

Family Literacy Day

Prairie Valley Schools have found creative ways to celebrate and encourage students and families to take part in Family Literacy Day 2014. Listed below are a few of the events planned.

Balcarres Community School

On January 27 the school will be having DEAR (Drop Everything and Read) time for students at 1:00 p.m. Then, students from Kindergarten to Grade 6 will receive a Bedtime Bear colouring page that reads, "My favourite part of when you read to me is . . ." The back side of the page contains "15 Minutes of Fun" activities provided by ABC Life Literacy Canada.

In February the school will be honouring Aboriginal Storytelling Month by inviting Elders in to classrooms for oral storytelling. On February 14 the school will host a breakfast and have buddy reading for all of our students from Kindergarten to Grade 12.

On March 17 the school will be hosting a Family Picnic with a green theme. Literacy events planned for that day include the creation of Balcarres' very own story, where families are invited to contribute one line to build a comprehensive story.

Balgonie Elementary School

To celebrate Family Literacy Day and to promote reading, BES is asking students and families to send in a photo of you and your family reading together. It can be a digital attachment (send digital copies to balgonieelementary@pvsd.ca), an actual photograph, or it can be a colour copy. Names need to be included in the email with the attached photo or written on the back of the photo or colour copy and sent to the homeroom teacher. The photographs will be put on display in the library.

Names of families who have submitted photos will be placed in a draw for \$25 gift cards from Chapters. The draw will be made on February 14, just before the break.

At the link you will find suggested activities and resources to support literacy at home:

<http://abclifeliteracy.ca/fld/learning-activity-centre>

Clive Draycott School/

South Shore Elementary

In January, South Shore and Clive Draycott students, staff and families participated in a school wide reading event! Every family in both schools received a copy of the same book – Andrew Clements’ *Frindle* - purchased for each family by CDSCC in Bethune, and by the Regina Beach Lioness Club in Regina at South Shore School. Families were asked to follow a reading schedule to read the novel at home. This event is based on a program called One School, One Book which has children at all grade levels listening to or reading the same book. The schools selected a title that could be followed and understood and enjoyed by younger students, but that would still captivate and stimulate older children. Daily trivia questions were read over the intercom in each school to encourage involvement and excitement for the project.

On Family Literacy Day, there was a wind up for the project at each school. Trivia questions were discussed, prizes awarded, students participated in other *Frindle* activities and enjoyed time to play word games with their peers and family members who were able to join students for the last hour of the day. In addition, classroom dictionaries created during the reading of the novels, were exchanged between the two schools. “When a whole school reads a book, there’s a lot to talk about.” Thanks to the parents and staff who are building a community of readers at these schools through this project!

Edenwold School

To celebrate and encourage Family Literacy Day Edenwold School sent home a list of “15 Minutes of Fun” family literacy activities to try at home. Suggestions include making a new recipe and posting it online, writing a song about your day to sing at the supper table, creating a family book club, and trying a word board game.

Fort Qu’Appelle Elementary

Community School

The week before Family Literacy Day, the school sent out an activity booklet to all families with a variety of Literacy activities that families can do together.

The school has also been collecting book donations from Grades 5 to 7 for the elementary book exchange on January 27. With every book donation, students in Grades 5 to 7 can enter their names in a draw for one of two \$25.00 Chapter’s gift certificates.

On January 27, students are invited to wear their pajamas and bring their teddy bears for the K to 4 book exchange. For every book they bring they can exchange it for a new one. There will be story tellers in the story corner, Ralph the Reading Dog and cookies and milk. All students who attend can put their name into a draw for one of five backpack and books prizes.

Grenfell Elementary

Community School

On January 28, the school is hosting a Family Literacy Evening from 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Participants will receive a literacy goodie bag and can participate in literacy games, storytelling with Elders, and craft making.

Indian Head Elementary

Indian Head Elementary is hosting a Family Literacy Fun Night to celebrate Family Literacy Day. The evening focuses on the theme "15 Minutes of Fun", representing the time that families could spend every day to engage in literacy activities at home. Families will be allowed to choose up to four different activities to do throughout the evening and will rotate from activity to activity every 15 minutes. There will be a wide variety of activities to participate in; from cooking, to playing WORDO, to card games - there will be something for everyone. The school will also host a "Book Swap" where both adults and children may exchange books. The event runs from 6:30-8:00 p.m. on January 27.

Kelliher School

On January 20, "15 Minutes of Fun" activities were sent home with each student in Grades K to 9 to do with their families. When students bring their completed forms back, their names will be entered in a draw to win a book - one per grade.

