



The Spruce



Dene Tha' Community School's Newsletter

"Learning to Love, Loving to Learn"

The Spruce Volume 3, Issue 1

DTCS COMMEMORATES THE 18TH YEAR SCHOOL FOUNDING ANNIVERSARY



Janessa A. Gr. 11 hosts the virtual celebration of the 18th year Founding Anniversary

DTCS virtually celebrated its 18th year Founding Anniversary, on September 18, 2020. This is the second time the school celebrated its anniversary to demonstrate its appreciation to the group of leaders who were instrumental in establishing the

school for the community.

Councilor Steve D. recorded his message to students and to the community; where he stated that this building is a gift for them and for their future. Each



Shayla D. Gr. 2 participates in the "My School" colouring contest.

classroom had virtual special activi-



Honour D. Gr. 3 participates in the "My School" colouring contest.

ties.

Staff helped packed and delivered the cake in the classroom.



Zoey S. Gr. 3 participates in the "My School" colouring contest.

What's Inside?

DTCS Family Offers Prayer during the Back to School Fire Offering / Students Describe Learning in COVID-19 Time	2
Students Reflect on the Importance of Orange Shirt Day	3
Students Display their Talent during 18th Year Founding Anniversary	4
Education In The Midst Of A Pandemic	5
Classroom Updates: HeadStart, K5/Grade 1, Grade 2, Grade 3, Grade 4, Grade 5, Grade 6, Grade 7, Grade 8/9, High School (Grade 10 to 12), VP/CTS Careers	6 to 11
Miscellaneous	12
DTCS: Traditional Schools Project	13
DTCS October 2020 Calendar	14



"Education is the power to think clearly, the power to act well in the world's work, and the power to appreciate life." – B. Y.

DTCS Family Offers Prayer during the Back to School Fire Offering

Students, staff and the community gathered together at Sec-



Elder William and company lead the back to school offering with children, staff and community members.

ond Prairie Tea Dance Ring to offer prayer for the school year 2020-2021 for the safety of everyone.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Elder William Y. led the community for a prayer. Every year the elder led the children, staff and the community asking the Creator

for protection. Prayer helps stabilize the community to stay together especially during this challenging time.

They featured the tea dance after the offering and everyone seemed to enjoy this cultural celebration with the mother earth.

Students Describe Learning in COVID-19 Time by Humanities class of Grade 7

September 8, 2020 was both new, exciting and yet uncertain time for students. The COVID-19 pandemic has captured the world's attention to find a vaccine for its cure. Our school is keeping everyone safe by following the protocols for COVID-19. as stated in the school's reentry plan.

DTCS, schools in the province of Alberta and the rest of Canada are introducing many protective measures to keep all students and staff safe. At DTCS, students have to wear masks on the bus, in school, sanitize hands often, sit at desks with plexiglass, and fill out COVID-19 sheets daily to

determine if students have symptoms. If they have symptoms, they will be sent home.

The "new normal" at DTCS is shown in the quote by a grade 7 student, "Coming to school on a COVID-19 time is kind of strange because you have to wear masks, and you have to stay 6 feet away from other students. Make sure that you keep your hands to yourself, don't shake hands with other students, and do not share your food. Do not touch anything and wash hands. Most important thing: Never touch your face and

anything else that is on your face without washing hands first." Sadie, grade 7 student.

Another student states, "Coming to some period of COVID-19 is just weird and strange at the same time ..." Shia, grade 7 student.

However, students are still hopeful that things will get better.

It should be noted that students can also work from home, using Google Classroom and learning packages.

Students Reflect on the Importance of Orange Shirt Day

by Humanities class of Grade 7

Why is Orange Shirt Day Important?

Today, in our school, we had a presentation to remember survivors of residential schools. Students wrote positive statements on orange posters: “I matter because...” Students and staff wore orange shirts in support of the day and the reasons for the recognition of the day. This day is called “Orange Shirt Day”. This event is recognized all over Canada.

