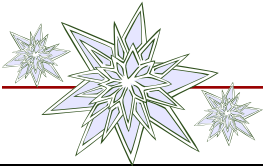


# Dragon's Tales



*Dry Creek Elementary*

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

## WENZL'S WORDS

We're off to a magnificent start for 2012! It is great to see everyone's smiling faces!

Students are back and working hard after their winter break. This trimester is especially important for new learning and a time to move all students to the next level of performance. We will be assessing students to know next steps for their individual learning. As a family you can support your child by providing reading time, math fact practice and listening to your student share about science in the classroom.

The state assessment MSP (Measurement of Student Progress) will be in May 2012. We have lots of time to prepare. Grades 3-6 will be taking this assessment. Additional information may be found at: <http://www.k12.wa.us/assessment/StateTesting/MSP.aspx>

Dry Creek has had phenomenal results on the MSP in the past. We did so well that there are 2 schools coming to tour our building to learn from us! Neah Bay and Richland schools will be here to learn and grow with us. You can see the great state results on the flowing website for DC on the state OSPI report card website:

<http://reportcard.ospi.k12.wa.us/summary.aspx?schoolId=471&OrgType=4&reportLevel=School&year=2010-11>

We know that modeling reading and sharing an interest in reading is the most significant way to improve academic achievement. Please consider setting a goal in

your home to read together for 20 minutes each evening. This commitment will have a lasting impact on your child and it will reinforce the importance of reading with the whole family participating. We had pajama day to celebrate having over 5,000AR reading points for first trimester!

Our January Thinking Strategy for DC is: VISUALIZING. Be sure to ask your child about how they can use this strategy across all content areas. We are focusing heavily on math again this year. Students are really wanting to pass their monthly math dragons. You can see the colorful accomplishment in the hallway with our math dragons.

It is important for children to see the connection of math in everyday life activities. Have your child help purchase items at the store and figure out the cost to buy items, sales tax cost, and change in return. Another great activity is to have your child help in the kitchen when measuring for a recipe. Plus, it is fun family time. Look for ways to discuss how you use math everyday in life.

I would like to conclude with three thoughts recently published in the Elementary School Principals magazine. No child sails through his or her entire school life without at a few rough waters. Sometimes it's a classmate who's causing problems. No matter what the issue, there are some tried-and-true ways to make dealing with problems at school much smoother.

**Start with the teacher.** The best first step is to call your child's teacher and set up a phone conference to discuss the problem.

**Don't be afraid.** Many of us feel nervous or worry that raising issues with the school will "hurt" your child in the classroom. Leaving problems unresolved can create more problems and at Dry Creek the adults want to work with you to solve concerns.

**Think positively and get the facts from both sides.** A positive attitude makes it easier for everyone to calmly discuss the issues and find solutions. Don't put off calling, hoping the problem will resolve itself. Getting the perspective of both sides of an issue often results in a collaborative solution that saves time and anxiety.

Working together we can make the best of each school year for you and your child! Thanks for your support in our partnership! You are your child's first teacher!

Warmly,

*Kate Wenzl,*

Kate Wenzl, Ed.M.



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January 2012

### DATES TO REMEMBER:

- **Jan. 10**—PTO meeting 6:30 p.m.
- **Jan 11**—Pacific Science Center-Physics on Wheels
- **Jan. 16**—Martin Luther King Day **NO SCHOOL**
- **Jan. 27**—Teacher Work Day **NO SCHOOL**
- **Jan 30-Feb 3**—Scholastic Book Fair
- **Jan 31--Book Fair** family night 6:00-8:00 pm
- **Feb 6-17**—Jump Rope for Heart
- **Feb 8--McDonalds'** McTake-over

### Coming Soon

Scholastic  
Book Fair

Jan. 30 --Feb.-3

Sponsored by Dry Creek  
PTO





Dry Creek Elementary School  
25 Rife Road  
Port Angeles, WA 98363

Phone: 457-5050  
Fax: 417-8019  
Web: [www.pasd.wednet.edu/school/dc/](http://www.pasd.wednet.edu/school/dc/)

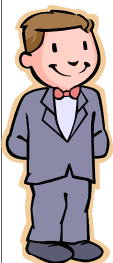
### PTO Update

The Holiday Gift Shop was a huge success thanks to all of the volunteers who so generously gave their time to help students with their shopping and wrapping.

