



The Spruce



Dene Tha' Community School's Newsletter

"Learning to Love, Loving to Learn"

The Spruce Volume 2, Issue 7

DTCS Hosts 4th Annual Regional Spelling Circle



Tierra S. and Alaya B. pose for their trophy during the Regional Spelling Circle at DTCS

DTCS welcomed South Tallcree Elementary School in a Spelling Circle Showdown, February 6th. This year was the 2nd time DTCS hosted the Annual Regional Spelling Circle.

The event was in its 4th year. Ms. Aliche, Education Director, and Mr. Somera, the principal, have started the contest when they worked in North Peace Tribal Council Education. Students liked participating in, and it allowed them to master their words and visit

other schools and make friends.

Winners received medals, trophies, and certificates. The table below showed the results.

Mr. Michael W. was the pronouncer and Ms. Roleine P. was the organizer.

DTCS will continue to host the Spelling Circle to ensure our students will maximize their participation.

4th Annual Spelling Circle 2020 Results						
Name	Grade	School	Written	Oral	Total	Rank
Alayah Bassa	3	DTCS	10	10	30	1
Tannor Tsonchoke	3	DTCS	9	2	13	2
Tatum Akinneah	3	DTCS	7	0	7	3
George Alook	3	CTE	0	0	0	
Mya Meneen	3	CTE	n/a	n/a	n/a	
Mervon Okemow	3	CTE	1	0	1	
Taylor Providence - Toho	4	DTCS	10	8	26	2
Destiny Wasp Colin	4	DTCS	2	1	4	
Choen Ahkimmachie	4	DTCS	n/a	n/a	n/a	
Teddy Bunning	4	CTE	8	6	20	3
Ariana Meneen	4	CTE	3	1	5	
Ginger Nanooch	4	CTE	6	10	26	1
Tierra Semansha	5	DTCS	10	15	40	1
Delayna	5	DTCS	8	10	28	2
Lana Martel	5	DTCS	9	1	11	3
Leland Laboucan	5	CTE	3	1	5	
Kendall Meneen	5	CTE	n/a	n/a	n/a	
Tanner Halkett	5	CTE	7	2	11	
Emery Ahkimmachie	6	DTCS	10	4	18	
Sunshine White Cow	6	DTCS	10	4	18	
Sadie Yatshotay	6	DTCS	10	6	22	3
Lacey Meneen	6	CTE	9	7	23	1
Elias Laboucan	6	CTE	9	5	19	
Corbin Auger	6	CTE	10	6	22	2

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DTCS Celebrate Pink Shirt Day

“Don’t be a bully, be a buddy! Every year on February 26, students celebrated Pink Shirt Day to remind them about being kind to others.

Ms. Holly S. coordinated the week-long event by encouraging the teachers to ask their student to decorate a paper pink-shirt and also integrate bullying in their lessons. During the general celebration, Ms.

Holly S. presented some videos about bullying.

“I was a bully and now I



Students and Staff pose during the Celebration of Pink Shirt Day.

don’t” a boy from Gr. 3 said.

Ms. Shirley C and Ms. Verna N also did their presentation about bullying.

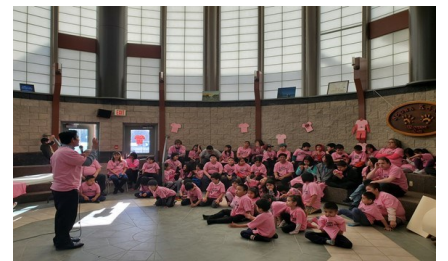
The T-shirts were donated by Community Health and Wellness. Thank you Ms. Sheryl S. and Linda S. for always involving our children into your programs.



Students Mini-Chief and Council facilitate the Celebration of Pink Shirt Day.



Trevon Y. responds to Ms. Holly. Students said they did not want to be a bully.



Mr. Somera speaks about the power of words. He encouraged the students to be mindful and tactful to avoid hurting others for life. “We are going to make our school the Zone of Peace”, he said.



