

## January is Family Literacy Month

Families play a crucial role in the development of literacy for children. Family literacy is every-day learning that takes place outside of school through conversations, the tradition of sharing history and stories, following a recipe, reading a story book, etc.

Literacy includes reading, comprehension, writing, expressing one's thoughts and ideas through speech, numeracy, the arts, and the use of technology.

Visit [saskliteracy.ca](http://saskliteracy.ca) (the Literacy@Home link) for ideas about engaging in literacy-promoting activities in your family.

## DPS Read-a-Thon: January 23 to February 14

The SCC is holding its 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Read-a-Thon for DPS students between January 23<sup>rd</sup> and February 14<sup>th</sup>. Students can *win prizes* by reading for as many minutes as they can while the Read-a-Thon is running.

Read-a-Thon forms will be sent home on January 23<sup>rd</sup>, and can also be downloaded on the SCC's web page. Please use these forms to track the number of minutes spent reading and the number of donations raised.

### The Read-a-Thon has the following PRIZES:

- There are 3 prizes (one in each learning community) for the student with the most minutes spent reading. The prize is a gift card valued at \$100!
- Every student who (a) reads 400 minutes or more and (b) raises \$25 or more will receive a \$10 gift card from Toys 'R' Us, Walmart, or Chapters.
- The 3 classrooms (one in each learning community) with the highest number of minutes spent reading will receive a classroom treat.
- Also, all minutes spent reading will go toward students' intramural house team points.

In 2015, nearly 80 students participated in the Read-a-Thon and read an average of 34 minutes a day. In 2016, 103 students participated and read an average of 45 minutes per day. Our goal for 2017 is to continue building on those excellent results with more students and more minutes in 2017!

## Dates to Remember

- Jan 16 – PreK to Gr 3 Family Literacy Bingo contest begins (cards due Feb 1)
- Jan 23 – Read-a-Thon starts
- Jan 26 – House League Team Colours Spirit Day
- Jan 26 – Learning Assembly
- Jan 31 – SCC Book Swap
- Feb 14 – Read-a-Thon concludes
- Next SCC Meeting: Feb 8, 6:30pm @ the school  
– *All Parents are Welcome!*

\*The SCC's 2<sup>nd</sup> annual **Book Swap** takes place on Jan 31<sup>st</sup>. Students can bring to school any books they'd like to trade (starting now). They then take home one book for every book they brought in.

\*This year's Read-a-Thon has a fundraising component. All funds raised stay in our school and support our students' education-based activities (e.g., speakers, field trips, learning supports, etc.). Thanks for your support!

### **SCC web page:**

[douglaspark.rbe.sk.ca/scc](http://douglaspark.rbe.sk.ca/scc)

### **SCC email address:**

[douglasparksc@hotmail.com](mailto:douglasparksc@hotmail.com)

## Kids' Sudoku: Level Easy Peasy

How to play:

- Each row (across) must contain the numbers 1 through 9.
- Each column (up and down) must contain the numbers 1 through 9.
- Each square box must contain the numbers 1 through 9.

	2	8	6	4	7	1	9	3
9	4	1	8				5	6
6		7	5	9	1	2	8	
2	8				9	3	1	7
7	5	3	2	1		6		9
				6			2	
8		5			6		3	
3	6	4	1	8	5	9	7	
1				7		8	6	

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### Staff Appreciation Week: February 13<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup>

In recognition of the educational staff in our province, the week of February 13<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> has been proclaimed Staff Appreciation Week. Staff Appreciation Week is recognized across Canada as a way to acknowledge the personal and professional contributions that teachers and other school staff make to children and their education.

There are many ways you can show your appreciation to the staff at Douglas Park School. Some ideas include: bringing in baking or other treats during that week, writing a thank you card, and sending in words of encouragement. At Douglas Park School, we're fortunate to have a group of dedicated, hard-working staff. Staff Appreciation Week is the perfect opportunity for DPS families to express our thanks for all they do.

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### Thought for the Day

"No one can predict to what heights you can soar. Even you will not know until you spread your wings." (Anonymous)

## Picking Up & Dropping Off Students – Student Safety Comes First!

For anyone who picks up and drops off their children before and after school, it's no secret that parking around the school is limited. Despite these challenges, **the safety of our children is of greatest importance**, and we ask that you remember to follow traffic and safety rules at all times when picking up and dropping off students.

It's not safe for cars to be stopped/parked in crosswalks when children need to cross the street. Double-parking on Douglas Ave or 20<sup>th</sup> Ave—which includes stopping in a driving lane to drop off students—is extremely unsafe, as is making u-turns at the pedestrian lights and at crosswalks. Also, please remember that the bus loop on 20<sup>th</sup> Ave is for school buses only.

