

Dorothy Dalglish School

www.dorothydalglish.ca

December 2020

Message from the Principal



I cannot believe we are already almost 4 months into the school year – where does the time go?!?

December is usually such a fun and busy month. It is looking very different this year and – I am not going to sugar-coat it – a little sad. Normally, we would be having Christmas Concert practices almost daily, enjoying cross-graded Christmas crafts, preparing for our annual Christmas Ornament deliveries, and looking forward to a shared Christmas luncheon in the gym together as a school. Because of COVID-19, none of that can happen. In fact, some activities we had planned have been cancelled or modified because of new and even stricter regulations. My amazing staff are collaborating to work out ways we can celebrate Christmas, create memories, and perhaps even start some new traditions. As always, we will do our utmost to make sure your kids feel loved, safe, and have a wonderful, memorable Christmas season at school.

I need to commend my staff for rolling with the numerous and ongoing changes to COVID-19 regulations, especially in light of the most recent announcement of Grade K-6 moving to online for the week after Christmas break. I will share with you more information as I know more, but I acknowledge that the recent changes adds stress to the already heightened levels that we are all experiencing.

We, as a staff, are doing our very best in all areas and on all levels. The staff is a pillar of strength and positivity – they steadfastly move ahead, adapt to changes, and ultimately do what's best for your children. I am beyond proud and humbled to lead such an amazing team. All of us, from caretakers, to support staff, to teachers, **MUST** follow Alberta Health Services guidelines – we have no choice. Thank you for understanding and being flexible with all the protocols and changes, as well. None of us want to live in this COVID-19 heightened state of mandates and protocols. All of us are tired of wearing masks and constantly sanitizing. We put on our best (masked) faces and try to make it as positive and stress-free as possible for the kids.

Enjoy this season – in spite of COVID-19, my wish is for you to find some peace and joy, happy memories, and time for yourself and your loved ones.

Much love,
Ms. Rogerson





Welcome to ***DDS's 14 Days of Christmas Spirit!*** Join us in dressing festive! This season goes by so quickly, so we've planned some fun Spirit Days to get us in the Christmas mood! You can participate in one of them, some of them, or all of them –have fun and be creative!

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<p>'TIS the SEASON</p>	<p>1 – Welcome CHRISTMAS! It's Red and Green Day!</p> 	<p>– Rudolph the red nosed.... Wear reindeer antlers!</p> 	<p>– Wear your crazy Christmas socks – over your pant legs! We wanna see 'em</p> 	<p>4 – Baby, it's cold outside! Wear your winter-ey scarves!</p> 
<p>7 – Is your tree up yet...? Dress like a Christmas Tree!</p> 	<p>8 – Jingle bell, jingle bell, jingle bell rock! Wear your jingle bells!</p> 	<p>9 – Santa! I know him! Dress like an elf!</p> 	<p>10 – You're a mean one, Mr. Grinch! Dress like the Grinch or in toxic green!</p> 	<p>11 – f-f-f-f-f- Frozen Day - wear (DDS) blue!</p> 
<p>14 – Is your shopping done? Dress like a Christmas present!</p> 	<p>15 – Ho ho ho! Wear your Santa hats!</p> 	<p>16 – Candy Cane Day! Dress in red and white - stripes if you've got 'em!!</p> 	<p>17 – Ugly Christmas sweaters!</p> 	<p>18 – Cozy pajama day!</p> 



Kindergarten News

December is sure to be an exciting month in our classroom. The children are already thinking about Christmas and sharing their experiences.



Our Themes for December are **Christmas** and **Gingerbread stories**.

In **Language Arts** we will be reading The Gingerbread Man, The Gingerbread Girl, The Gingerbread Baby and numerous other Gingerbread stories. The boys and girls will be participating in literacy activities that revolve around these stories.

In **Math** we will be learning how to **subitize**. This is when you can look at a group of objects and tell the quantity without counting them. We will also be **building patterns** and looking for patterns in our environment. Christmas decorations have great examples of patterns.



In **Science** we will be exploring our five senses.

