



## **Dulce Elementary Family Newsletter** **April 1, 2010 - April Fools Day**

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*Dear Families:*

*To all parents, thank you for getting your children to school and on time these past two weeks. **Our attendance rate has been the best ever with 3 days at 97% attendance.** A special thank you to the parents of students in grades 3 – 5; we feel confident the students did their best on the SBA.*

*Some believe that **April Fool pranks** originated back in the day of the Druids where priests were trying to ward off evil spirits during the planting season – spring!*

**To all of you, we wish you a fun, healthy, and safe spring break. School will resume on Monday, April 12<sup>th</sup>.**

### **Important Upcoming Dates:**

April 16<sup>th</sup> – Honors Assembly (tentative)

April 19-23 – Book Fair Week! – Please see back cover!

April 23<sup>rd</sup> – Step Up Day

April 26<sup>th</sup> – NWEA-MAP assessments begin

April 30<sup>th</sup> – Walk for Diabetes school event beginning at 10:00 a.m.

May 4<sup>th</sup> – Teacher Appreciation Day

May 6<sup>th</sup> – Health Fair “Back to Basics”

May 14<sup>th</sup> – Ranger Phil visits

May 21<sup>st</sup> – Field Day

May 26<sup>th</sup> – Honors Assembly

May 28<sup>th</sup> – Last Day of School

### **Breakfast next week:** Jose’ Baca

*Monday: hot cereal, grilled ham, banana*

*Tuesday: piggie stick, chilled peaches*

*Wednesday: breakfast burrito, salsa, orange juice*

*Thursday: egg & cheese on biscuit, chilled fruit*

*Friday: French toast sticks, fruit yogurt, orange smiles*

### **Lunch next week:** Jose’ Baca

*Monday: Italian spaghetti, bread sticks, mixed veggies, chilled mixed fruit*

*Tuesday: green chile chicken enchiladas, refried beans, salad w/ dressing, chilled peaches*

*Wednesday: beef vegetable stew, hot roll, grapes*

*Thursday: posole, tortilla, broccoli florets, chilled mixed fruit*

*Friday: soft chicken tacos, corn, apple crisp*

**Fine Arts:** Mr. Cunningham

Assuming the state SBA make-up tests are finished, students (K-5) will complete their works of art focusing on different types of lines. Each student will experiment a bit with mixing colors using tempera paints on this project. As each class finishes their work of art, we will begin focusing on music reading again as we will spend several weeks improving our playing abilities on musical instruments.

**Physical Education:** Ms Dess

This week I sent home information for our School Walk for Diabetes, which will be held the morning of Friday, April 30. We encourage families and community members to come walk with our school. As we get closer to the event, I will send home a reminder as to what time our event will begin. Remember collecting donations is entirely optional. Even if a child does not collect donations for the American Diabetes Association, they will still be able to participate in our school-wide walk. For those who do wish to raise money, collection envelopes will be due the last week of April. Our goal this year is to raise \$3500. If we collect at least \$1000, our school will receive a gift certificate to buy new PE equipment. Also, all checks and money orders need to be made out to the American Diabetes Association. Remember: all funds we raise “will help to fund the mission of the American Diabetes Association – to prevent and to improve the lives of all people affected by diabetes.” Please encourage your child to practice push-ups, sit-ups, stretching, and running over spring break as we will continue with our President’s Challenge Post-Fitness Test when we return to school.

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

Kinder will review long vowel sounds, use their knowledge of sound/ spellings and long vowels to make words that end in silent “e,” continue with initial sounds and blends, focus on sound/ spellings, Qq, Kk, Yy, Vv, **read** decodable books, Quint and Kit and Vic in the Van, use their knowledge of sound/ spellings to make words that begin with “y and v,” segment sounds from words and blend and produce rhymes. For **Comprehension**, students will continue the big book poetry selection, “Clean Up the Block.” They will also listen to a new story selection, “The Little Red Hen,” identify print and book features, use comprehension strategies of predicting, making connections, sequencing, and retelling events in a story. For **Language Arts**, students will review sensory words, sort and classify words into groups, write the letter Jj, and review pronouns. For **Math**, kinder will use counting to measure time, make graphs using a simple survey, answer questions based on the graph, and identify 2 and 3-dimensional shapes.

