



The Spruce



Dene Tha' Community School's Newsletter

"Learning to Love, Loving to Learn"

The Spruce Volume 2, Issue 4

DTCS Honours First Nation Heroes during the Remembrance Day



Elder William Y. prays during the Remembrance Day Celebration

Staff, students and community members gathered together at the gym to commemorate the celebration of Remembrance Day, November 8.

The ceremony was started with the entrance of the colours by selected students and Mr. Boyle bearing a historic flag. It was a solemn introduction and it was followed by the prayer and drumming of Elder William. Y. The celebration highlighted the contribution of First Nation soldiers during the war. Narration of the events and videos were read and shown. Students offered their wreaths and respect to their he-



Entrance of the colours by selected students

roes. There was a deafening silence when the reveille was played. Staff, students and community members showed respect by offering candles at the end of the symbolic ceremony.



Staff and students offering candles to their heroes

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DTCS Receives Computers from Alberta Computers for Schools

Alberta Computers for Schools donated 20 laptops and 20 desktops to the Dene Tha' Community School. The school is grateful for these donations. Desktops were added to the Elementary Computer Laboratory while the Laptops

were hooked up in the Junior High and Senior High Computer Laboratory.

Thank you to Ms. Kari Cope, Executive Director for sharing your resources with the DTFN children.



Kindergarten holding the banner thanking Alberta Computers for schools

DTCS Celebrates National Addiction Awareness Week

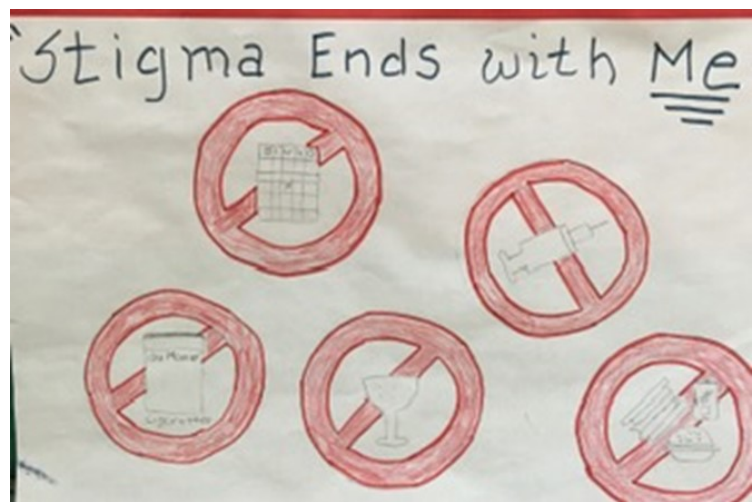


Sample poster entries from Grade 8/9 and Senior High for the National Addiction Awareness Week

Students at the DTCS participated in on-the-spot poster making contest and on-the-spot essay writing contest to celebrate the National Addiction Week with the theme: Stigma Ends with me. There were great posters made by the students from K5-12. Results

of both contests will be posted on the next issue.

The celebration is on its second year and will be held yearly to ensure that the students are aware of all the addictions that may affect their life in the future.



Sample poster entry from Grade 5 for the National Addiction Awareness Week.

DTFN Youth Aim to Qualify for Arctic Winter Games

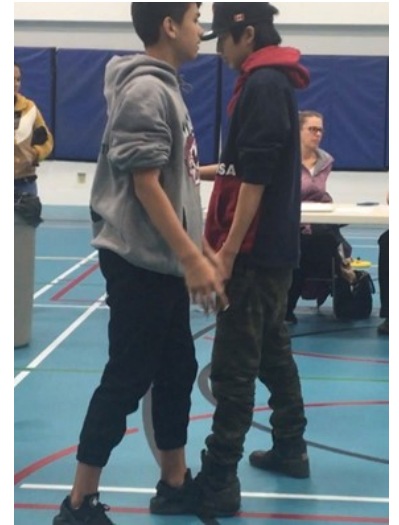


Shaden D. Gr. 10, doing the Dene Game Finger Pull during the Arctic Winter Games Try out in Slave Lake, AB.

Twelve DTFN youth, all of them were students from the Dene Tha' Community School, participated in the Arctic Winter Games Try out in Slave Lake, November 23, aiming to qualify for the Arctic Games 2020 in Yukon, Whitehorse.

Shaden S. and Jenna S. were listed on the waiting list while Victoria W. was awarded a Sportsmanship Award.