In **Gym** students will be acting out the stories that they are reading and going through an obstacle course.

Thank you to all the parents for joining me in a virtual parent/ teacher call.

I just wanted to say that it has been great talking to everyone and being able to celebrate your child's accomplishments and set goals for their future learning with you.

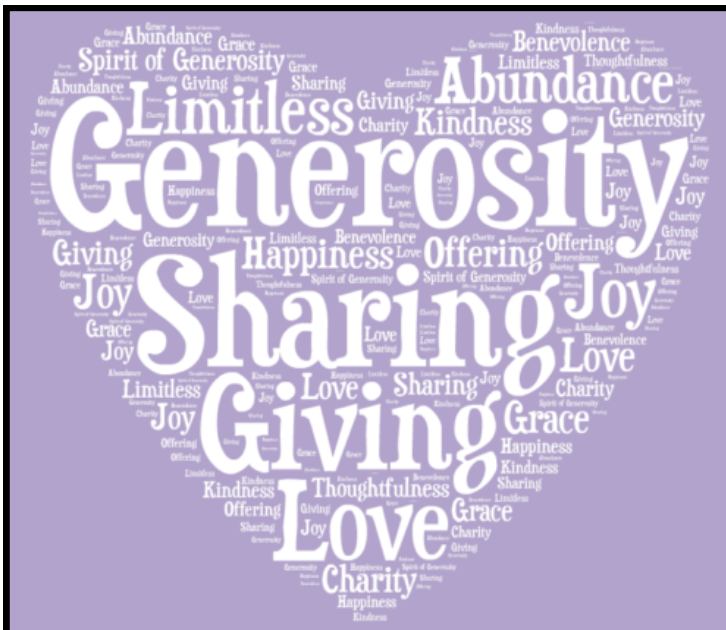
Our **EXTRA FRIDAY** for Kindergarten is Friday, **December 18.**



See if you can find some patterns this month with your family!

Hugs,

Mrs. Grandmont



WORD OF
THE MONTH:
GENEROSITY

Grade 1 News

And again...how fast does time fly? We are already into December, and just about set to have a wonderful, yet very quiet holiday!



Grade 1 has been so much fun this year and November was no exception! The students are now starting to read on their own a little bit more, and they are trusting themselves to be daring in their learning, and are realizing the value of making mistakes. We talk all the time about how making mistakes means that we are learning something new! This is a dream class filled with amazing students and I cannot believe how fortunate I am to be able to watch them grow and be in on their start to what I know will be an incredible journey through their schooling years.

In Literacy, we are continually learning about phonics, sight words, as well as reading rules and strategies. We are going to be writing our letters to Santa soon, so I am excited to see what the children ask him for.

In Numeracy, we are solidifying our knowledge of the numbers 0-10, and these kids are FANTASTIC as their numbers! I am so proud of all that they already know.

Science has us learning about colours, and what happens when we mix colours. They are working hard to make Mr. Lamb, our student teacher, proud as well. In Social Studies, we are ALMOST completed our "short" Geography unit. Please ask your child what a continent is, or a landform or man-made structure. You will be surprised at what they know!

We have been enjoying delicious breakfast food, and would like to thank Mrs. Yanke and Mrs. O for all that they do to keep us healthy and ready to make it through another day in Grade 1!

We would also like to thank Ms. Neels, for always being there to help us all with whatever we need!

Thank you to everyone that could take the time to meet with me on the phone about your child during our "Virtual Conferences". It was so nice to be able to celebrate your children with you!

I would like to wish you all the most amazing month of December, and a wonderful, restful, and safe holiday season! I look forward to the New Year with my favourite group of little people in the whole entire world!

Be healthy and be safe,
Mrs. Nish





*Ruby is out
of quarantine
and on the move!*



A very big heartfelt **Thank You** to Elaine Sorgard for her generous donation to our school Library, also for her donation to the breakfast program in Memory of Mrs. Jean Hammon.

We are so grateful for your generosity.



