



Dulce Elementary Family Newsletter

January 14, 2010

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Dear Families:

Reminder...

- **Safety Issue: Drop-offs and pick-ups of all students is to be at the back entrance of the building only. Please do not drop off children in the front of the building. The front of the building is for school bus drop and pick-ups only. When dropping/picking up students, please stay in an orderly line. Do not pass the car in front of you. Wait for them to drop/pick-up their child before moving your car forward. Please do not get in line until your child is ready to exit the car, (perhaps still eating breakfast) or if you are going to come into the building to pick up your child. In these cases, please park in the lot, not in the circle pick-up lane. Our concern, is the same as yours, the safety of all our children.**

*Parents, please encourage your child to read each day and practice the math facts at home each day. **Grades 1 and 2 should be working on addition and subtraction, while grades 3 – 5 work on multiplication.** This will benefit your child's learning tremendously. It will also benefit your child for he/she to get a good night's sleep each night before school so he/she can be alert and pay close attention in class. Also, please make sure your child comes to school dressed to stay warm when he/she goes outside during recess.*

*We look forward to seeing today at the **Parent/Teacher conferences**, to be held from 2-6 p.m.*

*Have you ever heard your child use the term **RTI**? RTI stands for Response to Intervention. Our school has a special time set each day for all students to participate in RTI. RTI integrates assessment and intervention within a multi-tiered prevention system to maximize student achievement. With RTI, schools identify students at risk for poor learning outcomes, monitor student progress, provide evidence-based interventions and adjust the intensity and nature of those interventions depending on a student's responsiveness to a specific intervention, and identify students with learning disabilities or other disabilities.*

Breakfast Menu for next week:

Monday: No School

Tuesday: French toast sticks, sausage patty, applesauce

Wednesday: Burrito, salsa, orange juice

Thursday: Ham & egg on biscuit & chilled fruit

Friday: Cereal, fruit yogurt, orange smiles

Lunch Menu for next week:

Monday: No School

Tuesday: BBQ chicken, mixed veggies, hot roll, fruit cup

Wednesday: Green chili cheeseburger on bun, lettuce, tomato & pickles, baked fries, applesauce

Thursday: Sweet & Sour chicken, brown rice, melon

Friday: Chili beans, pineapple coleslaw, cornbread

Other Important Upcoming Dates:

1/13 Basketball: St. Francis at DES

1/13 Early release at 1:15 (students only)

1/14 Early Release at 1:15 (Parent Teacher Conferences)

1/15 Early release at 1:15 (students only)

1/18 Martin Luther King Day: No school

1/22 Honors Assembly at 9:00 a.m. for grades 1 & 2 and 10:00 a.m. for grades 3-5.

1/23 Basketball

1/26 100 Day Parent Night plus Second Community meeting on 4-Day School Week

2/8 3rd & 4th grade Girls Basketball starts, more information to follow

2/11 Jicarilla Day – No School

2/12 School in session as usual

2/15 Presidents' Day: No School

Dulce Schools Health Beat: “Nurse Cedar” McGrath

With the rise of diabetes among the general population and even more so among the Indian population, Dulce Elementary wants to start at the beginning to teach healthy habits that can last for a lifetime.

Dulce Schools have started to teach the “Diabetes Education in Tribal Schools” curriculum this year. This is a series of ever expanding lessons, culturally based, on health, eating habits, physical activity, and emotional health for kindergarten through 12th grade. The theme throughout the course is “HEALTH IS LIFE IN BALANCE”. This curriculum was created with the collaboration of seven tribal colleges and universities and the Center for Disease Control. The goal of the curriculum is “to increase the understanding of health, diabetes, and maintaining life in balance among American Indian/Alaska Native students”.

The Diabetes Education course is not enough to bring about change. The ideas and principles of the course have to be put into practice as well. This is why at the elementary we are

striving to fulfill the requirements to be recognized as a “Healthy School” by the Alliance for a Healthier Generation, a national organization whose sole function is to improve the health of future generations. The requirements we have to meet involve: 1) foods served for breakfast and lunch, 2) PE classes, 3) foods served in classroom parties and other events, 4) health education, 5) getting staff to be healthy role models, 6) physical activities before and after school, and 7) policies and procedures that will keep these healthy practices in place. We are well on our way to fulfilling these requirements. If we succeed, we will be the first school in New Mexico to achieve this goal. More than 100 schools across the country have already been recognized as a “Healthy School”. We want to be one of them!

