TO: THE DISTRICT DIRECTORS
   CHIEF EDUCATION SPECIALISTS
   DEPUTY CHIEF EDUCATION SPECIALISTS
   SENIOR EDUCATION SPECIALISTS
   PRINCIPALS OF SCHOOLS

KZN CIRCULAR NO. 37 OF 2016

READ TO LEAD CAMPAIGN – KZN READING CALENDAR

1. The Department of Basic Education launched the Read to Lead Campaign in July 2015 which aims at raising the learners' reading levels and inculcating a reading culture in schools. This campaign has a duration of four years i.e. 2015-2019 and is targeting all schools in the country.

2. The operational plan for the campaign has been developed at national level as well as provincial level. The plan has been aligned and integrated with the existing programmes and projects on reading.

3. The Reading Calendar is forwarded to all schools for implementation in order to create and sustain a reading culture in schools. Several reading activities are suggested in line with the national and international themes of each month.

4. The key activities for the campaign are setting aside a reading period on a weekly basis, assessing reading activities periodically, celebrating literacy days/weeks and effective implementation of the whole school reading programme.

5. Schools with libraries are encouraged to utilise reading materials effectively for the benefit of all learners.

6. Your co-operation in this regard is highly appreciated.

Adv. EM Masuku
Acting Head of Department: Education

Date: 22/06/2016
READING CALENDAR FOR SCHOOLS
KZN READING CALENDAR

JANUARY

Theme: Ready to read

"If we encounter a man of rare intellect, we should ask him what books he reads."...

Suggested Activities

• Select and inagurate library monitors
• Establishment of reading clubs in schools
• Compile Reading and Writing Journal for learners

FEBRUARY

Theme: Love reading

[Ngiyazifela ngesizincwadi/ izincwadi ziyintandokazi]

"The best advice I ever got was that knowledge is power and to keep reading." --- David Bailey

| International Mother Language Day, | World Read Aloud Day |
| Valentine's Day | World Radio Day |

FEBRUARY 13

World Radio Day

This is about celebrating radio, why we love it and why we need it today more than ever. A day to remember the unique power of radio to touch lives. As the digital age progresses radio still remains a leader of communication methods with it's ability to reach audiences worldwide, the radio is a powerful and versatile tool not to be overlooked. Celebrate World Radio Day as many applications of the technology still provide great value today. For example this accessible medium can be used to give under-represented groups a way to make their voices heard, save lives during natural disasters, give journalists a medium to report stories, and allow amateur enthusiasts a way to connect to their fellow hobbyists on a global scale. So on February 13th make sure to tune in to World Radio Day!

FEBRUARY 21

Mother Language Day

As the largest multilingual online social network for engaged youth, we are passionate about language. Help us celebrate International Mother Language Day by promoting people's uniqueness and cultural diversity by highlighting their mother tongue. In today's increasingly globalized world, many languages find themselves on the list of endangered languages. In
celebrating Mother Language Day, we aspire to promote a larger awareness of the wide scope and immense richness of the world’s languages!

**Suggested activities**

- Listen to the radio of your choice
- Read a book written in your mother-tongue
- Recycle redundant LTSM in schools (Activity Starts February, continues throughout)
- Launch registered and/or unregistered Reading Clubs

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**MARCH**

**Theme: It’s my right to read**

South African Library Week and Human Rights Day

**MARCH 15—20**

**SA Library Week**

The day should be a commemorative period recognized by government when all types of libraries across the country use it as an opportunity to market the services in an effort to contribute to the understanding of the important role that libraries play in a democratic society, advancing literacy, making the basic human right of freedom of access to information a reality, and to promote tolerance and respect among all South Africans. After extensive consultation with the membership the following proposal was accepted: “That the week within which 20 March falls should be national library Week. In the event of this day falling within a weekend, then the week preceding it would be celebrated as national Library Week.” The choice of the date was based on research into the history of libraries in South Africa.

**Suggested Activities**

- Celebrate South African Library Week 15-20 March 2016
- Read a book/ newspaper or magazine article on human rights and racial discrimination in South Africa. Hold a discussion or debate on the issues raised.
- Hold Book Talk Seminars – invite a local author

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**APRIL 2016**

**Theme: Free your mind: read!**

“Any book that helps a child to form a habit of reading, to make reading one of his deep and continuing needs, is good for him.”… Maya Angelou

| Freedom Day | National Book Day and copyright day |

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Reading Calendar for the Read to Lead Campaign
April 27

Freedom Day

Freedom Day is an annual celebration of South Africa's first non-racial democratic elections of 1994. Peace, unity, the preservation and the restoration of human dignity hallmarks Freedom Day celebrations on the 27th of April of each year. The road to democracy was a long and difficult one. Since the arrival of the White man at the Cape in 1652, the indigenous peoples of South Africa came under White control and domination. Soon all peoples of colour were denied the vote and hence a say in the running of the country. South Africa was never truly independent nor democratic. The exclusion of the majority of South Africans from political power was at the centre of the liberation struggle and resistance to white minority rule. Despite much opposition to White rule to halt white encroachment on black land in South Africa, blacks were systematically herded into restricted areas and homelands and their rights to equal opportunity denied.

