



# HAPPY HOLIDAYS



Dragon's Tales- <http://www.portangelesschools.org/drycreek/index.html>

## WENZL'S WORDS...

Dear DC Family,

We continue to be inspired daily by our children at Dry Creek Elementary! Their learning and citizenship continues to impress our community. We hope the magic of season continues to inspire you and your children to find a cozy spot in your home to sip hot cocoa and read great books together.

It is truly powerful to watch a student accomplish what they could not even dream of achieving before. We appreciate all of the efforts of parents as partners in the education of our children. The routines at home certainly help our students in school. Homework, math facts, reading, sleeping routines, attendance, and communication between home and school assist our dragons in being successful. Our staff members work hard to help students in the classroom. The teaching and learning I see daily is quite impressive. This is an amazing school community to be a part of! Matter of fact, we have had 2 elementary schools in the last 24 hours request to come and visit our school because of the incredible work we have happening here! We have the highest free and reduced lunch rate in the district with the highest reading achievement (MSP averaged) in the district with 84% passing! It is wonderful to have others in the state recognize the powerful work we have happening here again and again.

Last week I sent an email and hard copy letter about the Elementary Restructuring Task Force options being considered in PASD. Please go to <http://www.portangelesschools.org/parents/reorganization-task-force.html>. There are 3 options being considered. There are many points considered in each option. Only Option 2 keeps DC as a neighborhood K-6 school building. Option 1 and 3 make DC a banded school with grades 3-6. The Task Force will make a recommendation to the board at the Dec. 5th Port Angeles School Board Meeting. The School Board will make the final decision at the Dec. 12th Board meeting.

We have exciting events coming up with the winter music department performances. Hopefully the weather will be cooperating with us. Please see the calendar for those important dates with corresponding grade levels performing. Please make sure that your child comes dressed to school for cold weather. Too many students have been coming to school without a warm coat to protect them from bone-chilling cold. Please remind your child to wear their coat to school. Also pajama bottoms may not be worn to school (unless it is PJ day). For up to date school closure information for inclement weather listen to **KONP AM 1450** or [go to their website](#) and [portangelesschools.org](http://portangelesschools.org). It's a great idea to have an AM/FM radio with batteries to listen to if you don't have power. **KONP and PASD website are most reliable.**

There are a few housekeeping items you can help us out with. Please make sure that treats brought to school for the class are from a state approved kitchen. That means they need to be store bought and not made at home. This is for student health. Also our health room is in need of small sweatpants that have an elastic waistband. A parent just purchased several for us. As you are cleaning out clothes that no longer fit, DC would love small sweatpants!

Please make sure that students arrive to school on time daily at **7:45 a.m.**. Let me know how I can support if needed. Consistent attendance is vital in school success. We like to recognize each month the students with perfect attendance and no tardies. We also recognize the class with the highest daily average attendance with "Creek" the dragon award. Mr. Thomason's class received this honor in October.

Wishing you a wondrous winter break! Perhaps you can find time for a trip to the library or to a bookstore and get taken away by a great book with your children. Building a snowman would be fun too if the weather allows for sparkling snowflakes. Time together with the family makes for special memories that last a lifetime. Thanks for sharing your children with us. We look forward to seeing you next year in 2012!

Warmly,

Kate Wenzl

Kate Wenzl, Ed.M.

Principal 360-565-3645

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December 2011

### DATES TO REMEMBER:

- Dec 7--General Music program K-2.... 6:00 pm
- Dec 8--Band & Strings concert 6:00 pm
- Dec 12--General Music program Gr. 3-6.... 6:00
- Dec 13--PTO mtg 6:30 pm
- Dec 12, 13, 14, & 16--Holiday gift shop
- Dec 14--Report cards go home
- Dec 16--Get-together and Sing-a-long 1:00 pm
- Dec 19--Jan. 2--Winter Break **NO SCHOOL**
- Jan 3--School resumes

### Report Cards

*The First Trimester ended on November 30 and report Cards will be coming home on Wednesday, December 14th. The report card is designed to communicate about your student's achievement and how your student is progressing toward meeting standards. We are committed to improving our communication and welcome parent suggestions.*



## BUSY DRAGONS

### PTO UPDATE

Many thanks to all who helped serve the delicious desserts for Turkey Day! Your help was, as always, greatly appreciated.

