



The Spruce



Dene Tha' Community School's Newsletter

"Learning to Love, Loving to Learn"

The Spruce Volume 3, Issue 5

DTFN Community Choosewell Circle Park Awaits For You

Communities Choosewell is a proud supporter of the Dene Tha' First Nation communities. They provided a start-up fund to initiate the project during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Dene Tha' Community school has implemented the project and partnered up with the Revlis Rentals LTD's help, donating volunteer labour equivalent to \$1500.00

service. The circle park has a skating pond, sledding bank, and ski trails. People can utilize the park at their



Children pose during their sledding time after school at the DTFN Community Choosewell Circle Park

own risk. " We like the park, and we enjoy sledding," Tierra said.

"We hope to continue developing the park for the people and children, and we hope to use it all season long. The school children have submitted a blueprint that we follow. We are grateful to Chateh Store and Grocery for putting the donation jar at the store and your contribution to improving the park," Mr. Somera added.

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Principal's Message

Joining hands together makes us stronger. The hope for a better year is upon us. Let us keep our faith and believe that everything will be fine.

Our learning has started January 5th by utilizing the learn-at-home mode. Our in-person modality of learning has begun on January 18th. We ensured that our teachers have isolated for fourteen days to protect the school staff and children's safety.

We probably want to forget what 2020 brought us; however, on the bright side, the challenges it presented made us unified, caring, resilient, resourceful, adaptive, and creative. There is always a balance in life. We need to build on these positive things that occurred during the pandemic.

Our school community is extremely fortunate not to have had any positive cases because you did your crucial part to keep your child(ren) home when they are not feeling well. You also keep them up-to-date about the COVID -19 protocols by wearing their masks and washing their hands. Our children understand what we are experiencing now, which may also be why they behave well and study hard. Our school assures you that we are doing all we can to ensure that safety is our utmost priority. Please continue to follow the COVID symptom checklist every day and keep reminding our children to stay safe. All we can do is hold on to our faith and hope that our Creator will take care of us. We will continue to address the learning of your children in

both learn-at-home and in-person learning modes. Our staff also keep developing their knowledge and skills to manage the children's various learning needs.

To receive up-to-date information, please visit our Facebook page and other social media platforms. We also send a notification to our local radio station. Check with your children, too, if they have school notes and our newsletter "The Spruce."

High school teachers will be finishing up courses and getting students ready for a final evaluation this week. Report cards will go out for high school students only on February 5th; there will be no school on January 29th due to Professional Development Day. The second semester will start on February 1st. If you have a 16 year- old child at home, please let him/her connect with us to enroll in the courses we offered this semester.

Finally, I would like to share with you this inspirational quote from J.K. Rowling," I was set free because my greatest fear had been realized, and I was still alive, and I still had a daughter whom I adored, and I had an old typewriter, and a big idea. And so rock bottom became a solid foundation on which I rebuilt my life." Thank you, and stay safe.

Sincerely,

Mr. Carlito N. Somera,
Principal



Classroom Updates

HeadStart(K3 and K4)

Ms. H. Seniantha

Happy New Year Families. Hope all is well. In the Head Start classroom, we focus on learning through play as well as identifying their names and the alphabets. We do a lot of hands-on activities to enhance their learning of the letters, sensory play and movement games. For the first month, we get students into a new schedule/routine that consists of

circle time where we learn the calendar, seasons, read books, sing songs and what our day looks like, etc. We go outside when weather permits of course, the students love outside play so that being said, please ensure they have all their winter gear from head to toes and extra clothes. Heya mahsi. I'll leave you with this quote "Don't

mind the mess, we are making memories."- author unknown.



Headstart children spend some outdoor time.

Kindergarten(K5)/Grade 1

Ms. Y. Manghi

Dear Kindergarten and Grade One,

I hope you had a memorable and relaxing school



K5/Gr.1 children focus on their seatwork.

break. Welcome back to school for this year 2021.

