

Dr. A.T. LEATHERBARROW PRIMARY SCHOOL



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

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

Ready or not, it's December! We know that this is an extremely busy time for families, and we hope this last newsletter of 2014 will help to keep you informed and organized in the midst of the holiday excitement!

December 1, 2014
Newsletter #4

Christmas Concert Wednesday, December 17, 2014

We will be holding our Concert at the

Hampton Baptist Church. In order to accommodate all families, the same concert will be performed twice.

We have performances at **9:00am** and **11:00am**. It is important only half of our families come to each performance as seating is limited.

The following families are invited to the 9:00am performance:

**Families of K/1 Allaby, K Earle, K Kingston,
1 Peters, 2 Barrett, and 2 Boyle**

The following families are invited to the 11:00am performance:

**Families of K White, K Walsh, 1 Landry,
1 Wilson, 2 Annear, 2 Howe**

Please come at your designated time so that we can accommodate as many family members as possible. If you have two children in different time slots, please choose the time that is best for you.

The "admission" to our concert is a food item that will be donated to the Hampton Food Basket.

"Wednesdays in December" Enrichment Series



On Wednesday, December 3, and Wednesday, December 10, our entire school will be involved in Enrichment activities! We are very lucky to have a wide variety of sessions planned for our students. We will have MAD Science, the R.C.M.P, local authors, local artists, District math and science specialists, and our very own talented staff and parent volunteers. Students have selected the types of enrichment in which they would be most interested and have been placed in multi-aged groupings. We are very excited for Wednesdays in December!

Thank You!

- To Shaw Signs for providing us with a new school sign!
- To Wednesdays in December and skating volunteers!
- To everyone who came to help with the float and to the Wanamakers for providing the truck, the trailer, and a warm garage for us to work in!

Important Dates:

The last day of school before the Christmas holidays is **Friday, December 19. It is a full day.**

The first day back after the Christmas holidays is **Tuesday, January 6.**

Teachers will be involved in Professional Learning on **January 5.**





Skating

It's time for skating! DATL offers a skating program as part of our Physical Education Program. The skating schedule is on the front page of our website.

All children **must** wear a helmet, preferably one with a face mask, snow pants, and **thick** mittens. All of these items are necessary for your child's protection.

Students will walk to and from the rink except in very cold weather. In the case of extremely cold weather, skating will be cancelled. We do need parents to transport skates and helmets at each skating time. Also, if you are able to volunteer to help tie skates, it would very much appreciated. Please contact your child's teacher.

PSSC Meeting

Our December PSSC Meeting is being held on Wednesday, December 10, at 6:30pm. All parents are welcome!

Library

To all librarians,

Thank you for your faithful dedication to our students. We really appreciate you coming weekly to provide assistance with this program.

The week of November 24 to 28 was the last week for students to sign out books until after the holidays. We would appreciate you coming the first week of December to return books to the library shelves. Students will go to the library again to sign out books during the week of January 6 to 9, 2015!



Bucket Filling Celebration

Our Code of Conduct is to be kind, be safe, be responsible and be respectful. For the month of November, our focus was on being kind. All students who demonstrated using kind words, showing empathy, sharing and giving to others, etc. had their names entered into their classroom buckets as "Bucket Fillers."

Students whose names are drawn from their classroom buckets have a picnic lunch with me, Mrs. Jardine.





Supporting our Music Program at D.A.T.L.: Sea Dogs Flex Tickets

We are proud to announce that our Grade 2 Choir will be singing the National Anthem at the Sea Dogs game on Sunday, January 25, 2015, at 3:00 pm! We hope you consider joining us at the game to show all of Saint John how D.A.T.L. families support our students.

We will be selling Sea Dogs "Flex Tickets" at the D.A.T.L. Christmas Concert on December 17 then (if there are any left) at the school office:

- *The Sea Dogs Flex Ticket costs \$10 for a student ticket and \$15 for an adult ticket .*
- *These can be used for ANY REGULAR SEASON Saint John Sea Dogs game.*

If you choose to purchase a ticket, you will not only be supporting our Saint John Sea Dogs, but you will be also supporting the Music program at D.A.T.L. \$5 from every adult voucher sold will go directly to the music education fund at our school. Christmas is just around the corner. These make an ideal Christmas gift! Thank you for your consideration and support!

SIP TIP: Improving Literacy by Raising a Reader!

School Improvement Plan (SIP) Goal for Literacy: Students will demonstrate continuous improvements in Literacy skills reaching or exceeding provincial and district targets.

