



# The Spruce



Dene Tha' Community School's Newsletter

"Learning to Love, Loving to Learn"

The Spruce Volume 2, Issue 6

## DTCS Holds School-Level Spelling Circle 2020

Spelling Circle was well –participated by DTCS students from all grade levels on January 23.

Ms. Roeline P. organized the event, and Mr. Watts assumed the pronouncer. The spelling circle school-level marked the 4th year of the Regional Spelling Circle that Ms. Aliche and Mr. Somera initiated when they worked at North Peace Tribal Council as part of the First Nation Student Success Program (FNSSP) student retention initiative.

The Spelling Circle gave the students a chance to do the written portion and moved on to the oral portion. The correct answer in the written section earned a point while the oral part earned two points.

**The Spelling Circle 2020 Top 3** are as follows::

*1st place, Chara, grade 7, 24 total points; 2nd place, Tierra from grade 5, 21 total points; 3rd place, Lacey grade 5, 9 total points.*

*2nd, Destiny; 3rd, Choen*

*Grade 5: 1st, Tierra; 2nd, Lacey; 3rd, Lana*

*Grade 6: 1st, Emery; 2nd, Mindy; 3rd, Sadie*

*Grade 7: 1st, Chara; 2nd, Jade; 3rd, Devaughn*

*Grade 8/9: 1st, Denerian; 2nd, Alicia; 3rd, Jarome*

*High School: 1st, Janessa; 2nd, Makayla*



*Chael waits for Mr. Watts to pronounce the word to spell.*

### Winners by Grade levels were as follows:

*Grade 1: 1st, Jenera; 2nd, Trayson*

*Grade 2: 1st, Kennedy; 2nd, Caylee; 3rd, Shayla*

*Grade 3: 1st, Alayah; 2nd, Tannor; 3rd, Tatum*

*Grade 4: 1st, Taylor;*

### Special mentions to students who got a perfect score for the written component:

*Alayah grade 3; Taylor and Destiny grade 4; Lana grade 5; Emery grade 6; Jade and Chara grade 7; Denerian grade 8.*

DTCS will host the Regional Spelling Circle on February 6, including all First Nations in the area.

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## DTCS Launches Grow Tower Project

Through the help of Community ChooseWell Two Thousand Dollars (\$2000) Grant, DTCS introduced the Grow Tower Project this year.

Grade 1 and Grade 6 have the towers apiece. The classes were the first ones to have the equipment. The project is for Healthy Food in the Classroom and the school kitchen. The projects aimed at teaching students to grow their healthy food, and they could access it right away during harvesting time. The Grow Tower

Project incorporates outcomes from Science, Social Studies, Mathematics, and Health Studies.

DTCS and the Community ChooseWell hope that students will learn how plants grow, maintain an indoor garden, and eat healthy foods and snacks. The project will also encourage the students to have a sense of responsibility.

Towers will move to another classroom after the first harvest.



*Ms. R. Paracuelles and Mr. MacDonald orient staff about the Grow Towers that the Community ChooseWell has donated.*

## Health Staff Shares Information on Vaccination



*Health Services staff visit DTCS for Vaccination. From the left: Donna V, RN, Michael U, RN and Priscilla M.*

In Alberta all grade 6 and grade 9 students receive immunizations (needles).

Grade 6 will have: (1) Hepatitis B Vaccine (HBV) - a series of 2 needles. They get the first 1, then six months later they get the 2nd one. (2) Human Papillomavirus (HPV) - also a series of 2 needles. They get the first 1, then six months later they get the 2nd one.

Grade 9 will have: (1) a booster for Tetanus, Diphtheria and Pertussis or Whooping Cough (dTap) -

then they every 10 years after that !(2) a booster for Meningococcal (MenC-ACYW) - protects against a Meningitis disease.