You might be wondering what will happen next. In Numeracy, we will have exciting and fun days. We will skip count by 2s,5s and 10s,sort things by 2s,5s and 10s. You will make patterns too. We have already started skip counting and I am so proud of you that you can do it. We will continue where we left off. In Literacy, we will still continue

to start blending the sounds and make some words. We will focus first on the an, at, and ag word families.

I encourage you to practice sounding out words even at home. For those who are doing home learning, please work on the packages delivered every week.

Sincerely,

Yolanda Manghi

Grade 2

Ms. R. Ohenmwun



Students work on Number Line Addition

Grade 2 class is feeling so refreshed with the dawn of 2021. We are so positive that this year is the

light at the end of the tunnel that we have been expecting to see.

Now that we are here, we are going to work hard and well to reach our learning goals; and we are very hopeful that we will achieve them with the support of the amazing people around us!

In Math, students are having fun adding and subtracting numbers.

They are continuing to develop their number senses by practicing some addition and subtraction strategies. Mathletics is being adopted to boost their confidence in using technology as an additional learning tool.

Thank you, dear parents and guardians, for all your support. Have a fruitful and productive 2021!

Grade 3

Ms. J. Salmon-Brissett

This month in grade three, we embarked upon learning out timetables for Math, improving our reading skills with the Companion Reading Program, exploring Types of Rocks in Science, and discussing and reading about the cultural and individual significance of rocks in Social studies. We also checked the temperature daily so we can escape to the great outdoors for

DPA – our most favourite time of day, second only to lunch and going home again at the end of day. Also, we look forward to doing Art with Dewey. Take a look at our beautiful butterflies on our bulletin board outside our room. We hope to have Dewey in our classroom at least once every week going forward.



Student uses a hands on approach to individually, work out the two times table.

***“Success is not final, failure is not fatal:
it is the courage to continue that counts.”
— Winston S. Churchill***

January has been an excellent month for grade 4. We are creating topographical maps of Alberta, mastering sight words, writing complete sentences, building model vehicles, improving our sketching skills, and playing hockey. A reminder that students need to dress for the weather (boots, jackets, gloves, and toques). I also ask that all parents send their children to

school with backpacks. Students who are learning at home may require the help of their parents to complete their work. Please make sure the homework I have sent is returned when it is finished. Check your homework packages for information about logging into your email, Google Classroom, Mathletics, and Essential Skills. Parents can

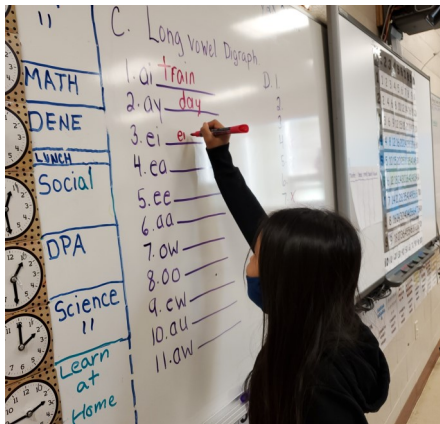


Lesley guides a mindfulness exercise with children.

contact the school to sign out a Chromebook for students to use at home.

Grade 5

Ms. Vera and Ms. Wanda



Destiny answers the exercise on the Long Vowel Digraph.

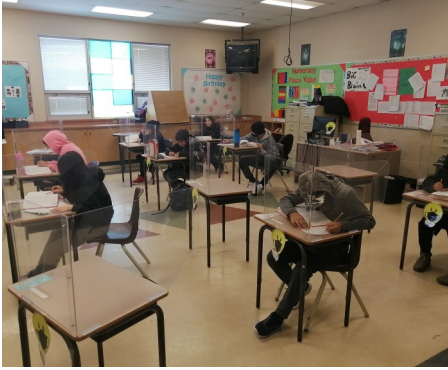
Grade 5s have had a wonderful extended holiday for Christmas and

New Year. They're all happy to be back in school. They have been improving their multiplication skills in Math and be moving into division problems soon. For ELA, they are learning about short and long vowel sounds. Also silent consonants such as "b", "g", "gh", "h", so on as other silent consonant letters. As

for DPA, all the students go outside to enjoy the fresh air. There are also lots of things to learn everyday in other subjects such as Science, Social, Health and Computer. The students are looking forward to having their teacher, Mrs. Bigbull back soon.