On January 27, the school is doing "15 Minutes of Fun". At 3:00 p.m. the Grades K to 9 students will be partnered up and doing various literacy activities. The students from K to 5 got to choose one of the following activities: making a magic potion, building a drum, counting money, using an atlas to find out about Canada's provinces, creating a Daffy Definition to go with a real one (similar to Balderdash), writing a story or playing a card game. The last activity of the day will be enjoying hot chocolate!

During the following three days, one of the Daffy Definitions will be read over the intercom. If students guess the answer, they can write it down and bring it to the library for a chance to win a book.

Thanks to the Kelliher School Community Council for funding the magic potion supplies, hot chocolate and prizes.

Kennedy Langbank School

Kennedy Langbank is hosting a family reading night featuring three guest readers from the community. Students from Preschool to Grade 8 and their families are invited to come to the school in the evening. Students can come in their pajamas and bring blankets and stuffed animals to have with them while they enjoy storytelling and milk and cookies in the common area.

Lumsden Elementary School

On January 27, Lumsden Elementary School will have all students meet with their school buddies for “15 minutes of literacy Fun”.

McLean School

McLean students will have a lot of fun playing games this Family Literacy Day. Students will be rotating through classic game stations like Hang Man, Pictionary and Scategories. Each game has a reading component combined with the excitement of competing against your friends. The school will have a special guest visitor, RCMP Officer Carrie Pankratz, from the Indian Head detachment who will join us for an afternoon of reading, games and laughter.

Pense School

To celebrate Family Literacy Day, the staff and students at Pense School are participating in numerous literary events. The first reading initiative is “Roll Up the Rim to Read”, where the students earn a paper cup with a rim to roll up for every two hours they read. Under every rim is a prize, so every reader is a winner! The event runs from January 13 to February 14.

On January 28, Pense School is hosting the annual “Books Before Bed” evening for parents and students to come to

school in their pajamas to enjoy bedtime snacks and listen to guest readers!

Other reading spirit days include “Teacher Swap and Story Time” where teachers swap classrooms and read to the students in that room for 15 minutes and “Dress up as your Favorite Book Character Day”.

Lastly, all students will enjoy “Flashlight Friends”, an activity similar to DEAR time (Drop Everything And Read), but instead of reading at their desks, the students sit together in the gym in the dark using a flashlight to read a book to themselves or with a friend.

Sedley School

To celebrate Family Literacy Day, the staff and students at Sedley School are participating in numerous literary events from January 13 – February 14. The first reading initiative is “Roll Up the Rim to Read”, where the students earn a paper cup with a rim to roll up for every two hours they read. Under every rim is a prize, so every reader is a winner!

Other reading spirit days include “Teacher Swap and Story Time” where teachers swap classrooms and read to the students in that room for 15 minutes, and “Dress up as your Favorite Book Character Day”.

Lastly, all students will enjoy “Flashlight Friends”, an activity similar to DEAR time (Drop Everything And Read), but instead of reading at their desks, the students sit together in the gym in the dark using a flashlight to read a book to themselves or with a friend.

Stewart Nicks School

To celebrate Family Literacy Day, the staff and students at Stewart Nicks School are participating in numerous literary events. The first reading initiative is “Roll Up the Rim to Read”, a popular reading incentive program in our library.

For every two hours of out-of-school reading, the students earn a paper cup with a rim to roll up. Under every rim a prize is revealed, so every reader is a winner! The event runs from January 13 – February 14.

On January 27th Stewart Nicks is hosting the annual “Books Before Bed” evening for parents and students to come to school in their pajamas to enjoy bedtime snacks and listen to guest readers!

“Teacher Swap and Story Time” has teachers swapping classrooms to read to the students in that room for 15 minutes. “Dress up as your Favorite Book Character Day” is another reading spirit day that should prove both interesting and exciting.

Another library activity the students are participating in is “Take a Look, Guess the Book”. Students look at a glass jar filled with pages from a book which has been cut up into thin strips. After looking at the jar, students will need to guess the book title, author, and book series. Students with the correct answers will have their name entered in a draw to win a prize.

Another great activity will be “Guess the Book Character”, which requires students to guess all the book characters shown on the library bulletin board. Each book character is represented by only their silhouette. Each student will be given one entry slip and all students with the correct answers will have their name entered in a draw to win a prize.

Lastly, all students will enjoy “Flashlight Friends”, an activity similar to DEAR time (Drop Everything and Read), but instead of reading at their desks, the students sit together in the gym in the dark using a flashlight to read a book to themselves or with a friend.