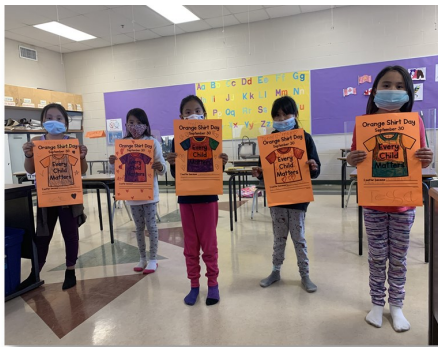
According to the <https://www.orangeshirtda>

[y.org/phyllis-story.html](https://www.orangeshirtda.org/phyllis-story.html), “September 30th has been declared Orange Shirt Day annually, in recognition of the harm the residential school system did to children's sense of self-esteem and well being, and as an affirmation of our commitment to ensure that everyone around us matters.”

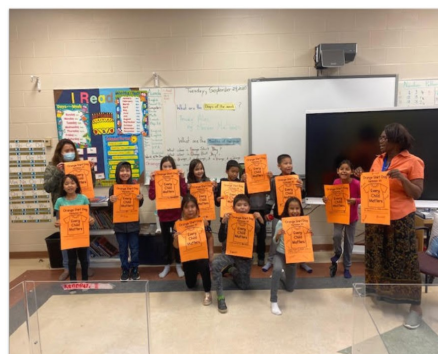
When asked about the importance of “Orange Shirt Day”, Sadie, a grade 7 student, says, “We have “Orange Shirt Day” to remember those kids who

went to residential schools. Phyllis Webstad went to residential school when she was 6 years old, Her grandmother gave Phyllis a new orange shirt to go to school with. When she got to school the people at the residential school took all her clothes off including her new orange shirt.”

The horrible history of residential schools must not be forgotten, so that it will never be repeated.



The Grade 2 students show their orange shirt poster for the Orange shirt day.



The Grade 3 students with their orange shirt poster pose for the Orange shirt day.



The Heads Start children pose at the biggest orange shirt poster for the Orange shirt day.

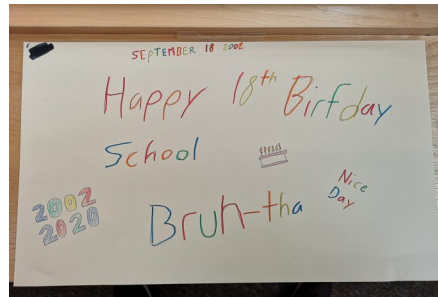
“Anyone who stops learning is old, whether at twenty or eighty. Anyone who keeps learning stays young.” – Henry Ford

Students Display their Talent during 18th Year Founding Anniversary

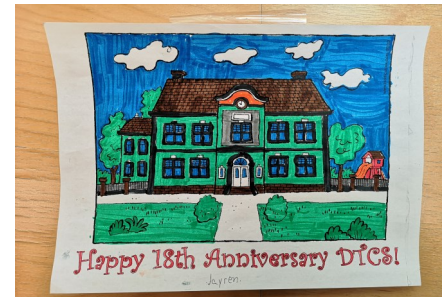
Students exhibited their creativity and art skills to celebrate the School's 18th Year Founding Anniversary. Kindergarten to grade 6 participated in a colouring contest and grade 7 to high school designed their own posters for a poster-making contest. A student from each class won a Tim Hortons gift card for their exceptional artwork as Mr. Dewey A. and Ms. Roleine R. served as judges. The winners were Shanaya from K/G1, Treyson from grade 2, Shayla from grade 3, Honour from grade 4, Jayren from grade 5, Iron from grade 6, Shia from grade 7, Denerian from grade 8/9, and Victoria from high school.