Grade 6

Ms. R. Adeniyi



Grade 6 students focus building their vocabulary skills through dictionary search.

In Math, students presently learn multiplication of decimals by a whole number. Prior to introducing students to this new topic, we have spent time on teaching addition and subtraction of decimals. We introduced multiplication of decimals last week Friday (January 22), and students now have basic knowledge of where to put decimals when given some problems to solve in the class.

In science, students learn about "Air and Aerodynamics". In this class, students learn that air is present all around us and that animals

and plants both need air to breathe. Also, students learn that air is a mixture of many gases such as: oxygen, nitrogen, and carbon-dioxide.

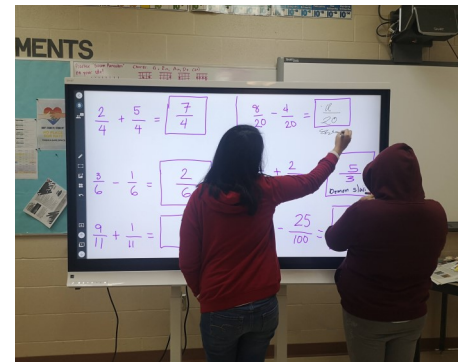
In social studies, students are on chapter 3 which deals with "Democracy in Ancient Athens". Students learn about the Ancient Athenians? Who were citizens in Ancient Athens? What were the roles of men and women in Ancient Athens? Also, students will learn that the democracy we enjoy in Canada had its roots in ancient Athens.

Grade 7

Ms. E. Paracuelles

Happy new year! We hope that everyone has had a meaningful and safe time with their loved ones over the holidays. The grade 7 students began the year with their learn-at-home packages while being away from school for two weeks. As we resumed in-person learning, we're back with our refreshed and eager minds to continue learning more in the classroom! We attended an Ever Active event called "Still I Rise" where we listened to Alicia Cardinal's talk about "Culture, Education, Resiliency" and her aims to motivate youth to pursue their dreams and reconnect to their culture. For math, we reviewed fractional operations and are preparing

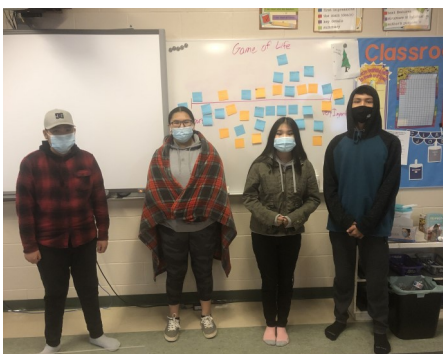
ourselves for working with percents. For science, we are finding a lot about the different ways that heat is transferred as well as the changes of state of matter. For Health, we will soon be covering the units on Safety and Responsibility as well as Personal Health. Parents of grade 7 students should look out for a letter from their child informing them further about these units. For art, we are creating and interpreting our own collages while answering the question of "What do you hope for the year 2021?" Now, we're off to an exciting new year to continue our journey of learning!



Sadie and Shia work on fractional operations.

Grade 8/9

Mr. C. Mangaser



Students rank their priorities in life and set goals for themselves.

Just like that, the first month of 2021 has gone by! After weeks of waiting, the students of Grade 8/9 are back in school learning about what the world has to offer. This year, there is a focus on more hands-on learning. The students had a chance to experience this by measuring the entire perimeter of the gym! Little do they know that they will have to do it all over again when they calculate the area. In English, the students have been putting on their critical thinking hats to determine what is fake news or not. The students have also started

their new science unit learning about different cells, environmental chemistry, and more. Everyday they are working hard to become better versions of themselves. Some things to look forward to in February include the students running the schools Snapchat and Tik Tok accounts, making 15-minute meals, and understanding the world around them better. Great things are happening in the classroom and we can't wait for you to witness our growth.