▫

### Dry Creek Dragon Deeds

The Dry Creek 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 December are: Ryan A, Jessica A, Talia A, Mika-

The Dry Creek PTO will be starting out the new year with a lot of exciting activities including The McDonalds' McTake-over on February 8th, the Scholastic Book Fair January 30th. to Feb 3rd and the Pacific Science Center—Physics on Wheels on Wednesday, Jan. 11. This would be a good time to get involved with your PTO by offering a little of your time to help with these events. It would also be a great time to meet the fantastic, hard working PTO officers. We really appreciate our PTO for all of their time and hard work. They make Dry Creek a better place.

ela B, Zach B, Imagin B, Emilie B, Logan B, Taylor B, Skyla B, Natalie B, Kaleb B, Rayin B, Megan B, Adam B, Payton C, Deacon C, Halle C, Harley D, Leslie D, Mikayla D, Marshal D, Carlee D, Madison D, Tatum E, Erin E, Jaeda E, Brian E, Mackenzie F, Lane F, Anthony F, Zelby G, Elizabeth G, Kimberly G, Andrew H, Tanner J, Kiersten J, Makenzie J, Easton J, Khali K, Kamii K, Joseph L, Juanita L, Elli L, Gennie L, Asha

L, Ana M, Nason M, Tanner M, Carly M, Vivian P, Christopher R, Wendy R, Dillon R, Hailley R, Zeke R, Khia S, Casandra S, Isaac S, Kenith S, Khya S, Kiana S, Anthea S, Nathaneal S, Silas T, Dion T, Gregory W, Alyssa W, Nickoles W, Cheyenne W, Haley W.



**Way to go Dry Creek Dragons!!**

### DRY CREEK EVENTS

#### 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!**

### Attendance

Even though December was a short school month, students' daily attendance numbers went from last month's 95% to 95.64%. Mrs. Mraz's class had the highest percentage with 98.7 daily attendance. This is very exciting. Student tardies however, have been on the rise. School starts daily at 7:45 am. Students are considered tardy at 7:50 am. Our goal is to have everyone here and starting their day on time. Thank you for your continued support of your children's learning.

Let's make 2012 the best ever!

## Jumping for a Healthy Heart

We are kicking off Jump Rope for Heart in February. This is an opportunity for our kids to have fun and help others by participating in a special community service program to raise money for the American Heart Association. We are joining in the fight against our nation's No. 1 and No. 3 killers - cardiovascular diseases and stroke.



Dry Creek Elementary is participating in the 33rd Anniversary of the American Heart Association's Jump Rope for Heart program! This is a special community service program to raise funds for the American Heart Association. Jump Rope for Heart is a nationwide event that helps students learn about the benefits of regular physical activity and heart health while raising funds to fight heart disease and stroke. The money our school raises will fund potentially lifesaving research and will support programs that help people in our community. Most people don't realize that the roots for cardiovascular disease in adults often begin in childhood from age 10 and even younger. That's why it's important to make changes now to help your children and other family members. Eat healthy foods, stay physically active, and live tobacco-free.



Your child will be bringing a packet home with a Participant's Sponsor Form. Please take time to read through the packet carefully.

### 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 December are:



**Kindergarten:** Carl D, Sydney F, Matthew G, Mariah H, Nyle H, Isaac H, Tanner M, Charles N, Reid S, Peter Z, Cooper B, Allison B, Brooklynn C, Lauryn C, Ian D, Mikayla D, Isabelle F, Cassius G, Isaiah H, Sydney H, Matthew N, Jonathan R, Tristen A, Elijah A, Carlana B, Aden B, Xavier B, Alejandro M, Akoda N, Nickoles W.

