



“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:



From our entire staff, we wish you and your loved ones a very happy, healthy, and safe holiday season. We'll welcome the children back on Wednesday, January 4, 2012.



Thanks so much to those of you who sent in food for the Jicarilla Department of Youth sponsored food drive. The class which collected the most goods will be treated to a pizza party upon our return in January.



Mark your calendar....

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|--------------------------|---|
| January 4 <sup>th</sup>  | Students return to school - Second Semester                 |
| January 10 <sup>th</sup> | Parent/Teacher Conferences - Report Cards                   |
| January 13 <sup>th</sup> | Early release for students and staff at 1:30                |
| January 16 <sup>th</sup> | No school for students - Professional Development for staff |
| January 24 <sup>th</sup> | Rio Arriba County Spelling Bee, DHS, at 10:00 a.m.          |

**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 as students return from winter break, we will be discussing the Winter Program and evaluating how each student and class felt that they did. We had a wonderful turn out for the performances and want to thank all of you for coming out to support your children—especially those who stayed through the entire main performance. It means a lot to the classes that perform at the end of the program, when community members patiently stay and show their support. Since so many of our classes in November and December were focused on music as we were preparing for our Winter Program, students will spend a few class meetings in January doing some visual art. We will be working on understanding and using some of the basic elements of art, including different types of lines, shapes, primary and secondary colors, and balance, depending on the grade level. We will also continue to work on our skip count songs and grammar songs to reinforce Math and Language Arts.

**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!”

This week in PE Kinder, 1<sup>st</sup>, and 2<sup>nd</sup> graders will be working on short and long jump rope skills as well as hula hoop games and skills. Third, fourth, and fifth graders will be doing circuit training the first half of class and then they will get to enjoy free play time. For those not familiar with circuit training, it is a fitness circuit made up of numerous fitness stations. Students will begin at an area (ex: bicep curls with light hand weights, leg squats, jump ropes, etc.). Every 30 seconds students rotate to the next fitness station. We will go through the circuit two times. This is a great activity to help improve muscular strength/endurance and cardiovascular endurance.

**Library: Mrs. Vigil** “Children are made readers on the laps of their parents.” - Emilie Buchwald

**Kindergarten:** Review Book Care. **First Grade:** Read excerpts from fiction and nonfiction books, students will decide what category they belong in. **Second Grade:** ABC order using author’s last name. **Third Grade:** Review fiction book info found on spines. **Fourth Grade:** Dewey Decimal review Memory Match game. **Fifth Grade:** No fifth grade this week due to no school on Monday and Tuesday.

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

**Kinder** will be working on clicknread.com, starfall.com and they will begin studyisland.com. **First** grade will be working on clicknread.com, starfall.com, and they will begin Math Facts in a Flash. **Second** grade will be learning how to enter addresses on the internet, working on clicknread.com, and will begin Math Facts in a Flash. **Third** grade will work on entering addresses on the internet and searching that website for an answer to a question that is given them, Math Facts in a Flash, and Studyisland.com. **Fourth and Fifth** grades will be doing a web search to answer a question that is given them, Math Facts in a Flash, and studyisland.com.

### **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.*

Kindergarten: We will be revisiting the skills we finished with before Christmas Break. First Graders will also be revisiting and refreshing their memories of the last skills we worked on. Second Graders will be finishing up the story line with Sid who needs help with silent “e” words. We will write a summary of Sid’s misdeeds☺

### **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 element: 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.*” This week’s lessons will be focused on Reading 3, “*A Nation of Immigrants*”, about America is a melting pot of people from all over the world and why so many immigrants fall in love with the United States. 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.**

Welcome back from the Winter break, Happy New Year! ☺

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

After Christmas break, we will have a short “week” with the students! During these three days, the fourth graders will continue reading and discussing “Bud’s Breakfast.” We will also do a lesson on story elements using a 3-D triangle model. Our fifth graders will continue instruction in Workshop 8, “Food: The Good, the Bad, and the Gross!” The article that we will focus on is about a school that turned part of their grounds into an *edible schoolyard*, where they raised vegetables for the school cafeteria! We will compare and contrast details using a graphic organizer. And finally, our third graders will receive instruction based on each one’s individual needs. They will be looking at blends, and at closed syllables. If time permits and the students are ready, we will begin introducing open syllables. Merry Christmas and Best Wishes for 2012!

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

**Math:** The students will be starting a new Unit, and this week they will be working on sequencing daily events, as they increase an awareness of the passage of time and order of events, practice writing 2-digit numbers and recognize and find equivalent names for numbers, use addition and subtraction clues to introduce a game that involves using multiple attributes to identify and describe objects. **Language Arts:** Introduce theme: Animals- recognize story structure, Discuss theme, Discuss what they know about kittens, Complete a chart, Use oral vocabulary words, Distinguish rhyming from non-rhyming pairs of words, Listen/Respond to poetry and nursery rhymes, Use position words, Review story words, Segment phonemes in words, Sort pictures by initial sounds, Review sound-spellings, Match letters to sounds in words, Read decodable words, Read HF words, Reread for fluency

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

When we come back, we will be on the fast track to second grade! But first, we need to remember what got us here for the first part of the year. We will be reviewing some of our most important skills and strategies in both reading and math. 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 starting Unit 3 Week 4 in our Treasures reading program when we return from winter break. We will be reading Click, Clack, Moo Cows that Type. We will be working with r-controlled vowels. Student will be working on generating questions and finding the author's purpose. In Writing, students will be working toward mastery in finding the past tense of have and working toward a daily writing journal. In Math, we will start Unit 3, chapter 9. This chapter works fractions. We would like for you to read with your child every night. Continue working on addition and subtraction with your child.

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

When we return from Christmas break, third grade will begin the fourth story in Unit 3 titled "What Do Illustrators Do". This is an expository text, which tells about real people places and events. Using this story, students will learn and build their sequencing skills. Sequencing is being able to present the information in a text in time order. Spelling words for the week will focus on /oi/ sound. Example coin, point, noise, spoils. In Mathematics students will begin Chapter 7. In Ch. 7 students will learn to identify outcomes and determine the likelihood of an occurrence, make predictions, and solve problems using skills and strategies. Have a safe and wonderful holiday break!!

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

What a joy it was to see the students perform for their families and the community. With the new year approaching, we will start back to school with a fresh focus on, *The Frog Princes*. We will apply our understanding of synonyms and antonyms when we read and practice writing with plurals, linking verbs, and using descriptive language. Math studies will continue to reinforce addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division while we go forward with understanding algebraic concepts. We will continue to study New Mexico's State history as we prepare to celebrate our states 100<sup>th</sup> birthday on January 6, 2012. Ms. Gray's class will continue to study the human body while Ms. Jamerson's class studies diabetic awareness and Mrs. Velarde's class focuses on the earth sciences.

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

We look forward to the new year and hope that the fifth graders will be ready to "hit it hard" and learn new things. In Reading, Language Arts, and Writing, the fifth graders will be working on the Mid Year Test which includes a writing prompt. There will be a spelling test as usual on Friday. In Math, the fifth graders will be learning about perimeter and area. In Science, they will be making crystals.



Have A Happy and Safe Vacation!

