

NEW YEAR!

JANUARY NEWS



Family Literacy Day

Family Literacy Day has been celebrated on January 27th since 1999 to promote literacy by encouraging families to read and learn together. It is meant to help child development and family bonding time.

Some communities organize activities to celebrate Family Literacy Day and the week of Family Literacy. However, there are many activities you can do on your own: read books, visit libraries, play word games, and cook together. The family literacy day event at Aspen Park Elementary drew about a dozen families who came in and enjoyed



warm beverages, snacks, and read together.

Family literacy day is celebrated in countries like Europe such as the UK, Ireland, Sweden, Finland, and many more.

Here are some fun family literacy activities to do with your family brought by abclifeliteracy.ca:

[FLD-2026-Activity-Sheet](#),

[FLD2026-ActivityBook](#)

[FLD-2026-Barbara-Reid-TipSheet](#)

[FLD-2026-Bookmark-3UP](#)

[Make mealtime family learning time.](#)

[Backgrounder - Decoda Literacy Solutions](#)

For more information about Family Literacy Day you can visit abclifeliteracy.ca

FROM THE STUDENTS

2026 Winter Olympics

The 2026 Winter Olympics will start on February 6th and finish on the 22nd. It will be held in Italy, co-hosted by the cities of Milano and Cortina d'Ampezzo. The opening ceremony will be on February 6th at 2:00PM PST.

The Olympics were invented by Pierre de Coubertin. The first modern Winter Games were held in Chamonix (France), on January 25, 1924. Initially called International Winter Sports Week, this event was renamed the Olympic Winter Games in 1926.

Each Olympic games there are events added and others are removed. Sometimes even entire sports are added or removed. Only one new sport is making its debut this year: ski mountaineering. There are also new events within different sports, including men's and women's dual moguls, women's doubles luge, women's large hill in ski jumping, and mixed team in skeleton.

With new events unfortunately also comes the loss of others. This Olympics, the mixed team parallel event has been removed from alpine skiing. Back when the Olympics first started in Greece almost 3000 years ago, there were some unusual-to-us rules, that might be a bit eye opening. For example, all athletes competed naked; wrestlers and pankration (a sort of mixed martial art which combined boxing and wrestling) competitors fought covered in oil, and there were only two rules in the pankration - no biting and no gouging. Also, athletes in the combat sports had to indicate their surrender by raising their index fingers - at times they died before they could do this. This is just a sampling. We encourage you to look into some of the others. This year our school will be hosting Olympic Watch parties to celebrate our Team Canada. The library will be opened on the following dates, at lunch recess: Feb 6th, Feb 9th, Feb 11th, Feb 13th, Feb 18th, and 20th.

Black History Month

Black History Month is celebrated in February in Canada and the U.S. The celebration is dedicated to current and historical figures from the Black community who have made significant impacts on society. The month also highlights the struggle of Black people currently and through history. This year's Canadian theme is "30 years of Black History Month: Honoring Black Brilliance Across Generations - From Nation Builders to Tomorrow's Visionaries."

An example of an important Black Canadian is Viola Desmond. In 1946, this businesswoman and civil rights activist refused to leave the whites-only area of the Roseland Theatre in New Glasgow, N.S. This became one of the most publicized incidents of racial discrimination in Canadian history.

In 2010, many years after her death, she received a pardon for the "crime" and in 2021, the government repaid the money she had been fined. Her picture appeared on the Canadian \$10 bill in 2018.

CLUBS, ACTIVITIES AND INFORMATION

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To learn more, visit the BC Black History Awareness Society website or watch CBC Kids' video about the month. Chess club will end by spring or possibly earlier if the weather gets warm and sunny. Most days we have over twenty players. Chess is a calm and contemplative game that is good for the brain. Remember to be quiet and enjoy your game.

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Basketball

Grade six boys' basketball: On Monday the basketball team played Royston. They passed well and used a lot of teamwork. They won the game by just a few baskets. If anyone would like to support our team, come watch the team play.

Minecraft Club

With the deadline coming up on March 6th, students have a little more than one month to get their projects finished. There are three more club days left: Feb 10, Feb 24, and March 3. Remember to look at Comox Valley Schools Minecraft Challenge - Learn71 to look over the criteria and all the instructions for doing your recording and submitting your project.



Hackergals

The Hackathon is booked for April 23. This year the Hackathon theme is Stories That Spark Change. Currently, the Hackergals Club is working on learning how to code in Python and are working on an interactive quiz that helps users explore cool STEAM careers.

Math Group

Grade 6/7's who need or want some extra support go to the library between 8:30-9 most mornings to see Ms. Nancy and get help catching up in math.



World Read-Aloud Day! February 4th

World Read-Aloud Day takes place on February 4th. Storyvoice will have free author readings all day long. <https://storyvoice.scholastic.com/streams/public> To learn more about World Read-Aloud Day go to: <https://www.litworld.org/world-read-aloud-day>

Reading Links Challenge

The Grade 4/5 Reading Links Challenge students will test their knowledge for the first time on March 6th at lunchtime. The mini battle will help them recognize if they need to reread any of the six books or brush up on specific parts etc. This is in preparation for the District competition on March 19th at Aspen!