Grade 2 News

Happy December!! First, it would be very helpful if all parents ask their child if he or she needs any new school supplies for the New Year. Some children are low on “dry erase” markers and some of their Mr. Sketch markers are beginning to dry out. So it might be something they could put on a Christmas list. Also, our countdown to Christmas starts December 1st. If your child would like to participate in the festive days, please look at the calendar and have fun planning their wardrobe for the next few weeks.



In Language Arts we will continue practicing comprehension strategies in our guided reading groups, as well as when reading independently. Our guided reading books have included both fiction and non-fiction texts, which have allowed us to discuss various features of those genres as well. We have been focusing on a variety of word patterns in our spelling, such as “ow” and “ou” so that students have more strategies for decoding unfamiliar words that they encounter in text. In writing we are using strong verbs to create action in our stories and students have been writing about animal movements to practice “showing” instead of just telling. This helps us to “paint a picture” for our readers and make our writing more interesting.

In math we are currently working on a numbers unit, with a focus on numbers 1 – 50. Students will be learning about place value of ones and tens, skip counting in various ways starting at different numbers and ordering numbers. They will also be identifying numbers as odd or even and learning estimation strategies.

In Science the students will begin to work on the very interactive Boats and Buoyancy unit and soon will be making boats and testing their buoyant capacity.

Thank you's:

Thank you to all the parents who were able to participate in the virtual Parent-Teacher Conference.

Thank you to Mrs. Yanke and Ms. Jackie for all they do to provide our students with a breakfast program at our school this year.

Thank you to Mrs. Takeda, Ms. Hillier, Mrs. Stauth, Ms. Rogerson, and Mrs. Pittman for all you do for our classroom and school.

Merry Christmas

Mrs. Gibson



Grade 3 News

Can you believe we're heading into December???

In Language Learning, students continue to work on mastering reading skills and strategies that they can use when reading each day. We are just starting a unit with the book, *Stone Fox*, where we will work on summarizing (which we fondly call "Previously Ons..."), doing comprehension check-ins, and having grit to challenge ourselves to become better readers! In the next bend of our unit, we will be focusing on specific strategies to use when we come to tricky words.



We have finished our personal narrative story writing unit, where students shared their final products in class. It has been a fun unit and I really appreciate how students have been willing to try new things in their writing. In December, we will focus on writing paragraphs and properly using quotation marks.

In Math we are starting our place value unit, learning about numbers to the thousands. Students will be writing and reading numbers to 1000, comparing numbers, ordering them and estimating.

We are starting our next unit in science which is hearing and sound. Students will learn that sound is made through vibrations, it travels in waves, different sounds have different pitches and we need to protect our ears over the course of our lives. We will be working on this unit for the next couple of months.

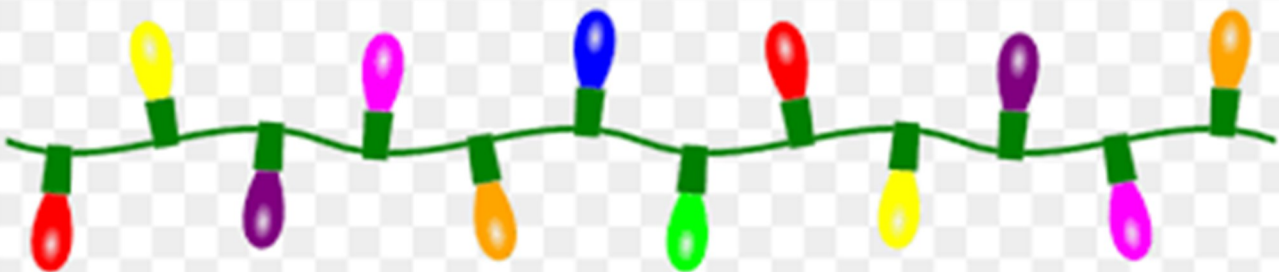
In Social Studies we are learning about Peru, and we have been discussing the geography as well as the climate. Students will be working on their own or in small groups to create a weather forecast for their chosen geographical region in Peru. I can't wait to see the students' projects!