Kindergarten: Mrs. Gutierrez, Ms Laub, Ms Mason, and Mrs. Tafoya

In Open Court **Reading** our students will review the long vowel sounds of (a,e,i,o,u). They will listen to and identify long vowels in words. They will also understand that vowel sounds are special letters because they both have short and long sounds and that long vowels say their own names in words. Students will listen and identify the letters and sounds of, /a/, /d/, /m/, /p/, /s/ in words, and learn to extend sentences. Our Pre-Decodable book for the week is “We Can Have A Team”. Students will be introduced to the sight words, “like” and “too”. They will be reviewing the following words, a, can, do, have, I, we, and you. Parents, please help your child practice reading the book to you or a family member at home. For reading comprehension, students will listen to a rhyming poem called, “The Wind” and use the comprehension strategy of visualization to create a mental image of what they hear in the poem. Last, for Language Arts, students will continue to understand classifying and grouping words, words that show action, and writing the letter, “Tt”. For Everyday Math our students will be introduced to the calculator, use probability to determine an outcome using a simple graph; students will also use addition to find the sum of two numbers using dice. They will identify and describe the attributes of shapes, also understand that shapes remain the same even if their position is changed by exploring the sizes and angles of shapes.

Grade 1: Ms Cunningham, Ms Garcia, Mr. Hill, and Mrs. Snarr

Reading: We will begin our new unit focusing on “Journeys”. As we grow as readers, books and stories can take us to faraway places, distant lands and times long ago. Our journeys will take us around the world to see how other cultures live, and how we can help others in times of need. We will travel to Haiti and find ways to help those devastated by the recent earthquakes. Not only can reading entertain, but it helps us to become better citizens in a global community. **Math:** Our studies into place value will begin as we start a new unit in Everyday Math. One of our greatest focuses will be solving simple number stories with an emphasis on basic facts. Adding 1’s and 2’s will become easy as pie for the students as we continue our practices. Rules are not only for the hallways and playground. It is important for us to memorize the rules in math, and this week we will introduce some basic rules and stress the importance of memorization.

Grade 2: Mr. Archuleta, Mr. Shields, Mrs. Valdez

Mr. Archuleta and Mrs. Valdez's classes: In Open Court **Reading** our students will be concluding the unit of "Look Again" with the story, "Animal Camouflage." This story is filled with wonderful photographs and information about animals in the wild and how they blend into their environments. Students will also be introduced to compound words, and words indicating season plurals. In **English Language Conventions** students will review the different kinds of sentences, end punctuation, and subject-verb agreement. In **Everyday Math**, as mentioned in last week's newsletter, students are on unit 5. The unit's main areas of focus include: ability to develop the concepts of point and line segments, identify, name, and classify polygons, observe similarities and differences among 3-dimensional shapes, and to explore symmetry. The "Family Letter" that was sent home has various activities that will assist students with the concepts taught in this unit and in previous units.

Mr. Shields' class will be testing on "How the Guinea Fowl got her Spots" on Thursday. A study guide will go home Tuesday. In **math** we are finishing the unit on estimation with addition and also place value using base ten blocks. Homework sheets will be going home for extra practice. Also, a new spelling list will be going home as well. The test will be on Friday. I look forward to meeting all parents at Thursday's conference.

Grade 3: Ms Corr, Mrs. Fuller & Mrs. Salazar

Reading: Our story in Unit e (Imagination) is "Picasso". Pablo Picasso was one of the greatest artists of the twentieth century. Cubism was one style of painting that he developed and made famous. Ask your child to tell you about Picasso and cubism this week.

Language Arts: Spelling words have the long o sound and are spelled with the patterns o_e and oo, for example, cone and goat. Spelling lists are sent home on Mondays. We are also working on multiple meaning words, plural nouns, and comparing and contrasting. **Math:** We will be continuing our unit in geometry. We will be learning about quadrangles, polygons, drawing angles, and measuring angles. We will also continue to practice multiplication facts on an ongoing basis. Again, please refer to the family letter sent home last week for homework help. **Snacks:** An extra special "thank you" to parents/;guardians who are sending snacks! **Dibels:** Dibels testing will be from January 11 – 22nd. Students will be trying to reach the benchmark of reading 115 correct words per minute.

Grade 4: Ms Gray, Ms Pixley, and Mrs. Velarde

Reading: Continue the reading unit on "Medical". The story this week is called "Bridge Dancers". **Language Arts:** Working on metaphors and figurative language. **Math:** Reviewing fractions and then begin unit 8 over perimeters and area..

Grade 5: Mrs. "E"versgerd and Mrs. Rogers

Reading will be the same as last week, "The Heritage Unit." This will be our theme for four more weeks. We're hoping to invite elders from the community to come talk to us. In **math** we are doing data collection, statistics and organization. We will be using different types of charts to keep track of data.