



Dulce Elementary Family Newsletter

March 11, 2010

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Dear Families:

Important Upcoming Dates:

March 12 – End of 3rd 9 week grading period

March 23 – April 1 – SBA State Assessments for grades 3-5

March 24 – 26 – Early dismissal

March 25 – Parent/Teacher Conferences

April 1 – Honor's Assembly

April 2 – Beginning of Spring Break (no school)

April 12 – Return from Spring Break (school in session)

Breakfast next week:

Monday: Hot cereal, cheese stick, orange juice

Tuesday: French toast, sausage, applesauce

Wednesday: Breakfast burrito, salsa, orange juice

Thursday: Ham & egg on biscuit, mixed fruit

Friday: Cereal, fruit yogurt, orange smiles

Lunch next week:

Monday: Green chili stew, roll, veggie sticks w/Ranch, pineapple

Tuesday: Ham & cheese sub, lettuce, tomato & pickles, tater tots, melon

Wednesday: Meatloaf, mashed potatoes w/gravy, corn, roll, orange smiles

Thursday: Baked chicken, potato salad, zucchini, biscuit, mixed fruit

Friday: Frito pie, lettuce & tomatoes, Ranch potato wedges, grapes

Test Taking Tips for Parents:

- ✓ *Make sure that your child does all his/her homework and reading assignments, which will help make sure your child is prepared for a test.*
- ✓ *Provide a quiet, well lighted area with little distractions to help your child study efficiently.*
- ✓ *Mark down test days on your calendar so you and your child are both aware of testing dates.*
- ✓ *Make sure your child gets enough sleep the night before a test and has a healthy breakfast.*
- ✓ *Make sure your child gets up early enough to be on time at school.*
- ✓ *If your child is struggling on tests, talk to him/her about it and meet with the teacher to find out the best way to help your child.*
- ✓ *Praise/reward your child when he/she does well on a test or for the hard work in preparing.*
- ✓ *Encourage your child to do better if he/she doesn't do well.*
- ✓ *Review the test with your child after it is returned; go over anything that is wrong and make sure your child understands what would make the answer correct.*

Fine Arts: Mr. Cunningham

In discussing the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center (IPCC) Children's Art Show with the students in several classes, we have decided not to enter this year. We have entered it in years past when they had different cultural themes, but this year they are requiring recycled materials for the artwork (aluminum, plastic, cardboard, etc.); we simply do not have the storage space, the ability to mail any "thick" or bulky artwork to the IPCC, not the time to gather enough recycled materials for 335 students to produce finished art products by the submission deadline this year (March 22nd). A large majority of students voted to do our own artwork using various art materials and simply have our own art display here at DES; therefore, all students (K-5) are preparing various works of art the next couple of weeks, focusing primarily on one of the elements of art – line. While they will incorporate other elements (color, shape, balance, rhythm, etc.) they are mainly identifying and using different types of lines in their artwork (vertical, horizontal, diagonal, curved lines, zigzag, thick, thin, rough, smooth, solid, and broken lines). Students will continue reviewing and practicing skip count songs and grammar songs, utilizing music to help them with multiplication and language arts skills in preparation for the NM state assessments coming up later this month.

P.E.: Ms Dess

This week we have started our President's Challenge Post Test. Please encourage your child to practice push-ups, sit-ups, stretching, and running so he/she can beat their scores from the beginning of the year. Unfortunately, we are finished with our 5th grade ski trips to Wolf Creek. It was really exciting to see how much the students improved. There are still three family days left for all those students who attended a School Ski program this winter. The family days are Sunday, March 21; Sunday, March 28; and Saturday, April 3. Lift tickets for students, parents, and siblings are only \$12 those days. There will be free ski rentals and free 2-hour lessons (10 a.m. – noon). Snowboard rentals will only be \$5. I encourage you to take advantage of this offer. It is a fantastic deal.