Shayla, Grade 3



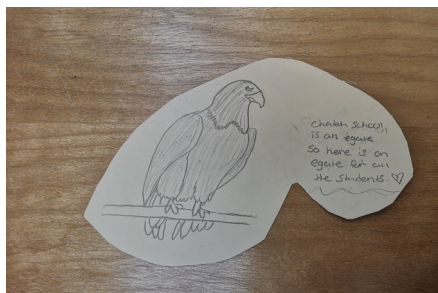
Denerian, Grade 9



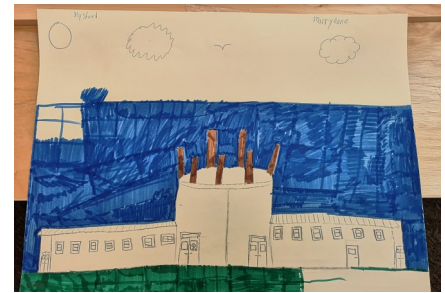
Jayren, Grade 5



Shanaya, K/1



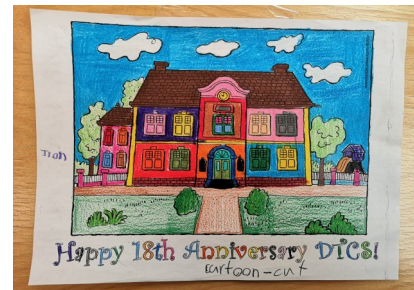
Victoria, High School



Mary Anne, Grade 8/9(Special Award)



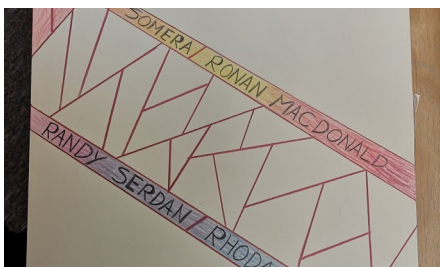
Honour, Grade 4



Iron, Grade 6



Treyson, Grade 2



Shia, Grade 7

**“A house is not a home unless it contains food and fire for the mind as well as the body.”
- Benjamin Franklin**

Education In The Midst Of A Pandemic

Education is vital to our life to be successful, and yet COVID-19 has threatened its continuity and progress. We were anxious as to whether the school will open for the new school year. No pandemic can stop the learning of our children because the home is the first school where they learn their culture and values. This school year 2020-2021, parents can choose between **In-Person** and **Learn-At-Home** mode of learning

We, at the Dene Tha' Community school, care about the safety and education of our children. In doing so, this school year 2020-2021, we ensure that we have adapted to the challenges that COVID-19 presents. We have the best preparation for re-entry plans to ensure the safety and security of our children. Our staff has two negative COVID test results before they resume working with our children.

In addition, we also encourage all visitors to observe the proper protocols set by the Alberta Health and the Dene Tha' Health Services and Emergency Management. Our COVID safety precautions start with the bussing. Our children wear masks and sanitize their hands before boarding on the bus. Upon entering our school building, we have our supervisors checking their temperature with a touchless thermometer and usher the children to their classroom to ensure physical distancing. We put visible safety precautions within the school environments, such as stickers on the floor, posters on the walls, and painted pathways.

Also, classrooms have shielded desks, sanitizing stations, and touchless faucets. We have provided our staff and students with masks and encouraged them to stay in their cohort group. We serve packed lunches in their classroom as well as snacks. We have a day janitor and two Health and Safety Workers sanitizing all high touch surfaces to ensure cleanliness inside the building. Students use the wash-room one at a time, and our Healthy and Safety staff always sanitize it after each use. We continue to encourage our children to have

outdoor physical activity to make sure they have plenty of fresh air and stay active and healthy.

We are thankful to everyone who is resilient, patient, and supportive of the education of their children. We are flexible enough to adapt to our new routines. Our school has developed safety plans as a response to the COVID pandemic. As we progress to our school year, we will continue to focus on both students' and staff's mental health. Our students stayed on their cohort group and continue to have a virtual assembly to ensure that everyone has that interschool social interaction and relationships. Trusting relationships are the key to a successful school year. Let us know how we can serve your child better.

