

03 December 2021

To: Subject Advisors, Teachers, Departmental Heads and Library Information Services (LIS) Coordinators

Topic: Sharing various ways of promoting independent reading during the festive season.

Message Objective(s) are to:

- Help parents promote reading during the festive season
- Encourage learners to read independently.
- Inculcate the culture of independent reading.

As we are drawing towards the end of the year, it is important that we use the festive season to promote reading in communities. Strong readers are those who can read and analyse a diverse range of texts. It is important for learners/children to indulge in independent, self-selected reading both out of the classroom as well. Below is a list of ways to encourage children to read for pleasure as well as tips on facilitating an independent reading culture.

1. Host a virtual book club.

Following the rising Covid-19 cases in the country, it is important to adhere to health regulations and also avoid any possible spread of the virus when hosting book clubs. Book clubs are a great way to cultivate a community through shared reading and discussion. Children and their parents can group themselves and choose a book to be discussed during book clubs. This will create a platform for people to step outside their comfort zones and explore new genres

2. Collaborate with your local library

Virtually arrange with staff from the local library to introduce established reading club groups to many books, programme, programmes, services and resources available to them. Ask the library staff to demonstrate all the ways of accessing the library to their advantage.

3. Mystery check-outs

Wrap books in wrapping paper and encourage people in established groups to blindly choose a “mystery book” as a Christmas gift. This is a fun way of getting people to read books of different genres and also getting them to read books written by other authors.

4. Assign a reading log

Ask book club members to keep track of what and how much they have read. Encourage group members to write questions or comments that they may have so they can revisit them during the book club discussions.

5. Attend other book club sessions coordinated by the National Reading Coalition. Follow them on www.nrc.org.za for more information.

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