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

*This week, kinder will begin a new unit from Open Court **Reading**. Students will identify and count out syllables in words, replace initial sounds in words, attach sounds to letters, blend sounds into words, focus on sound/spellings, read high-frequency words from a decodable book, recognize and say words that begin with /j/, /f/, and review long vowel sounds. For **Language Arts**, students will use vocabulary skill words from a story selection to understand how words can be organized into categories, use rhyming words in the writing process, learn the pronoun words "I" and "you" and practice writing the letter "Qq". For **Reading Comprehension**, students will be introduced to the unit theme, identify print and book features, and use the comprehension skill of main idea and details. For **Math**, students will construct a bar graph and draw conclusions, choose blocks based on multiple attributes, identify and locate numbers on a number grid, order numbers and look for number patterns.*

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

*Recently the first graders **read** the story, "The Garden" by Arnold Lobel. Coincidentally, our new **science** unit is all about planting. Just as Frog and Toad took very good care of their seeds, we will be doing the same thing to make sure our own classroom gardens can flourish. Weekly, we will be comparing our own processes to that of our fictional friends, Frog and Toad. We are zooming right along in **math!** Last week we were introduced to our Everyday Math Reference Books. This week we are continuing to learn many different resources that will help us to become the best students that we can be. We will be ready for second grade before we can blink an eye!*

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

Second grade students will be exploring a new theme in **Reading** for the next 6 weeks about “Courage.” Throughout this unit, students will broaden their notion of what counts as an act of courage, understand what makes an act courageous, distinguish false from true courage, and finally recognizing their own courageous acts and those of their peers. For centuries, world art and literature has reflected the importance of courage to humankind. Next week, we will read our first story in the unit, “Molly and the Brave.” This is a realistic fiction about a girl, Beth who envies her courageous friend, Molly. When Beth has the opportunity to comfort Molly in a frightening situation, Beth realizes she too, can be courageous. In **Math**, we will continue to practice solving number stories, review solution strategies for subtracting 2-digit numbers, introduce multiplication as a way to find the total number of things in several equal groups, and introduce everyday examples of arrays. The remainder of this unit also begins to touch on division stories, helping children understand equal sharing or making equal groups of things.

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

Reading: We continue our unit on ‘Money.’ This week we are reading a story called, “The Go-Around Dollar.” It is an entertaining look at the journey of a dollar bill as it passes from person to person. Throughout the story are informational references to the real journey of a dollar bill, from its creation at the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, to Federal Reserve Banks, and out to the public. Ask your child to tell you something new that they learned about a dollar bill. **Language Arts:** This week’s spelling words are all compound words, such as playground and rainbow. We will also study sequence (time and order words), comparative and superlative adverbs (longer, longest, more quickly, most quickly), and supporting details (facts, examples, and reasons that relate to a main idea.) **Math:** We will end our unit on fractions and begin a new unit on multiplication and division. We will solve story problems with fractions and then work with multiples of 10, 100, and 1,000; compare and order numbers; and use multiplication facts to solve problems. The math family note will go home this week. Use it to help you with your child’s math homework. Snacks: An extra special ‘thank you’ to parents/guardians who are sending snacks!

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

Reading: The students are reading “Arctic Explorer: The Story of Matthew Henson.” He was the first African-American to reach the North Pole. The story is full of adventure and an exciting story to read. We will be learning about major geographic features of the Earth and about the Eskimos in the Inuit. Comprehension Strategies are; Asking Questions, Monitoring and Adjusting Reading Speed, and Monitoring and Clarifying. Vocabulary Words: expedition, arctic, glaciers, constellation, insulation. **Language Arts;** Grammar and Usage: Comparative and Superlative Adverbs. Narrative Writing is to plan and write a realistic story. Spelling: Compound Words. **Math:** We are working on data sets, representing data, using tables and graphs, justify conclusions, and predictions based on data. We also continue to practice for the SBA. Encourage your child to come to school, to study the multiplication facts, and do his/her homework.

Grade 5: Mrs. “E”versgerd and Mrs. Rogers

Math: Next week we will continue to work with algebraic equations and rates. **Reading and Language Arts:** Students will finish their persuasive essays and then start on a fictional story. They will continue to work on comprehension and writing using details to support the main idea.

*******Please detach and send with your child tomorrow to give to his/her teacher.*******

We are requesting you supply us with your e-mail address so that we can offer you better service in communication. If you choose to provide it, please fill out the following and return with your child tomorrow. Thank you.

Parent/Guardian Name(s) _____

e-mail address: _____

Elementary Child(ren)

<i>Name</i>	<i>Grade</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Grade</i>
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____