Anyone can call the Health Nurse to find out if they are due for a booster! 780-321-3971

Donna Vermillion, RN

Michael Unso, RN

***“It is health that is real wealth and not pieces of gold and silver” - Mahatma Gandhi***

## Happenings @ DTCS



*Brenda S. of NPTC speaks with the DTCS staff as an introduction of the Blanket Exercise workshop.*



*DTCS Cheer Leaders practice during lunch time.*



*Twelve (12) staff and four (4) HS students take First Aid Course.*



*Girls have supper after their sessions. Ms. Manghi, Ms. Paracuelles and Ms. Jenoure served the girls with great meal. Ms. Aliche and Ms. Hayley facilitated the activities for Jr. and Sr. High School girls.*



*Dene Tha' Education Authority Board of Education holds meeting at the DTCS Culture room.*



*Indigenous Youth Mentorship Program group poses at High Level Native Friendship Centre. Four(4) Staff, three (3) HS students, 5 JH students and one (1) Gr.6 student represent DTCS in the IYMP sponsored by EverActive*



*Student leaders campaign for their seat on the Student Mini-Chief and Council*



*Gr. 1 students display their poem recitation talent during the principal's visit.*



*Wolves practice before their Super Saturday games*

***“The roots of education are bitter, but the fruit is sweet” - Aristotle***

## What do children say about Girls' night?



*Destiny W. Gr. 4- "I like GIRLS' NIGHT because of the snacks"*



*Kelsie D. Gr. 4- "I like GIRLS' NIGHT because it's fun."*



*Aleisha D. Gr. 4- "I like Girls' Night because of the games."*

## What do children say about G.R.A.C.E. night?



*Bless N. Gr. 4- "I like GRACE Night because of the Wrestling and Basketball."*



*Kaden B. Gr. 4- "I like GRACE Night because of wrestling, basketball and fun."*

## Art of the Month



*Art by: Denerian Ah-Kim-Nachie  
Grade 8/9*

***"The giving of love is an education in itself" - Eleanor Roosevelt***

## New Year. New Beginnings.

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

New Year signifies the anticipation of a newborn self or for a change. As part of a tradition, we celebrated the start of a new year and considered to start new goals, hopes, and aspirations to make positive changes in our lives and with our relationship with others. Based on the Chinese Zodiac sign, the year 2020 is the year of the metal rat. The year 2020 describes metal rat as sensitive with strong self-awareness and persuasive with a ready tongue. Following this view, I considered it as a year of sharing, balance, and equality.

Our main goal is to focus on improving our relationships, student literacy, and numeracy. Having strong self-awareness and the courage to share our ideas will make our commitment to children stronger. We are bound to carry out duties and responsibilities with our best, and we need to ensure that we do our part. Every one of us plays an essential role in student success. We all share this responsibility: the school, the family, and the community.

Our programs are continuing to grow and becoming consistent. PAX in the classrooms has been employed regularly. The school-level Spelling Circle just concluded successfully. Our students demonstrated a more regulated attitude, and they are more engaged with learning. We are going to focus on improving what we have established to ensure students' academic success.

This year 2020, we have launched the **Leave Everything And Read Now Program** (LEARN) in the library. Ensure that students take the opportunity of taking books home to improve their reading skills. We also initiated "The Golden Broom Award," where the Grade 5 class is the first winner for having the tidiest class-

room. We are going to start putting our entry into DTCS Golden Book. The winners of the Spelling circle will be the first entry. Grade 6 has taken the leadership on Mini-Chief and Council election. There will also be a Girls' Nights with two groups: Younger Girls and Junior/Senior Girls Group and a Boys' Night. Great Recreation Activities for Community Engagement has its regular schedule, and I can not wait to see the performance of our Little Girls Cheering Leading Group.

Students have started to plant the 2 Grow Towers. Community ChooseWell donated these grow towers to promote healthy eating among students. Teachers will integrate their academic instruction in relation to maintaining and growing plants.

Our Triage worker has visited classrooms to conduct a lesson on the seven teaching lessons. Everyone must continue to integrate these teachings to lessons and communicate them to parents and guardians to ensure that the children will follow through.

We have a significant momentum for the year 2020. I do hope that our students will continue to show positive progress. We are going to continue our commitment to providing quality service and education to the DTFN children by a consistent commitment to our work and finding ways to make their every moment in the school productive and fun.

Mahsi to all your hard work.

Mr. Carlito N. Somera,  
Principal



## Classroom Updates

### HeadStart(K3 and K4)

Parents and Teachers work together in your child's education. We will work with you to give your child the best start he or she can have in our Head Start program. Research has told us that while it may appear that all children are doing is playing,

playing is a very natural way for children to learn because it uses all of their senses. Playtime is also how children learn to solve problems and understand their world. Thank you from Head Start Staff.

