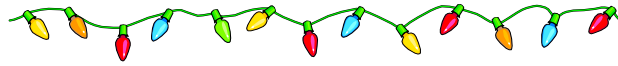


Dr. A.T. LEATHERBARROW PRIMARY SCHOOL



Dream Achieve Teach Learn



Be Kind

Be Safe

Be Responsible

Be Respectful

Important Dates

Thursday Dec.3 & Friday Dec. 4: Virtual Parent Teacher

Friday Dec. 4: No school for students

Friday, December 18 —Last day of school before the holidays.

Monday, January 4—The first day back for students after Christmas Break.



Dr. A.T. Leatherbarrow's Winter Wonderland Walk

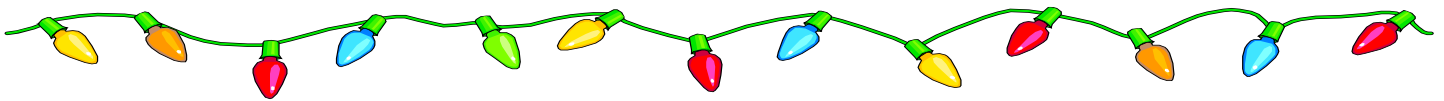
To celebrate the holiday season as a school community while also respecting the regulations surrounding Covid, Dr. A.T. Leatherbarrow is creating a Winter Wonderland Walk for you to enjoy with your family bubble.

We will be decorating the trail behind the school for the holidays with ornaments decorated by each class. Take a walk with your family starting at the entrance between our school and Hampton Elementary and following the trail along behind our school. Enjoy the beautiful artwork created by our students the week between December 14-18!

Reminders

- DATL classes begin at 8:25 am. To be ready, all students should be at school by 8:20 am.
- Please remember to send an extra mask with your child so it can be changed during the day
- Outdoor play is important to a child's health. Please be sure your child is dressed appropriately for outside play.

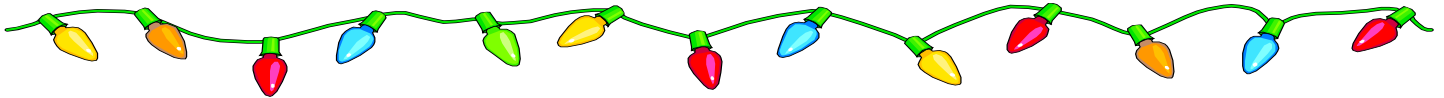




Turkey Dinner

The students and staff will be having our 3rd annual turkey dinner put on by the students of Hampton High School. This year we will be having a take-out dinner delivered to our classes. To allow H.H.S. enough time to prepare, the Kindergarten students will be having their dinner on Tuesday, December 15th, Grade 1 will have theirs on Wednesday, December 16th and the Grade 2 students will have theirs on Thursday, December 17th.

A big thanks to the Hampton High School students and all those who have helped make this happen!



Dear DATL families,

It is hard to believe that December has already arrived! The end of the month of November presented its challenges with COVID-19, however, it was so nice to see the ongoing resilience demonstrated by the students when faced with change and uncertainty. November gave me the opportunity to remind students of the importance of mindfulness, checking in with their worries and self-regulation techniques. In addition to these lessons, I continued to delve into the Zones of Regulation curriculum, as well as completed activities related to respecting and celebrating differences among individuals in hopes of supporting the Diversity and Respect week. This year, the Diversity and Respect week was from November 16th-20th.

Despite December being such a short month, there is still a lot planned for guidance lessons. I will continue to teach the Zones of Regulation curriculum, in hopes of deepening student understanding of the four zones and teaching different tools for self-regulation.

DATL will also mark the Ring a Bell for Mental Health Campaign this year by using the guidance lessons to support and bring awareness to mental health. This year, the Ring a Bell for Mental Health Campaign is from Monday, November 30th to Friday, December 4th.

I wish you and your family a safe and happy holiday season.

Cynthia Veniot
Guidance Counsellor



Helping Your Child Develop Basic Concepts

Why are basic concepts important?

Understanding basic concepts is important for school success as they build pre-reading and early math skills, and strengthen vocabulary. Basic concepts are tools for thinking, following directions, and solving problems. They include words that describe location (e.g. up/down, in/on), number or quantity (e.g. many/few, more/less), describe attributes (e.g. big/little, wet/dry), time (e.g. before/after), and sequence (e.g. first/last).

Children should know the following concepts by the following ages:

Age Basic Concepts

2-3 In/out, on/off, under, together, away from, big, tall, all/none, hot/cold, dirty/clean, happy/sad, soft, heavy

3-4 Up/down, top, over, apart, toward, little, in front of/in back of, next to, more/less, empty/full, fast/slow, hard, light, same/different, noisy/quiet

4-5 Beside, bottom, between, middle, fat/thin, long/short, wide/narrow, most/least, rough/smooth, dark/light, warm/cool, backward/forward, inside/outside, high/low

How can parents/teachers help?

Reading, games, and everyday routines are great opportunities to teach concepts. Here are a few suggestions to get started learning concepts!

- Read books that focus on early developing concepts (see attached list of books). Talk about the illustrations in the books – e.g. where things are in the pictures (*in, on, under, beside, near/far, up/down*, etc.), Ask your child/student to tell you where things are. Talk about what happens *first, next, and then, last*, etc.
 - Play the “I Spy” game. Use the early developing concepts in your clues. You could say, “I spy something that is *empty*”. Encourage students to use concepts when it’s their turn.
 - Play “Simon Says” using basic concepts (e.g., “Simon says get *under* the chair”; “Simon says look *up* and clap your hands *over* your head; “Simon says Susie stand *in front* of Sam”; “Simon says *before* you touch your toes, touch your nose”, etc.)
 - Use real objects. Place objects in a grab bag and get students to follow directions using basic concepts with the object they pick out of the bag (e.g. Put the spoon *beside* the plate, etc.). Is the bag *empty* or *full*?
 - Look out the window and talk about what you see. Talk about things that are *near/far, big/small, above/below, in front/behind*, etc.
 - Go to the playground and talk about what your child/student is doing (e.g. “You are at the *top* of the slide, *bottom* of the ladder, *inside* the tunnel”, etc.)
 - Go on a nature walk and talk about you see and find using basic concepts (e.g. How *many* leaves did you find? Who found the *most/least*, etc)
 - Instead of sorting by colour (red, blue, etc.), sort by *dark/light, same/different*, etc.
- Gather a small group of similar objects (e.g. blocks, cars, small animals). Put different quantities in clear containers and talk about which one has *many, few, some, one*. Are the containers *empty* or *full*?

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