Thank you for the support of the DTFN Community Health and Wellness.



Kyron M. Gr. 10, doing the Dene Game Stick Pull during the Arctic Winter Games Try out in Slave Lake, AB.

N'deh Corporation Donates Backpacks

DTCS received four boxes of backpacks from N'deh Corporation to inspire students to become future leaders. The back packs were given to students who needed them the most and other back packs were used as incentives and prizes.

Thank you N'deh Corporation for your support.

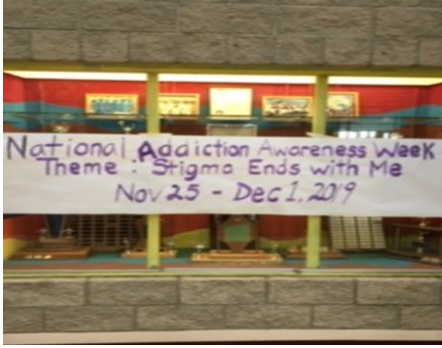


Students showing off their back packs donated by N'deh Corporation.

“Aim for success, not perfection. Never give up your right to be wrong, because then you will lose the ability to learn new things and move forward with your life. Remember that fear always lurks behind perfectionism.”

- David M. Burns

Miscellaneous



National Addiction Awareness Week Banner



Participants in the On-The-Spot Poster Making Contest



Cheer Dance Group practicing during Active Supervision at lunch



Grade 6s show off their Talents during the Talent Show.



Thirty two young girls making themselves beautiful enthusiastically participated making themselves beautiful during Girls' Night.



Fidgety toys from Rainbow Lake-Chateh Victim Services. Thank you for your donations.



Portion Size Kit from Alberta Health Services. Thank you for your donations

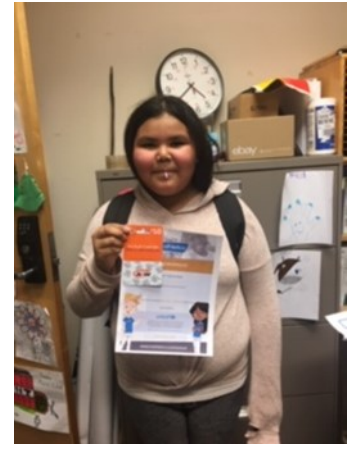
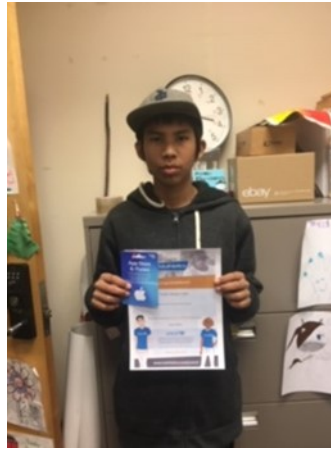


Elder Councilor Fabian C. teaching children how to pray



Gr. 6 students showing diligence during test day.

"The difference between school and life? In school, you're taught a lesson and then given a test. In life, you're given a test that teaches you a lesson." - Tom Bodett



Mathletics Competition Winners: First Place: Mindy K., Second Place: Taylor W., Third Place: Sadie Y.

TSAG Water Presentation



Shine. Staff and Students sending positive notes to everyone.



TSAG Stream Water Presentation. Students caught insects & looked at what they indicated in terms of good quality water.

Essay Entries

Stigma Stays with Me

There are different types of addictions and they are bad. Stigma is a bad sign. It is bad for you. Drugs, alcohol, gambling, caffeine, gaming, eating have bad effects on you. If your family is on drugs then you shouldn't copy because it's bad for you. Cigarette, marijuana, weed, needles, coke, pills, and poison are all bad. Gambling is too much and also bad for you. Caffeine has sugar which is bad for you and also has cream. Gaming is also bad for you for playing a lot of games. For example, like if you stay up all night and play games and you're going to school. You are going to be sleepy all day. Gaming is bad for you. Eating will fill you up but if it has a lot of calories then it is not good for you to eat a lot of sugar. But veggies are good. It doesn't have sugar and it is very healthy for you.

Essay Entry of Janell A. Gr. 5

Stigma Ends with Me

Hi, my name is Jade. I will write about stigma and addiction, and how it affects life. For example being addicted to your phone does not help you sleep at night. You can have a bad back, and your eyes can go red. You will need glasses and increase myopia. They will also not be able to talk to you. In addition, staying up all night leads to this addiction and will make you tired the next day. You can get cantankerous. In conclusion, phones addiction is bad for you too.

