



The Dragon's Tales

Dry Creek Elementary

WENZL'S WORDS

Welcome to our February Newsletter! We have a superb staff and spectacular students! We appreciate all of our parent support too. Our students succeed when we all work together!

Everyday you can see students enthusiastically puzzling over science and math questions, reading and using thinking strategies, and writing with purpose. Students are singing and playing instruments, and being physically active in PE! We just finished taking our mid-year assessments. I encourage you to speak with your child's teacher to see how you can support your child's learning.

This is a great mid-year check in to see how students are responding to instruction. We are about to start our

math tutoring program for students who may need just a little extra help. We are unable to provide transportation for students. We will be contacting families soon that will be recommended for this tutoring opportunity.

Our reading scores are continuing to rise. All of our efforts working together to support literacy with our children is receiving results! Math fluency and writing are areas that our students need to grow. Please work with your children to expand their vocabulary when speaking or writing. Word choice enhances the overall paper. Also when your child talks with you about a story, be asking questions to get more supporting details for elaboration.

In the area of math, we really need our students to become more fluent in basic addition, subtraction, division, and multiplication as they grow through the years. DC had only 6 students in level 1 reading on MSP last year. We had 35 level 1 students in math. Although we are still surpassing state average, we are always looking for ways to improve. Please get those flash cards going at home. Also have your child "buy" things at store so that they can help count change back. Real life experience is

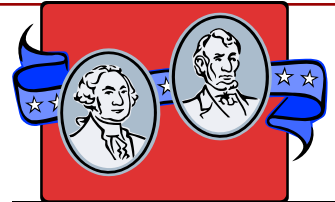
always beneficial. Our staff is working hard to support all of our students with individual academic growth. Thanks for your partnership at home!

Please be sure that students are arriving to school by 7:45 am. Consistent attendance is vital to school success. Please make sure that you are communicating with us if an absence is necessary. We are so glad to have your child here!

This is incredibly rewarding work and I share it with the greatest team of students, staff, and families at Dry Creek Elementary! Thank you for all your love and support from home! It was great to see you at the winter concerts and book fair night. It is great to have a wonderful partnership with our PTO! All of us working together helped DC become a Washington Achievement Award Winning School.

Warmly,

Kate Wenzl, Ed.M.

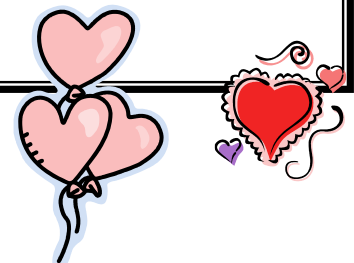


Port Angeles
School District

February 2012

Dates to Remember

- Feb 6-17—Jump Rope for Heart
- Feb 8—McDonald's McTakeover
- 6:00-8:00 pm
- Feb 20—Presidents' Day Holiday **NO SCHOOL**
- Feb 24—Get-Together assembly 9:00 am
- March 2—Dr. Seuss' Birthday/Read Across America
- March —Kindergarten Registrations for 2012-13 school year begins



REMINDERS

Please notify office if address or phone numbers change.

We need to have working numbers to reach parents of our students when necessary.



PTO meeting scheduled for Feb. 14th is cancelled in the interest of showing love on Valentine's Day. Any questions or concerns, please contact any PTO officer.

Read-A-Thon coming February 27th to March 9th. Look for information packets coming soon. Funds support Dry Creek PTO and the enrichment of our student's learning.



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DRY CREEK PTO SPONSORED EVENTS

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

Dry Creek has been having their annual Book Fair. Students will be shopping through February 3rd.

The students previewed the assortment of books available on Monday. They will be able to purchase books Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday during school hours.



Family Night contest, guessing the number of Candy Runts in a jar, was won by Isabelle Felton. There were 1243 candies and Isabelle guessed 1234 for the closest guess.

A big Thank You to Larry Dunn for organizing the book fair. We appreciate your hard work for a job well done! To all of the volunteers: Tammy Robinson, Angela Bradley, Tabatha and Jason Meadows, Laura Levine, Christi Tucker, Michelle Haworth, and Amanda McLean, who have helped with this event, we thank you!