Shirley C. and Verna N. present some information about bullying. The two Health and Wellness



Grade 4 door demonstrates creativity during the Pink Shirt Day Celebration.



Sheryl S.-Community Health and Wellness worker delivers the shirts for Pink Shirt Day.

Happenings @ DTCS



Children learn how to skate at the Bison Pond outdoor rink by the RCMP. The rink was part of the Rink of Dream Project donated by Jordan Principle.



John T. of the Next Gen speaks to the students during his visit to promote the Forestry Expo.



Grade 5 students and Mr. A pose for their first Golden Broom Award for January. Gr.5 had the cleanest classroom and the janitors awarded them the golden broom and the golden garbage bin.



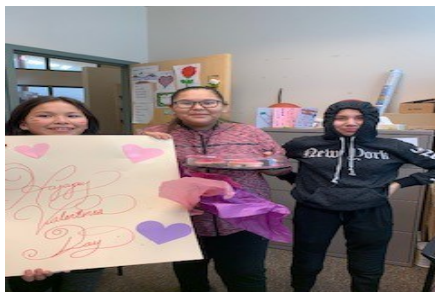
Grade 1 students pose with their Teachers-Ms. Pelligsey and Ms. Faye. They won the Golden Broom Award for February.



Cst. Spencer poses with the boys during the Boys' Night Hang-out.



Ms. Gloria S. speaks to the DTCS students about her experience growing up and the importance of education.



Gr. 7 girls visit classes and offices to share their treats and greetings during the Valentine's Day Celebration.



DTCS Learning Store open for High School Students.



Student leaders present a token to Ms. Gloria S. after her inspiring talk with the DTCS students.

***"Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day; teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime."
- Maimonides***

Happenings @ DTCS



Acknowledging the missing and murdered women and girls and their grieving families and friends during the Ambiguous Losses Certification Training for the Dene Tha' First Nations in High Level, Alberta. Credit photo from Dr. Jane Simington-Facilitator



Gloria S. and Don S. donate their service to the Dene Tha' children By creating snow mounds and lanes for their outdoor physical activities.



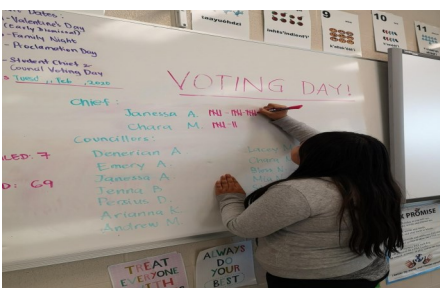
Community ChooseWell Grow Tower is going well. Students had their first harvest and healthy veggie sandwich.



Students display their Hearts during the Jump Rope for Heart event. The students jumped to raise money to the Heart Foundation.

***“I believe that education is all about being excited about something. Seeing passion and enthusiasm helps push an educational message.”
- Steve Irwin***

Mini Chief and Council



Saddie Y. tallies the votes during the Student Mini Chief and Council Election.

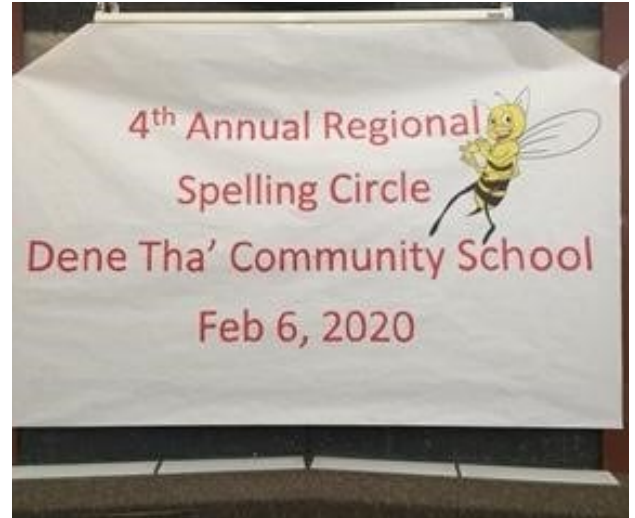


Mini-Chief and Council student leaders meet with the school administrators to present their plans for partnership to address the needs of the students.