Essay entry of Jade A. Gr. 7

Principal's Message

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

November is the time for know and remember. The highlight of the month is the Remembrance Day 's solemn celebration. It was so inspiring to witness how our school community: staff, students, elders, community members came together to honour the sacrifices made by heroes of the past especially the role of the First Nation soldiers for us to enjoy the peace we have today. The entrance of the flags carried by young people, the elder's prayer, the drumming, the reveille, the silence, the offering of the wreaths, the video presentations, the readings, and the lighting of candles... these were all tributes to the heroes. Students participated well and understood the sole meaning of this momentous event.

November also marks the end of the first quad. This is the first time that we have our scheduled Test Day. Teachers evaluated the student learning outcomes. The result will give the teachers a complete picture of their teaching practices as well as the progress of the students academically. Power Teacher Pro is utilized to record the marks of the students. Parents can view the record once you request for your Power School parent's portal.

November is also the month when you receive the first progress report card of your child. It was sent home. Please reach out to the teacher of your child and partner with them to ensure his/her academic success. Talk with your child about his/her marks. It is never too early to show that you care about his/her education.

November is when we invited parents and guardian for Parent- Teacher Interview. We do hope that you connect with the teacher of your child to follow up his/her progress. Your child will be more successful and can work harder if you are involved with his/her education. Your child wants you to be proud of what he/she accomplished.

November is also the month when we received Computers from Alberta Computers for School. The equipment will help your children learn the technology and other programs such as Mathletics, Essential Skills, Confident Learners, Read 180 and System 44. If you have internet access at home, you can also encourage your child to access these programs specially the Mathletics.

November is also the month when we launched our "Leave Everything And Read Now! (LEARN) Program. Your child will bring a book home

to read at least 15-20 minutes with you. Spending time with your child and read with them will definitely give them the confidence and practice to learn reading. Signing the form will also allow your child to earn some points for a reward. In addition, our library will be open soon to the community as public library. The Peace Library has been on the process of trying to get the support that our library needs.

November is also filled with activities such as Girls' Night, GRACE Night, Pajama Day, Cheer Dancing, and Intramural. All these activities are offered to sustain students' attendance and community engagement. Feel free to attend and have fun with your child during these activities.

Engaging with the school will set the stage for your child's success for the rest of the school year.

December is here. Your child is practicing for the Christmas Concert. We hope to see you supporting your child on that day.

Mr. Carlito N. Somera,
Principal



Classroom Updates

HeadStart(K3 and K4)

Ms. C. Denechoan and Ms. C. Powder

The Head Start has been doing name tracing and sharing toys with our friends. We will have new and exciting learning toys for the kids which we will be receiving after Christmas break. Speaking of Christmas, we will be focusing our arts and crafts on Christmas themed activities for this month and will be learning a little

about the holidays and what Christmas is all about. Don't forget to check in your children's backpacks about reminders throughout the month. We can't wait to show off our performance for everybody during our Christmas concert. Happy Holidays to our friends and family coming from our Head Start room!



The kids are proud to show off their Christmas doorway.

Kindergarten

Ms. Y. Manghi



K5 students patiently counting blocks.

Math is a big part of the students' day in kindergarten. They are exploring, counting, sorting and explaining. We use manipulatives to scaffold the learning of the students to understand the symbolic concepts. Our goal is to master counting from one to ten, count a set of ten objects us-

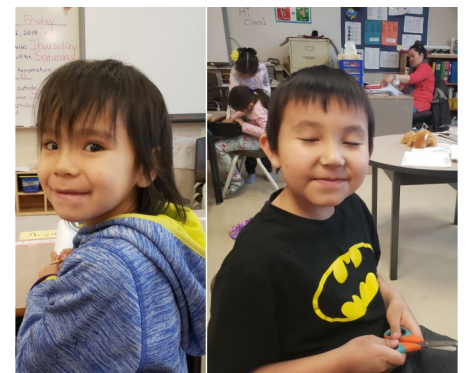
ing one-to-one correspondence and identifying the numbers. We are hoping that at the end of the second term, we can advance to higher numbers. We also play some number games and use worksheets to supplement learning.

