



DRAGON'S TALES



Wenzl's Words

Welcome to the first 2011-12 Dragon Tales newsletter! For those of you who are new to the DC family, WELCOME! We have enjoyed getting to see your child(ren) and you! Our partnership in your child's learning is essential!

We have 395 students this year! The kindergarten orientation with our kindergarten families and teachers really helped ensure that our students felt comfortable their first day. I have been extremely impressed by the learning that I see happening in our classrooms. We appreciate the parent support to make sure that children are getting their homework completed and returned on time.

Consistent attendance is essential to maintain and build upon this success! Please try to schedule appointments outside of school hours when possible. We also need students to arrive ON TIME daily. The first bell is at **7:45 am**. Our goal is to have 95% daily average attendance (even with excused absences). We also want to reduce tardies this year! We also understand students who are sick need to stay home. When your child is well, we want them in school. We are glad to have your child in our school and want to have them in class as much as possible. If your child is going to be out of town, please communicate with me in advance for consecutive absences. This is also outlined in our PASD code of conduct book.

Dry Creek had many areas to celebrate on the 2011 Measurement of Student Progress (MSP)!

We have had our work recognized by the state of Washington. In May 2011 we were recognized (again) as being one of the top 56 elementary schools in the state of Washington for our rapid rate of increasing MSP scores. We also had the highest reading average grades 3-6 in Port Angeles. Here are some of the highlights:

- ◆ **3rd grade Reading 71% to 87% passing reading MSP**
- ◆ **20% gain in 3rd grade Math MSP scores (62% to 82%)**
- ◆ **7 (12/12) perfect scores in 4th writing & 10% gain in conventions**
- ◆ **10% gain 4th grade reading on MSP**
- ◆ **5th grade cohort had 91.3% meet standard (state avg. was 67.6%) when only 70.8% had met standard as DC 4th graders on reading MSP**
- ◆ **10% cohort math gain from 4th to 5th, 73.9% met standard at DC and state average was 61.2%**
- ◆ **5th grade science scores showed 37.7% gain, with 87% meeting Standard (state average was 55.6%)**
- ◆ **High expectations for student citizenship results in higher scores with fewer suspensions and referrals to office (school counselor helps with this too)**
- ◆ **Surpassed district average in 9 out of 10 MSP assessed areas**

- ◆ **Made AYP in 15 out of 15 areas on state report card**
- ◆ **DC 6th graders were 8% ahead of state in reading & 17% ahead in math**

Our staff is very excited about these results, but we continue to work hard to achieve the goal of getting **ALL** students to standard. To prepare students for the real world, it truly takes a village to support our students to be successful. **One thing you could really help your child with (in addition to reading each night) is to do basic math fact flash cards.** We need our students to increase their fluency with basic math facts!

Please join me in welcoming Mrs. Finnigan to 2nd grade and Carolyn Brock as a para. Ms. Backus is on leave this year to support learning in the district as a PDC.

Thank you for sharing your child(ren) with us. We are glad to have your family be a part of ours. This is going to be another outstanding year! I encourage you to stop by, e-mail, or call me if you have any questions. I hope to see you at PTO meetings! I can be reached at 565-3645.

Respectfully,

Kate Wenzl

Kate Wenzl, Ed.M.

Email:

KWenzl@portangelesschools.org

Port Angeles School District

October, 2011

DATES TO REMEMBER:

- *Oct. 4—Ice Cream Social 5:30—6:30 pm/ Open House 6:00—7:00 pm*
- *Oct. 5—Adventures in Music 10:20 am.*
- *Oct 11- PTO mtg. 6:30pm*
- *Oct 13—**PICTURE DAY** Yankee Candle orders due*
- *Oct 14— **Learning Improvement Day...NO SCHOOL***
- *Oct. 20—Tears of Joy Assembly 8:30—9:30 am*
- *Oct. 28—Get-Together Assembly 8:30 am*

Picture Day

Thursday, October 13th

Class pictures will be included in each package. If a package is not ordered, your child will be photographed for school records. A class picture may be ordered separately.

Make checks payable to:

KIDS PHOTOGRAPHY



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 September are:

KINDERGARTEN: Nate A, Carl D, Matthew G, Nyle H, Isaac H, Charles N, Reid S, Peter Z, Xavier B, Allison B, Caedence E, Isabelle F, Cassius G, Isaiah H, Sydney H, Matthew N, Jonathan R, Elijah A, Carlana B, Jason B, Aden B, Rayin B, Alejandro M, Hannah S, Brie S.

1st Grade: Tyler B, Megan B, Tanner J, Samuel L, Nathan M, Lynn S, Ty S, Jayda E, Khia S, Katelyn S, Alyssa W, Dominic B, Samuel C, Caleb K, Jacob L, Windie R, Dillon R, Payton R, Nathaneal S, Tandy T.