Ms. Aliche, Education Director inducts the officials of the Student Mini-Chief and Council.

More on Spelling Circle



Student Winners show their medals and certificates during the Awarding Ceremony

March Your Way To Success

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

February has a lot to celebrate. Valentine's Day; Family Day; and Pink Shirt Day. Winter is beginning to say good-bye; however, the groundhog refuses to come out.

We had a lot of successful After-School activities: Girls' Night, Boys' Night, GRACE Night, Basketball Game for Girls at Rainbow Lake School. Spelling Circle was also a success where majority of our students won medals. The Pink Shirt Day is the highlight of the month where students can speak up for themselves and campaign against bullying.

We had a couple of visitors in the building: Mr. John T. came to promote the forestry expo. Ms. Gloria S. spoke about the importance of education to the students. NPTC

presented ATV Safety and John W.-OT to follow up on our Triage Program.

As DTCS family, we, the staff, and the student Mini-Chief and Council will work together to make our school have a much better environment for learning. Our children have been behaving well and continuously showing their progress in this category.

Teachers' Convention will be on the week of March 9-13. Teachers will give your child homework for the week to have something to do during the break. You can monitor your child's progress base on how they work and we love to hear your feedback.

We do hope that you will have a great school break.

Mr. Carlito N. Somera,
Principal



Classroom Updates

HeadStart(K3 and K4)

The Head Start morning and afternoon classes combined into one class to enjoy fun Valentine-themed treat and a movie on Valentine's Day. Students are focusing on their fine motor skills by

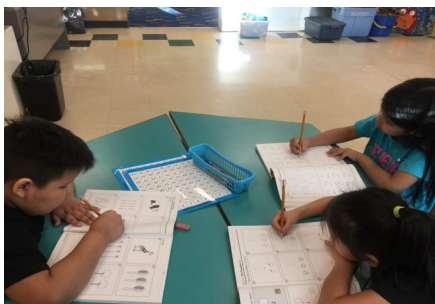
playing with play-doh and practicing their scissor cuttings, and of course, we are doing so by making everything super fun and enjoyable for everybody.

Ms. C. Denechoan and Ms. C. Powder



K3 and K4 pose during the Valentine's day party

Kindergarten



Kindergartens work on their Numeracy skills

Kindergarten students are working on numeracy skills, especially counting, subitizing, and associating numbers from one to ten. They are doing different activities like using manipulative objects, songs, and rhymes to learn their numbers. Counting fingers is a great way to emphasize the numbers one to ten. Interactive Math les-

sons on the computer and iPad also enhanced their numeracy skills. They responded well using the gadgets. They are also using the Jump Math book to apply their gained skills. Students have enjoyable activities to develop their confidence in their ability to understand the number concept.

Ms. Y. Manghi

Grade 1

Greetings from the grade 1 class. It has been a busy and fun month for the students. Students are getting excited about spring, and soon we can go out and enjoy the nice weather. In Science, grade 1 students are learning about the Garden Tower. They are growing lettuce and herbs. Their plants are growing fast, and students are measuring and recording their growth. In language arts, students are working hard learning the let-

ters of the alphabet and sounds. They are learning three-letter words and doing confident learners. Students are learning about two and 3D shapes in math. In health, students learned about bullying, and dental health. Students will be taking part in the upcoming science fair, and they are busy preparing their science fair. Parents, please feel free to drop into our class and see how your child is doing.

Mahsi Cho

Ms. K. Pellisey



Tessa looks and records the growth of the lettuce in the grow tower.

Grade 2

Ms. J. Salmon-Brissett



Grade 2s focus on completing their tasks.

This month in Science and Social Studies Grade 2 focused on Our 5 Senses and Our Feelings, respectively. Students brainstormed and built a list of words that they used in different ways and under different circumstances to help them express how they are feeling.

Students identified and distinguished our five senses. It was a project that required them to search, cut, and paste pictures that show the difference between what they see, hear, smell, taste, and feel. Students posted their finished work up in our classroom.