Ms. C. Denechoan and Ms. C. Powder



*Break time for movie and popcorn.*

### Kindergarten



*Adriel, Emilia, Nicholie, and Mackenzie are having fun with magnetic letters*

Kindergarten is considered an important and purposeful educational level and it is not less important than other grade levels. Moreover, it is a level that has important behavioral, cognitive and affective goals, which the students are trying to achieve. The kindergarten students have different learning ways too which is sometimes challenging to prepare a lot of activities. Nevertheless,

they are provided with many activities and learning experiences everyday. They are working hard on the alphabet and numbers. Some are starting to do sight words. They bring home some homework which they are expected to do with the help of the parents or guardians. You are all welcome to volunteer in our classroom to help with all the activities. in our classroom.

Ms. Y. Manghi

### Grade 1

Hello from Grade 1 class. We would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year. The grade 1 students have been busy learning to achieve their alphabet letter and sounds. Students are learning about adding and subtracting num-

bers to 12 in math. In Social studies, students are learning about their community helpers. In science, students are growing plants using the plant tower. It has been a busy month.

Ms. K. Pellisey



*Biology Class. Planting their seeds for the plant tower.*

## Grade 2



*Buddy Reading. Half of the class is reading in the grade 3 classroom while the other half remains in our room.*

Ms. J. Salmon-Brissett

Grade 2 is on a drive to be reading by June of this year, 2020. We have been employing several reading strategies as we push to read. Some of these strategies are home reading, read aloud, read to self, buddy reading, silent reading, and Library time. Our drive to read is, however, null and void where students

struggle to master knowing the letters of the alphabet. The children are, therefore, taking home whole packs of alphabet cards to make it handy for parents, friends, and relatives to help us help your children fulfill their dream to read, read, read. Together we are stronger. Let's do it!

## Grade 3

January has been an excellent month for grade 3. We have been increasing our focus on developing literacy and numeracy, and have been making great progress. Sight words, reading buddies, and literacy centres have been a few areas of focus in Language Arts. Number lines, rounding, and connecting skip counting to multiplication has been our focus in Math. Reading at home is a vital part of improving literacy, and I strongly encourage family members to help students read the books they

borrow from the class library. Other highlights from this month include the spelling circle and student council voting. Alayah is our 3rd grade spelling champion, and Tannor and Andrew were voted in by their classmates to represent them at the student council. Next month is the election, and I expect our class to work together to help our candidates win their spots in the council. February will be another great month full of growth, and I can't wait to see how much further we can grow!

Mr. M. Watts



*Working on our table manners in the lunch area.*

## Grade 4



*Our Marble Jar is half full! With good behaviour we will have our jar full and have a class party!*

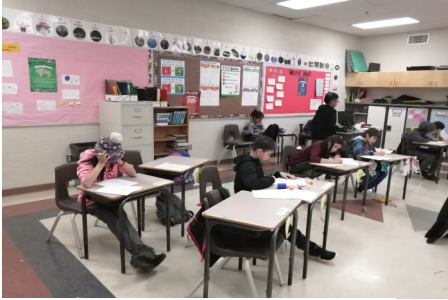
What a great start to the 2020 school year! The grade 4 students have been learning about simple machines and will soon start building devices and vehicles that move. In math class we have been learning about perimeter and are making our own zoo farm, keeping the measurement of perimeter in mind! We have started to learn about the writing process and the steps it takes to brainstorm, write, edit and publish our work. Topics the students chose include the Solar System, the

Ms. Cecillia Big Bull

Ocean, Gaming, the Stars, and the Forest. We are also learning about Alberta and its history, its people and the land. To help with effective behaviour in the classroom we have a Marble jar which encourages good, respectful behaviour in the classroom and in the school. The students are rewarded when they have earned a certain amount of marbles as a whole class. The grade 4 class enjoy the Marble jar and work together to encourage good behaviour in the classroom!

## Grade 5

Mr. R. Adeniyi



*Students writing a test*

Grade 5 students studied about Floods in their science class. The class learned about

why floods happen and different types of flooding. In Mathematics class, stu-

dents are working on division of three-digit numbers by one-digit with a remainder. In ELA, students are learning about adjectives as mainly describing nouns.

## Grade 6

Ms. E. Paracuelles

The grade 6 class started off the new year with a lesson on setting goals and how to use the WOOP model (Wish, Outcome, Obstacle, and Plan) to create a wish into a goal. We also learned how to get gritty when it comes to challenges that may come in our way throughout the year. Speaking of gritty, our class has been making progress academically! We learned about different forensics experts and how data can be collected and arranged in a bar graph. For English, we've learned about adjectives, verbs, verb tenses, and how to build a paragraph. We also trained for and participated in the school's Spelling Celebration. The Student Chief and Council Elections are coming up and the grade 6 class is the appointed electoral officers and so we will get a front-line experience of running an election.