The Holiday shop is right around the corner! The students will have an opportunity to shop during their school hours for a



variety of gifts for the whole family at affordable prices. Keep an

eye out for information to help the children prepare their shopping lists. If anyone would like to volunteer during this festive time and haven't yet, please contact Laura at 477-3171 or by email at [levinestribe@aol.com](mailto:levinestribe@aol.com). The shop will be open from Dec 12-16 during school hours.



PTO meeting is Tuesday, Dec. 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm in the school library. Would love to see you there!



## WINTER WEATHER/CLOTHING

Winter is here! Please listen to KONP 1450 am or go to [portangelesschools.org](http://portangelesschools.org) for the most accurate school information during our inclimate winter weather.



**We recommend that students dress in warm comfortable school clothes according to the prevailing weather conditions.** Children need fresh air and exercise after sitting at their desks

and are allowed to play outside in most weather conditions. **Please provide your child with a warm coat, hat and gloves** so they will be able to dress appropriately to fit the current weather conditions.

We suggest that you label all articles of clothing, which could be-



come lost, with your **child's first and last name**. Our lost and found corner is filling up with coats, sweatshirts and other items. If your child has lost an article of clothing, please stop by to check the "Lost and Found" rack located in the lunch room.



### GENERAL MUSIC CONCERT

#### Grades K-2



Wednesday, December 7 at 6:00 pm

#### Grades 3-6

Monday, December 12 at 6:00 pm

**(Please have your child report to his/her classroom teacher at 5:40 pm in clean school clothes or holiday attire for both nights.)**

**1st graders need a red Santa hat for concert.**

**(Dollar Store for \$1:00)**

### STRINGS AND BAND CONCERT

Thursday, December 8 at Dry Creek

Dry Creek and Jefferson orchestra and Dry Creek Band 6:00 pm

**Participating students need to be here at 5:30 pm**

### December: A Time of Holidays



Not everyone celebrates the same holidays in December and some don't celebrate any. You probably know why you are celebrating, but talk with your child about what others celebrate. The goal is to help develop an understanding of other people. Two other holidays that are celebrated in December are:

**Hanukkah or Chanukah** is also called the festival of Lights and begins on Thursday, December 2nd. In Jewish homes, a light is lighted on each night of the eight-day festival.

**Kwanzaa** begins on Tuesday, December 26. This seven-day holiday was created in 1966 to serve as a communal celebration among African peoples. It reflects seven principles: unity, self-determination, collective work and responsibility, cooperative economics, purpose, creativity, and faith.





## Absences and Tardies

November proved to be a challenging month for attendance. The weather kept us on our toes. Thank you for all of your calls and notes when your children were sick or late for weather related reasons. The communication really helps with keeping their attendance current. Our daily average attendance goal is 95%. For November we reached 98.20% for our average daily attendance. This is great for our students' learning.

## PEANUT BUTTER DRIVE

Dry Creek's Peanut Butter Drive, sponsored by the Lions Club, brought in lots of peanut butter for the Food Drive. The winning class was Mrs. Mraz's 1st grade class.



For bringing in the most Peanut Butter, 609 oz., they will be enjoying a catered Pizza lunch.

Congratulations to Mrs. Mraz's 1st Grade class!

Our school total was 3889 oz.