**First Grade:** Tyler B, Carlee D, Nathan M, Meadow R, Lynn S, Mikaela B, Kaleb B, Payton C, Asha L, Angelina M, Dominic B, Jaeleigh B, Samuel C, Caleb K, Wendy R, Dillon R, Tandy T, Olivia W, Kara W.

**Second Grade:** Harley D, Leslie D, Lane F, Makenzie J, Khali K, Antonio M, Aaron P, Haley W, Nicholas A, Ana A, Makayla B, Maleeah C, Eden D, Anne E, Brandon H, Alexander H, Kylie H, Austin S, Teresa W, Kira C, Tyler G, Payton G, Jacob H, Kiersten J, Josiah M, Brett N, Christopher R.

**Third Grade:** Talia A, Logan B, Selena B, Olivia B, Jais C, Kirsten C, Kayla D, Morgan G, Brenden K, Abigail K, Kamron N, Jacob S, Dion T, Maizie T, Matthew C, Jeannette C, Madison C, Mikayla D, Carter D, Jacob F, Porter L, Emiliano M, Kamron M, Haley M, Sophia O, Kiara S, Nathaniel T, Maxine W.

**Fourth Grade:** Donavyn A, Kaleb B, Joshua B, Logan B, Alexis C, Riley E, Katrina G, Alex H, Madison H, Mackenzie J, Jacob T, Annebell W, Delaney W, Emilie B, Haley B, Joseph C, Carson C, Mackenzie F, Scott G, Dominick G, Mariah J, Gary J, Kaitlyn L, Nathaniel M, Alyssa M, Madison O, Austyn P, Kaya R, Elijah W.

**Fifth Grade:** Jonathan A, Desiray C, Halle C, Jacob D, Darrell D, Stephen K, Mariah T, Linus W, Leandra C, Peyton C, Chelsea C, Nyra C, Kailey D, Naomi J, Joseph L, Andrew P, Bonnie P, Vivian R, Hailey R, Zeke R, Miika S, Christopher W.

**Sixth Grade:** Ryan A, Zachary B, Jarrett B, Alan C, Cody D, Erin E, Blake H, Easton J, Bryce L, Gennie L, Naomi P, Irene P, Dylan S, Nathan A, Ennisa A, Gillian E, Anthony G, Tahnee H, Cyrus J, Jace L, Emilyann P, Charlene R, Evian S, Devon S, Kenith S, Kyla T.

**We congratulate these students!**

## COUNSELOR'S CORNER

*Laura Lilly, Counselor*

### **Siblings: Best Friends, Worst Enemies**

A sibling is a special gift, but one that is often unappreciated during the childhood years. Here are some tips that may help when dealing with sibling rivalry.

Know why they act out. Siblings fight with one another for a variety of reasons. They could be seeking attention from you or trying to distinguish and separate themselves from one other.

Set ground rules. Sometimes children do need to learn to settle their differences on their own, as long as it is done in a safe and healthy way

Teach positive interaction. One way to minimize squabbles among your children is to model cooperation, compromise, and anger management. Help them figure out ways to cooperate and compromise, take turns, and sometimes agree to disagree.

Don't Compare. Each of your children is unique and fighting with each other is one of the ways in which they are conveying this to one another and to you. Make sure you spend some one-on-one time with each child. Teach your children that fair is not always equal. For example: An older child may get a later bedtime.

\*article adapted from onetoughjob.com

Library News for January...



January is Clallam County Literacy Council Reading month. Dry Creek School will hold a reading contest to celebrate this event. The CCLC has donated many books as prizes and a special gift as grand prize.

Entry forms are available in the DC library or main office. Contest begins January 3<sup>rd</sup> and ends February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2012. Choose a good book, read or have it read to you, then fill-in the entry form and deposit it in the special green basket in the library.

Good luck and enjoy your books!

Happy New Year,

Mrs. Linn & DivaDog

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



Dry Creek Music students celebrate with DC Grange!

Music, shopping, and Pajama Day make for a great beginning to our Holiday vacation.





Students wrapping gifts for a Family



Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer decorates our school halls!



Mrs. Linn with "Job Well Done" Dragon



Big shopping day from the Holiday Gift Shop below.



Dry Creek Performers