Suggested activities
- Research on South African history and conduct book discussions on the topics of your own choice
- Conduct book reviews

MAY 2016

Theme: Africa reads

Africa Day and Workers Day

"Whenever you read a good book, somewhere in the world a door opens to allow in more light." -- Vera Nazarian

May 25

AFRICA DAY / WEEK

Africa Day presents an opportunity for South Africans to reconnect and recommit themselves in support of all government interventions to develop a better Africa and a better world. The Africa month theme “We are Africa” is a declaration and celebratory statement of pride, which fosters inclusivity from all role-players and stakeholders. It is also a call to action for individuals and groups from all backgrounds and walks of life to join the movement for change. Africa Day celebrates the day when the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), the precursor to the African Union (AU), was formed in 1963. It acknowledges the progress that
we, as Africans, have made, while reflecting upon the common challenges we face in a
global environment.

**Suggested activities:**
- Research on African countries and share this information with others. (Know your
  neighboring countries)
- Share African songs and the diaspora, like the national anthems
- Generate reading lists to encourage reading interests

**JUNE 2016**

**Theme: Reading rocks!**

**Youth Day and Month of the African Child**

"Reading should not be presented to children as a chore or duty. It should be offered
as a precious gift."—Kate DiCamillo

**JUNE 16**

**Youth day**

It is popularly known as the Soweto Uprising or June 16. The uprisings tragically ended with
hundreds of young people killed by the apartheid government when they protested against
the imposition of Afrikaans as a medium of instruction. Youth Day commemorates the
Soweto youth uprising on 16 June 1976. In 1975 protests started in African schools after a
directive from the then Bantu Education Department that Afrikaans had to be used on an
equal basis with English as a language of instruction in secondary schools. The issue,
however, was not so much the Afrikaans as the whole system of Bantu education which was
characterised by separate schools and universities, poor facilities, overcrowded classrooms
and inadequately trained teachers.

**Suggested activities:**
- Read and discuss a book on the proposed theme
- Launch a holiday Reading Programme
- Award best readers

**JULY 2016**

**Theme: Make reading your legacy**

"Reading frees your mind." Nelson Mandela

**Mandela Day**
JULY 18
NELSON MANDELA DAY
Every year on 18 July — the day Nelson Mandela was born — the UN joins a call by the Nelson Mandela Foundation to devote 67 minutes of time to helping others, as a way to mark Nelson Mandela International Day. For 67 years Nelson Mandela devoted his life to the service of humanity — as a human rights lawyer, a prisoner of conscience, an international peacemaker and the first democratically elected president of a free South Africa. General Assembly resolution A/RES/64/13 recognizes Nelson Mandela’s values and his dedication to the service of humanity, in the fields of conflict resolution, race relations, the promotion and protection of human rights, reconciliation, gender equality and the rights of children and other vulnerable groups, as well as the upliftment of poor and underdeveloped communities. It acknowledges his contribution to the struggle for democracy internationally and the promotion of a culture of peace throughout the world.

Suggested activities:
- Teachers conduct reading activities for 67 minutes
- Library renovation/ make-up

AUGUST 2015
Theme: Be a reading family/ Good storytellers start at home

Women’s Day

AUGUST 09
NATIONAL WOMEN’S DAY
The holiday commemorates the national march of women on this day in 1956 to petition against legislation that required African persons to carry the ‘pass’.

- Read a biography of a woman
- Implement the Reading Buddyz Programme
- Book Talk Seminar – invite a woman author

SEPTEMBER 2015
Theme: Reading is my culture

Heritage month
Tourism month
International Literacy Day

"A book you don’t read won’t help." ....Jim Rohn

Reading Calendar for the Read to Lead Campaign
SEPTEMBER 08

LITERACY INTERNATIONAL DAY / WEEK

Literacy is so closely linked to all aspects of life, it is almost impossible to imagine a life without these skills. International Literacy Day is celebrated each year on September 8 to highlight the importance of literacy in individuals, communities and societies. Worldwide, there are an estimated 860 million adults who are illiterate, of which nearly two-thirds are women. Further, more than 100 million children lack access to education. International Literacy Day focuses attention on literacy issues and the need to raise public awareness and support for this cause.

Suggested activities

- Conduct book reviews on African writers
- Conduct the Readers' Cup Competition/Readathon Celebration
- Learners can wear costumes of characters that they like.

OCTOBER 2016

Theme: If you can read this, thank a teacher

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<th>Teachers' Month</th>
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<tr>
<td>International School Library Month</td>
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“One good book, many bright learners”

OCTOBER 05

WORLD TEACHERS' DAY

This is the one day annually that has been set aside to recognize the invaluable contributions of teachers across the globe. The United Nations’ (UN) World Teachers' Day celebrates the role played by teachers in providing quality education at all levels.

Suggested activities

- Organise lunch to thank the:
  - Teacher-Librarian,
  - School Library Committee and/or
  - Library Monitors
Theme: Reading breaks barriers

Disability month and Non-fiction month

The pleasure of all reading is doubled when one lives with another who shares the same books. --- Katherine Mansfield

Suggested activities

- Story-telling/ story-reading around the theme
- Design LSEN learners reading activity

Theme: Reading empowers (linked to AIDS, 16 days)

"Anyone who says they have only one life must not know how to read a book." —Author unknown

Biblio-therapy

World AIDS Day

DECEMBER 01

The first World AIDS Day was in 1988 and was started as a method of raising awareness of HIV and AIDS. Every December 1 since that first year, people around the world observe World AIDS Day not only to raise awareness but also to raise much needed funding for costly HIV care and prevention around the world. World AIDS Day reminds us that we all can play a part in the war against HIV. Fighting the prejudices and human rights violations that go with the disease will take an effort by all of us. Each one of us can help assure that human rights are protected and those without a voice will have one through us.

Suggested activities

- Produce the anthology of learners' stories on social ills
- Book discussions on social ills