Grade 3

Mr. M. Watts

February has been an excellent month for us. I am pleased to see attendance rising and students catching up to where they should be. Attending school as often as possible is critical to becoming a successful student and a successful adult. Our focus in Language Arts this month has been on creating 'juicy sentences' full of detail and proper writing mechanics. Our classroom library continues to expand, and we are learning how to choose the right books for ourselves. Number pyramids have been a hit in Math and are helping us think of operations in different ways. We are diving deeper into the country of Tun-

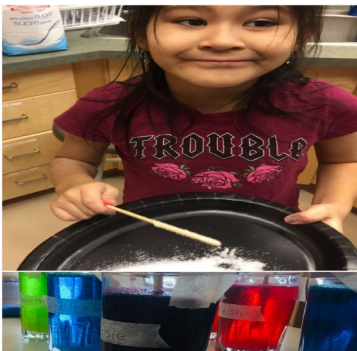
sia in Social Studies, while also learning about the Equator and Prime Meridian. We are wrapping up our Science unit on sound and will be moving into animal life cycles soon. The anti-bullying day is coming up, and some of our students could use a reminder that their actions have consequences on other people's feelings. Other highlights this month include an excellent performance in the Spelling Circle by our top Spellers, and a great Valentine's Day celebration (thanks for all the cakes!). I expect March to be another great month, and we will continue to push our limitations in the classroom.



Grade 3s are enjoying a beautiful day on the snow hill. Garbage bags work great for sliding!

Grade 4

Ms. Cecillia Big Bull



Aleisha D. prepares her Candy Crystal to grow for the next two weeks!

The grade 4 students have been busy utilizing the Scientific Method to complete their science fair projects. They decided to grow Candy Crystals, Balloon powered cars, and Volcano eruptions! In math class, they have started to learn how to gather data through classroom surveys and convert them to bar graph

charts. We also learned what a Venn Diagram is used for by comparing and contrasting. In social studies class, we are learning about our First Nations people of Alberta. We are doing a book study on *The Lion*, *The Witch*, and *The Wardrobe* and can't wait to watch the movie when we complete our study!

Grade 5

Mr. R. Adeniyi



The grade 5 students with Holly practice their routine at the Action Chill Room.

I am happy for grade 5 students of their accomplishment in mastering all the spelling words for grade 5. Also, some of our grade 5 students represented Dene Tha' School and outperformed another school in the spelling competition. We have done assessments of our students in ELA by testing them with appropriate materials from grades 1 to 5, and surprisingly some of our students read at grade 5 level, and few other students are very close to at-

taining this goal. Students look forward to when they are going to write their journals daily, and mental math is every student's favourite. In Social studies, students are discovering that what makes up a community. Canada is a country made up of dynamic communities. We will now move ahead to learn about three of these communities: Alberta, Saskatoon, and Iqaluit. In Math, we are working on long division problems.

Grade 6

Ms. E. Paracuelles

This month was a whirlwind of activities for Grade 6, and we take great pride in what we've accomplished in our classroom and our school. Our class participated in the 4th Annual Regional Spelling Circle and made it to 3rd Place for our grade level. While this was going on, the rest of our class assisted in leading games in the gym for the school's guests, along with the newly elected Student Chief and Council members. Our class also assisted in the Jump Rope for Heart event, where our class took on the meditation and snacks station.

Aside from school-wide activities, we've also made progress with our classes. We have been learning about homophones,

antonyms, and synonyms during our Language days, and we are also currently studying a book called "The Secret Path" by Gord Downie and Jeff Lemire, where we explore different topics relating to identity and reconciliation. In math, we are learning more about factors and multiples, multiplying with different numbers of digits in the multiplier and multiplicand. In Science, we are almost finishing up our Forensics unit and will be moving on to Air and Aerodynamics. We are currently working on our Science Fair projects as well, which involve water-transport in plants, hot-air balloons, and paper airplanes. In Social Studies, we are learning more about the origins of democracy in Ancient Athens.