Thank you to all parents who took part in our virtual parent - teacher interviews! I truly appreciate your support! Please remember that if you ever have any questions or concerns at any time in the year, feel free to give me a call.



I wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and the very best in the New Year!

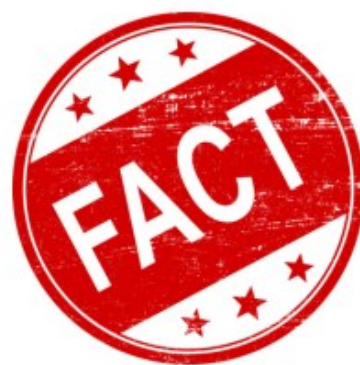
Mrs. Gurr





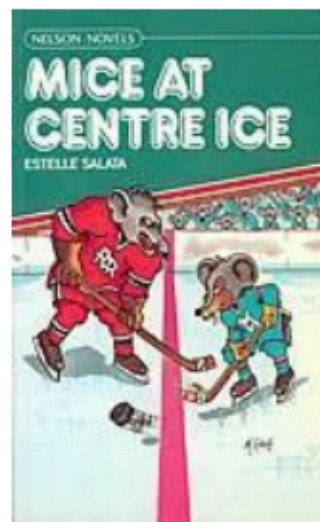
Reading

Our reading strategy for December is Getting the Facts. A fact is something that is true. You can check a fact to make sure it is true. For example: Our sun is a star. Or Some birds cannot fly. Looking for facts when reading is not the same as reading a story just for fun. When reading to find facts, children must read slowly and reread if there is something that students do not understand.



Grade fours will begin a shared Novel Study called "Mice at Centre Ice" written by Canadian, Estelle Salata. The story takes place at the Montreal Forum. Benny the Bullet, is the organizer of the MHL, the Mouse Hockey League. Benny and his friends overcome all types of danger in their struggle to regain and keep the coveted Cheddar Cup (stolen from them years ago by the villainous Rink Rats).

We will finish our Fairy Tale Writing Unit and begin our Christmas writing. We will also start to practice cursive handwriting.





Science

In Science students in November we learned about basic components of simple machines: how they are assembled, how they operate, and how they are used. Students explored different techniques that can be used to transfer motion from one component to another, various levers, gears, and pulleys. As part of their studies, they examine how these simple machines are used to change the speed or force of movement. We also designed and built our own simple machines at the end of the unit and had a lot of fun!



Thank you

Thank you parents for practicing times facts to 4 x 12 until children know them automatically. Thank you for practicing spelling words, and thank you for participating in virtual parent-teacher conferences. It was wonderful to discuss your child's progress.



Grade 5 News

In reading we progressed through our Analyzing strategy unit. Together we read a biography about Thomas Prince, a Canadian Indigenous war hero who was part of the Devil's Brigade, an elite paratrooping unit, during World War II. There has even been a movie made about the group of soldiers and their heroic deeds! We learned more about identifying main ideas and supporting details while reading about spiders, and worked to analyze a painting from the 1500's all about the types of games that children played in the past. Students had to put on their detective hats in order to find critical information in the painting. To finish off our Analyzing strategy unit the class learned about tornadoes while using text features to find the most important facts from the text.



In writing the class has almost completed their realistic fiction stories. As we worked through the unit, the class learned more about character development, plotting an arc for our stories, writing in ways that help readers visualize the events, focusing on the most important details, writing interesting leads, creating settings that the reader can imagine, and writing powerful endings. After drafting, students typed up their stories and we are currently working to complete some revisions and editing work based on feedback from our readers.

In math the class has continued to complete their daily math review and practice their multiplication flashcards. After learning about area and perimeter, the class focused on the units of measurement in the metric system, measuring length, and understanding and calculating volume of rectangular prisms. We have moved on to learning about transformations - movement of 2D shapes. In grade five we focus on translations (slides), reflections (flips), and rotations (turns).

In science we have almost completed our second unit - Mechanisms That Use Electricity. We've been building lots of circuits with a focus on series vs. parallel, and the uses of switches. Our car kits have arrived and we will begin designing, building, and developing our battery-powered cars really soon!

