

October 1, 2019



The Spruce



Dene Tha' Community School's Newsletter

"Learning to Love, Loving to Learn"

Volume 2, Issue 2

DTCS Celebrates Orange Shirt Day: Every Child Matters

Students gathered together to commemorate the awareness about Indian residential school system on September 30th. It was designed to educate people and promote awareness that every child matters. The celebration was started with the drum prayer by Elder William Yatchootay. Eileen T. also shared some thoughts about the occasion. Thank you is given to the DTFN Health and Community and Wellness and the North Peace Tribal Council for the orange shirts donation.



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Every child matters. If we fail our children, we are bound to fail our present, our future, faith, cultures, and civilisations as well. - [Kailash Satyarthi](#)

Director's Note

It has been a busy summer and September! I want to share with you some updates that Education has been working on.

- 1) We now have an Education Advisory Board with members from all 3 communities sitting together, finding solutions for the various issues we face in educating the children of each community, and providing advice to the Education Director and C&C regarding the way forward.
- 2) DTCS has had a positive start to the year. We have a solid core of Junior/Senior High School students, who are doing grade level courses for Alberta Education credits. Next week they will be going on college tours.
- 3) We have added leadership and behaviour-choices activities for DTCS. The sensory room is operational, and the Speech/Language program is set up and beginning in October. Feel free to drop by and explore these areas.
- 4) Our library is fully functional and we will be having community evenings.
- 5) Our school has become part of a Treaty 8 pilot initiative called PAX, which helps students control their own behaviour, make more positive choices, and to reduce bullying.
- 6) We are preparing for Regional Education Agreements discussions with the Federal Government by doing an educational needs assessment in Chateh.
- 7) Education has been supporting, and continues to support the Dene program in the Upper Hay River School in Meander.
- 8) By the end of October, we will have the new HeadStart organized in Meander.
- 9) We are currently hiring Dene instructors for Bushe and Meander to facilitate Dene Language lessons to community who want to learn or brush up on their Dene, and to deliver some Dene content in the High Level schools for our Dene students.
- 10) The Dene Resource office is working on renewing and creating Dene Language resources. We hired Learning Bird to create videos of Dene elders, land-based activities for use by the Nation.
- 11) We are engaging in the Nominal Roll process right now, counting students enrolled in all schools.
- 12) We are looking at how to best provide educational services to our Dene Tha' students attending off-reserve schools.

To Be Continued...

From The Principal's Desk

Parents, guardians, elders, students, staff and community members,

It has been an exciting month of September at the Dene Tha' Community School. Our students and staff have already been engaged with different kinds of learning activities and events. They have shown enthusiasm and excitement. A parent came to the office and said her child would like to study in our school because of all the positive things we have been doing. Great job! This positive start has been a clear message that DTCS continues to be a zone of peace and a great place to learn.

A major part of September is the PAX Program, Confident Learners, Speech and Language Program and the Triage Space. We also have our Jr. Girls Volleyball Team that represents our school to the FVSD volleyball league. They have been practicing hard and getting better. Thank you coaches for working hard and getting our athletes ready for this league. Our Cross Country Runners have been practicing and they will attend the FVSD Cross Country Running meet in Rocky Lane. Kyron M. also has started practicing archery to represent the DTFN at the North American Indigenous in Halifax, Nova Scotia in July 2020. I am always proud of the dedication that our athletes have given to our team. I know the learning that often transpires during this kind of events.

Our committees have been busy planning activities for students and for the community. We had an incredibly successful Terry Fox Run and lessons on September 27th and September was concluded with Orange Shirt Day Celebration. I would like to extend our sincerest thank you to DTFN Health and Community Wellness and North Peace Tribal Council for the Orange Shirts. Every child matters and we need to remember this slogan every time we work with a child.