Our staff is dedicated to ensuring that we provide quality and relevant education to your child, whether in-Person or Learn-At-Home mode of learning. Please feel free to contact your child's teacher to make sure you can get the most of their educational needs during this challenging time. We can do this together.

There are so many ways to get information about the events happening at Dene Tha' Community School:

Check our Facebook Page, School Instagram, Newsletter, or you can contact us at 780 321 3940.

Please check our Classroom Updates section to find out the teacher of your child.

Our teachers and support staff will work their best to ensure that your child is safe and comfortable in this new classroom set up.

We are looking forward to a great year at Dene Tha' Community School despite the pandemic.

Mr. Carlito N. Somera
Principal



Classroom Updates

HeadStart(K3 and K4)

Ms. H. Seniantha

Welcome to the New Normal of 2020! We are pleased to accommodate and provide the best quality care we can during this pandemic. We understand this is unsettling and an unsure time to send your child to school, and we have a solution for the time being until all is well. With registration forms and the Head-Start questionnaire, we can provide materials, resources and support for your child, even if he/she is not potty trained. Please contact us at the school and we will make a

plan together. The month of September is all about safety and getting used to the routine and building that relationship between the child, teacher and environment.

For now, we have the program running Monday-Thursday 9:00-3:30. Full day with a limit of 6 children, any more than that, we will change the schedule.

We also have a Facebook page for Head Start parents only: Dene Tha; Chateh Headstart Program.

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to call us at the school.



Manipulative play facilitates children's development of fine motor skills and coordination.

Kindergarten(K5)/Grade 1

Ms. Y. Manghi

Dear Kindergarten and Grade One Parents,

It is a joy to welcome my Kindergarten and Grade One students for this school year.



Students focus on doing their work with shielded desk.

As we embark on a new school year, you might be wondering what the year will bring and how your child will do. As classes begin, I would like to let you know that my priority is to make every child feel special and valued in my classroom.

As we all feel the anxieties of the "newness" this year, I hope this will soon be gone and we will soon have a great time. Nevertheless, let us help one another to ensure learning this year.

For grade one, we are mastering the letter names and the sounds of each letter that will help them eventually read. We

are also counting backwards from twenty to one.

For Kindergarten, I sent packages for pre-writing skills. Please let them do all of these. If possible hold their hand and guide them on the proper way of writing. Check how they hold the pencil and the crayons.

I am looking forward to working closely with you, so please provide the school your contact number/s.

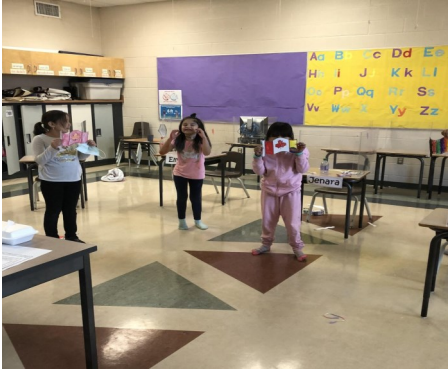
Have a wonderful day!

Sincerely,

Yolanda Manghi

Grade 2

Ms. R. Owen



Students display their work during 'ELA with Social Studies Content'

The Grade 2 class has had an amazing start to the school year. In fact, students have been adapting well to the 'new norm' and engaging adequately with the various classroom activities. For example, in English Language arts, students were building on their reading and writing skills by using daily phonics. The main focus has been on the short vowel sound;

and there's been evident progress in students' learning so far. It's true that we live in unprecedented times, however, learning is still very fun in our classroom!

Please, Parents and Guardians, do not hesitate to stop by for a 'chat' about your child's progress or educational needs.

Grade 3

Ms. J. Salmon-Brissett

Our amazing group of grade 3 children have demonstrated a love of learning this month by showing up in their numbers and attending school regularly. Most have not missed a single day but have been successfully practicing the Covid -19 guidelines. They are beginning to read and are also applying their finger spacing to their writing. Ask your child to spell and write the word SEPTEMBER.