Grade 6 students explore Athens, Greece using Google Earth for Social Studies.

Grade 8/9

Mr. C. Mangaser

Grade 8/9 is off on another adventure. Students are working hard on perfecting their ABCs and 123s. However, it's more like perfecting letter-writing and understanding algebra. In Science, we are continuing to explore light

and reflections. We are bringing the European Renaissance alive by playing old games, examining artists, and baking some treats. Most of our students had the opportunity to sit in on some awesome guest speakers. They

talked about ATV safety, forestry careers, and life after high school. Overall the students in 8/9 are starting to develop the necessary skills to be successful in a career after they graduate.

"Education is for improving the lives of others and for leaving your community and world better than you found it."

- Marian Wright Edelman

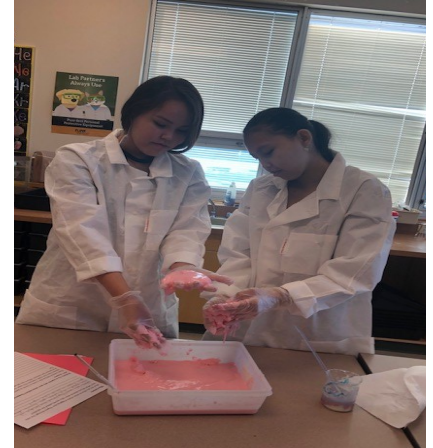
In February 2020, high school students started Semester 2. Math and Science are the two subjects offered this semester.

For Science 10-4, 20-14 and Science 14, students have conducted a few experiments in the Science lab. Students in Science 10 are investigating the properties of matter. Students in Science 11 are examining applications of matter and chemical changes.

In Math, students are work-

ing on number sense, focusing on Rounding and Converting Numbers, Estimating and Decimals, Percent and Tax, Budgeting and Income, Ratio and Proportion, and Proportional Reasoning. To engage students in math, they are integrating Foods and Enterprise and Innovation.

Also, students are completing their core subjects of Social Studies and English by April 8, 2020.



Janessa and Ellona are experimenting with a cornstarch and water mixture called oobleck. They were learning about non-newtonian fluids, a special type of fluid that could be both solid and liquid states of matter.

VP CTS/Careers

The March edition of the Spruce Newsletter marks the end of the first month of the second semester for junior & senior high students. To stay on track, high school students should have about twenty-five percent of their two core courses; math & Science now completed. Students who haven't finished requirements for their semester one language & social courses have been given an extension until the first of April to complete their work. After the start of April, language & social grades will be final.

Junior and Senior High School students had a presentation by Careers Next Generation on a wide variety of trades' options that are available for them. The

guest Speaker answered questions about apprenticeships, entry requirements, salary, the career market, journeyman & red seal status.

Grade 7 to 12 students had the opportunity to join other area students at the High Level Forestry Expo. Students had presentations from employees in a wide range of forestry-related careers in the local area including Alberta Forestry, computer technology, foresters, electricians, human resources, heavy equipment operators & mechanics, millwrights, office administration, saw fillers, welders, Work Wild, Tolko, Norbord, Northern Lakes College. Students learned about admission requirements, training, salaries, duties performed & how the work-

Mr. R. MacDonald

ers liked there chosen profession.

High school students have a wide variety of opportunities to explore future careers; learn new skills; assist in career planning, earn credits, and money over the summer. Bold Eagle (Canadian Armed Forces), Soaring Eagle Youth Camp (RCMP), Junior Forest Rangers (Alberta Forestry) are programs targeting indigenous youth and are excellent opportunities for the right students. The deadline for applying for these programs is fast approaching. If you have questions or require additional information, visit their websites or contact RJ MacDonald at the school.

Sports and Physical Activities



Wolves Girls practice for their game. Coach Mangaser and Coach Esteban led the girls on their first match against Rainbow Lakers



Chara M. aims for the basket against Rainbow Lakers. The girls lost but they had a great game.



Students participate in the Jump for Heart Activities. Ms. Cecilia B. tries to chase Tannor T.



