



“Our mission is to educate, nurture, and provide a safe learning environment for our students, in order to instill a love of learning to produce life-long learners. We will accomplish this by using data driven-instruction, consistency, and collaboration among all stakeholders. By instilling high expectations, we will create well-educated, well-informed members of society. “

Dear Families:



Please join us next Thursday, December 15<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 for our Winter Program in the DES gym. Dress rehearsal will be held at 9:30 a.m.



The elementary is participating in the Jicarilla Department of Youth **Food Drive** beginning December 5<sup>th</sup> and ending on December 16<sup>th</sup>. The class who collects the most food will be rewarded a pizza party, compliments of the Jicarilla Department of Youth. This is a great time for all of us to give back to help our friends and neighbors.



Mark your calendar.....

December 19 – January 3



Winter Break



Breakfast is being served in the classroom from 8:00 – 8:20. All lunches include additional vegetable, salad, or fruit. Salad bar is included for grades 3-5.

**Breakfast Menu**

**Lunch Menu**

Monday	sausage & cheese biscuit, juice
Tuesday	waffle sticks, fruit
Wednesday	breakfast burrito, fruit
Thursday	cereal, breakfast bar, juice
Friday	yogurt, cereal bar, fruit

chile beans, fruit, salad
ham w/hams, veggies, roll, fruit, cake
cheeseburger, fries, fruit
chicken ala king, rice, celery, fruit
pepperoni pizza, salad, fruit



Please congratulate our **two top spellers** here at Dulce Elementary School: Our champion, in fourth grade, **Alexis Martinez** and our runner up, in second grade, **Daniel Bradley**. These two hard working students will now qualify for the Rio Arriba County Spelling Bee to be held here in Dulce on Tuesday, January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2012 at 10:00am at the Dulce High School Auditorium.

**Fine Arts: Mr. Cunningham**

*Mission Statement:* “We are in Mr. C.’s Fine Arts class to have fun learning how to express ourselves by singing, playing instruments, and creating art. We will do this by working hard, being respectful, and helping each other as we explore the world around us through the arts.”

This week we are finishing up rehearsing for our Winter Program. Beginning Monday, all classes will rehearse on the risers in the gym, learning how line up in order, how to file quickly on and off the stage area, where to stand, etc. On Tuesday and Wednesday we will begin practicing with the sound system making sure we are “projecting” enough to be heard well in the entire gym. On Thursday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, we will have our Winter Program dress rehearsal/ school performance at 9:30 am

followed by the main community performance at 1:30 pm. If you are unable to attend the main community performance at 1:30 pm, or would just prefer to attend the earlier 9:30 performance, feel free to do so. Also, some of the classroom teachers may ask their students to wear specific color combinations, which is wonderful. However, if your student's teacher does not direct your student to wear anything specific, just have them wear dark pants or nice jeans, or a skirt (black or navy) with either a white, red, or green top (shirt, sweater, etc). If they do not have access to clothes with these colors, just have them wear something as close as possible. We hope you will be able to join us for the 2011 DES Winter Program! Early in the week classes will be doing their final rehearsals on the risers in the gym as we finalize preparations for our DES Winter Program. Students will be learning how to step on the risers and go to their designated spots. On Tuesday and Wednesday, students will be practicing with the sound system set up and microphones position around them. The DES 2011 Winter Program will take place on Thursday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, with the dress rehearsal/staff & student performance at 9:30 am and the main community performance at 1:30 pm. The entire performance will last about an hour and fifteen minutes, so please plan on remaining through the whole program to show support for these wonderful students!

### **Physical Education News: Ms. Dess**

Vision: To become lifelong movers! Mission Statement: "We are here to discover that learning sports skills, cooperative games, and improving our fitness can be fun!"

On Friday we will be doing some more Christmas/Winter themed games to get us in the spirit of winter. Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday we will be in Mr. Cunningham's room for PE because he will be using the gym to practice for the winter program. While in his room, we will play sports Bingo for small prizes and do some sports worksheets that integrate other subject areas such as language arts and writing. Just a reminder to the parents/guardians of 5<sup>th</sup> grade students: the ski permission slips are due this Friday. So far, only four students have turned in their paper work. These ski trips are a part of the 5<sup>th</sup> grade students' 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter PE grades. If a student does not attend, s/he will need to do an activity log as a make up assignment. Any parent or guardian who would like to go with us on the ski trips, please come see me before Christmas break because you will need to fill out additional paper work. Do not hesitate to call me at the school if you have any questions regarding these trips.

### **Library: Mrs. Vigil**

Maybe Christmas," he thought, "doesn't come from a store. Maybe Christmas... perhaps... means a little bit more." ~ Dr. Seuss (1904-1991), American author of children's books. From 'How The Grinch Stole Christmas'.

**Kindergarten: First Grade:** Will listen to the flannel board story The Night before Christmas, they will also watch The Snowman.

**Second Grade: Third Grade: Fourth Grade: Fifth Grade:** Will watch "A Christmas Carol"

### **Computer Lab: Ms. Beall**

We will be doing MAP make-up testing in the computer lab this week.

### **English Language Interventionist K-2; Mrs. Bradley**

**Mission Statement:** *To ensure all English Language Learners increase their language proficiency by providing high quality language instruction that is scientifically based.*

This week all intervention groups will be reviewing and honing their skills using holiday based games and activities.