This will also help us further understand the workings behind a democracy. In math news, we are really starting to understand the relationship between multiplication and division and are now readying ourselves to relate all the operations we learned to different situations. In our Options class, we are finding out if old seeds grow better or worse than new seeds by using a growth tower! The growth tower mimics how plants normally grow, but in artificial methods. We've finally set-up our Google Classroom so that even when students are not in school, they can complete assignments and catch up with schoolwork by logging into their accounts. This was very helpful during that weeklong cold snap during the second week of school after the winter break.



*Emery, Mardy, Sunshine, and Ms. R. Paracuelles are placing seeds of different varieties into the containers for the growth tower and then covering them with vermiculite to protect them from too much light.*

## Grade 8/9

Mr. C. Mangaser



*Students snowshoeing around the school*

I hope everyone has a wonderful Christmas break. Coming back to school can be difficult after a long break, but the grade 8/9s are off to a fast start. We are moving along quickly in math, now focusing on percentages, fractions, and decimals. The students are also beginning to wrap up their science unit. All subjects will be tested on January 29 so keep hitting the books! Some of the students also had the chance to par-

ticipate in the spelling circle. Shout out to Denerian for coming in first out of the entire class!

Next term brings more joy and learning into the classroom. Students will have the chance to research about the Renaissance in Europe, learn about healthy eating and choices, explore light and optical systems, and expand their knowledge in math/English.

The high school students were engaged in a number of activities in December and January. In December, students participated in the Christmas concert and Christmas dinner for parents, guardians and other family members. Family members got a chance to see the high school setting where students are experiencing learning.

In January 2020, high school started offering Learning Center/Store modules to accommodate the different learning styles and needs of the students to improve their rate of success and attendance.

We are looking at starting home visits from the week of January 27, 2020 to February 7, 2020.

Other happenings in January 2020:

.In January, grade 10 students

were involved in completing outstanding assignments, which included the following:

\*persuasive business letter,

\*novel study#1: Code Talker, with focus on character sketch, plot, theme/message and point of view. Students will complete their first novel study assignment to show their understanding of how literature helps us to understand ourselves and each other,

\*several Social Studies assignments, and

\*numerous Foods and CALM assignments.

In addition, students will be working on poetry, more persuasive and other types of writing, reading comprehension, Social Studies, Foods and CALM assignment projects.

Students in grade 12 are working

on novel study#1: Medicine River" with many engaging novel study activities.

High school students participated in the Spelling Circle and maybe involved in the Speech Competition and Skills competition. In addition, the school is starting another Student Council. Currently, students are involved in election of for "Chief n Council" for Student Council. Election for this position will be helped at the end of January.

Some high school students continue to participate in the after-school program "Girls' Night", where the upcoming session on January 29, 2020 will have the girls prepare for a "young chef of Chateh school" cooking competition in February 2020.

## VP CTS/Careers

Mr. R. MacDonald

The February edition of the Spruce marks the midway point of our school year. Students should be halfway through their courses now & senior high students SHOULD have completed all the requirements for their semester 1 language & social courses. On February 1st high school students start their math & science core subjects & as well as options. Term 1 students who haven't completed the required outcomes to earn credits in language & social still have an opportunity to finish the necessary assignment & projects.

A very special thanks to Miss Roleine, event organizer for the very successful school wide

spelling celebration, Mr. Watts, quizmaster, student participants & all staff that prepared students to make this event a success. Congratulations everyone for your hard work!

DTCS Spelling Circle 2020 Top 3 Overall: 1st place, Chara, grade 7, 24 total points; 2nd place, Tierra from grade 5, 21 total points; 3rd place, Lacey grade 5, 9 total points. Special mentions for students who got a perfect score for the written component: Alayah grade 3; Taylor & Destiny grade 4; Lana grade 5; Emery grade 6; Jade & Chara grade 7; Denerian grade 8/9

Information on school science & math day events will available in the near future. DTCS has a num-

ber of leadership & career opportunities available to our students. DTCS has recently send students & staff to the EverActive (IYMP) Indigenous Youth Mentorship Program workshop. The goal of the program is promote student leaders in our school & community.

Older students in our school will have a variety of opportunities to explore future careers, many in the area. This month students will be attending the forestry expo where they will be able to meet & ask questions of local workers in a wide variety of career fields.