Attendance Update

January proved to be a challenging month with attendance. We have had a lot of students out with various illnesses. However, our number of tardy students has been quite low. Thank you for supporting your children's learning and having them here at school on time at 7:45 and ready to learn every day.

Perfect attendance for January was 94.55%.

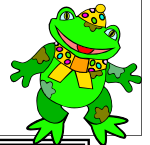
Mrs. Mraz's class had the highest average daily attendance with 98.33%.

We are looking forward to a healthier February and getting back up to our attendance goal of 95%.

NOTES FROM THE LIBRARY

The Clallam County Literacy Council Reading Contest ends on Friday, February 3rd. Students need to get their entry forms in by that date. Watch for posting of winners in the next issue.

<http://www.portangelesschools.org/drycreek/library.html>



KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION for the 2012-13 school year begins in **March**. Children must be 5 years old prior to September 1, 2012. Parents are asked to provide the child's **birth certificate and immunization record** during registration. Schools will accept registrations between 8:00 am and 4:00 pm, Monday through Friday. Parents and guardians are encouraged to register their children early to ensure the most efficient placement for all students. **Parents should register their children at the elementary school nearest their home.** More information to follow at a later date.



TAKE YOUR FAMILY OUT FOR DINNER



The Dry Creek PTO will be sponsoring a McDonalds' McTake-over! Dry Creek Staff will be taking over the Port Angeles McDonalds' restaurant serving food, cleaning tables and greeting guests!

On Wednesday, February 8th from 6:00 to 8:00 pm your child's teacher may be seen working at McDonalds to raise funds for our school. You and your child will see

many of your Dry Creek friends eating out to support Dry Creek! **Everyone is invited—Bring friends! - Bring family members! - Bring yourselves!**

The PTO receives 40 percent of all sales between 6:00 and 8:00 pm to be used in the enhancement of your child's learning.

Have a Fun Family Night Out!





PERFECT ATTENDANCE

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 January are:



Kindergarten: Carlana B, Alysa H, Jonathan H, Alejandro M, Xavier N, Nickoles W, Berry C, Allison B, Lauryn C, Ian D, Isabelle F, Cassius G, Sydney H, Matthew N, Jarrett R, Jonathan R, Garrett S, Kason A, Ezekial B, Holli C, Carl D, Sydney F, Matthew G, Mariah H, Nyle H, Charles N, Reid S, Robert W, Peter Z.

First Grade: Tyler B, Megan B, Tanner J, Samuel L, Nathan M, Meadow R, Ty S, Derrick K, Khia S, Isaac S, Alyssa W, Dominic B, Jaeleigh B, Samuel C, Echo C, Jacob L, Wendy R, Payton R, Olivia W, Jayde W.

Second Grade: Makayla B, Daniel C, Maleeah C, Anne E, Kylie H, Austin S, Gregory W, Teresa W, Corey Y, Harmony C, Lane F, Makenzie J, Khali K, Elijah M, Nikolai R, Haley W, Kennedy B, Karter G, Tyler G, Payton G, Jacob H, Kiersten J, Brett N.

Third Grade: Carter D, Jacob F, McKenzie H, Jake J, Porter L, Emiliano M, Haley M, Kiara S, Nathaniel T, Maxine W, Caleb W, Logan B, Selena B, James B, Korbin G, Bailey G, Brenden K, Abigail K, Madeline M, Kamron N, Jacob S, Dion T, Maizie T.

Fourth Grade: Emilie B, Joseph C, Dominick G, Aiyana J, Mariah J, Kaitlyn L, Alyssa M, Madison O, Morgan P, Elijah W, Donavyn A, Logan B, Madison D, Riley E, Katrina G, Ruby H, Alex H, Mackenzie J, Casandra S, Jacob T,

Fifth Grade: Leandra C, Nyra C, Kailey D, Luke D, Quillan G, Naomi J, Joseph L, Andrew P, Vivian R, Hailey R, Ashlee S, Miika S, Aron T, Jonathan A, Desiray C, Elijah C, Raine C, Jacob D, Tatum-Mae E, Seamus H, Isaiah W, Jackie Y.