In Science, Health, and Social Studies, we have integrated our learning around ourselves and our community: Who we are, where we live, the plants we eat, what is a plant and what plants need to survive. Apart from pulling up wild plants and observing and writing about their parts, we

have dug up soil and planted a potato in our room. We will observe the growth and behavior patterns of the plant and make notes and drawings of what we see daily. We will continue exploring plant life by learning to use the school's Grow Tower.

In music, we build our reading skills through songs and improve our singing by learning about beats, notes and rests. In physical Education, we do Math races, rounders, hide and seek and a daily walk outdoors. In Art, we are exploring the use of lines to create designs. Take a look at our recently created landscapes using the lines art technique.

Ask your child everyday to tell you one thing they learned in



Gr. 3 are strictly queuing within the Covid-19 guidelines. We hit maximum today with 12 students in attendance. Awesome!

class. Give an incentive for good answers. Also, please help them learn to spell their weekly word list. That practice will help them pay attention and learn more everyday.

“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

Grade 4

Mr. M. Watts

September has been an excellent month for grade 4. We are learning about biodegradable materials in Science, geography of Alberta in Social Studies, multiplication in Math, sentence writing in Language Arts, mixing paint in Art, grounding ourselves in Health, and traditional jigging in Music. Students who come to school are happy with how much attention both my-

self and Lesley are able to give them. Students who are learning at home may require the help of their parents to complete their work. Please make sure you return the work that I have sent out. We are using Google Classroom to complete many of our assignments, and this work can be completed online at home. Please check your work packs for information about



Grade 3s are enjoying some fresh air after a good workout!

logging into your email, Google Classroom, Mathletics, and Essential Skills.

Grade 5

Ms. C. Big Bull

Welcome back to another exciting school year! This school year is different from other years due to



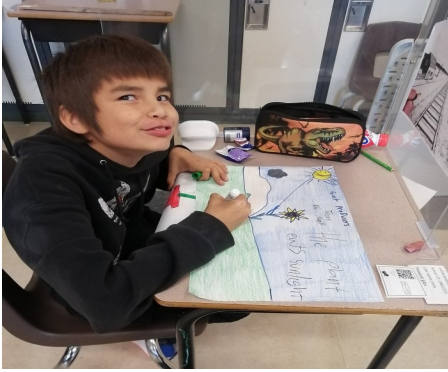
Grade 5s are conducting a Science experiment on Electricity and Safety Rules!

COVID-19. We are practicing all safety guidelines to ensure a safe environment for the students here at Dene Tha' Community School. In grade 5 math, the students are learning to multiply 2-digit numbers by 1-digit. In science we are learning about Electricity and Magnetism in which they'll learn about electrical currents, testing circuits, and test the effects of modifications. In Social

Studies we are learning about Canada: The land, histories and stories. In Language Arts, we do daily spelling and we also learned what Onomatopoeia and Alliteration are. If you have a grade 5 student at home please connect with me so we can make arrangements for school work to be delivered to you. Wanda and I are excited about this new school year of 2020-2021!!!

Grade 6

Ms. R. Adeniyi



Iron S in Science class busy working on showing how the plant obtains energy from the Sun.

Grade 6 students are having fun working on science assignments. Students are learning by reading assigned texts in the class, as well as learning through expressions of images created in their drawings. The areas of in-

terest include dealing with topics like: food chains, forest habitat, forest producers (plants) herbivores in the forest, who eats the herbivores, forest predators, their prey and decomposers in the forest.

