



Reading Council of Greater Winnipeg, MB
A Council of the International Reading Association
A Special Area Group of the Manitoba Teachers' Society

February, 2017

To All School Libraries,

On behalf of the Reading Council of Greater Winnipeg, we have prepared the attached idea calendar. The RCGW is a group of dedicated educators who meet monthly to share and work to promote knowledge and awareness of lifelong literacy and learning.

"I Love to Read" is a month-long celebration that is held each year to encourage reading, writing, and sharing in the joy of literacy. This year's theme is **"Literacy for Joy and Justice."**

As we were developing this year's calendar, we celebrated the joy of literacy. We explored various aspects of justice, diversity, perspectives on social justice and protection of the environment. Students are encouraged to read, research, discuss, write about, and debate varying perspectives and strengthen their voice.

We have included many ideas for educators to use for students of all ages to build analytical thinking with regards to social and criminal justice, building friendships, exploring diversity from different perspectives and examining the qualities of heroes.

In addition to the idea calendar, we are planning to return to the Cancer Care Unit at the Children's Hospital, where we read to patients, do an activity, crafts, and make a monetary donation so that the staff can continue to update their children's and teen's libraries and magazine subscriptions. This provides children, teens, as well as parents with reading materials that are appealing and entertaining, as well as supportive.

The RCGW thanks you for sharing this idea calendar with teachers and families. In doing this, you are helping to empower our students to change the world.

Sincerely,
Maureen Nash and Cynthia van Driel
Co representatives of the I Love to Read Committee
Reading Council of Greater Winnipeg