Grade 1

Ms. K. Pellisey

Greetings from the Grade 1 class! I like to thank the parents that came to see their child's progress report. For the month of November, the grade 1 students continue to learn to read, write and math learning outcomes. In Language Arts, students are learning their consonant letters and short vowels. Students are busy doing their daily work. Students read with their reading buddies and they really enjoyed the older students reading with them. In Math, students are learning their adding and subtracting numbers to 10. Students started to practise singing

songs for their Christmas Concert. In Health, we are learning our Dene values of sharing what we have and being kind to each other. In Science, students are learning about winter and energy. In Social Studies, students are learning about Dene people long ago and how they used the land to survive and made clothing. Students will be learning about community helpers and community mapping. It has been a busy month of November and students continue to learn to listen and be respectful. We like to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday.



Grade 1s are having fun learning in the Language Arts class.

Grade 2

Ms. J. Salmon-Brissett



Grade 2s are matching number symbols with words.

For the month of November, grade 2 is working on creating an environment that is inclusive, is stimulating to learning and encourages listening for learning. Students are now learning to identify and

match words to number symbols as well as preparing to sing the Twelve Days of Christmas for our upcoming Christmas concert.

Grade 3

Mr. M. Watts

November has been an excellent month for grade 3. We are improving our Math skills and are beginning to understand how to regroup numbers. Legibility, punctuation, and writing with detail have been our focus in Language Arts. We will increase our focus on reading next month. We are wrapping up our Science unit on rocks and will be learning about sound next. In Social Studies we are moving

from studying India to focusing on the country of Tunisia. In Music we are currently preparing our song and dance for the Christmas concert in December. In PE class, we are learning the basics of grappling. In Art we are creating festive designs for Christmas and the New Year. I expect that we will finish the year strong, and come back in January ready to reach even greater heights!



Grade 3s are working hard on their drawings of an exploding volcano. We laminated these pictures to preserve them for years to come!

Grade 5

Mr. R. Adeniyi

Welcome back to the second term! In Science, our focus is on the Unit of Weather such as wind. Students are learning about that wind as one of the elements of weather. It is the movement of air that can be felt against our face and body, We are able to see the effect of wind by the movement of objects. In English

Language Arts, students are involved with sharing and relating to various literature read in class. Grade 5 students also begin our writing program including the

review of different kinds of sentences and how to form a proper paragraph.

In Math, mental math is an important component of our math program.

Students must be able to solve basic math problems mentally with accuracy with minimal errors. Also, some of our students are beginning to work on division of numbers with remainders.



The Grade 6 students getting all geared up for a Pumpkin Timebomb for the sake of science!

"The Grade 6 started off November by saying goodbye to Halloween by doing a Pumpkin Time Bomb experiment with the Grade 3s. It took about 263 rub-

ber bands to divide Bob the Pumpkin into two separate pieces! For English Language Arts, we continued to practice our reading skills and reading comprehension with our Read 180/System 44 books. For Math, we are close to approaching mastery of adding and subtracting with regrouping numbers with different digits and will now move on to multiplication and division. For Science, we are getting ready to open up a new unit on Evidence and Investigation where we will begin by applying our observation and inference skills to recognize and interpret patterns. This will soon allow us

to investigate a crime scene in the school building! For Social Studies, we will learn about democracy in ancient Athens and also the everyday life of the ancient Athenians and how they could, or could not, participate in government. In PE, we have worked on our basketball skills on dribbling and passing by playing games such as a Bird on a Wire and Ultimate Basketball. In Art, we will soon make our own Christmas ornaments and garlands while further enforcing the idea of creating perspective to create depth in a picture."

Grade 7

This new term is beginning to be a great one. Students are engaged and ready to learn new things. We are beginning to learn about adding and subtracting integers, as well as finding the area and perimeter of a

shape. Our goal is to do some model building of a house using specific measurements. In science, we are starting tempera-

Mr. C. Esteban



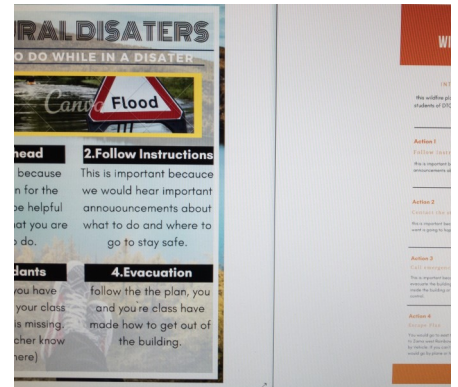
Their first experiment using the scientific method to witness water molecules when they are hot or cold.