Grade 7

Ms. E. Paracuelles

Welcome to a whole new school year! The grade 7 students are off to a great start with a bottle rocket launching as we learned about safety in the science classroom. We're also recalling the scientific method and exploring different characteristics and needs of living organisms as we dive into our Interactions and Ecosystems unit in science. For math, we're stepping into the world of decimal numbers, applying operations, and understanding math text problems more effectively. We're getting ourselves ready to take on integers and fractions in the coming weeks. In art, we're learning about primary, secondary, and tertiary colours by making

our own colour wheels. In health, we begin the year with our Learning Strategies unit where we compare growth and fixed mindsets and know about our preferred learning styles. For environment and outdoor education, we did a nature scavenger hunt and did a colour matching game where we try to match colour swatches with items from around the school grounds. If you think your child should be joining our class whether in school or at home, please register them at DTCS and feel welcome to ask any questions you might have. Despite the challenges of COVID-19, grade 7s are ready to get smarter every day!



Grade 7 students participate in the poster contest for Dene Tha' Community School's 18th School Founding Anniversary.

Grade 8/9

Mr. C. Mangaser



*Class Activity: Trash Pickup.
Grade 8 wins with the most trash collected!*

I cannot believe we are back here again for round 2 with an amazing school, and even better students. We are prepared to tackle any challenges or obstacles that will get in our way. Our classroom is built upon four pillars, Respect, Department, Community, and Honor. With these four pillars, we will succeed in all aspects of education. This month, we are focusing on narrative paragraph writing. Some of the students had a chance to go outside for nature walks and to reflect on their surroundings within the community. In math we are learning about linear equations, exponent laws, and square roots in math.

For social studies, the grade 9s are exploring the inner works of the Canadian government, while the grade 8s are learning about the European Renaissance. Finally, in science, we are working towards building our understanding of matter and the world around us. Part of the new school year is an opportunity to give back to the community. As walkers of the earth, it is important to give back and take care of the world around us. This year we will implement some community service time in order to help our community. Hope you can follow us along our learning journey!

It is an honour for me to once again work in the Dene Tha Community. The school and classroom setting is now a "new normal". For those students who are coming to school, they have special seating with masks as they try to adapt and work in a new way due to COVID-19.

Other students have the choice to work from home. The online learning platform is Google Classroom. For these



HS students are learning In-Person using technologies.

students using On-line Learning, they can borrow Chromebooks/laptop computers from the school.

This year ,I am teaching in the areas of English Language Arts and Social Studies to high school and grade 7 students. In grade 7. I combined English and Social Studies and the subject is called **Humanities**. Currently, in English Language Arts, we are focusing on identity and identity formation, core memories, psychology of colour, colour and its relationship to personality and learning styles, journaling, writing with clarity by examining parts of speech (e.g. nouns, verbs, adjectives, etc.) and sentence structure, and short stories. With short stories, students are studying characterization, plot structure (introduction of events, rising action, etc.) and point of view (who is telling the story). In addition, students explored nonfiction texts on the pandemic and its effects in many regions: provincially, nationally, and internationally by looking at the social, political and economic impacts. As a result, students are exploring healthy

habits and practicing safe protocol measures.

In addition, I teach several Career and Technology Studies (CTS) courses. For instance, there are numerous Food courses - International Cuisine, Food Basics, Contemporary Baking, Vegetarian Cooking, and many more.

Here is a picture of an appetizing delicious mouth watering meal prepared by students in Foods: Students were assisted in the creation of their own sauce where they placed meat balls. And there was a vegetarian dish with chick-peas seasoned with spices and turmeric.



Student Needs Triage

Ms. H. Natannah

Hello my name is Hayley Natannah I am the Student Needs Triage Worker. Every once a month I teach The 7 Grandfather teaching to each class on different topics. September is the month of Respect, students are learning about Respect.

