

# Word to Word

ONE TO ONE Literacy Society

## Upcoming Events

- Last day of school  
December 17 2010
- Classes begin  
January 4 2011
- In Service  
February 2011
- Volunteer Tea  
April 13 2011
- Spelling Bee  
May 19 2011

## ONE TO ONE. Spelling Bee Challenge 2010

Can you spell....?

**sock-dol-a-ger 1** : something that settles a matter : a decisive blow or answer : **FINISHER 2** : something outstanding or exceptional

**lit-to-ral**: of, relating to, or situated or growing on or near a shore especially of the sea

These are just two of the words teams had to spell at the 5<sup>th</sup>



Annual Spelling Bee held on May 27, 2010 at the Vancouver Convention Centre. The fundraising event was a resounding success. Nineteen teams battled it out for the coveted Spelling Bee trophy. The competition was stiff, but in the end the law firm, Farris, Vaughan, Wills & Murphy LLP, triumphed.

Norm Grohmann, a volunteer and local TV personality, once again emceed the event and did a fabulous job adding levity and fun to the morning. Linda Chalmers, retired teacher, spoke about the tremendous value that a one on one reading experience provides a child.



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ONE TO ONE would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all our corporate table sponsors (listed on page 4) and individual participants for their continued support of this event. These monies directly support our program and help to ensure that children in need develop literacy skills for life.



*Volunteers do not necessarily have the time;  
 they just have the heart.*

*Thank you for volunteering for  
 ONE TO ONE!*

## ONE TO ONE 2009 Evaluation Report

Every three years ONE TO ONE undertakes a program evaluation to objectively report to stakeholders the impact of the program in our communities. Outcomes from this evaluation identify strengths of the program as well as opportunities for improvement, so that enhancements to programming can be well-planned and effective. Data collection was undertaken in Spring 2009 in the form of questionnaires to volunteers, school coordinators and classroom teachers.

Since our last evaluation in 2006 ONE TO ONE has successfully undertaken to improve the relationship that we have in each of our participating schools and with our volunteers. The 2009 Evaluation showed an overall increase in the number of participating schools, volunteers and students. (See figure 1.1.) Results from student progress were also very positive. 100% of classroom teachers felt their students' reading skills had improved since beginning ONE TO ONE and 94% of classroom teachers noticed an increase in confidence from students who spent time with a ONE TO ONE tutor.

	2009	2006
Volunteers	300	230
Participating Schools	48	44
Students	700	640

Figure 1.1

Volunteers are the heart of ONE TO ONE. Survey results from tutors show that our volunteers truly enjoy what they do! (See figure 3.1.) What some tutors had to say: "This experience has been and continues to be a real joy." "Each child is different (everyday!) and it is a constant and gratifying challenge to me to keep them interested, learning and progressing."

Some areas identified for improvement are the continued development of ongoing training opportunities for both new and experienced tutors, increased communication between tutors and classroom teachers and assistance to schools to grow or update their ONE TO ONE book collection. The evaluation was completed before School Liaisons started working for ONE TO ONE and therefore does not take into account the positive impact of this position.

If you would like a copy of the full evaluation, please contact our office.

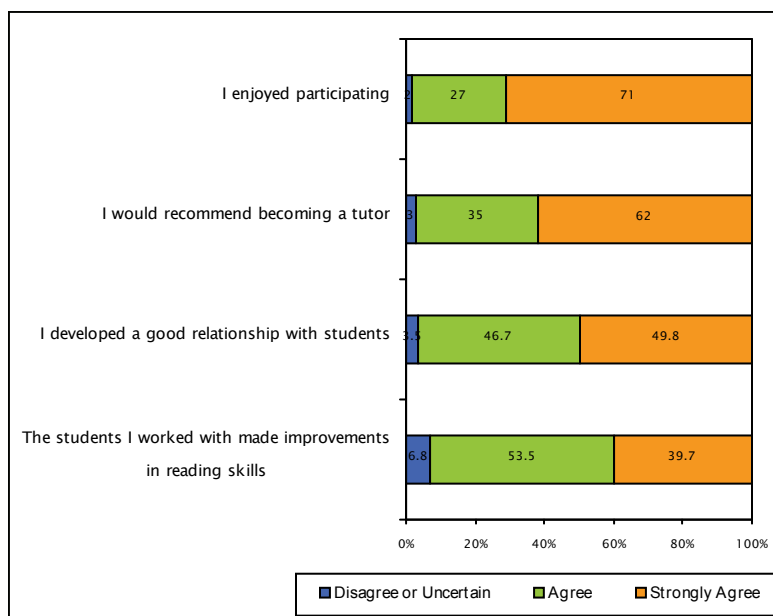


Figure 3.1

### ONE TO ONE Welcomes a New Executive Director and Two New School Liaisons

**Pamela Dawson** – Many of you already know Pamela from her role as a School Liaison. Pamela took over the Executive Director position this Fall. She has extensive background working with schools, introducing and running after school programs, chairing a school PAC, volunteer tutoring for ONE TO ONE and last year, working as one of our Liaisons.

**Martha Barton** – Martha trained as a Speech Pathologist in the early '80s and has worked in public health and education ever since. Much of Martha's professional experience has been in special education, working closely with learning assistance and classroom teachers to support students with language and literacy based learning disabilities. She became involved with ONE TO ONE as a volunteer tutor last year.