Bold Eagle is a Canadian Armed Forces summer program aimed at Indigenous youth. The program is a challenging summer experience that delivers hands-on skills development, encourages teamwork, provides physical fitness exercise, and promotes cultural awareness. This unique summer employment program combines Indigenous culture and teachings with military training that will help students develop valuable skills such as self-confidence, self-discipline, teamwork, time management, respect, and fitness. The 6-week program is conduct-

ed from early July to late August each year.

The Junior Forest Ranger (JFR) program presents a unique and exciting opportunity for Albertan high school students age 16 to 18.

It's not your usual summer job! Successful applicants will gain valuable skills and knowledge towards a career in natural resource fields through hands-on work experience.

Bold Eagle & Junior Forest Rangers are both excellent programs for the right students. In addition to being a superb summer employment placements, students are exposed to a wide range of

workplace activities, can earn high school work experience credits, assist in determining career paths & getting paid to travel & be outdoors. The deadline for applying for both these programs is fast approaching. If you have questions or require additional information, visit their websites or contact RJ MacDonald at the school.

To get more active, DTCS students and staff will be participating in two events, Jump rope for hearth and the Energize Oil Country Challenge .

## Library

Ms. R. Paracuelles

We have just launched the **Leave Everything And Read Now Program (LEARN)**. This program aims to provide more opportunities for our students to read by having them bring home a book to read with their parents or guardians. I hope you have received your LEARN kits and continue to encourage our students to become lifelong readers. As an incentive, they will earn 1 Dene Buck for every ten pages they read and use these Dene Bucks to buy prizes.

## Dene Tha' Community School February Menu Lunch Program

3	4	5	6	7
Ground Beef Soup W/Bannock Fruit Water	Chicken Strips Rice Fruit Water	Chicken Wings Rice Fruit Water	Stir Fry Garlic Toast Fruits Water	Hot dog Rice Fruit Juice
10	11	12	13	14
Chicken Noodle Soup W/Bannock Water	Garlic Ribbs Rice W/Veggies Fruit Water	Meat Loaf W/Bannock Mashed Potatoes Water	Pork Chops Rice & Veggies Fruit Water	Burgers Fries Fruit Water
17	18	19	20	21
NO SCHOOL Family Day	Ground Beef Veggie Soup W/Bannock Fruits Water	Shepard's Pie Veggies Fruit Water	Pizza Veggies Fruit Water	Chicken Fingers Rice Fruit Juice
24	25	26	27	28
Beef Stew Bannock Fruit Water	Spaghetti Salad Fruit Water	Bar-BQ Chicken Mashed Potatoes Fruit Water	Indian Tacos Rice Fruit Water	Hot Dog Wedges Fruit Juice



HAPPY  
*Valentine's Day*



## DTCS FEBRUARY 2020 Calendar

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<b>03</b> <i>Start of 3<sup>rd</sup> Term (Jr/Sr)</i> 3:30 Basketball Practice Student Council Election Form	<b>04</b> 3:30 Basketball Practice Student Council Election	<b>05</b> 12:15 Cheer Dancing 3:30 Basketball Practice Student Council Proclamation Day	<b>06</b> 3:30 Fitness Club Weightlifting Student Council, 1 <sup>st</sup> meeting	<b>07</b> Jump rope 4 heart Celebration
<b>10</b> 3:30 Basketball Practice	<b>11</b> 3:30 Basketball Practice	<b>12</b> 12:15 Cheer Dancing 3:30 Basketball Practice 4pm Girl's Club	<b>13</b> 4-7pm G.R.A.C.E. / Family Night Celebration 3:30 Fitness Club Weightlifting	<b>14</b> Valentine's Day Celebration 1:30pm Dismissal
<b>17</b> <b>FAMILY DAY</b> <b>Holiday</b>	<b>18</b> 3:30 Basketball Practice	<b>19</b> 12:15 Cheer Dancing 3:30 Basketball Practice	<b>20</b> 3:30 Fitness Club Weightlifting	<b>21</b> <i>Indian Tacos / Tacos in a bag</i>
<b>24</b> 3:30 Basketball Practice	<b>25</b> 3:30 Basketball Practice	<b>26</b> HL Forestry Career Fair 12:15 Cheer Dancing 3:30 Basketball Practice 4pm Girl's Club	<b>27</b> Pink Shirt Anti-bullying Day 3:30 Fitness Club Weightlifting	<b>28</b> Spirit: Twinning Day Spruce Newsletter