Once again, Happy New Year! May it be the beginnings of many amazing and wonderful experiences.

For high school, Semester 1 will end on January 29, 2021 and Semester 2 starts on February 1, 2021.

During the month of January 2021 high school students, like other students, worked from home due to the restrictions placed on schools by the government. For many high school learners, this format did not yield too many completed assignments. The subsequent weeks from January 18-29, 2021, very few high school students attended school and many did not complete their assign-

ments despite numerous text messages and phone calls made by their high school teachers. To ensure success of students who are still trying to complete English and CALM, high school students have until February 5, to submit all assignments.

Also, high school students will be writing final exams the week of January 25th, 2021 and February 1st, 2021. In semester 2, students will be taking Social Studies, Science Courses, Learning Strategies and some Foods courses.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the community of Chateh and their resilient, bold, bright and creative students for the great experience

and opportunity to work with all of you. It should be noted that my hope and prayer is that all students will continue to attend school regularly and complete assignments and projects. All students have the potential to be our great leaders in the future. It is with much sadness that I have resigned my position as an English, Social studies and CTS high school teacher. It should be noted that this agonizing decision was very difficult but a necessary one due to my health issues and the need to be closer to my mother who turns 80 years old this year.

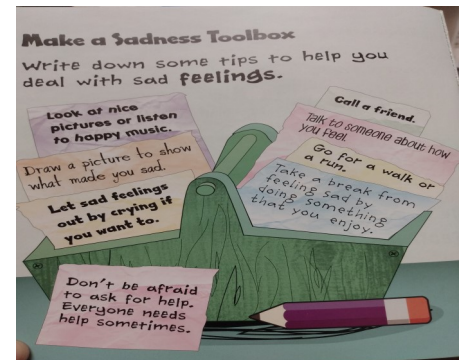
Student Needs Triage

January is the month of Courage. Students are learning about Courage and dealing with feeling sad this month.

What is courage? Courage is being brave in facing all of life's situa-

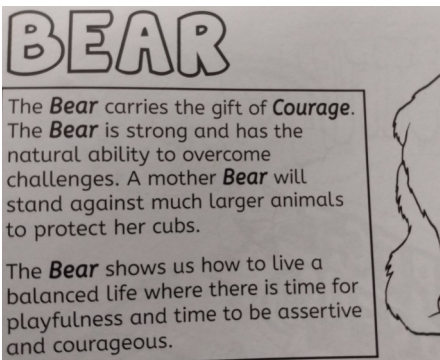
tion. Daily challenges take courage to overcome. When you have courage, you can help others to be courageous. It's about striving hard and never giving in or giving up. With courage, anything is possible and dreams can come true. Being courageous allows you to challenge yourself and be adventurous. Life is awesome when you have courage.

What is Sadness? Sadness is a feeling. It is normal to have many kinds of feelings every day. Some feelings are not nice to have. Sadness is not a nice feeling. We might feel sad when something bad happens, or because we are lonely or scared. The



Make a Sadness Toolbox

best way to deal with feelings is to talk about them. Share your problems with your friends and family. They can help you to find Solutions.



Students focus on Courage

STAYING CONNECTED & STAYING SAFE @ DTCS:

DTCS parents & students are encouraged to visit the social media platforms section of this newsletter. Take a few minutes to connect with the platform(s) that work best for you (DTCS website; text messaging group; YouTube channel; Facebook; The Spruce Newsletter; Twitter; Instagram; Tik Tok; Snap Chat & CKCA 89.9 radio).

VIRTUAL EVENTS: DTCS is staying connected with our community by sharing school special activities. Go to our website to view past events including: Founders Day, Halloween, Remembrance Day & our holiday showcase. Future events planned: Valentine's Day, Pink Shirt day & Winter Carnival &

Concert. DTCS is presently connecting with other area schools for possible Spelling Circle, Math, Attack, Science & Social Studies celebrations.