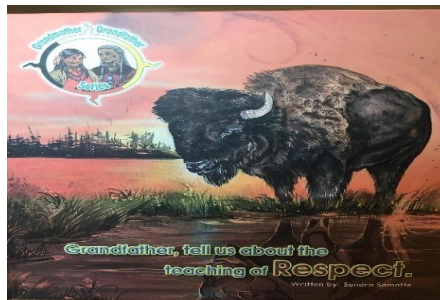
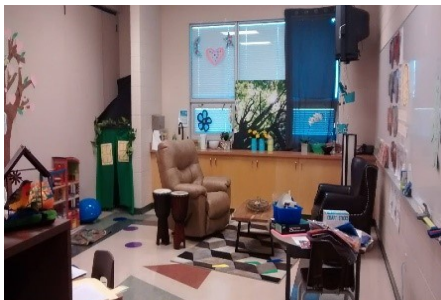
Respect is honouring all of creation. Respect is an attitude that you show to another person, animal or thing. It is also valuing and listening to your Elders, parents and teachers. Having consideration and appreciation for oth-



ers is a sign of respect. It is showing others that you care and admire them for their good qualities. When you respect yourself, you can respect everyone and everything around you. Life is

amazing when you have respect. Written by: Sandra Samatte

I also teach students about different types of emotions and how to self-regulate. What is self-regulation? Self-regulation is the ability to understand and manage your behaviour and your reactions to feelings and things happening around you. I also teach leadership skills, self-esteem and coping skills.



WELCOME BACK EVERY-ONE:

September is always a busy month at DTCS. This year our school has had to make many changes to meet the needs of our students & keep students, staff & the community safe in these very challenging times.

COVID PRECAUTIONS:

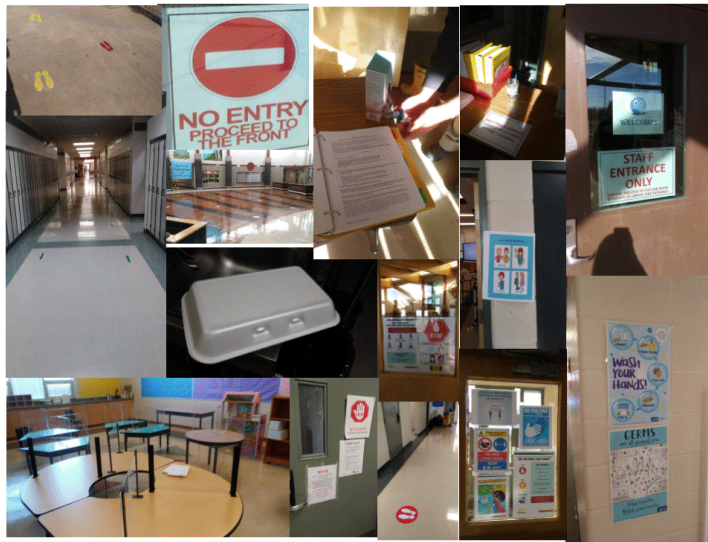
- All staff @ DTCS must have a negative COVID test every two weeks.
- Any staff or student with COVID like symptoms must self-isolate until a negative test is completed.
- Students MUST hand sanitize getting on the bus and masks must be worn.
- Everyone must enter from the front (see entrance signs @ the doors).
- Limited access entry to the building
- ALL adults (staff & visitors) must complete wellness / fit for work sheet daily.
- Reminders
 - To wash hands and no physical contact
 - Arrows showing where to walk
 - Footprints showing physical distancing (inside, outside)
- Protective Plexiglass barriers around student desks
- Only kitchen staff allowed in

the foods area

All meals are served in a closed container

Snack must be wrapped individually

- One student at a time is escorted to the washroom and washroom is sanitized after each use.
- In addition to the above changes, DTCS has a day custodian who continuously wipes down high touch areas in our building



LEARN AT HOME OPTIONS:

- With the likelihood of the COVID issue continuing and some families choosing not to send their children to school, DTCS has developed learn at home options. Parents can stop by the school to get more information on programs. Once students are registered, assignments are delivered and picked up at your home on a

weekly basis. Laptop computers are also available for online assignments. Students working at home are required to meet the same expectations & deadlines as students attending in person.