***“It’s not the will to win that matters — everyone has that.
It’s the will to prepare to win that matters.”
– Paul “Bear” Bryant***

DTCS Upcoming Events

- ☉ CAT5 Testing School wide
- ☉ Badminton & Indoor Soccer practice (starts 1st week of March)
- ☉ February Student awards
- ☉ Habay Day
- ☉ No school March 09 – 13 (Educational Symposium)
- ☉ Dene Language & Culture Land Based Learning Muskrat Camp
will take place near the end of the month, conditions permitting. Watch for announcements
- ☉ Mt Carmel College Student visit on March 16 to 20
- ☉ DTCS World Speech Day
- ☉ Winter Carnival Event
- ☉ 23 Paradigm Extreme Esteem L:3
- ☉ Friday's Skating
- ☉ Multicultural / International Day

Stay Up to Date On DTCS Events

- ↘ 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 face book: **Dene Tha' Community School**
- ↘ Visit our website: **dtcs-edu.net** (coming soon)
- ↘ View the **Dene Tha engagement site**

Dene Tha' Community School March Menu Lunch Program

2 Chicken Noodle Soup W/Bannock Water	3 Chicken Fingers Rice Fruit Water	4 Indian Tacos Orange Water	5 Garlic Ribs Fires Apple Water	6 Hot Dogs Fruit Juice
<h2 style="color: red; margin: 0;">No School</h2> <p style="color: green; margin: 0;">9 to 13 - Teachers' Convention</p>				
16 Beef Stew Bannock Fruits Water	17 Spaghetti Garlic Toast Grapes Water	18 Stir Fry Salad Fruits Water	19 Chicken Fingers Rice Fruit Water	20 Hamburgers Fries Fruit Juice
23 Ground Beef Soup W/Bannock Fruit Water	24 Garlic Ribs Salad Fruit Water	25 Meat Loaf Salad Fruit Water	26 Pizza Fries Salad Fruit Water	27 Sloppy Joes Fruits Salad Juice
30 Chicken Vegeta- ble Soup Salad Fruit Water	31 Shepard's Pie Salad Fruit Water			

Note: Subject to change upon availability of supplies

DTCS MARCH 2020 Calendar

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
02 Co-Curricular: 3:30 Badminton	03 Co-Curricular: 3:30 Indoor Soccer	04 Co-Curricular: 12:15 Cheer Dancing 3:30 Badminton	05 Co-Curricular: 3:30 Indoor Soccer	06 Skating: conditions permitting	07 **TIME CHANGE
09 NO CLASSES EDUCATION	10 NO CLASSES CONVENTION	11 NO CLASSES CONVENTION	12 NO CLASSES CONVENTION	13 NO CLASSES CONVENTION	
16 World Speech Day/Co- Curricular: 3:30 Badminton Student Chief & Council	17 Co-Curricular: St Patrick's Day 3:30 Indoor Soc- cer *4:30 G.R.A.C.E.	18 Co-Curricular: 12:15 Cheer Danc- ing 3:30 Badminton 4:30 Girl's Club	19 Co-Curricular: 3:30 Indoor Soccer	20 Skating: condi- tions permitting Lunch: 8/9 Indian Tacos/Tacos in a bag	21
23 Co-Curricular: 3:30 Badminton	24 Co-Curricular: 3:30 Indoor Soccer	25 Co-Curricular: 12:15 Cheer Dancing 3:30 Badminton	26 Co-Curricular: 3:30 Indoor Soccer	27 Skating: conditions permitting Co-Curricular: Spirit: Sunglasses Day	
30 Co-Curricular: 3:30 Badminton Student Chief & Council	31 Co-Curricular: 3:30 Indoor Soc- cer	07: Time change to daylight saving time, change clock 1 hour ahead @ bed- time Winter Carnival / Dene Games, Habay Day & Muskrat Camp information will be sent out CAT5 standardized testing will be occurring this month. Skating will continue conditions permitting. Have our skates @ school & dress for outside April 10 - 19 Easter break			