2nd Grade: Makenzie J, Haley W, Caden A, Nicholas A, Makayla B, Daniel C, Maleeah C, Benjamin D, Geoffrey D, Anne E, Brandon H, Kylie H, Austin S, Michael S, Gregory W, Teresa W, Kyleigh W, Imagin B, Brian E, Hayden F, Tyler G, Payton G, Jacob H, Brett N, Christopher R.

3rd Grade: Matthew C, Madison C, Jacob F, Jake J, Emiliano M, Kamron M, Haley M, Sophia O, William R, Kiara Schmitt, Maxine W, Caleb W, Jessica A, Talia A, Logan B, Olivia B, Korbin G, Hailey G, Brenden K, Abigail K, Kamron N, Jacob S, Maizie T.

4th Grade: Donavyn A, Kaleb B, Joshua B, Logan B, Jayelei D, Madison D, Riley E, Katrina G, Madison H, Mackenzie J, Karrah L, Polly P, Cassidy S, Alexis S, Jacob T, Annebelle W, Delaney W, Emilie B, Carson C, Dominick G, Kaitlyn L, Nathaniel M, Alyssa M, Madison O, Austyn P, Kaya R, Kiara S.

5th Grade: Nyyra C, Naomi J, Andrew P, Bonnie P, Vivian R, Ezekiel R, Ashlee S, Joseph S, Christopher W, Jonathan A, Desiray C, Halle C, Cayden D, Jacob D, Tatum-Mae E, Abigail H, Brook M, Carly M, Kiana S, Linus Waddell, Jackie Young.

6th Grade: Tyra A, Ennisa A, Christopher B, Gillian E, Emily E, Shawn F, Anthony G, Nicholas H, Cyrus J, Jace L, Bradyn M, Emilyann P, Devon S, Kyla T, Zachary B, Taylor B, Cody D, Shania D, Erin E, Blake H, Easton J, Dylan S, Cheyenne W,

THANKS FOR BEING IN SCHOOL EVERY DAY AND ON TIME!

Guests and Volunteers

Please stop by the office, sign in on the clipboard at the counter. Get a pass for the hallways. This lets all staff know you checked in as a guest or volunteer. We want to ensure the safety of students. We appreciate you taking the time to visit our school and your children. Thank you for supporting our students. **If you are volunteering, check with the office to make sure your volunteer background check is up-to-date. If you have never filled one out, please get one from the office.**

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Transportation:

Contact the Pupil Transportation Center at 452-9714 regarding the location of established bus routes.

While on the bus, students are required to follow the directions of their drivers and to behave in an orderly and courteous manner at all times. Any misbehavior that distracts the driver, presents a serious hazard to the safe operation of the bus. Misbehavior will warrant

written citations for misconduct and may lead to suspension of bus privileges. If it is necessary for a student to take a bus other than the one regularly assigned, a dated note to this effect should be sent to the child's teacher.



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

Phone: 457-5050
Fax: 417-8019
Web: www.pasd.wednet.edu/school/dc/

School Nurse: A nurse will be in the building for four hours, one day per week. She will be at Dry Creek on Wednesdays to assist with state mandated screenings and special health concerns.

Illness: When the cold and flu season is upon us, **please keep your child home if he or she has a fever, a sore throat, severe cough, or is**



too ill to play outside or to pay attention to schoolwork.

Contagious Conditions: Children with unidentified rashes, or with signs of a contagious condition must be excluded from school.

Immunizations: Washington State Law requires that children under 18 years of age must be fully immunized, or exempt from immunizations.

Medication: An authorization for administration of oral medication at school form must accompany all prescribed medications. For non prescribed meds, a note from a guardian is required.

Absence and Tardiness

Regular attendance is expected of each child. If your child is absent, for illness or for another reason, please call the school office at 457-5050. If it is impossible to notify the school office, please send a note explaining the absence once your child returns to school. **Only a note or phone call will excuse your child's absence.**

SCHOOL TIME IS

7:45 AM—2:05 PM

Tuesdays: 7:45—1:35



It is also important that your child be on time when instruction begins. Students arriving late should report to the office.

To ensure that a child is taken from school by an authorized person only, parents or guardians are requested to clear the release of their child through the school office.

Children requiring early dismissal for any purpose need to present a dated note, signed by their parent or guardian, to the child's teacher. If a child's transportation home is different than it usually is, we must receive a note or phone call from the parent or guardian to verify this change. **If you have last minute changes in your schedule please feel free to call the school by 1:30 pm daily.** (we deliver passes to the students at this time.)