Three Tips for Parents While Reading To and With Your Child—

- Have your child describe a character then guess which one it is.
- Kids are like adults—we all prefer to read about things that interest us. Pick books that have topics your child is interested in such as animals, sports, or dance.
- When you read books aloud, have fun with voices. Try using a different voice for each character.



Student Absences

When your child is absent or late, please remember to phone the Safe Arrival number (832-6162) and **give the name of your child's teacher** when you call. The Education Act of the province of New Brunswick requires parents to provide a *written note* to the home-room teacher when their child is absent from school. Use of the Safe Arrival number does not negate this obligation.



Reminders

- DATL classes begin at 8:25 am. To be ready all students should be at school by 8:20 am.
- DATL is a scent-free school. Please refrain from wearing perfume or aftershave when visiting our school.
- Outdoor play is important to a child's health. Please be sure your child is dressed properly for outside play.
- Late hot lunch orders cannot be accepted.



Dropping Children off at School

The air intake vents to Mrs. Earle's and Mrs. Walsh's rooms are located on the road side of the school. This area is posted as a No Idling Zone. Please turn off your car engine when you stop in this zone to unload children. The fumes cause an unhealthy environment. Also, bus drivers have asked to remind all parents to use the designated drop off spots only. Please remember that our driveway is one way. You must enter from HES and leave past HMS.





Guidance Corner

- In the hustle and bustle of the coming season, find time for family:
- Kids rely on their families for love, guidance, and a sense of belonging. Without those things, it's hard to do well in school or in life. Activities like the following will show your child that he or she has family support:**
- Eat meals together including preparing and cleaning up as a family. Limit screen time to allow conversation to take place.
- Go on outings to a concert, the museum, a local sports event, or a walk on the trail. Ask your child what he or she would like to do.
- Play games together such as charades or board games.
- Plan family nights such as baking holiday cookies and sometimes invite another family or extended family to join you.



The entire staff of
Leatherbarrow Primary
wishes you and your family
Merry Christmas,
Happy Holidays, and
a Happy New Year!





SPEAKING OF SPEECH AND LANGUAGE...

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

Giving directions to your child

By Diann D. Grimm, M.A., C.C.C., Ed.S.

All children need to learn how to follow directions. It is an important skill that children learn through repeated experience and practice. Language impaired children may have problems following directions because they have difficulty understanding language. So it is important to give clear, simple directions. Then you can help your child learn how to understand language and how to do a specific job at the same time.

How can parents improve their direction giving?

Try to eliminate distractions before giving directions.

Distractions, including a radio, TV or others talking, make it harder for your child to listen to your direction.

Make sure your child is listening when you give directions

It is important that you have your child's full attention when you give directions. Get down to your child's eye level so the child can see your facial expression. Squat down if you have to.

Pair gestures with directions.

At first, children learn how to follow directions by watching the cues you present through hand gestures, such as pointing to objects and their locations. These cues help your child understand your message. For that reason, when you give directions, try to use a natural gesture at the same time. For example: "go to your room and get your coat" paired with pointing to your child's room.

Speak clearly and not too rapidly.

Use repetition.

Repeating directions for your child is very helpful. When you give your child directions, the child must do some mental work before acting. First, the child must understand the meaning of the words and sentence structure. Then the child must remember the directions while acting. You can help your child remember by repeating your directions. Give your child time to think about the directions before you repeat them.

With older children, you can ask your child to repeat your directions after you. This "activates" your child's memory. It also tells you if the child actually understood your directions.

Use chunking when possible.

Chunking is useful when you are giving your child two or more directions at one time. Chunking means saying related directions in one breath. It may seem easier to remember a string of directions if you pause between each one. Actually, it is easier to recall information if it is chunked according to similarities. For example: "wash your face and brush your teeth" "then get your book and I will read it to you". Give your directions with only the number of chunks the child can understand.

Select words at your child's level of difficulty.

Use words that your child consistently understands when giving directions. Use short, simple sentences.

Know what to expect of your child.

If you know what to expect of your child, you will not give directions that are too difficult to follow. Your speech and language clinician can help you determine your child's ability to understand directions.

Give your child clear feedback.

When your child completes your directions, let the child know exactly what was done correctly. You may want to tell your child the directions the child just completed. If your child did not complete your directions, show or tell exactly what is needed to be done.

If an attempt is partially successful, praise whatever your child did correctly.

Use these tips consistently to help your child understand and follow directions.