Sixth Grade: Nathan A, Gillian E, Shawn F, Anthony G, Nicholas H, Emilyann P, Kyla T, Ryan A, Jarrett B, Alan C, Shania D, Erin E, Easton J, Bryce L, Genevieve L, Naomi P.

We congratulate these students!



The Dry Creek staff often hand out Dragon Deed slips for those students demonstrating Positive Attitudes and Positive actions by being Responsible, Respectful, Safe, and Prepared. These students are rewarded with a small gift and acknowledged at our Get-Together assembly.

Students receiving Dragon Deeds in January are: Jessica A, Nate A, Talia A, Thomas A, Mikaela B, Emilee B, Pierce B, Kaleb B, Haley B, Slater B, Savannah B, Logan B, Payton C, Lexi C, Deacon C, Kira C, Cody D, Victoria D, Alexis D, Jaeda E, Jacob F, Shawn F, Aidan F, Anthony G, Gennie L, Jace G, Tyler G, Zelby G, Mariah H., Jacob H, Nick H, Aiyana J, Jake J, Tanner J, Gary J, Tee-Jay J, Derrick K, Alanis L, Bryce L, Sammy L, Asha L, Ana M, Nason M, Nate M, David M, Haley M, Nathan M, Gabby M, Mr. Bible, Mr. Thomason's class, Mrs. Branham's class, Mrs. McHenry's class, Mrs. Peterson's class, Ms. Cole's class, Charlie N, Madison O, Morgan P, Christopher R, Dillon R, Kaya R, Meadow R, Jonathan R, Khia S, Katelyn S, Isaac S, Silas T, Kyla T, Josephina T, Dion T, Tandy T, Teresa W, Alyssa W, Cheyenne W, Quanah W, Zade W, Jayde W.



Way to go Dry Creek Dragons!!





COUNSELOR'S CORNER

Laura Lilly, Counselor

Helping Children Control Their Anger

Children need to know that anger is an acceptable feeling. Feeling mad is okay but acting mean is not. Parents can help their children to control their anger by helping them to identify their feelings (disappointed, frustrated, hurt feelings) and the physical reactions that their body is having, and then also helping them find a way to release the anger in positive ways. For example: "Wow, I can tell you are getting really frustrated with your homework. I see that you are clenching your fists and breathing faster. Maybe it would help you to take a short break and then come back to try again." By talking to your child in this way you are naming their feeling (frustration), noticing how they are acting (breathing fast and clenching fists), and giving them a way to stay in control (take a short break to relax).

There are three important rules to follow in managing your anger:

It's OK to feel angry BUT ...

1. Never hurt yourself.
2. Never hurt others.
3. Never hurt property (things).

It is important to talk about what's bothering you!

Winners

Our students are thriving on their Math Dragons. Top class percentages earning their Yellow Dragons are:

Ciaciuch and Mraz's classes with 100% sharing "Thing 1" and Davis with 96% winning "Thing 2"

"Creek" the Dragon went to Mraz's class for best attendance in January having 98.33 % perfect attendance.

Shirley Mast was the winner of the Gratitude Dragon for Dry Creek Staff.

Our Accelerated Readers are well on their way to meeting our goal of 6000 points by 2nd trimester.

They are now at 3191.6.

Way to Shine Dragons!!



Please help us welcome our new Attendance Secretary, Felicia Volkman. Felicia comes to us from Hamilton and we are happy to add her to our Dry Creek Family while Mrs. Wolniewicz is on leave for remainder of year.



Congratulations Dry Creek!

Dry Creek is the recipient of the Washington Achievement Award which celebrates schools for overall excellence. Schools are selected based on their statewide assessment data for the three previous years. We are in the company of other Elementary schools such as Mercer Island, Bellevue, and Everett, just to name a few. We are very proud of our students and staff for achieving this award.

Award! OSPI

<http://www.k12.wa.us/EducationAwards/WashingtonAchievement/default.aspx>



Students making tide pool glazed pottery for a community event sponsored by Betsy Wharton and Glazing Art Studio.



Clifford visited Dry Creek for our Annual Scholastic Book Fair