Unsafe driving practices like these increase the likelihood of an accident or tragedy occurring. Let's all place our highest priority on keeping our students safe, even if that means parking farther away and walking across the street to pick up our kids. Thanks for your cooperation!

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## Mathletics – A Great Way to Learn & Practice Math

The SCC was excited to purchase Mathletics accounts for the 2016/17 school year. All DPS students in grades 1-8 have individual Mathletics accounts that are accessible at any time, in any location that has an internet connection (including at home, at the library, etc.). All they need to do is visit the Mathletics website at <http://ca.mathletics.com>, sign in, and get going!

Mathletics is a multi-award winning math learning resource that provides a fun, engaging way for students to practice their skills and learn about math. This online tool—which is aligned with our provincial curriculum—encourages students and rewards results with instant feedback. It's a great way for students to improve their understanding of math, build confidence in their skills, and have fun at the same time.

The cost of a Mathletics account is typically \$100 for parents; however, this cost is fully covered through the SCC's multi-grade account purchase (students can use it for FREE until next fall).

Even 15 minutes a day makes a big difference! All grade 1-8 students have been given account usernames and passwords. Contact the school if that information has been lost or forgotten.

\*Also, visit the Learning Resources page on the school website for links to math and reading resources: <http://douglaspark.rbe.sk.ca/learningresource>.

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## SCC Funding Support

Over the past few months, the SCC has been excited to provide funding support for:

- Fiction and non-fiction library materials for all students.
- A subscription to [www.helpkidzlearn.com](http://www.helpkidzlearn.com) for students in our Development Classroom.
- A Leader Post subscription for reading, social (local and world issues), and other learning for students in LC3.
- The Rocks & Rings curling program for students in LC1 and LC2.
- GymBlast (a jam-packed, fun-filled, 2-hour assembly for students) for LC3.
- Toques for students on Safety Patrol – thanks for your commitment and dedication!
- Classroom funding to support learning outcomes for students (e.g., field trips, projects, etc.).
- Reading Eggs Program (online reading) subscription for LC1.
- William Prince presentation for LC2 and LC3 – see Regina Folk Festival Winterruption 2017 website @ <http://reginafolkfestival.com/concert-series> for more info.

## **Tell Them From Me – Results Coming Soon!**

Regina Public Schools has an annual online survey for students in Grades 4 to 8 called ‘Tell Them From Me.’ Through this anonymous survey, students are able to share their ideas, thoughts, and concerns about the school. Students’ survey input helps to ensure their school is safe and welcoming. It also provides staff with a better understanding of the school’s student population and offers an opportunity to adjust activities and processes to meet student needs and improve student achievement.

DPS staff and a group of students (2 from each class) will participate in a focus group on Jan 18<sup>th</sup> to review the survey data and make plans for improvements at the school. The SCC will share the results in an upcoming newsletter. (Please note that the survey is confidential: individual student results are not available for viewing, only group results can be seen.)

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## **Dress Warmly, It’s Cold Out There!**

Please remind students to dress appropriately for the winter weather conditions each day. If it’s -25°C or less, students will go outside for their recess breaks, and hoodies or thin jackets aren’t enough to keep them warm. A warm coat, boots, hats, and mitts make all the difference in your child’s health and safety.

Also, as the flu season increases this time of year, please remind your children to wash their hands frequently. Proper hand washing will help protect you from others’ cold and flu germs. It’s also a good idea to avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth as much as you can to prevent the spread of illnesses.

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## **DPS Report Card Information**

PreK to Grade 8 progress report cards will be issued on February 1<sup>st</sup>, in advance of school conferences on March 24<sup>th</sup>. (Note: Kindergarten students have school conferences on March 23<sup>rd</sup> and March 24<sup>th</sup>.) Issuing report cards early allows students, staff, and parents to identify goals to work toward between February 1<sup>st</sup> and school conferences. Remember that student progress can be viewed at all times on the RBE Parent Portal at <https://powerschool.rbe.sk.ca/public>.

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## **Random Acts of Kindness Week: January 30<sup>th</sup> to February 3<sup>rd</sup>**

As we all know, January can be a tough month with the bitter cold, lack of sunshine, and cabin fever that set in with so many indoor recesses at school! Douglas Park School staff have proclaimed the week of January 30<sup>th</sup> to February 3<sup>rd</sup> as *Random Acts of Kindness* week for the whole school. Every day is a good day to be kind to others, and this week will give an opportunity to make an even greater effort to do extra special things for one another.

This theme also connects so well to Gratitude, Valentine’s Day, Friendships, Family Day, Staff Appreciation Week, Mindfulness, and promoting our school motto: *Work Hard Be Nice*. School staff will introduce *Random Acts of Kindness* week at the assembly on January 26<sup>th</sup> and will participate in some fun activities the following week. More details to follow from the school soon.