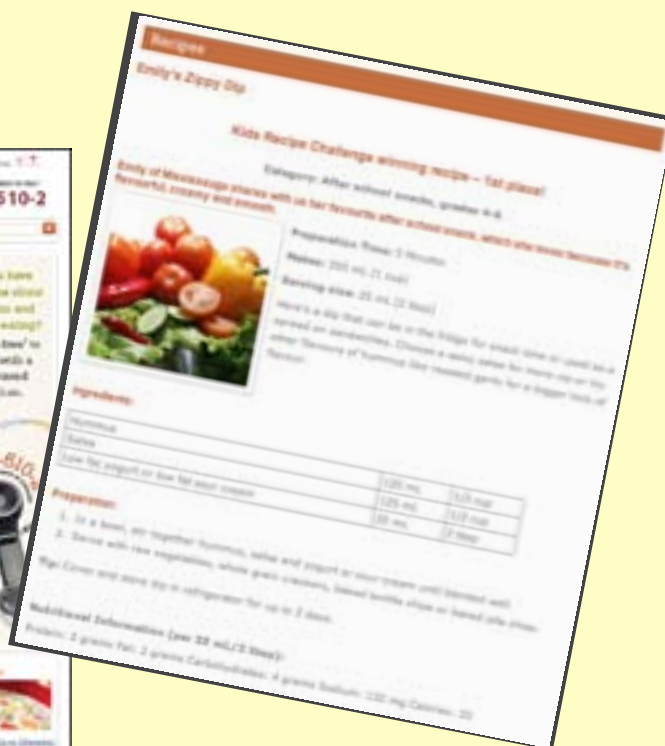
For more creative lunch and snack ideas, visit EatRight Ontario's Packing Healthy School Lunches and Snacks FAQs at <http://www.eatrightontario.ca/en/ViewDocument.aspx?id=41>

## WE NEED YOUR HELP

Tell your colleagues, students, and families you work with about this year's EatRight Ontario Recipe Contest!

## FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Cristina Cicco, RD  
Web Content Manager: EatRight Ontario  
416-977-0849 x 224  
[cristina.cicco@dietitians.ca](mailto:cristina.cicco@dietitians.ca)





# Do You Know About CODE?

The Council of Ontario Drama and Dance Educators (CODE) is the subject association for drama and dance education in Ontario. Our network provides resources and support to over 700 members through our website, conferences, and regional events and workshops.

CODE is a not-for-profit organization run entirely by elected volunteers whose goal is to encourage and support the development of drama and dance education in Ontario.

CODE offers FREE one-year membership to pre-service and concurrent education students and half-price membership for first-year teachers. Our website features over 200 resources linked to the Arts curriculum from grades K-12, including critical literacy and financial literacy-focused resources and demonstration videos.

Each fall, CODE holds its annual conference - a weekend of innovative workshops, speakers, and resources for artists and teachers. Members and students receive a discounted registration fee for this event, as well as for regional workshops throughout the year.

Visit [www.code.on.ca](http://www.code.on.ca) and check out our Facebook page to learn more about CODE and how it can benefit you in your professional development.

## Do You Know About CODE'S Excellent Resources for Junior Teachers?

The CODE website features over 200 public-access and members-only resources from grades K-12 in drama and dance. Browse units, courses profiles, lessons, assessment tools, articles and videos by subject, division, type, or keyword - all linked to the revised Arts Curriculum. Special focus resources include drama, dance, and critical literacy-linked units from grades 4-8, and financial literacy resources from grades 4-12, all of which feature our innovative "pop-up" glossary, which defines key terms with a click of your mouse!

Visit [www.code.on.ca](http://www.code.on.ca) and click on Resources to view all these and more.



## Have Your Voice Heard!

# Your Opinion Matters

The Ontario Association of Junior Educators is conducting a survey of its members to help inform planning around how it can better serve and support teachers and students in grades four through six.

