



Creating Futures

South Slave Divisional Education Council · PO Box 510 · Fort Smith, NT · X0E 0P0 · Ph: (867) 872-5701 · Fax: (867) 872-2150

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 20, 2014

South Slave Schools hold Family Literacy Day Activities

South Slave Divisional Education Council schools invite families to help encourage their children's love of reading

Fort Smith, NT – Over the coming weeks South Slave Divisional Education Council schools will be hosting special events for students and their families to celebrate reading. On January 27th schools across Canada will celebrate Family Literacy Day. The SSDEC is doing its part by hosting events at all of its schools in the communities of Fort Resolution, Fort Smith, Hay River, K'átłodeeche First Nation, and Lutsel K'e.

Parents, siblings, and grandparents are welcome to join their students in fun activities that encourage literacy.

Below are some of the events going on across the SSDEC (please note date variations):

Deninu School, Fort Resolution – *January 27*

- 1:30-3:00 PM Deninu will be engaging students in 15 minute activities including a scavenger hunt, storytelling by elders, arts and crafts, games and more.
- Students are asked to bring one vegetable each to make a communal soup to share at the end of the day.

Joseph B. Tyrrell Elementary School, Fort Smith – *January 27*

- 8-9 AM JBT will host a pancake breakfast for its school families!
- 9 AM–12 PM – Multi-age groupings will visit stations on literacy, numeracy and social responsibility. Parents are encouraged to join their students.
- School will be dismissed at 12 PM.

Paul W. Kaesar High School, Fort Smith – *January 27*

- Take a break from exams with the Family Literacy Quiz! Work together as a family to win prizes!
- Families can enter online (e-mail will be sent through PWK mailing list) or through the PWK office. Have fun reading, googling and learning as you find the answers.

Harry Camsell School, Hay River – *January 30*

For more information contact Steven J. Lee, Public Affairs Coordinator
(867) 872-5701 ext. 23, slee@ssdec.nt.ca

- 8:30-9 AM - Parents are invited to come to Harry Camsell's gym to participate the family reading session before class begins.
- After reading, students will head back to class for a muffin, fruit and drink with classmates.

Princess Alexandra School, Hay River – *January 24*

- 8-9 AM - Annual Family Day Literacy Breakfast! Students and parents will be provided a warm breakfast (French toast and sausages), and read together.

Diamond Jenness Secondary School, Hay River - *February 20* (postponed due to exams)

- 1:15-3:20 PM - This year's focus is on math literacy. Members of the community are welcome to attend. Students will compete in teams of four who will model a family; grandparent, parent and children. Prizes will be awards to the teams with the most points.

Chief Sunrise Education Centre, K'átlodeeche First Nation – *January 27*

- 2:30-3:30 PM – Fifteen Minutes of Fun! Short activities for students to enjoy.
- 3:30-4:00 PM – The whole school will come together for special treat. Families welcome!

Lutsel K'e Dene School, Lutsel K'e – *January 27*

- Join Lutsel K'e Dene School for a family luncheon of stew and bannock!
- After lunch all are invited for a Big Book reading by one of the community members, then students will read their favourite books aloud to a family member, or person of their choice.

Family Literacy Day is also an opportunity for schools to offer tips to parents on how they can help develop their child's literacy. Pam Walsh, literacy coordinator for the SSDEC suggested, "Always have a book on hand, no matter where you are. Load appropriate children's books into your e-reader, keep a small book in your purse, or your car's glove compartment, or have a picture book or two in the baby's stroller. Make sure that you and your children always have something to read when the time is available."

Communities and school families are critical partners in the education of children. "The evidence is clear, when school and parents are working together, children do better in school and in later life," said SSDEC Superintendent Dr. Curtis Brown, "Family Literacy Day is a great opportunity for schools to engage with parents in a positive way, and for students to see that both their teachers and their parents take their learning and happiness seriously."

Improving literacy is one of the SSDEC's three key goals and in recent years test results have shown an incredible improvement in students' performance. Last year 74% of South Slave students were at, or above, the standard for reading and writing proficiency in the Alberta Achievement Test. The Council is working towards 80%.

For further details please reach out to your local SSDEC school.