As the school year increases its momentum, I would like to emphasize that the most important focus of our school is student first. Our school focuses on student literacy, numeracy, retention and culture. Our school goals are all aimed at improving the student's academic achievements and providing them with outstanding opportunities that they deserve. We encourage parents and guardians to join us in this mission, and take the time to connect with the teachers of your child and be engaged with their learning. Specifically, we encourage parents and guardians to ask: specific questions about what your child is learning in school, read with your child, stay informed about your child's accomplishments and challenges, volunteer and participate in any school functions specially during Parent- Teachers Interviews, and emphasize the need for respect. Please connect with us by requesting access to our power school parents portal, reading our newsletter, visiting our Dene Tha' Community School facebook page or by phoning the school at 780 321 3940. Please don't hesitate to contact the office if you have questions or concerns.

It seems like September flew by very swiftly. October is here and we are going to have Elders' Feast and School Founding Anniversary Celebration on the 10th. I can't wait to see more fun and learning activities this month!

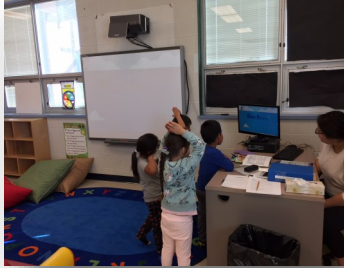
Have a great October! Happy Thanksgiving and thank you for giving!

Head Start

Ms. Coleen Denechoan and Ms. Cassandra Powder

Hello everybody!

We have introduced a Mystery Box into our daily circle time routine. So far we have had leaves, Pine Cones and Beads to name a few things in our mystery box. We are having a lot of fun learning new things and exploring our new environments. Our Head Start is still small in size and we hope we have more friends coming to learn and grow with us very soon!



Kindergarten

Ms. Yolanda Manghi

The first three weeks of Kindergarten were full of activities to develop the students' social skills, gross and fine motor skills. In Early Literacy, the students are in letter Bb. They are enjoying the games while learning 0 to 2 in Early Numeracy. They were also tested using the Early Years of Evaluation (EYE) and the Confident Learner Assessment. The students are working to achieve the expected outcomes of the Kindergarten curriculum. Thank you to the parents who are supportive of their child's early education.



Grade 3

Mr. Michael Watts

September has been an excellent month for grade 3! We are improving our subtraction skills in Math and will be moving into double-digit problems soon. We are learning how to write with purpose in Language Arts through activities like creating imaginary birthday invitations. In Science we have excavated rocks from around the school and are studying the differences we see. We are improving our teamwork skills in Physical Education through activities like colour monster and relay races. In Art we are broadening our sketching skills and will begin combining them with painting. Respect, friendship, and diet have been our focus in Health class. Finally, in Social Studies we are learning to appreciate how large the world is and how different cultures can be. We are learning to become PAX leaders, and I am very proud of the progress our group has made with the help of this program. I expect that October will bring even greater heights. Mahsi!



Grade 4

Ms. Cecilia Big Bull



Grade 6

Ms. Edel Paracuelles

The Grade 6 students are learning in ELA about monarch butterflies, going on a safari, and listening to a podcast about four animal friends going on a journey to become Bremen's best musicians! On top of that, everyone is starting to become pros at nouns and the types of nouns: abstract, concrete, proper, and common. We've also been learning in Math how to represent and compare whole numbers while getting ourselves ready for applying operations. What's that? A math puzzle, you say? Leave it to the grade 6 students in becoming lean mean math-solving machines when it comes to brainstorming different math problems with our weekly Math puzzles! Besides that, in Science, we've been exploring the importance of trees and forests to our ecosystem while following closely on Greta Thunberg's activism on climate change. We've also learned different careers that relate to forestry, forest conservation, and forest resource production. Lastly, in Social Studies, we are getting to know the meaning of democracy and what it takes to be citizens of a society. We will be looking into the Oath of Citizenship and the recently proposed changes to it.