"Keep away from people who try to belittle your ambitions. Small people always do that, but the really great make you feel that you, too, can become great." - Mark Twain

Congratulations on all the students for completing their first testing day of the school year! Everyone has worked very hard, especially the 8/9 students. With a new term comes new subjects. We will be focusing on Math and Science. There will be lots of experiments and wondering to be made within the next

few months! Our class has also decided to create something a little special for the community. Stay tuned for it shortly. Everyone in the classroom is working hard to become the best version of themselves. Their hard work is showing. Grades have shown improvement and behavior has been minimal. I can't

wait to see what this term brings!



Some students have been working on creating a disaster plan for English Language Arts.

High School(Grade 10 to 12)

The senior high school students have baked and cooked numerous items. "The War Time Cake" was a project students used to deepen their understanding of how war affects everyone. There was some conversation about rationing of foods and how people had to be creative when they did not have the food supplies or ingredients easily available.

Students learned about thousands of Indigenous

soldiers who fought in World War 1, World War 2, the Korean War and others. Students worked on a project from Veterans Canada that honoured all soldiers, with focus on fallen Indigenous soldiers.

Students in grade 10 will study the novel: Code Talkers from November 26, 2019 to December 13th, 2019. Students need to read and complete assignments and projects connected to their novel study.

Students need to take assignments and projects home to complete them before December 13, 2019.

Student(s) in grade 12 will study the novel: Medicine River by Thomas King.

I will be doing more home visits in early December before the winter/Christmas break.

Please contact me if have any questions or concerns.

VP CTS / Careers

November and December are busy months as usual at DTCS. Students from Grade 4 to 12 had an informative Water Presentation from TSAG. Students participated in hands-on activities where they learned how insects can help determine the quality of a water supply.

The two major student-led activities in November were the Remembrance Day Ceremonies and School Talent Show.

DTCS co-curricular activities include: Basketball on Monday to Wednesdays and weightlifting on Thursdays. Students really enjoy our monthly Spirit Days. Pajama Day was a big hit and students are looking forward to Ugly Sweater Day on Dec 20th.

In addition, Girls Club meets every second Wednesday for a variety of fun and educational activities.

G.R.A.C.E. is an informal monthly event that allows parents, community members, students and staff to come together, have fun, relax and get to know one another better. Past activities had included: Volleyball, Badminton, Table Tennis, Videoke and Just Dance. Looking forward to meeting everyone at the next event on Dec 10th.

The grade 8/9 fundraising group has a daily concession at the end of the day and will have their Indian Tacos and Tacos in a bag sale on Dec 13th.

Thanks to everyone who attended the Parent-

Teacher Interviews. Individual progress reports have been sent home for all students. If you wish to discuss your child's progress please call or drop by the school to make arrangements to meet with their teacher.

Some High School students' schedules have been readjusted after the first reporting period to enhance student chances to be successful. Changes better reflect student current achievement, effort, pace of completion and how they measure in relation to the provincial standards required for a high school diploma or certificate.

We hope to see everyone at the Christmas Concert Dec 18th at 1pm.

HeadStart Staff Attends ARCQE 10th National Child Day Conference



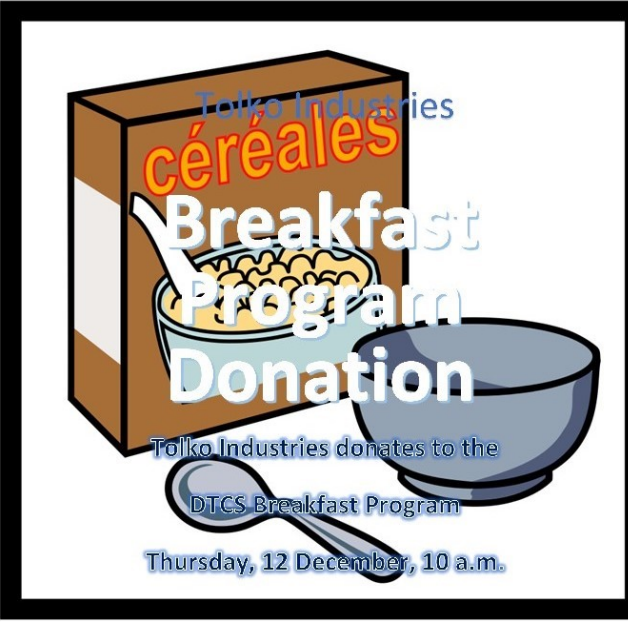
Head Start staff with Corine Ferguson Executive Director of ARCQE.