VIRTUAL CLASSROOMS:

- DTCS staff has had to be creative to continue our normal routines & procedures. Due to the fact that we are unable to gather in large groups, we have moved to a virtual format. Each class is taking turns hosting the morning routine (School prayer, drum song, O' Canada, Dene word & positive thought for the day). Staff & students have been very creative & ins using technology to keep us together & safe.

- DTCS is hoping to be able to share school events virtually (ie: Halloween celebration; Remembrance Day Ceremony and The School Christmas concert)

- Parents are invited to make arrangements to stop by our school & see for themselves the safety measures we have in place.
- DTCS thanks everyone for your continued support for your children's success, while keeping our community safe.

Sensory Program(Action Chill Room)

Mr. M. White

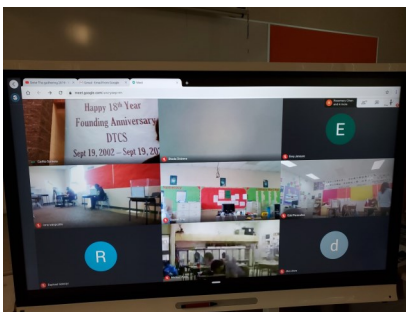
Action-Chill Room is now up and running since September 21st, 2020! It has been a hit as expected. I am taking only two students at a time so that social distancing and cleaning protocols are in place. In this room, the students are receiving gross motor

skills, one-two student-adult interaction, activities planned that boosts their senses such as lighting, obstacles, and sensory materials, music and more. This is a room for the students to get their sensory needs met.



Mr. M. White instructs a student in the Action Chill Room.

Miscellaneous



DTCS commemorates with virtual celebration its 18th year founding anniversary.



The 18th Founding Anniversary Cake



Staff prepare the package of treats to deliver to the classroom during the virtual school's 18th year founding anniversary celebration.



Children are warming up before going to the modified Assumption Challenge Run.



Children participate in the beep test run.



Students take their position at the garden yoga station during the modified Assumption Challenge staying active and healthy.

DENE THA' COMMUNITY SCHOOL: **Traditional Skills Project**

Teach your children traditional ways. This is a chance to take your children camping for a few days this fall. You can tell them stories, do different traditional skills and activities, and spend some quality family time.

We will help subsidize food expenses for families taking their children into the bush. Please send pictures of your children doing activities to claim school support for your camping.

WHEN: SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER "HUNTING SEASON"

WHERE: CABIN, CHINCHAGA, HABAY, DAY TRIPS, SURROUNDING AREA



FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

YOLANDA TALLEY: DENE INSTRUCTOR AT (780-502-0352)

OR YOU CAN CALL THE SCHOOL (780-321-3940)

HELEN METCHOOYEAH: (780-841-9144)

ANN AUSTIN: (780-841-9144)

MARIA WASP-COLIN: (780-321-3940)

Please email or text pictures of your children doing traditional activities and skills to: yolanda.talley@chateh-education.net

DTCS OCTOBER 2020 Calendar

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2 PD Day (no classes)	3
4	5	6	7 Student award celebration	8	9 Hunting Holiday (no classes)	10
11	12 Thanksgiving Day (no classes)	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

DTCS TRADITIONAL SKILLS PROJECT

Teach your children traditional ways. This is a chance to take our children camping for a few days this fall. You can tell them stories, do different traditional skills and activities, and spend some quality family time. Dene Tha Community School will help subsidize food expenses for families taking their children into the bush. Please send pictures of your children doing activities to claim school support for your camping.

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT: [YOLANDA TALLEY](mailto:YOLANDA.TALLEY): (780-502-0352); CALL THE SCHOOL (780-321-3940)

HELEN METCHOOYEAH: (780-841-9144); ANN AUSTIN: (780-841-9144); MARIA WASP-COLIN: (780-321- 3940)

Please email or text pictures of your children doing traditional activities and skills to: yolanda.talley@chateh-education.net

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Newsletter