Grade 1

Ms. Kathy Pellisey

Greetings from the Grade 1 class! For the month of September we have been busy getting to each other and establishing the classroom routines. In math, students are learning about numbers. In social studies, students did 'All about Me' activities. They made posters and also did drawings about their families. We did Fall art and made beautiful Fall pictures. In Science, students are learning about Fall animals and their homes. In Language Arts, students started the Confident Learners program to become good readers. The students will be reading with the older students as well. So September has been a busy month for our class.

Grade 5

Mr. Raphael Adeniyi

Grade 5 class focuses on meeting students where they are in terms of academic ability and working on taking them to where they should be in all subjects. Students are assessed to address their instructional and special learning needs. It was realized that one shoe size does not fit all and have to teach to the needs of the students. Currently, grade 5 class is working on 2 - digit regrouping addition, 3 - digit subtraction and mental math problems. During ELA, students are appreciating and identifying common and proper Nouns. Also, some students are now possessing the skills to use their imagination and creativity in writing their journals.

Grade 7

Mr. Christian Esteban

These first weeks have been great. Our attitude and motivation to learn have been growing nonstop and everyone is doing their best. Object writing is something we have been working daily, by describing an object and using as many words as possible with our 5 senses. In Math, we are dividing the week, learning multiplications, fractions and problem solving. On Tuesday and Thursday, we are learning about space and shape (Geometry). We have seen angles, construction of angles and will start to look into different triangles along with how to find area and perimeter of a shape. Our goal is to construct a building using all this knowledge. With Science, we have had a lot of discussion as to why deforestation is bad for the environment. We also understood the difference between the wildfire here in High level and the one in the amazons as well as how they impact our planet earth.

Grade 8/9

Mr. Christopher Mangaser

Just like that September flew by in a blink of an eye, the Grade 8/9 students were busy learning about Japanese culture and story formats. They have also been busy creating beautiful art pieces that will be displayed around the classroom. Some students had a chance to partake in the annual culture camp where they got to make rabbit snares, hunt for moose, and learn from elders and leaders within the community. In October they will be focusing on advertisement in media, as well as the change within Japanese culture. They will continue to explore their creative side by decorating ceiling tiles and start planning for their classroom mural. Math will be introduced to the class, as well as Science. I can't wait for all the learning to be done!



Dene Language and Culture

Ms. Helen Metchooyeah and Ms. Yolanda Talley

On 23rd to 26th September, students from Grade 6 and up had their annual Sulphur Lake Fall Harvest Camp. Thank you Ms. Helen Metchooyeah for organizing and coordinating this cultural activity. Thank you Ms. Yolanda Talley, Maria Wasp-Colin and Mr. Christopher Mangaser for supervising the students. Thank you elders, community members who participated on this memorable camp.



Grade 10 to 12(High School)

Ms. Evvy Jenoure

In the last four weeks, the senior students in grades, 10, 11 and 12 have worked on the following:

Grade 10: Living in a globalizing work Social Studies. How has globalization impact personal identity and the community of Chateh and reading about globalization and climate change-global warming, specially in Canada. In addition, to viewing the videos on globalization, students viewed the documentary: "The Dark Side of Chocolate" and made connections to globalization, especially from the economic globalization perspective. Students are learning how to respond to film and other texts. Students also learned about perspectives, point of-view, issue and pluralism. Students were taught paragraph writing using the Hamburger graphic organizer. Students in grade 10-1, 10-2 and 10-4 had a quiz on parts of globalization.

English Language Arts: Grades 10, 11 and 12 (Please note that assignments and projects are differentiated). Students read short stories and an essay on heroes. The unit on heroes are examining the different qualities of a hero/heroine. Students will be exploring various individuals including themselves as heroes/heroines. There will be focused on Indigenous veterans.

Foods: FOD1010 Food Basics, FOD1020, Contemporary Baking, and FOD1040 Meal Planning and courses food courses for grade 11. Students learned about food safety basics using the Alberta Health Food Safety Basics, Baking and Nutrition Basics. Connections are made to globalization and trading of international products, especially foods.