Toys and Sports Equipment from Home:

Students are not to bring toys from home or sports equipment (unless approved by Mrs. Wenzl). Toy items may be brought from home only for sharing time in the classroom with teacher's permission..

Lost and Found:

The lost and found box is located in the Cafe area. There are wonderful jackets, shirts, and backpacks that need to go home. Please ask your child to take a look if they are missing anything.

PARENTS/GUARDIANS:

Please make sure we have Updated Phone Numbers and Addresses. Your child is bringing home a Student Registration/Emergency update form. Please check it carefully and add or correct information as needed and return to school as soon as possible. We like to keep our students' records updated.

There will be no Friday Food Bags on Friday, October 7th or on Friday October 14th (no school).

No School on Friday, Oct. 14



Our Dragon's Pride

The Dry Creek staff often hand out Dragon Deed slips for those students demonstrating Positive Attitudes and Positive Actions by being Responsible, Respectful, and Safe. Students Acknowledged in September are:

Onica A, Tyra A, Elijah A, Jessica A, Tommy A, Ana A, Kaleb B, Mikaela B, Arielle B, Dominic B, Cooper B, Phillip B, Pierce B, Natalie B, Kaleb B, Jaeleigh B, Rayin B, Josh B, Tyler B, Megan B, Slater B, Brie S, Aydan B, Allison B, Makayla B, Logan B, Kennedy B, Payton C, Samuel C, Kianah C, Lexi C, Alan Charles, Deacon C, Jeremy C, Zack C, Ian D, Marshal D, Carlee D, Kayla D, Carter D, Erin E, Jakobee E, Caedence E, Jaeda E, Isabelle F, Mackenzie F, Joseph F, Shawn F, Anthony F, Zelby G, Katrina G, Kimberly G, David H, Mikaya H, Mariah H, James H, Seamus H, Jacob H, Alex H, Elaina H, Sydney H, Tanner J, Stephen K, Derrick K, Caleb K, Joseph L, Juanita L, Natalie L, Bryce L, Ellianna L, Sammy L, Jacob L, Jace L, Karrah L, Tara L, Iris L, Ana M, Destiny M, A. J. M, Cameron M, Haley M, Nathan M, Gabby M,

Mrs. Bradford's extended day,

Mrs. Ciaciuch,

Mrs. Davis' class,

Mrs. Finnigan's class,

Mrs. Lisk's class,



Brett N, Cameron N, Andrew P, Vivian P, Emilyann P, Jarrett R, Tandy R, Dillon R, Seneca R, Gabe R, Meadow R, Payton R, Jonathan R, Jacob S, Evian S, Kiara S, Lynn S, Khia S, Katelyn S, Isaac S, Ty S, Andie S, Ariel S, Nathaneal S, Mariah T, Josephina T, Tandy T, Maizie T, Maxine W, Olivia W, Caleb W, Alyssa W, Alyssa W, Nickoles W, Quannah W, Kara W, Jayde W, Peter Z.

Way To Go Dry Creek Dragons!

WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH PTO

YANKEE CANDLE FUNDRAISER

A friendly reminder that Dry Creek PTO is currently running its Yankee Candle fundraiser. This is our biggest fundraiser of the year and we appreciate everyone's support. Orders and money are due in by Thursday, October 13 (No School Friday).

A big, big THANKS to all who helped out at Safeway with the Back to School E-scrip program on Sep 22 & 25th.

All the receipts collected by parents and staff have earned Dry Creek a monetary donation of over \$2800 from Safeway

- an incredible amount for our kids!

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Please consider supporting Dry Creek Elementary year round by registering your Safeway card to automatically contribute a percentage of your purchases to our school.

To find out more information about the program, please contact a PTO member or go to escrip.com.

Introducing the Counselor's Corner (from Laura Lilly)

Greetings! I wanted to take this opportunity to introduce this new column in the newsletter and clarify questions about counseling services at Dry Creek. Each month there will be a short, informational piece for families regarding support for your student. I hope you find them helpful, and if you have any ideas for topics you would like to see included, please let me know! My goal as the counselor at Dry Creek is to provide support for children, families and staff so that each student is as academically, behaviorally and socially successful as possible. This can only be accomplished with a close partnership with parents/guardians and the community. I work with students individually, in small groups and in their classrooms.

I make every effort possible to communicate with parents when their child has been referred for services.

School counseling is different than individual therapy, and I welcome the opportunity to work together in support of families. If your child has been invited to participate in a small group, there will be a permission form sent home explaining what will be covered. Classroom presentations are often spontaneous, but with any on-going classroom curriculum, there will be letters sent home in Thursday envelopes. **If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call (565-3668) or stop in if you are at school.** I would love to meet you and am looking forward to a great year!

