

# NFS LAKERS LEDGER

Nestor Falls School O'Fisnal News

January 2024

## From the Office

Happy New Year NFS families! We hope everyone is rested, rejuvenated, and ready to tackle a new year. The staff and students did a great job of closing out 2023 with a beautiful concert/craft night. Student Christmas gifts were also amazing. On behalf of the staff, students and families, I would like to thank the municipality for their generosity. NFS toques look great! We also extend our gratitude to Neechee Friendship Centre's Early ON for the Squishmallows.

The new year is underway and First Term is coming to an end on January 26. Over the next few weeks teachers will be working with students to finalize grades for report cards which are scheduled to go home February 12. Reading assessments will be completed to help set goals and drive instructions. If you are able, please consider making literacy a priority at home. Simply reading together can make a big difference!

Speaking of reading, January is the month we kick off the Forest of Reading. This is a program designed to foster a love for reading by celebrating Canadian authors, illustrators, and publishers. All students will read the 10 Blue Spruce nominees during library over the next few months and vote for their favourite in the spring.

During the winter term, students have the opportunity to snowshoe and slide. Please ensure your children are prepared to enjoy the great outdoors by wearing all their winter gear. All students are also expected to go outside for recess. We keep an eye on the weather, but unless it is colder than -25, everyone goes out for some fresh air.

Ms. Tolan

PS - Students in Grade 7 and 8 have been using Xello, an online program to support their Individual Pathways Plan. With Xello students can start exploring different options early and develop goals and plans for their education, career and life. Check it out, scan QR code.



## Dates of Interest

### Orthodox New Year - JA 14

Much like with Christmas, but Orthodox Christians follow a Julian calendar, so they celebrate New Year's on the first day of that calendar.

### Martin Luther King Day - JA 16

Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebrates the importance of the fight for racial equity. He was a change-maker that fought for the civil rights movement and social change in the United States.

### Bodhi Day - JA 18

Buddhists celebrate Bodhi Day to remember the day Siddhartha Gautama experienced enlightenment.

### World Day of the Snowman - JA 18

The date goes back to the form of the Snowman: "8" symbolizes the snowman and the "1" stands for his stick or broom. January is usually cold enough to build snowmen and is perfect for celebrating the snowman.

### International Holocaust Remembrance Day - JA 27

Holocaust Remembrance Day is an annual day to commemorate the victims of the Holocaust, the genocide of six million Jewish people and of millions of other Holocaust victims by Nazi Germany and its collaborators.

### Chinese New Year - FE 10

It is the festival that celebrates the beginning of a new year on the traditional lunisolar and solar Chinese calendar. It is the year of the Dragon which symbolizes power, honour, luck and success in Chinese culture.



JANUARY 25, 2024

## World Read Aloud Day - FE 7

For years World Read Aloud Day has called attention to the importance of sharing stories by challenging participants to grab a book, find an audience, and read-aloud! The global effort, created by the non-profit [LitWorld](#) and sponsored by [Scholastic](#), is celebrated annually in over **170 countries** and is all about bringing people together through the shared connection of reading aloud in all of our communities.

### 3 Reasons to Celebrate

**Reading aloud at home and school is one of the best ways to help children develop literacy skills.**

Reading aloud at home and at school is one of the best ways to help children develop literacy skills. According to research by the University of Melbourne, daily reading aloud to children puts them almost a year ahead of children who do not receive daily read-alouds regardless of income, education level or cultural background. Reading aloud is an incredibly accessible and powerful way to help listeners of all ages build essential literacy skills.

**Reading aloud helps us share stories.**

Our stories articulate the ways that we experience the world from our own perspective. Sharing stories is how we learn about the world-how to navigate it, how we define our own place in it, and how to make it better. Finding spaces and platforms to share our stories is essential and World Read Aloud Day helps us to highlight that.

**Reading aloud helps us build community.**

Sharing stories has always been the way we connect to each other as humans, and finding time to celebrate those connections is important! The stories we share aloud are the stories we value and those stories are the ones that define our history. Bringing families, communities, and our society together around our stories is the best way to write a history that celebrates us all!

### How to Celebrate

One way to celebrate is to use World Read Aloud Day as an opportunity to establish new storytelling habits with your family and friends by starting a weekly read-aloud night at home or book club with friends that you'll continue all year long!

Another way is to put prompts on small slips of paper such as:

- A time you learned an important lesson
- A time you were very scared
- A time you discovered something
- A time you were incredibly excited

Put the slips in a container. Pull a slip of paper from the container and read it to the group. Allow each participant five minutes to respond on paper. Do this three times. Then give each person the opportunity to share one of their stories with the group.

For more ways to celebrate check out - [LitWorld Activity Packet!](#)

## Forest of Reading

The Forest of Reading is Canada's largest recreational reading program where children and young adults pick their favourite authors and illustrators. There are nine categories reflecting different reading levels and genres. The 10 finalists in each category are chosen by a committee of library practitioners.

<https://forestofreading.com/>

### Primary - Blue Spruce

All students will read all ten Blue Spruce books during library and vote on their favourite. Below are the nominees in this category.

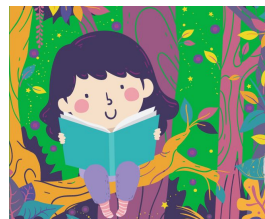
<https://forestofreading.com/blue-spruce-nominees/>

- **Benny the Bananasaurus Rex** (Holden)
- **Coco Magic** (Bradley)
- **Dear Street** (Zier-Vogel)
- **Garden of Lost Socks** (Edugyan)
- **How to Party Like a Snail** (Hrab)
- **The Kindness Red: A Story of Hijab and Friendship** (Muhammad and Ali)
- **My Fade is Fresh** (Grant)
- **My Name is Saajin Singh** (Kaur Brar)
- **Princess Pru and the Ogre on the Hill** (Fergus)
- **The Words We Share** (Wong)

### Junior - Silver Birch

Junior students can read 5 out of the 10 choices of Canadian novels, and will be able to conference/write a review to vote. Check out the titles on the website where you can find a brief summary of each book.

<https://forestofreading.com/silver-birch-nominees/>



Forest Of Reading