Grade 11: To what extent should we embrace nationalism? Examine the concept of Nationalism by looking at identity, nation, country, issues, perspectives and points of view. While viewing the documentary on "The Darkside of Chocolate", students are working on making connections to nationalism.

English Language Arts: Grade 12: Ideologies: To what extent are Identity and ideology and identity interrelated? Students will examine identity, ideologies, individualism and collectivism to understand how ideologies shape identity.

To get your high school credits, it is important for students to complete required assignments to meet the outcomes of the Alberta Education Program of Studies. The teacher is hoping to do home visits the week of September 30, 2019. Calls will be made and/ or notes will be sent before visiting your homes.

Student Needs Triage

Ms. Hayley Natannah

Hello! My name is Hayley Natannah (Student Needs Triage Worker) My goals are to teach students self regulations and How to control their own behavior. We work with individual students on the following: Anger management, Social skills, Anti-bullying, conflict resolution and do class presentation on 7 Grandfather Teachings. Holly Seniantha and I do class presentation, teach The 7 Grandfather Teachings once a month on different topics. October is the month of truthful, students will be learning about Truthfulness.

Child and Youth Care/ Social Worker

Ms. Holly Seniantha

Happy October! Hope all is well. I look forward to working with the children as we are settled in our first month of school. Feel free to come check out my classroom and doings anytime. :)



A word of affirmation for every child,
"I am so proud of you!" - Anonymous



It's great to see both new and former students back to start off the school year. High school students have begun the process on setting & reviewing career & educational goals for themselves. In addition, students are creating an educational pathway for their success.

Alberta has three routes to graduate from high school, dash 1 is the most challenging, usually leading to university admission; dash 2 is the second most challenging, usually meeting the requirements for college & technical institutions and trades. The other high school completion route is the dash 4 path, which is directed to work force.

To ensure the greatest future education and career options, students are advised to take the most challenging route best suited for them. In addition to completing the correct level of high school courses to be accepted for post-secondary education or employment, the required grade level in that course must be met. If admission requirements are not met, upgrading will be required.

For many students the core courses; English, Social, Math and Science are sometimes the most challenging to complete. Options are courses that students choose. Even as a small high school we offer our students a number of choices: Art, Computers, Dene Language and Culture, Foods, Music, Photography, Outdoor Education, Shop, Wildlife and Work experience. Grade 7-9 can also take many of the option programs listed.

If you have questions, concerns or require additional information about the high school program, student planning or prepress, please call or stop by the school.

DTCS NEWS AND HAPPENINGS

- **STUDENTS' BUS:** To allow students time to eat breakfast & be in class by 8:50, the bus will start picking up students at 7:40. The first pick up will be the trailer court, then 209, town site, Habay Road, 3rd Prairie, new town site then drop off at school. As the weather is starting to change, parents are reminded to make sure students are dressed for emergencies.
- **FOOD ALLERGIES:** If you are aware of any food allergies that your child may have, please notify the kitchen to avoid any avoidable issues.
- **ACTION CHILL ROOM GRANDE OPENING & LITERACY NIGHT:** On Oct 22 @ 6pm DTCS invites all parents & community members to the grande opening of the chill action room to be followed by a literacy meeting. Hope to see everyone there!
- **SULPHUR LAKE CAMP:** Thanks to all the students, staff, Dene Language & Culture Department & community members that made the land based learning fall harvest camp in Sulphur Lake a success
- **CHOOSE WELL FORM:** Congratulations to our four high school students (Janessa, Mia, Starr and Elizabeth) that represented HLPS @ the Choose Well Regional Forum in High Level
- **SPORTS:**
DTCS cross country running, Rocky Lane meet Oct 2. Best of luck to our runners!



VOLLEYBALL: With great pleasure, the girls that are representing our schools' volleyball team a.k.a. WOLVES (Sunny, Liana, Keanna, Netorian, Jenna, Lacey, Sadie, Mackayla, Rochelle, Elizabeth, Mia and Alicia). The team had their first three games on the 21st and the 28th and learn many things. The Wolves really had the other teams scared sometimes. They are a new team and are quickly catching up to the other teams.