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

Tips to Help Get Your Kids Moving in the Morning

The first day of school is usually an exciting time. The children can't wait to meet their new teacher, see their old friends and use their new backpack. After a few days however, it doesn't seem quite as exciting to get up early in the morning and out the door! Using the following ideas can help your mornings run more smoothly and help everyone get on their way with smiles.

- Have a bedtime routine that allows for your children to get at least 8 -10 hours of sleep every night. Kids who are tired will definitely not want to get up in the morning! (This may mean removing TVs and video games from bedrooms).
- Be consistent with your expectations. Make sure your child knows what you expect. Make breakfast easy. It's the most important meal of the day! Have healthy options in a place where children can get to them.
- Prepare the night before. Have clothing picked out, take baths or showers, make sure all items needed are in the backpack ready to go! Have the kids put their backpacks near the door.
- Let your child learn the consequences of dilly-dallying in the morning. If the bus has arrived and she still hasn't brushed her hair, send her to school with messy hair.
- If your child starts complaining that they don't want to come to school, sit down and have a talk about what might be going on. Also discuss when someone should stay home from school or work. There are times we might not feel 100%, but we can still make it through the day, and we often feel better once we get going.

Please write your child's name somewhere on coats, sweatshirts, backpacks, and lunch boxes. This will make it easier to return lost items and will decrease our huge pile of lost items in the "Lost and Found".

Thank you!

REMINDER

Early dismissal every Tuesday. Students will be dismissed at 1:35 every Tuesday. Buses will run 30 minutes earlier than their regular time.





We welcome our new staff members:

Kimberly Finnigan, 2nd grade and Carolyn Brock, Para Educator. We are so glad to have them joining our Dry Creek Family!

SNUGGLE WITH A BOOK

Fall Reading Contest

October 3rd - November 30th 2011

Read or have read to you a book of your choice

Complete the entry form and submit to contest basket in library. More forms are available in library or on-line at:

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

Read, read, read!

Diva-Dog and Mrs. Linn wish you luck and happy reading adventures

Absences

Excused Absences:

The attendance policy for the Port Angeles School District was revised in November 2007. The only **excused absences** for K-6th grade students will be for the following reasons:

1. Illness or health condition (doctor appointments)
2. A religious observance
3. School approved activities
4. Family emergencies
5. School disciplinary actions or suspensions
6. Other absences: (vacations, special visits, etc)
 - **only** if approved by principal **in advance**
 - **only** if absence does **not adversely affect the student's educational progress**

Illness:

When absences exceed **five consecutive days** a licensed health care practitioner's note confirming the need for the student to miss school may be required upon the discretion of the building principal in order to consider the absences excused.

Unexcused Absences:

1. **One unexcused absence:** The school will notify a student's parent or guardian in writing or by telephone after one unexcused absence within any month during current school year. Potential consequences of additional absences will be shared.
2. **Two unexcused absences:** A conference in person or on the telephone with the parent/guardian shall be held after two unexcused absences within any month during the current school year. A plan of corrective measures will be created to address student's absences.
3. **Continued unexcused absences:** The school/district will file a petition and affidavit with the juvenile court alleging a violation of RCS 28A.225.010 by the parent/guardian no later than the seventh unexcused absence within any month, or upon the tenth unexcused absence during the current school year.

Taking Medications at School:

Washington state law mandates that school personnel follow the following guidelines for administration of ANY medications to students:

- A medical authorization form **with a physician's signature** is REQUIRED. **This is required even for over-the-counter medications such as cough drops or Tylenol.** A medical authorization form is available from the office. Please have your child's physician complete and sign the form if your child will be taking medications at school. Most physicians are willing to fax this form to the school. This saves you from having to make a special trip.
- Medicines must be provided in the **original container** (i.e., no baggies or envelopes).
- An ADULT must bring any medication to the school office. Please **DO NOT** send medication to school with your child.
- Please contact the school office at 457-5050 for any questions pertaining to this issue.

Breakfast:

Breakfast is available for all students beginning at 7:15 a.m. We ask that students having breakfast do so when they arrive at school. Children may go out to play after eating breakfast. Breakfast is served until 7:45 a.m.

New School Board Policy about school meals: There must be an accurate daily accounting for all meals (free, reduced, and full price). When a student exhausts the funds in his/her meal account, he or she will continue to receive meals for up to a maximum of ten dollars (\$10.00) in unpaid meals. For students in grades K through 6, once the unpaid account reaches ten dollars, the student will be provided a sandwich and a carton of milk, unless the student pays in cash or until the account has been brought up to date. In grades 7 through 12, once the student has ten dollars in unpaid meals, a meal will not be provided unless the student pays in cash or until the meal account has been brought up to date. A student's grades, transcripts or diploma may be withheld until the account has been brought up to date.