

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

Kind Safe Responsible Respectful



Happy New Year!

The Staff of Leatherbarrow Primary School
Wishes you a Happy and Healthy New Year!



Leatherbarrow Rocks on Provincial Literacy Assessment!

By the end of Grade 2, most students at D.A.T.L. meet or exceed the provincial standards in literacy. Provincial Assessment Results indicate that last year **98%** of our Grade 2 students scored at an appropriate or above reading level.

This compares with the Provincial average of 77% and the District (ASD-S) average of 81%.

I congratulate the children on their progress, thank parents, volunteers and EAs for their support, and salute the teachers of Leatherbarrow Primary for their excellent teaching!

Welcome to Kindergarten 2015-2016

We will be inviting next year's Kindergarten class to a "Welcome to K" session on January 15 from 3:00 to 4:00 pm.

The children and parents will enjoy a short classroom experience and will be given a bag of toys and books to take home to use. One of the objectives is for parents to interact with their children using these materials which will work to support them as students in the kindergarten curriculum.

We look forward to meeting our new K students!



Supporting our Music Program at D.A.T.L.:

Sea Dogs Flex Tickets

Our Grade 2 Choir will be singing the National Anthem at the Sea Dogs game on Sunday, January 25, 2015, at 3:00 pm! Please join us in support of our D.A.T.L. students! We are continuing to sell Sea Dogs "Flex Tickets" — we have a limited quantity so buy your tickets soon!

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

Purchasing a ticket supports the Saint John Sea Dogs and 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. Thank you for your consideration and support!

Dr. A.T. Leatherbarrow Primary School

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[HTTP://WWW.ASD-S.NBED.NB.CA](http://WWW.ASD-S.NBED.NB.CA)

1-855-535-7669 (SNOW LINE)

Literacy Week at Leatherbarrow – January 26 to 30

As many of you are aware, Tuesday, January 27 is Family Literacy Day. Family literacy refers to the many ways families develop and use literacy skills; for example, enjoying a storybook together, playing word games, singing, writing to a relative or friend, sharing day-to-day tasks such as making a shopping list or using a recipe, or surfing the Internet for fun and interesting sites (Family Literacy in Canada: Profiles of Effective Practices, Adele Thomas, Soleil Publishing Inc.).



Reasons to Celebrate Family Literacy:

- Reading aloud to children develops their listening skills, vocabulary and language skills, and imagination and creativity (Family Literacy Foundation).
- Establishing a culture of learning 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://abclifeliteracy.ca/fld/family-literacy-facts-stats](http://abclifeliteracy.ca/fld/family-literacy-facts-stats))

We are going to celebrate literacy for the entire week from January 26 to 30! Stay tuned for more details about the activities we have scheduled for this week!

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.

PSSC Meeting

All parents are welcome to our PSSC meeting on Wednesday, January 14, at 6:30 pm!



SIP Tip

Ends Policy 2: Students will demonstrate continuous improvement in literacy and numeracy skills reaching or exceeding provincial and district targets.

Here are few more tips on **How to Raise a Reader!**

- Have your child read to the dog! No kidding! Dogs are good, nonjudgmental listeners.
- Be a role model. Let your child catch you reading a cookie recipe, instruction manual, news article, novel, non-fiction book, etc.
- Stay positive! Be reassuring and supportive, never critical. You want your child to look forward to reading and to enjoy it. Reading is hard work, and your encouragement goes far!



SPEAKING OF SPEECH AND LANGUAGE...

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

Vocabulary

Vocabulary refers to the knowledge and understanding of word meanings and how words are related. Vocabulary is the basis for learning language and is critical for developing literacy skills and reading comprehension. Learning of new words happens at school, in the home and in the community. Teachers provide direct instruction for new words when teaching specific topics such as science or math. Parents can extend this learning at home.

Extend Learning:

- Play word games such as Scrabble, Boggle, Charades or Scattergories
- Visit new places such as a museum, library, zoo, or attraction (e.g. lighthouse, park, pet store) and talk about all the new things you see
- Use apps that encourage vocabulary development
- Read a variety of book types including non-fiction and magazines
- Have your child explain in their own words what the "new" word means
- Encourage reading and writing at home
- Encourage your child to tell you about his or her day

Apps Suggestions:

- I imagine by Bizzibbrains - Students create characters, find fun interactions, read along with the story and answer comprehension questions
- Let's Name Things by SuperDuperInc - Students name items they see in pictures
- Shadow Puppet by Shadow Puppet - Students combine photos, videos and voice to tell a story, demonstrate a task of explain a concept
- What Does Miss Bee See? by SuperDuperInc - Students name items they see in pictures

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.



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.



A Call for Reading Volunteers

Are you looking to share your love of reading and get involved in your community? Elementary Literacy Inc. is a not-for-profit charitable organization with the mission to work closely with educators, parents and communities for increasing literacy rates across New Brunswick. To support this effort, Elementary Literacy Inc. offers the Elementary Literacy Friends Program (Elf) in Anglophone schools across NB.

The Elf Program is a one-on-one reading achievement program matching trained community volunteers with Grade 2 children who require additional reading practice. The volunteer commitment is one hour, twice a week for ten weeks. Volunteer sessions take place in the school at the end of the day. The next training session is taking place on **January 27 from 1-4 pm at the Saint John Free Public Library, Market Square**. If you are interested in becoming an Elf volunteer, you can register for training online at elfnb.com or call **1-855-898-2533**. Visit us online for more information about the program and other ways to help!