HIGH SCHOOL COURSES / CREDITS: The first semester for senior high finished at the end of January. Once final marks are entered & credits assigned, transcripts will be printed & reviewed with each high school student. In addition, student's success tracker plan will be updated & students will choose courses for the second semester starting early February. Social Studies and Science are the core courses offered in semester two, as well as a selection of options to complete their schedule. Contact DTCS if you have questions, concerns or require additional information

about the high school program, and student career planning.

DRESSING FOR THE WEATHER: Students are reminded to always dress to be outside in the colder weather. Emergencies can occur on the bus and at school, in addition to class activates and special events. It is important that all students are safe and comfortable in outdoor conditions.

CURRENT CONTACT INFORMATION: It is vital that DTCS has accurate contact information for all students, especially in an emergency. If your phone number changes, please contact Rhoda. In case you may not be available, it is a great good idea to provide at least two alternate contacts.

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

Keep **informed**, be part of the parent **TEXT MESSAGING** group [contact / dtcs](#)

Visit our **WEBSITE** dtcs-edu.net

View special events on our **YOUTUBE**

youtube.com/channel/UCJN8qkJIUM7XSivK1Ktp3Zw channel & follow the links

Follow us on **FACEBOOK** facebook.com/dtcsofficial

Read the **SPRUCE NEWSLETTER** published the last day of each month & also available on our website;

Checkout our **TWITTER** twitter.com/dtcsofficial account

Tune into our **INSTAGRAM** instagram.com/dtcsofficial/ feed.

Watch for our special events info on **TIK TOK** tiktok.com/@dtcsofficial?lang=en

Look for events info on **SNAP CHAT DTCS Official(dtcsofficial02)**

Listen for school announcements on **Chateh Community Radio CKCA 89.9** Mon-Fri (1-5pm)

DENE THA' COMMUNITY SCHOOL

FEBRUARY LUNCH MENU

Note: Subject to change upon availability of supplies

1 Chicken Fingers Rice Veggies Apple	2 Garlic Ribs Rice Spring Rolls Grapes	3 Royal Burger Mushroom & Onion Rice Banana	4 Spaghetti Garlic Bread Salad Orange	5 Pizza Mix Fruits
8 Shepherd's Pie Bannock Salad Veggies	9 Sweet & Sour Chicken Salad Orange	10 Beef Stew Bannock Salad Apple	11 Chicken Drumstick Mash Potatoes Veggies	12 Hot Dog Wedges
15 Family Day Holiday NO SCHOOL	16 Smokies Mash Potatoes Fruit Veggies	17 Breakfast Brunch Sausage/Bacon Hash Brown Eggs	18 Chicken Wings Rice Veggies Orange	19 Hot dog Veggies
22 Spaghetti Garlic Bread Salad	23 Stuffed Potatoes Salad Veggies	24 Pork Chop Mushroom Sauce Rice Mix Veggies	25 Pork Spare Ribs Baked Potato Veggies	26 Pizza Veggies



DTCS FEBRUARY 2021 Calendar

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
01 First day of Second Semester	02	03 Monthly student Awards presentations in class.	04	05 High School REPORT CARDS to be sent home. Early Dismissal 12:30p.m. Student/staff SELF-CARE Day.
08	09 Virtual DTFN Digging in the Past Archeology Project Presentation (by archeologist Gregory)	10	11	12 Virtual Valentine's Day Celebration.
15 FAMILY DAY Holiday (NO SCHOOL)	16	17 (High School Girls) 5pm Virtual Mentorship SERIES: INDUSTRIAL TRADES.	18	19 Early Dismissal 12:30p.m. Student/staff SELF-CARE Day.
22	23	24 1pm Virtual (Anti-Bullying) PINK SHIRT Day.	25	26 Spirit Day: Come to school dressed as your twin. March SPRUCE Newsletter out

