



Dulce Elementary Family Newsletter

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George Schumpelt, Principal

Inky Vicenti, School Counselor

Joyce Lindauer, Asst. Principal

jlindauer@dulceschools.com

759-2945

Dear Families:

From all of the Dulce Elementary Staff, we wish you a happy, safe, and healthy New Year!

Beginning with the new year, you will be receiving a family newsletter each Thursday for the remainder of the school year. The newsletter will contain school news at-large, followed by grade level news. Our desire is for this to increase the communication between the home and school. If you have any comments regarding the newsletter or the school-at-large, please feel free to contact us. We take your comments and concerns seriously and want to work closely with you so that we can offer your child(ren) the best school experience possible.

Parents, please encourage your child to read each day and practice the math facts at home each day. 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.

Parent/Teacher conferences will be held next Thursday January 14th from 2:00 - 6:00 p.m. More information on this will be coming home soon.

Other Important Upcoming Dates:

1/6 Basketball: Chama @ 5:30 p.m. in Chama: Depart administration building @ 4:00 p.m.

1/7, 8 & 9 Bobby Binion Tournament in TA: Time to be announced

1/13 Basketball: St. Francis at DES

1/13 Early release at 1:15

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

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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

2/12 School in session as usual

2/15 Presidents' Day: No School

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

For the next several weeks our Open Court **reading** unit theme is "The Wind." This week the focus on our Big Book unit story selection, "The Wind" using comprehension strategies to classify and categorize information read or heard, compare experiences with "wind" and investigate the physical properties of wind. In reading we will continue to learn about and identify long vowel sounds of /o/ and /u/, along with identifying beginning and final consonant sounds /d/, /s/, /m/, /p/, and /a/ in words. Our Pre-Decodable book for the week is "What Do We See?" In this we will learn a new sight word, "at". We will be reviewing sight words, "a, are, do, is, see, the, this, we, and what." Parents, we need your help with sight words. Please practice at home with your child. Last, for Everyday **Math** we will be introducing the addition symbol using number stories and counters. We will practice creating, extending, and describing patterns, and learn about interrupted counting, using different starting points, counting 1's to 50.

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

In **reading** we will continue our study of weather. All week we will discuss how weather affects us each and every day. Toward the end of the week, we will be participating in a special activity that shows us how no two snowflakes are alike! During **math** we will be wrapping up our studies on measurement and begin to work with timelines. It will be a big week for us as we begin to practice working with numbers larger than 100.

First grade would like to welcome Ms Garcia as the new first grade teacher. They would like to wish Mrs. Motter success with her new position as ELL Interventionist for Grades 3-5.

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

Next week our students will be **reading** a delightful Swahili folktale of friendship in the Open Court Story of the Week, "How the Guinea Fowl Got Her Spots." In this story, students will enjoy finding out about the life of Nganga the Guinea Fowl, her friend, Cow, and their common enemy, Lion. The story is part of our "Look Again" theme and has been passed down from generation to generation. In this unit, all short stories have focused on one aspect of animals, camouflage. Please take some time to discuss with your child what they have learned so far regarding what function animal camouflage serves and how animals use camouflage different ways to protect themselves in the natural environment in which they live. Our students have been fascinated with animal camouflage and how they use it. They will be happy to share what they have learned. In Everyday **Math**, the children will observe similarities and differences among various shapes and explore spatial relationships. They will be learning about points and line segments, polygons, 2-D and 3-D shapes and line symmetry throughout the unit.

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

Reading: Unit 3 in Open Court Reading. The theme is "Imagination," which includes the stories, "Through Grandpa's Eyes," "A Cat Who Became a Poet" and the current story, "A Cloak for a Dreamer." The story is about a father who is a tailor with three sons. Two of the sons want to follow in their father's footsteps, but the third son wants to go and see the world. Ask your child what happened in the story. **Language Arts:** Spelling words have the long I sound and are spelled with the patterns *i_e* and *igh*, for example *wide* and *sight*. Spellings lists are sent home on Mondays. We are also working on verb tenses (past, present, future) and place and location words such as *in*, *by*, *between*, and *through*. **Math:** In math we are starting the unit on geometry. We will be studying

line segments, rays, lines, angles, turns, and triangles. The family letter for this unit, unit 6, was sent home on Monday 1/4/10 and will help you with your child's homework. We also continue to practice multiplication facts on an ongoing basis. Please encourage your child to continue to work on these at home. **Snacks:** An extra special "thank you" to parents/guardians who are sending snacks! **Dibels:** Dibels testing will be from January 11 - 22. Students will be trying to reach the winter benchmark of reading 115 correct words per minute.

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

The topic in Open Court **Reading** is "Medicine." Please encourage your child to practice reading orally at home as he/she will be assessed soon in oral reading. In Language Arts the class will write a business letter. In **math** the children will continue to practice the times tables. It's very important your child learns these as they will be moving on to fractions and division soon. Please encourage your child to practice the multiplication facts at home. The students will be creating a "kindness resolution" card to give to someone else in the classroom. This will help the children to learn more about being kind, respectful, and responsible.

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

Fifth grade will be studying "Heritage" in Open Court **Reading**. This unit is about people from other countries with different traditions. In Everyday **Math**, the class will be studying decimals, fractions and percents. In **Language Arts** they will learn about different forms of letters and getting set to write a mini-research paper.

PE: Miss Dess

This week the classes will be doing Dance, Dance Revolution. Next week they will start a hockey skills unit. If your child turned in an activity log he/she completed over Christmas break, the bonus points will go on the 3rd quarter report card. Congratulations to Mr. Archuleta's 2nd grade class for raising the most money for our "Hoops for Heart" fundraising event. They raised \$459.10. This year our school raised \$1660.95 for the American Heart Association. Our goal was to raise at least \$1500.00. Hooray! We surpassed our goal. If your child raised money for AHA, the thank you gifts should be here within the next few weeks. The dates for the 5th grade downhill ski trips to Wolf Creek are: Jan 21, Feb 4 & 18, and March 3. Paper work for the first trip will go home this week.

The entire school staff wishes you an exceptionally wonderful week.