Please take a moment to complete this online survey. It takes just few minutes of your time and provides the volunteers at OAJE with valuable information about how the organization can improve on our efforts to assist you and your students.



Just click on this link and share your opinions with us.

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheet/viewform?>

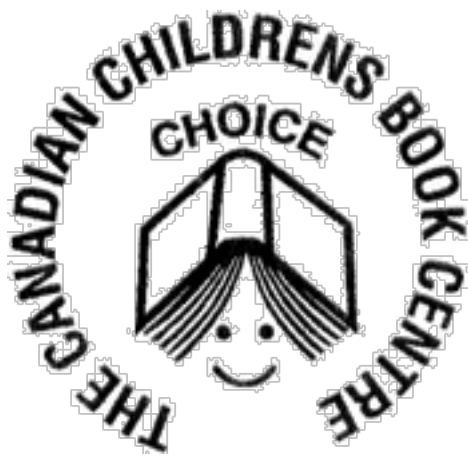
## Last Month's Newsletter

In the October 2011 edition of this newsletter we featured an article called "The Unplanned Inquiry" in which a very creative teacher followed the interests of his junior level students to examine a number of ways in which an autumn leaf could be preserved.

The article explained that the journey began when one of his students brought in a giant maple leaf that he found on his way to school.

We thought you might enjoy meeting Joseph Donato from Pickering, Ontario, and the giant maple leaf - measuring 34x29 cm - which has now earned him a phone call from the Guinness Book of World Records folks who are looking to create a new category for his leaf.





**And the Winner is ...**

# The Canadian Children's Book Centre Awards

**This Year's Nominees were ...**

## **Burn**

by Alma Fullerton

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## **The Glory Wind**

by Valerie Sherrard

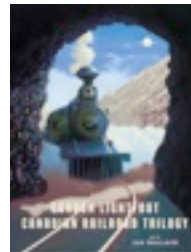
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## **The Canadian Railroad Trilogy**

by Gordon Lightfoot with Illustrations by Ian Wallace

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## **I Know Here**

by Laurel Croza with Illustrations by Matt James

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## **Plain Kate**

by Erin Bow

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**And the winner is ...**

**Plain Kate by Erin Bow**



Dr. Larry Swartz  
recommends . . .



On Tuesday, October 4th, the 2011 TD children's book awards were announced, celebrating the world of Canadian children's literature written in the year 2010.

The TD Canadian Children's Award was established in 2004 and awarded for the first time in 2005, honouring the most distinguished book of the year.

Two \$25 000.00 prizes are awarded, one for a book in English and the other for a book in French.



Lovers of fantasy stories will be engrossed in this richly written novel about a young girl who lives in a world of superstitions, curses, and magic. Some think Plain Kate to be a witch, as she seeks survival in a community that is set to burn her. The friendship of a talking cat balances out the dark dreams and fears Plain Kate faces as she struggles to survive.



## OTHER CATEGORIES



**The John Spray Mystery Award** was inaugurated this year to honour excellence in the mystery book format.

**And the winner is . . .** *A Spy in the House* by *Y.S. Less (The Agency Series)*



**The Marilyn Baillie Picture Book Award** is a \$20 000.00 prize shared between author and illustrator.

**And the winner is . . .** *I Know Here* by *Laurel Croze and Illustrated by Matt James*



**The Geoffrey Bilson Award for Historical Fiction** is a \$5000.00 prize for outstanding work of Canadian Historical fiction.

**And the winner is . . .** *The Glory Wind* by *Valerie Sherrad.*



**The Norma Fleck Award for Canadian Children's Non-Fiction** is a \$10 000.00 prize.

**And the winner is . . .** *Case Closed? Nine Mysteries Unlocked by Modern Science* by *Susan Hughes, illustrated by Michael Wandelmeir.*



for more information, check out The Canadian Children's Book Centre at their website [www.bookcentre.ca](http://www.bookcentre.ca).