### **Reading Lab: Mrs. Julian**

**Mission Statement:** *The mission of the reading lab is to enable all reading lab students to meet or exceed their personal learning goals toward proficiency in reading by providing high quality instruction of targeted essential skills using research-based interventions.*

This week 5<sup>th</sup> graders in the Read 180 and System 44 programs will continue differentiated instruction of basic reading comprehension skills, based on student need as indicated from a recent reading skills assessment. Skills this week will include story elements: setting, and character analysis.

This week 4<sup>th</sup> graders in the Read 180 and System 44 programs will continue instruction in Workshop 2, "Coming to America," about the history of immigration to America and the hardships of moving to America. This week's lessons will be focused on Reading 2, "My Journey to America", about a girl who traveled more than 10,000 miles to join her mom in America. Students will also continue to focus on the comprehension skill sequence of events. System 44 students' instruction will continue focusing on skills based on student needs.

This week 3<sup>rd</sup> graders that are receiving System 44 instruction will focus on skills based on individual student needs. The focus of this week's lessons will be to understand final blends and recognizing and using compound words.

**\*\*Important Information:** Homework for the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade reading intervention lab is to read daily for a minimum of 20 minutes per day. A reading log will be sent home for parents to sign off daily. **Parents of students not returning homework on Friday will receive a call to inform you that your child has not completed the homework for the week.**

### **Read 180/Systems 44: Mrs. Ford**

**Fifth graders** will be working on new vocabulary such as *appeal* and *nutritious* as we delve into Workshop 8, Food - The Good, the Bad, and the Gross. We will begin with a newspaper article entitled “Food Fight: Chefs vs. Kids.” Throughout the workshop, we will focus on comparing and contrasting with the use of graphic organizers. We will also continue to work on oral fluency. In the **fourth grade** classes, we will begin reading “Bud’s Breakfast”, an excerpt from the novel, Bud, Not Buddy by Christopher Paul Curtis. As you may recall from last week’s newsletter, this story takes place during the Great Depression in the city of Flint, Michigan. Story elements (setting, character, and plot) will be concentrated on in Workshop 3. And finally, our **third graders** will continue to work on the System 44 software at their individual levels. They will also be reading with the whole class a non-fiction passage about wetlands, and writing constructed responses to questions about the selection. Independent reading will round out our lessons this coming week.

### **Kindergarten: Mrs. Gutierrez, Ms Laub, Mrs. Wager**

Math: This week the Students will continue working on completing Mid Year Assessments

Language Arts: The students will continue working on completing Mid Year Assessments.

### **1<sup>st</sup> Grade: Ms “B”reeding, Ms Ferralez, Mr. Hill**

This week’s theme is all about playing catch-up and reviews. With this being the last week of the semester, we want to make sure that everyone is all caught up on everything we’ve learned so far as first graders. In reading we will be reading our first play, ‘Smile Mike!’ This will help us with voice, intonation and confidence in reading aloud. Our phonics skill this week is the long i sound spelled i.e. In math we will be starting our third unit. It will begin with a brief introduction to geometry, in particular, shapes. Thanks for all that you do to help us become better students!

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Grade: Ms Baird, Mrs. Martinez**

Second grade will be focusing on reading different holiday stories. We will be writing holiday notes and stories. Students will be creating Christmas decorations and a special gift for their loved ones. We will be continuing math and student will be introduced to fractions. We will be having our Christmas parties on Friday. A time has not be decided up on due to the schedule. We ask for each family to come and support their child on Thursday during the Winter Program. Mrs. Valdez’ last week as teacher in our second grade class was this week. She offered several years of service to our school. We wish her the best.

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Grade: Ms Corr, Mrs. Fuller, Mr. Shields**

This week students will begin the third story in Unit 3 titled “Messaging Mania”. This is a expository text which gives information about real people, places, and things. Using this story, students will continue developing the skills needed to recognize the relationship between cause and effect. The spelling list for the week will focus prefixes /re/, /un/, /pre/, /mis/, /dis/. Examples: rewrite, undone, preview, misplace, disagree. In mathematics we will continue Unit three. In Unit three, students will collect and organize data; use concepts of range, median, and mode. Students will make and interpret line plots, pictographs, and bar graphs; Read and make graphs with ordered pairs; Identify outcomes and determine the likelihood of an occurrence; make predictions; Solve problems using skills and strategies. Have a safe and wonderful weekend!

### **4<sup>th</sup> Grade: Ms Gray, Ms Jamerson, Mrs. Velarde**

Happy Holidays...! The students are excited about presenting their songs to you at our holiday program. We will continue to reinforce the skills learned while studying the story *Words Add Up to Success*. Cause and effect and persuasive writing with contractions will be used to help observe some of the holiday traditions celebrated in our culture. In math, we will continue to practice dividing with remainders and use various techniques to enhance our multiplication skills. We will go forward with Algebraic Reasoning as we transition into the New Year. Dress warm and be a friend to everyone.

### **5<sup>th</sup> Grade: Mrs. “E”versgerd, Ms. Pixley, Mrs. Thomas**

This week the fifth graders will be working on the Unit III Tests in Reading and Writing. There will be a writing prompt with this that will include prewriting, a rough draft and a final draft. In Math, the fifth graders will be learning about symmetry and reviewing the other geometry concepts that have been taught recently. The test that was scheduled for last week will be given on Wednesday. Due to the program and other activities, there will be no math during the end of the week. In Social Studies, the fifth graders will continue the unit on Building a Nation.