**Yvonne Mitchell** – Yvonne is a retired resource teacher from Vancouver. During her years in teaching she provided English as a Second Language and Learning Assistance to children from kindergarten to grade 7. She served on several committees at the Vancouver School Board including the math resources committee. In addition, Yvonne was secretary to the Learning Assistance Teachers' Association of Vancouver for 10 years.

*ONE TO ONE Tutoring Tips* By Linda O'Reilly

**The Long and Short of It!**

From the 26 letters in the English alphabet, 21 letters are used to make the consonant sounds. The other 5 letters are used to make the vowel sounds. Sometimes y is considered a vowel sound when there are no other vowels in a word such as in the word *spy*.

Understanding that each vowel makes both a long and short sound doesn't always come easily for many students. It's helpful to tell students that the vowels are like managers, or bosses. They have lots of jobs to do and often get together in groups or with other letters to do special jobs.

**Short and Long Vowels**

There are 5 *short* vowel sounds: /a/ as in apple, /e/ as in elephant, /i/ as in igloo/ and /u/ as in umbrella.

The *long* vowel sound is the name of the letter. Here are some examples: long /a/ as in gate; long /e/ as in keep; long /i/ as in rice; long /o/ as in spoke, and long /u/ as in cube.

**Vowel Digraphs**

Vowel digraphs are a group of two vowels in which only one sound is heard. Here are some examples: /ai/ as in maid; /ee/ as in sweet; /oa/ as in boat. You can also have consonant digraphs such as /sh/ in sheep and /ch/ in chicken.

**"R" Controlled Vowel Sounds**

When a vowel is followed by the letter "r", the vowel does not make a long or short sound but is considered a "Rcontrolled" vowel sound such as /or/ as in store, /ar/ as in far, /er/ as in her and /air/ as in fair.

**Diphthongs**

Diphthongs are a combination of two sounds, each with two different spellings. For example, the diphthong /ow/ and /ou/ make the /ow/ sound as in the word cow.

**Long and Short /oo/**

Then we have a long and short /oo/ sounds such as /oo/ in look and /oo/ as in moose. So, there you have it, the long and short of vowels.

**How to Beat Those Tricky Vowels**

Students in kindergarten through second grade learn the basics of sounds; however, a student in the intermediate grades can also require assistance. One of the reasons that students have difficulty with the short vowels is that the sounds of the vowels are so similar.

Use a variety of approaches to help reinforce the vowels. Begin by reviewing what the written vowels look like; use the dry erase board to illustrate. Choose words from a reading passage and ask the student to identify all of the vowels in each word. Say the words aloud, placing vocal stress on vowel sounds. Ask the student to repeat the words.

**Schools News**

**Welcome New Schools**

In the spring of 2010 we welcomed Cunningham, Douglas, Kerrisdale, Lord and Oppenheimer to the ONE TO ONE program.

**Rotating Book Boxes**

In an attempt to meet one of the needs identified in the 2009 Evaluation, ONE TO ONE has created 4 Rotating Book Boxes to freshen up the books available to tutors. These boxes contain approximately 25 books and a word game. The books are leveled, using a system commonly used in the schools, to help tutors choose an appropriate book for students. The boxes will be rotated through schools by the Liaisons and will stay a school for about a month. We hope that both tutors and students will enjoy the new books and games.



# Thank you for supporting ONE TO ONE

- Vancouver Sun ~ Raise a Reader
- RBC Foundation
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- Learning Assistance Teachers' Association
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### Thank you

#### to our 2010 Spelling Bee Sponsors

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**ONE TO ONE** Literacy invites you to attend our Sixth Annual Spelling Bee Challenge on Thursday May 19 2011 7:30 to 9:30 am....

- Individuals can join a team for \$125 to enjoy breakfast, receive a tax receipt for \$100 and have a lot of fun.
- Using a **team approach**, each table will be asked to correctly write the spelling for words taken from Scripp's National Spelling Bee website ([www.spellingbee.com](http://www.spellingbee.com)).
- Winners receive one large team trophy as well as smaller, individual trophies for participants.

**All proceeds go towards providing children with a chance to grow into confident readers!**

### Birthday Donations

**ONE TO ONE** would like to acknowledge and thank the friends of Ann Carroll, **ONE TO ONE** Chairperson, for their thoughtful donations. Ann recently celebrated a "significant" birthday. A group of her friends decided that the best gift they could give Ann was a contribution to something very dear to her. The donations sent in will help us maintain and expand the programs we offer to improve children's basic reading skills at an early age. THANK YOU!!



### Yes! I want to give the gift of literacy...

I would like to make a donation of:

\$20\_\_ \$50\_\_ \$100\$\_\_ Other \$\_\_\_\_\_ to the ONE TO ONE Literacy Society.

I would like my donation to go:

directly to the program.  to the ONE TO ONE Literacy Society Endowment Fund.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send your cheque payable to the ONE TO ONE Literacy Society to the address below.

For more information please contact us at 604.255.5559 or [contactus@one-to-one.ca](mailto:contactus@one-to-one.ca)

Tax receipt will be mailed to the name and address on this form. Charitable registration #882722317RR0001

**Thank you for your gift!**

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