- **MUSIC:** In Music, Mr. Esteban is creating a rock band which officially started on Wednesday, 25th September, 2019. Our base guitar player is Rayden, lead singer is Elizabeth, rhythm guitarist is Rylan and drummer is Kalle. We had a lot of fun in our first jam session with all the instruments and make a big noise. Our goal is to have at least 3 songs learned and perform in a small concert in December.



"Music is a more potent instrument than any other for education, because rhythm and harmony find their way into the inward places of the soul."

– Plato

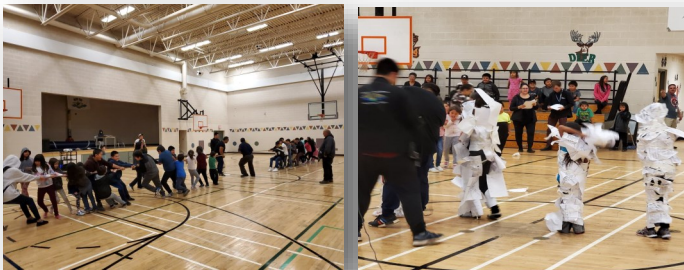


DTCS Celebrates Terry Fox Run

Terry Fox Run this year was celebrated with creativity. Students, staff and visitors gathered together in the culture room to open the program. Students by class had their creative banners and posters for a contest. The program started with a video presentations by Mr. Esteban and Mr. Serdan. Grade 7 students: Rayden, Nogha, Rylan, Kallem, and Sadie read about Terry Fox and they also helped setting up the running course. Nogha , the Committee Chair was a great volunteer picking up the course pylons. RCMP Constable Tim Dunphy and Father Ben served as the judges for the posters and banner contest which Grade 4 won. The event also gave high school students Starr and Janessa to apply their photography skills. The event was attended by a special guest- Band Councilor Andrea G.



Spirit Day Rocks at DTCS



DTCS students had a blast for the opening activity of the Spirit Day. This event is held at least once a month to give students opportunity to mingle with other students from different grades. House Teams include Buffalo, Moose, Deer and Beaver. Points will be recorded and winners will be recognized at the end of the school year.

DTCS To Hold Boys Night



DTCS will be holding a Boys Night activity on October 4th from 4:00- 8:00pm. The event aimed at encouraging Grade 6 boys and up to increase their school attendance, improve their academic performance and to learn to get along. The event is initiated by Mr. Christopher M. and Mr. Christian E.

DTCS To Celebrate Its 17th School Founding Anniversary

It has been 17 years since the school has been established. To commemorate this significant event, the administrators, teachers and staff will prepare special presentations and food to honor the people behind this remarkable achievement for the community. Please come and celebrate with us.



Indigenous Service of Canada Visits DTCS



Indigenous Service of Canada (ISC) Delegation visited DTCS to address issues that can benefit the school and the community. Mrs. Lori A. presented a power point about the Education Healing Initiative that could help not only the children but their parents as well. On the attendance were councilors: Stephen D., Andrea G. Shane P. and Jeffrey C. Some school staff and other band employee were also in attendance.

DTCS Implements PAX Program

DTCS has been chosen to be one of the schools to be the recipient of a new strategy to engage students-PAX. PAX is a set of strategies to help students learn the importance of self-management skills while collaborating to make their classroom a peaceful and productive learning environment. Fifteen staff working with elementary students get trained to implement the program. Treaty 8 initiated PAX as part of their project.



Somera Presents at the ChooseWell Regional Forum



Mr. Carlito Somera presented and told a story about the activities they have been doing within the DFTN communities particularly at the Dene Tha' Community School. Mr. MacDonald and 4 selected High School students to be the ChooseWell champion were in the attendance. Marissa I. from ChooseWell community facilitated the forum along with other Health advocates in the High Level Area.