## DRY CREEK DRAGON DEEDS

**At Dry Creek, the staff often hands out Dragon Deed slips for those students demonstrating Positive Attitudes and Positive Actions by being Responsible, Respectful, and Safe. These students are rewarded with a small gift and acknowledged at our Get-Together assembly. Students receiving Dragon Deeds in November were:**

Reya A, Ennisa A, Jessica A, Talia A, Jonathan A, Raymond A, Mikaela B, Zach B, Jason B, Dominic B, Pierce B, Tyler B, Savannah B, Jimmy B, Payton C, Samuel C, Lexi C, Tasha C, Deacon C, Isaiah C, Kirsten C, Holli C, Zach C, Eden D, Mikayla D, Caydon D, Marshal D, Parker E, Jaeda E, Jacob F, Hayden F, Anthony F, Jace G, Tyler G, Bailey G, Alex H, Jacob H, Nick H, Tahnee H, Elaina H, Jake J, Mackenzie J, Brenden K, Joseph L, Allyssa L, Elli L, Sammy L, Jake L, Tara L, Iris L, Ana M, Elijah M, Kamron M, Gabby M, Mrs. Branham's class, Ms. Schmitt's class,



Christopher R, Dillon R Charli R, Gabe R, Khia S, Casandra S, Michael S, Aiden S, Ariel S, Kiara S, Khya S, Duane S, Mary S, Silas T, Kyla T, Josephina T, Tandy T, Annebell W, Olivia W, Alyssa W, Cyrus W, Karma W, Zade W.



Way to go Dry Creek Dragons!!



# Dragon's Tales-

## COUNSELOR'S CORNER

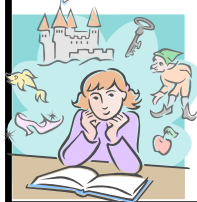
Laura Lilly, Counselor

### Find Time For Family

Kids rely on their families for love, guidance, and a sense of belonging. Without these things, it's hard to do well in school or in life. Activities like the following will show your child they have family support.

- **Eat meals together.** Extend your time together by preparing and cleaning up as a family too. Turn off the television during meals so conversations can take place!
- **Take trips.** Go to a concert, local museum, play, or sports event. Do something outdoors together. Ask your children, "What would you like to do?"
- **Play together.** Choose games that everyone can enjoy, such as charades, board games or 20 questions. Let your children pick what to play.
- **Plan family nights.** Decide together what to do, or take turns choosing. You might order pizza, bake cookies or see a movie. Sometimes invite another family to join you.
- **Do something silly.** Some of the best family memories are the funniest ones. You might make breakfast for dinner, or dress in the craziest outfits you can find.
- **Relax.** Some parents find that right after school is a great time to spend with children. The kids are ready to plop down and talk about their day. Talk about family news, goals, concerns, and successes.

Attention all Parents, Grandparents and Guardians: **Read everyday** during Winter Break and have the adventures of a lifetime!!



With cold weather on the horizon, don't forget to get cozy with a good book. Reading is the single most important thing that you can do with your child to enhance their success at school. **Reading 20 minutes a day** exposes children to more than 1 million words a year, which is not only critical to developing reading skills, but writing and language skills as well.



Staff wearing their red shirts in honor of PAEA (Teacher Association)

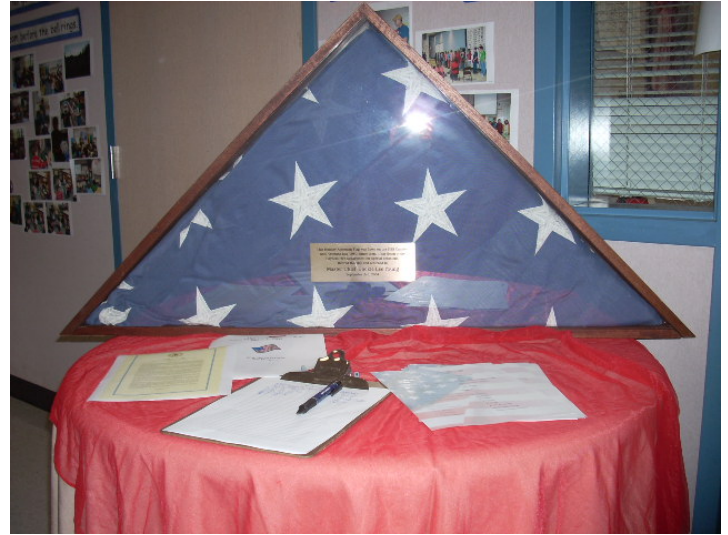
### Reminder:

During the school year, we have many opportunities to celebrate special events with special treats from the parents. These are enjoyed and appreciated. However, it is our State's policy **that all baked items be store bought (not homemade).** Thank you in advance for your understanding.