Head Start staff: Ms. C. Powder and Ms. C. Denechan attended Alberta Resource Center for Quality Enhancement (ARCQE) 10th National Child Day Conference On Nov 15th and Nov 16th.

The conference was beneficial in many ways. They learned a lot about

evaluation, and the importance of Early Childhood and Development. The social, physical, and emotional development of a child will have an effect on their future well-being, and what kind of an adult they will become. This is also known as the ripple effect on children.

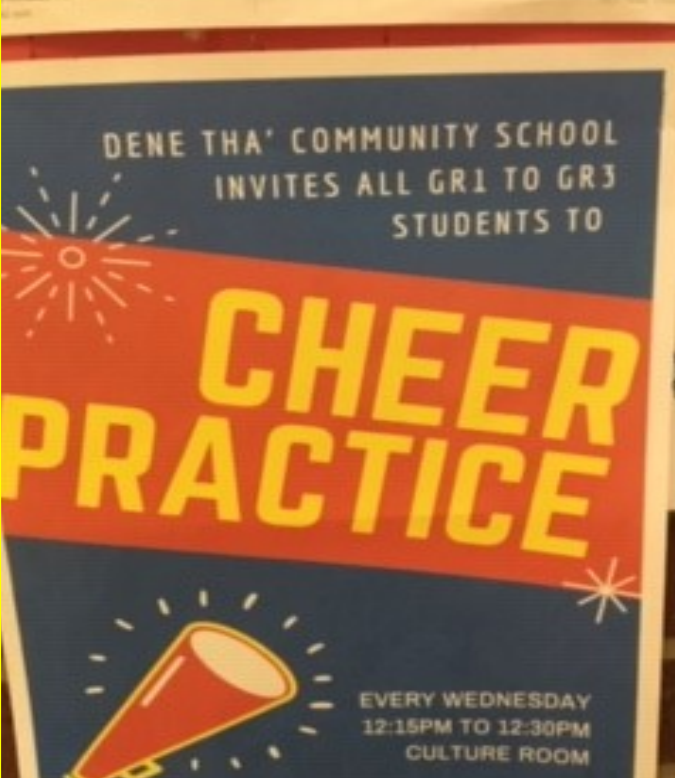
Announcements



Tolko Industries
céréales
Breakfast Program Donation
Tolko Industries donates to the
DTCS Breakfast Program
Thursday, 12 December, 10 a.m.

Tolko reps will answer any questions on the impact of the wildfire and current logging operations on Highway 58.

Community Members Are Welcome To Attend.



DENE THA' COMMUNITY SCHOOL
INVITES ALL GR1 TO GR3
STUDENTS TO

CHEER PRACTICE

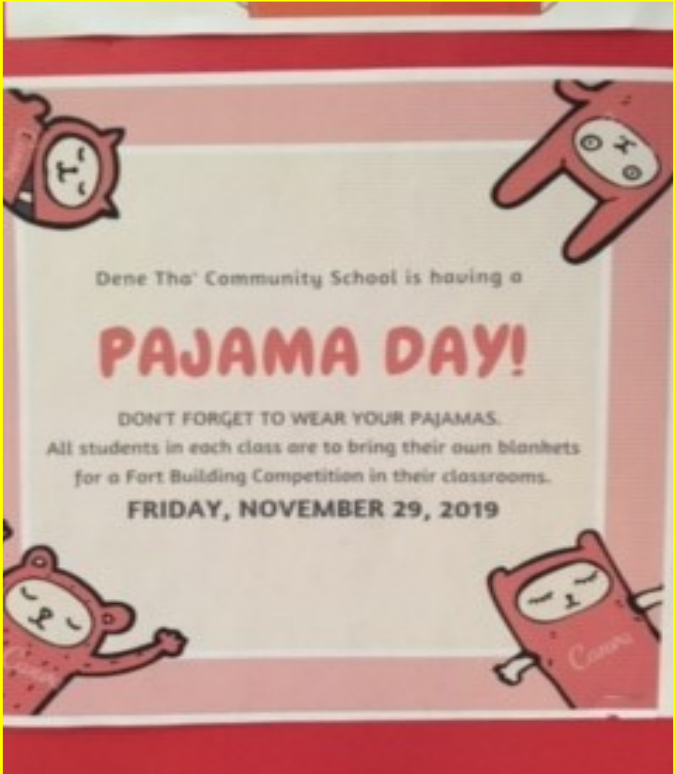
EVERY WEDNESDAY
12:15PM TO 12:30PM
CULTURE ROOM



