



Media Advisory

***Score with Reading* at Nanaimo Harbourfront Library!**

Monday, January 30, 2017

Hockey and literacy are taking over Nanaimo Harbourfront Library on Saturday, February 11. Back for the sixth year in a row, *Score with Reading* is bigger than ever and promises to be a memorable family afternoon for fans of hockey and reading alike.

**Saturday, February 11, 2017
Harbourfront Library and Diana Krall Plaza
Nanaimo, 1 – 3 pm**

The fun starts at 1pm inside the library with members of the BCHL Nanaimo Clippers reading from their favourite books. Then everyone will head outside (weather permitting) to the Diana Krall Plaza for a game of street hockey with Clippers players and VIRL's very own Tales the Whale mascot.

The Clippers players will also be signing autographs for anyone who wants one.

This is the second year in a row that the BCHL, with the motto *Smart Hockey*, has made *Score with Reading* its league-wide education-based initiative.

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About Score with Reading

Score with Reading was born of VIRL librarian Jason Kuffler's passions for hockey and engaging reluctant readers. In 2012, he combined these passions and came up with the idea of targeting primary school reluctant readers and engaging them through their hockey heroes.

The first *Score* was held in December of 2012 with players from the Nanaimo Clippers talking about their careers and their educational goals. The players then read to the kids, signed autographs and took photos. In 2014, a street hockey game was added to the mix and it was a huge hit.

In 2015, Jason connected with the BCHL and *Score* became the BCHL's league-wide, education-based initiative in January of 2016. In 2016, seven BCHL teams and their local libraries participated in *Score* province-wide. The BCHL has again made *Score* their education-based initiative for 2017.

A mentorship component for reluctant readers was created in September 2016 when Jason connected with the Community Liaison for the Nanaimo Clippers who agreed that it would be an excellent initiative for the team to participate in. With the Clippers on board, Jason partnered with School District 68 from North and South Nanaimo to participate.

Additional funding for the program was provided by the Lions Club.

The mentorship program consists of three events:

- A meet-and-greet (held December 10, 2016 at Nanaimo Harbourfront and North libraries)
- A Skate with the Clippers event at Frank Crane Arena (January 22)
- The main event at Nanaimo Harbourfront, including the street hockey game in the Diana Krall Plaza, happening on February 11 from 1 – 3pm

VIRL's Cowichan branch is also hosting *Score with Reading* on February 11.

In September of 2016 it was announced that Nanaimo would be one of Rogers Sportsnet's Hometown Hockey host cities. *Score with Reading* has been submitted to Hometown Hockey by the local organizing committee for consideration for the February 26 national broadcast during a game between the Ottawa Senators and Florida Panthers.

With Jason's tireless commitment, *Score with Reading* is poised to grow even bigger in the years ahead.

About Vancouver Island Regional Library

Vancouver Island Regional Library (VIRL) is the fifth-largest library system in British Columbia. We serve over 430,000 people on Vancouver Island, Haida Gwaii, and Bella Coola on the Central Coast through 39 branch libraries, a virtual branch, and a books-by-mail service. VIRL's holdings number one million and include books, magazines, CDs and DVDs. Administrative offices are located in Nanaimo.