



28 January 2022

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

Topic: Promoting reading at schools and in homes during the World Read Aloud Day

Message Objective are to:

- Share details of the World Read Aloud Day with teachers and parents.
- Encourage teachers and parents to promote reading of stories in homes and at schools.
- Make reading everyone's enterprise.

The National Reading Coalition (NRC) together with its partners will join 73 countries around the world in celebrating the World Read Aloud Day on the 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2022. WRAD is a sustained initiative to promote a culture of reading aloud with children amongst families, parents, caregivers, educators and society.

More than 30 000 children were reached in 176 NRC circuits through storybooks prepared by the National Education Collaboration (NECT) staff in 2021. In 2022 the NRC together with its partners aim to use the Nalibali story to read aloud to over 3 million children in communities across all 9 provinces. The NRC and its partners also aim to mobilise 1000 000 public members to sign pledges of activating the reading of stories and books in homes. The story to be read is titled "A Party at the Park", versioned into 11 official languages including Portuguese, Shona and Swahili ([www.nalibali.org](http://www.nalibali.org)).

To grow the love for reading, we should ensure that reading is not something that is facilitated by teachers in schools but should be everyone's enterprise. While the World Read Aloud session is one initiative of promoting reading in communities, reading to children is something that should be done on a daily basis and by doing it:

- teaches children that reading books is important
- gives parents and children ideas to talk about as a family
- builds strong bonds between parents and their children
- help children realize that reading is an enjoyable and rewarding activity
- shows children how books are read
- encourages children to learn to read for themselves, and then to keep reading
- helps children develop literacy and emotional skills so that they can cope well at school

#### **Families and schools working together.**

'Where schools play a key role in teaching children the mechanics of reading, families play an equally key role in helping children to fall in love with stories and books,' says Katie Huston, acting Director of Nal'ibali. Children who regularly hear fun and engaging stories understand how books work and are more motivated and better equipped to learn to read when they reach school and to keep reading.'

From: Bailey Nkuna

[bailey@nect.org.za](mailto:bailey@nect.org.za)