**Pix Page**



**Dry Creek Students Honoring our Veterans-**

**Superintendent, School Board members, and Staff serving our traditional Turkey Feast to 600 students, parents, and community members. A wonderful, heart-warming day.**





## More Dragon Fun

### Perfect Attendance Award

A student's attendance is an important factor in their success and learning achievements. To encourage students to make every effort to be here every day and on time, we will be acknowledging students with no absences and no tardies. Their names will be announced at our monthly assembly and each will receive a "Perfect Attendance" tag. Students with perfect attendance in November are:

**Kindergarten:** Nate A, Ezekial B, Matthew G, Nyle H, Isaac H, Tanner M, Charles N, Reid S, Peter Z, Cooper B, Allison B, Brooklynn C, Ian D, Isabelle F, Cassius G, Isaiah H, Sydney H, Matthew N, Jonathan R, Carlena B, Aden B, Rayin B, Alysa H, Alejandro M, Xavier N, Hannah S.

**First Grade:** Tyler B, Megan B, Carlee D, Nathan M, Mikaela B, Payton C, Angelina M, Gabrielle M, Alyssa W, Jaeleigh B, Samuel C, Caleb K, Jacob L, Wendy R, Olivia W, Jayde W.

**Second Grade:** Ana A, Maleeah C, Geoffrey D, Anne E, Alex H, Kylie H, Austin S, Michael S, Gregory W, Teresa W, Wyatt B, Lane F, Makenzie J, Seth L, Elijah M, Nikolai R, Haley W, Kennedy B, Kira C, Hayden F, Joseph F, Jacob H, Josiah M, Brett N Khya S, Quanah W.

**Third Grade:** Jessica A, Talia A, Kayla D, Brenden K, Madeline M, Jacob S, Maizie T, Ryan W, Jeannette C, Madison C, Mikayla D, Emily D, Carter D, Emiliano M, Haley M, Sophia O, William R, Kiara S, Nathaniel T, Maxine W.

**Fourth Grade:** Logan B, Alexis C, Riley E, Katrina G, Alex H, Mackenzie J, Karrah L, Gabriel R, Alexis S, Jacob T, Emilie B, Alexis D, Scott G, Dominick G, Aiyana J, Alyssa M, Madison O, Morgan P, Austyn P, Kiara S.

**Fifth Grade:** Leandra C, Peyton C, Kailey D, Luke D, Naomi J, Ezekiel R, Ashlee S, Miika S, Jonathan A, Desiray C, Halle C, Jacob D, Tatum E, Carly M, Linus W, Isaiah W, Jackie Y.

**Sixth Grade:** Ryan A, Zachary B, Taylor B, Jarrett B, Shania D, Erin E, Blake H, Easton J, Cheyenne W, Nathan A, Tyra A, Ennisa A, Gillian E, Shawn F, Anthony G, Nicholas H, Jace L, Evian S, Kenith S, Kyla T.

**THANK YOU FOR BEING AT SCHOOL EVERY DAY AND ON TIME !**

### News from Our Library...



"*Snuggle with a Book*" reading contest ended on November 30, 2011. We had six winning entries: from **Kindergarten- Ian D**; then **1<sup>st</sup> Grader- Olivia W**; **2<sup>nd</sup> grader - Teresa W**, **3<sup>rd</sup> grader-Olivia B** and from **grade 4- Ariel S**. Last but never least, from **grade 5-Hailey R**! Each lucky student received a new backpack, crayons, two pencils, and a soft, snuggly lap blanket. Thank you to Mr. Thomason for drawing the lucky winners' names.

Look for more reading contests after our winter break. Keep reading!

Diva-dog and Mrs. Linn

