



Dr. A.T. Leatherbarrow Primary School



Our Vision: Our School community will be encouraged and supported to be the best we can be!

Our Mission: We will work in partnership with families and the community to provide quality education in a positive learning environment



Dr. A.T. Leatherbarrow Primary School

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Welcome to Kindergarten 2017-18

We are inviting next year's Kindergarten class to a "Welcome to Kindergarten" session on January 19 from 3:00 to 4:00 pm. The children and parents will enjoy a short classroom experience and will be given a bag of learning materials and books to take home to use. One of the objectives is for parents to interact with their children using these materials to help support them as students with the kindergarten curriculum. We look forward to meeting our new K students.

Lunch with the Principal

Our Code of Conduct is to **be kind, be safe, be responsible and be respectful**. For the month of December, our focus was on being kind. All students who demonstrated being kind in the halls, on the bus, in the classroom, on the playground, etc. had their names entered into their classroom buckets as "Bucket Fillers." Students whose names were drawn from their classroom buckets had lunch with me!



Guidance

A positive day at school begins and ends with a pleasant routine at home. Try these ideas for establishing success-building habits with your child.

A Fresh Start—A calm morning can help your child go to school with a positive attitude. Build an extra 10 minutes into his or her wake-up time to allow for mishaps like spilled food or for quiet time with family.

Screen-Time Limits—Large doses of TV, video games, and apps can affect a child's ability to focus using self-control. Encourage outside play and reading for pleasure. It is recommended that children have no more than two hours screen time a day.

Rest—A set bedtime helps kids fall asleep more quickly. Suggest that your child get in bed 15 minutes early to read, make up stories, or talk quietly with you.

2017 Literacy Week at Leatherbarrow

January 23 to 27



Taking time to read or do a learning activity at home with your family is important every day. Then, on one special day every year, Family Literacy is celebrated across Canada. Friday, January 27, is Family Literacy Day! Family literacy refers to the many ways families develop, use and encourage literacy skills, such as enjoying a storybook together, playing word games, singing songs, writing a note to a relative or friend, making a list, or using a recipe.

We have many reasons to celebrate Family Literacy Day:

- Reading aloud to children develops their listening skills, vocabulary and language skills, imagination and creativity (*Family Literacy Foundation*);
- Creating a culture of learning at home encourages an exchange of ideas, enriches family relationships, and bolsters confidence and independent thinking;
- Literacy affects all aspects of our daily lives... "Reading, writing, financial and digital literacy are all essential skills Canadians require to live a fully engaged life." (<http://abclifelifiteracy.ca/flid/family-literacy-facts-stats>)

At Leatherbarrow, our Family Literacy Day celebrations will overflow into the entire week of January 23-27! *As this week approaches, children might start thinking about what they would like to wear on our "Dress Up As Your Favourite Book Character" day!* Also, we would like to invite any male family members who'd be willing to visit a class and read aloud from a favourite picture book (on the afternoon of Friday, January 27) to please contact the school.



There will be lots more happening January 23-27, so stay tuned for details about activities and events scheduled for Literacy Week at DATL!



Raz-Kids

Our staff is dedicated to promoting literacy learning and assisting your children in becoming more versed in the use of technology. For these reasons we have purchased the site license to 'Raz-Kids' for every child in our school!

Raz-Kids is an educational website where children can comfortably practice their literacy skills at school and at home. It offers differentiated reading instruction with hundreds of animated leveled books. Students can listen to books for modeled fluency and also read books independently. Teachers can access the students' reading logs to support them, recognize genres of interest, and praise their effort and progress.

If you have not yet taken advantage of this free opportunity to help your child grow stronger as a reader, please contact your child's classroom teacher for more information.



Outdoor Play Please make sure that your child is dressed properly for the outdoors including snow pants, hats and mittens. We always have extra hats and mittens at school. If your child needs some, we would be happy to provide them.



Supporting our Music Program at DATL



SEA DOGS 7:00pm.

We are proud to announce that our **Grade 2 Choir** will be singing our **national anthem** at an upcoming **Saint John Sea Dogs** game at Harbour Station on **Friday, February 10th, 2017 at**

SEA DOGS 7:00pm. We will be taking orders and collecting money for "Sea Dogs" tickets beginning next week. If you choose to purchase a ticket, you will not only be supporting our Saint John Sea Dogs but you will be more importantly supporting the students of DATL. \$5 from every adult ticket sold will go directly to the music education fund at DATL. We will be selling these tickets at a price of **\$10/student and \$15/adult.**

These tickets are assigned to sections 13-15 for this particular game on the 10th. Tickets will only be available to the Grade 2 Choir members and their families during the first week of sale (January 16th-20th) and then they will be available to the whole school body after that time. We only have 120 tickets to sell and we know from years past that they go quickly. Please send in an envelope with your name, number of student/adult tickets and the exact change in monies. We will then send the tickets home with your child.