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

When we return we will be **reading** the last story in our first anthology. Soon, we will move on to our second book and begin a new thematic unit. We will be wrapping up “Games” and begin with “Being Afraid.” Our **math** unit will take us deep into the worlds of money and fractions. These concepts are found each and every day in our lives. During our spring break, help us to practice money while at the store, the gas station or even at home sitting around. During meal times, while dividing portions to all those at the table, help us to better understand parts of the whole. As always, please continue helping us with our addition and subtraction facts. Practice makes perfect and better math students!

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

Students will be **reading** a Chinese folktale titled, “The Empty Pot.” The suspenseful tale builds toward a surprise ending by bringing your young reader into sympathy with young Ping’s yearlong

struggle to nurture a seed for the Emperor's contest to find a successor. Ping is known in his village for raising beautiful flowers, so his failure to make his seed grow devastates him. As your child reads this folktale, discuss with him/her the courage Ping was faced with when he had to admit to the Emperor that he failed. Key points to talk about with your child are about courage and how sometimes telling the truth takes a great deal of courage, especially if the truth means having someone else disappointed in the; also, how telling the truth can be very scary if the truth means we cannot get something we want. Finally, how admitting failure takes a great deal of courage. In **Math**, students will start Unit 8 dealing with fractions. They will be reviewing basic fraction concepts, using fractions to name parts of a whole and of a collection, find pairs of equivalent fractions, and solve number stories involving fractions.

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

**Reading:** We begin a new unit that includes 7 stories all about storytelling. This week's selection is call, "A Story, A Story." It is an African folktale about Anase, the Spider Man, who wants to buy all of Sky God's stories and bring them to Earth (the Sky God owns all of the stories that can ever be told). The Sky God has demanded an exacting price. Can Anase succeed? Ask your child what happens in this exciting folktale. **Language Arts:** our words for this week are words with the consonant blends spr, str, and spi ---words such as splash, spring, and streak. We will also be learning about sequence in a story – the order in which things happen; sentence structure---a simple sentence vs. a compound sentence; and how narrative writing is organized. **Math:** We will work on multiplication using lattice multiplication and the partial-products method. Both of these are two strategies that may help your child learn to multiply 2-digit numbers. As you child if he/she can show you how to use either one of these methods to multiply 2-digit numbers. Snacks: Again, thank you to the parents who are sending snacks. The class really appreciates it.

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

**Reading:** The selection takes place in Japan. Students will learn about the locations of Japan and its people, land, and climate. The story is based on survival of a Japanese boy whose family and neighbors were swept away by a tsunami. The selection deals with the loss of his family and the stages he goes through as he recovers from the shock of losing his family. **Science Connection:** Students will learn about the natural processes that reshape the earth's surface. **Language Arts:** doubling final consonants. **Grammar and Usage:** prepositions - **Writing:** fables. **Math:** We will be introducing 5<sup>th</sup> grade math, beginning with fractions.

**Grade 5:** Mrs. "E"versgerd and Mrs. Rogers present "Fabulous Fifth Grade Facts"

The students worked very hard on their SBA testing last week. The students say they feel confident about what they have done. They also said they're glad it's completed, especially the math. **Math:** We will continue to finish this year's curriculum, but the focus will be on 6<sup>th</sup> grade standards that are connected to the fifth grade standards. We will be visiting fractions again starting with addition and subtraction of fractions with unlike denominators. We will also be reviewing algebra. **Reading:** We will continue reading from our unit called, "Making a New Nation." The upcoming story is an expository text called, "The Declaration of Independence." The reading strategy for the week is classifying and categorizing in order, a strategy that helps with comprehension. **Language Arts:** In **grammar** we will be looking at comparative and superlative adjectives and adverbs. In **writing** we will be studying the passive voice. **Science:** We will finish up the health unit on diabetes. We will return to a regular schedule for our week with regular homework and before you know it, the year will be finished.