DTCS Student to Represent DFTN to the NAIG 2020

Kyron M, a DTCS Grade 10 student won gold medal at the U16 Archery in the Alberta Indigenous Game last August and has qualified to represent DFTN to the North American Indigenous Games 2020 in Halifax, Nova Scotia. He started training with his coach Fred Matthews, former coach of Drayton D. who won Silver in NAIG 2017 in Toronto.



Fire Prevention Week, October 6 to 12th



You and your loved ones should have a fire escape plan with two ways out of every room, and a path that leads to the outside of your home or building. Be sure to have a meeting place in your plan where everyone should gather.

Once you are safely out of your home, call 911 or your local community fire department. Ensure all capable members of your household are also able to dial 911, and know when to do so.

Common Causes of House Fires

You can reduce the risk of house fires by being aware of the top causes and learning how to prevent them.

- **Cooking:** Always stay in the kitchen, or have someone watch for you, when you are cooking.
- **Heating equipment:** Give your space heaters space and be sure to unplug them when you leave the house or when you are not using them.
- **Electrical:** Don't overload sockets. Check for faulty wiring regularly and always unplug small appliances when you are not using them.
- **Smoking:** Cigarettes or other materials not properly extinguished can smolder undetected for days before bursting into flames. Make sure to extinguish them.
- **Candles:** Blow out all candles before you leave a room or go to bed. Never leave candles unattended.

Smoke Alarms

Simply put, smoke alarms save lives. To help keep you and your loved ones safe, always practice the following:

- Ensure you have working alarms on every level of your home.
- Install alarms within 5 metres of every bedroom.
- Test your alarm each month.
- Replace your smoke alarm if it's more than 10 years old.

DTCS OCTOBER 2019 Calendar

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		01 <u>Co-Curricular</u> Lunch X-country 3:30 Volleyball	2 <u>Co-Curricular</u> Cross Country Running Meet Rocky Lane 3:30 Volleyball	03	04 SIS- TERS IN SPIRIT Vigil for Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women & Girls (MMIWG)	05
06	07 Paradigm Esteem <u>Co-Curricular</u> 3:30 Volley- ball	08 Paradigm Esteem <u>Co-Curricular</u> 3:30 Volleyball Parent PAX information ses- sion 5:30 DTCS Culture rm cof- fee/snacks	09 Paradigm Esteem NO CLASSES STAFF PD	10 Paradigm Esteem SCHOOL FOUNDING ANNIVER- SARY/ ELDERS FEAST / THANKSGIV- ING CELEBRA- TION	11 Paradigm Esteem HUNTING HOLIDAY NO CLASSES	12 HUNTING HOLIDAY
13 HUNT- ING HOLI- DAY FIELDTR IP	14 THANKSGIV- ING & HUNTING HOLIDAY FIELDTRIP	15 HUNTING HOLIDAY NO CLASSES Bus Driver Training Oct 15-18 FIELDTRIP	16 FIELDTRIP OF GRADE 8 TO 12	17 FIELDTRIP OF GRADE 8 TO 12	18 FIELDTRIP OF GRADE 8 TO 12	19 FIELDTRIP OF GRADE 8 TO 12
20 FIELDTR IP OF GRADE 8 TO 12	21	22 6pm DTCS Action Chill Room Grande Opening & Literacy Night	23	24	25	
27	28	29	30	31 Halloween Celebration		



TO STAY UP TO DATE ON DENE THA COMMUNITY SCHOOL EVENTS & HAPPENINGS:

- Listen to us on Student Radio Chateh, CKCA 89.9, Monday & Friday @ 1pm
- Read our monthly school newsletter, "The Spruce"
- Follow us on Facebook: Dene Tha' Community School
- Visit our official website
- Go to the Dene Tha' Community Engagement site
- The student radio broadcasts should be returning to the air shortly every Monday & Friday @ 1pm after repairs are completed to the main site @ the arena. Share the positive news of happening in our school with the entire community. Email announcements, events, student work @ least the day before our Monday & Friday broadcasts to DTCSRADIO@CHATEH-EDUCATION.NET