We sincerely hope that you will consider joining us on Friday, February 10th, 2017 at Harbour Station so we can show all of Saint John and surrounding areas how DATL families support their students. Thank you for your consideration and support.

Mr. Britten, Music Teacher, DATL

Help Your Child Succeed in School:
Build the Habit of Good Attendance Early

Did you know: Research shows that missing ten percent of the school year, or about 18 days in most school districts, negatively affects a student's academic performance. That's just two days a month and that's known as chronic absence. The academic impact of missing that much school is the same whether the absences are excused or unexcused.

What You Can Do:

Set early bed times and start getting ready for bed at least 30 minutes before bed. Children are alert and ready to learn when they are well rested.

Set your alarm clock to avoid being late.

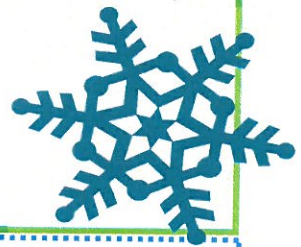
If you drive your child to school make arrangements to have someone take your child in case you are unable to. Allow time for the unpredictable. Make sure clothes and backpacks are ready to go, and school work is complete the night before the next school day. Wake up and get moving in plenty of time to get ready for the school day.

Don't let your child stay home unless they are truly sick. You are the best judge of this.

Try to avoid medical appointments and extended trips when school is in session.

Communicate with your child's school and let them know if you are having a hard time getting to school or have to miss a day. The school may be able to offer some assistance.

Sources: Attendance Works; <http://www.showupstandout.org/get-the-facts/why-attendance-matters/>



SPEAKING OF SPEECH AND LANGUAGE...

(FROM THE ASD-S SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY DEPARTMENT)

Noise-Induced Hearing Loss (NIHL)

by Amber Hodgson, M.A., CCC-SLP
(<http://www.superduperinc.com/handouts>)

Did you know that prolonged exposure to any noise at or above 85 decibels can cause gradual hearing loss (National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders (NIDCD), 2010)? But first, what are "decibels?" *Decibels (dB)* are what we use to measure noise levels, and 85 dB is probably not as loud as you think; the noise-level gauge on the right shows that 85 dB is slightly louder than heavy city traffic! The type of hearing loss that occurs from exposure to loud sounds is known as *noise-induced hearing loss (NIHL)*, and research suggests that NIHL is occurring much more frequently and at younger ages (American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA), 2010). NIHL usually occurs painlessly over a period of time; however, it can occur from one exposure to an extremely loud noise. Luckily, NIHL can be prevented!

Effects of NIHL: Hearing loss due to noise exposure usually occurs in the high frequencies (itches). Speech sounds that give meaning to words, such as /ch/, /th/, /sh/, /f/, and /s/, are high-frequency sounds; therefore, NIHL can make it difficult to understand words and communicate successfully. This can lead to problems listening in different environments, including the classroom. Children with NIHL may be hesitant to answer in the classroom or have conversations with peers, and they may also demonstrate behavior problems.

How Can NIHL Be Prevented? The best way to prevent hearing loss due to noise exposure is to eliminate or reduce the noise. When noise cannot be eliminated, people need to protect themselves from the noise by wearing hearing protection like earplugs or earmuffs. Other ways to prevent hearing loss due to noise exposure are to limit the amount of time around the noise or to increase the distance from the source of the noise. If, after leaving a potentially noise-harmful area, you experience *tinnitus* (ringing in the ears), or if the people talking to you sound like they are mumbling, you could be experiencing temporary hearing loss due to noise exposure, which may lead to permanent hearing loss over time.

How Loud is Too Loud?	
Decibels	Sound Source
150	Firecracker
120	Ambulance Siren
110	Chain Saw, Rock Concert
105	Personal Stereo System at Maximum Volume
100	Woodshop, snowmobile
95	Motorcycle
90	Power Mower
85	Heavy City Traffic
60	Normal Conversation
40	Refrigerator
30	Whispered Voice
0	Threshold for normal hearing

It is important to educate your children about NIHL through discussion and by example. Wear your ear protection and encourage your children to follow your example. Also, do not overlook a potential risk of hearing loss from any device that children use with headphones. Remind them to keep their headphones at a reasonable volume *and* not to listen to them for too long.