HOW TO SUPPORT YOUR CHILD'S MENTAL HEALTH

www.dene.com/forthem.com

- LOVE** Be there for your child and show care and love.
- EXERCISE** Encourage physical exercise and sport.
- BEHAVIOUR** Keep an eye out for any changes in behaviour.
- SUPPORT** Regularly support, encourage and praise your child.
- BEST TIME** Help your child to manage stress by building a routine that fits.
- BE PROUD** Be proud of your child and proud of them.
- PATIENCE** Be patient. Don't pressure your child.
- HELP** Don't be afraid to seek help from professionals.
- FEELINGS** Start to learn how your child is feeling.
- EDUCATE** Educate yourself about mental health problems.
- PROBLEM SOLVING** Help your child to effectively problem solve.
- LISTEN** Make sure you take time to listen to what your child has to say.
- COMMUNICATE** Help your child to learn some simple coping skills such as relaxation.
- SYMPTOMS** Be aware of signs and symptoms.
- CONVERSATIONS** Encourage your child to engage in conversation.
- ENVIRONMENT** Provide a positive environment for your child where they can thrive.




Dene Tha' Community School is having a

PAJAMA DAY!

DON'T FORGET TO WEAR YOUR PAJAMAS.
All students in each class are to bring their own blankets for a Fort Building Competition in their classrooms.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2019

Dene Tha' Community School
December Menu
Lunch Program

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
02 	03 Spaghetti Garlic Toast Water	04 Chicken Strips Fries Water	05 Ground beef Veggie Soup Water	06 Hotdogs Fries Juice
09 Veggie Soup Ground beef Fruit Sal- ad Water	10 Brunch Bacon Eggs Hash browns Water	11 Pork ribs Mash po- tatoes Veggies Water	12 Indian Tacos Veg- gies Water	13 Ham- burger Fries Ice tea
16 Chicken Noodle Soup Apples Water	17 Stir Fry Veggies Oranges Water	18 Chicken Drumsticks Mashed pota- toes Veggies Water	19 Student Christmas Dinner	20 Hotdogs Fries Fruit Juice



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 *****
Student radio broadcasts should be returning to the air shortly after repairs are completed to the main site @ the arena.
- **Read** our monthly school newsletter, “The Spruce”
- **Follow us** on Facebook: **Dene Tha' Community School**
- **Visit our official website** to be launched soon: dtcs-edu.net
- **Go to the Dene Tha' Community Engagement** site

DTCS DECEMBER 2019 Calendar

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
<p>02 3:30 Basketball Practice gr 4+</p> <p>5:30pm culture rm Parent & Youth Traditional Knowledge In Ceremonies</p>	<p>03 3:30 Basketball Practice gr 4+</p>	<p>04 3:30 Basketball Practice gr 4+</p> <p>2:30 Student Assembly & Awards</p> <p>4pm Girl's Night * Permission slips required</p>	<p>05 9am STUDENT MASS @ DTCS 1:30 Dismissal</p> <p>5:30 pm culture rm Parent & Youth Traditional Knowledge Discipline & Kinship</p>	<p>06</p>
<p>09 3:30 Basketball Practice gr 4+</p>	<p>10 5pm DTCS Elders' Merchandise BINGO</p>	<p>11 3:30 Basketball Practice gr 4+</p>	<p>12 3:30 Fitness Club Weightlifting 14+</p>	<p>13 <i>Orders taken until 10am Student fundraising: Indian Tacos & Tacos in a bag</i></p>
<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18 1pm CHRISTMAS CONCERT Everyone invited to come celebrate with our students & staff.</p>	<p>19 OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES</p>	<p>20 Spruce Newsletter Ugly Sweater Day Last day before holiday break</p>
23	24	25 CHRISTMAS DAY	26 BOXING DAY	27
30	31	1 January NEW YEAR'S DAY	02	03
06	<p>07 CLASSES RE-SUME</p>	<p>Best wishes for a safe & happy holiday season from the students & staff @ DCTS</p>		