Notes:

- A BIG thank you to Ms. Milne-Yanke and Mrs. Ouellette for the breakfast snacks - they have been fantastic! ♥

Ms. Mohrmann



Grade 6 News

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas!

Man the year is just flying by! I can't tell you how thankful I am that we have been able to have school in person. The joy of having students in the building is irreplaceable. I am so incredibly grateful for the opportunity to teach your children.



We have been busy this last month! Here is what we have been up to:

LA - In Language Arts, we have been working on the skill of Analyzing when reading - or learning to back up our opinion with facts. This reading unit translates nicely into our writing unit - where we have been practicing writing persuasive essays. Students use facts to try and persuade their reader to see their point of view.

Math - in math, we are continuing to work with Shapes. Students have been learning how to draw and measure angles. We have also had a lot of discussions about how important angles are for many real life jobs and applications.

Social - We have had the privilege of having Ms. Jarvis, a student teacher from the University of Lethbridge, taught us Social for the last few weeks. Students are learning about the city that was the birthplace of democracy - Ancient Athens.

Science - Ms. Jarvis has also been teaching Science. We are learning about how to solve crimes in the Evidence and Investigation unit. Ms. Jarvis has taught them about how to properly take and analyze fingerprints. Up next - how to analyze printing and handwriting!

As a class, we are busy doing mini-mini-volleyball on Tuesdays at lunch. About half of the class has signed up, and we are learning how to effectively pass and play games. It's been a lot of fun! Also, please remember the 12 days of Christmas that we are celebrating throughout the month of December - this is a great way to have some Christmas cheer at school!

Just a friendly reminder that if you ever have any questions or concerns, please contact me. I love having conversations about your child and their learning.

Have a great December, and a Merry Christmas!

Mr. Van Dyk





DDS Crazy Hair Day!



North County Interfaith Outreach Society

If you are in need of a Christmas Hamper, we ask that families please contact Nancy @ 403-894-6111 to register or stop at the North County Office at 326 Highway Avenue in Picture Butte (beside ATB Financial) Tuesday or Thursday mornings between 10:00 AM and 12:00.



DDS Christmas Hamper Collection

DDS Staff and Students will again be collecting items to help support our local food bank Christmas Hamper Campaign. Because of COVID guidelines/restrictions, North County Interfaith Outreach Society is asking for cash donations to help purchase items needed. If you would prefer to donate food items, they are asking for canned soups, canned fruits and canned vegetables. Cereal is needed as well as packaged deserts like jello, pudding and cake mixes.

Please send your donations to the school by Friday December 11, 2020



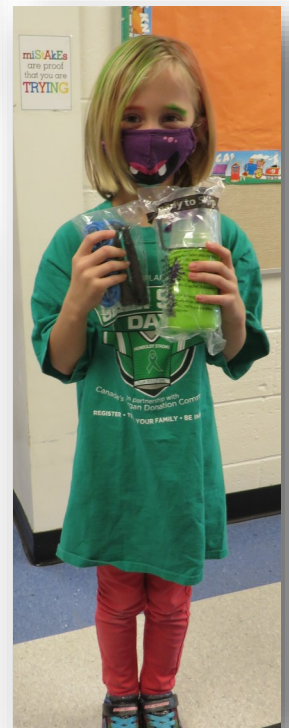
Thank you to Randy and Florence Drake for their generous donation towards Christmas treats for the students and staff of DDS











Countdown to Christmas!



Red & Green Day



RANDOM ACTS OF CHRISTMAS KINDNESS 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						¹ Put change in a vending machine.
² Hold the door for someone.	³ Do a chore for someone you love.	⁴ Let someone go ahead of you in line.	⁵ Take in a neighbor's trash cans.	⁶ Send a card to a loved one.	⁷ Tell a joke to make someone laugh.	⁸ Donate food to a local food bank.
⁹ Donate supplies to a pet shelter.	¹⁰ Donate books to your library.	¹¹ Donate toys to a children's hospital.	¹² Put money in a Salvation Army bucket.	¹³ Donate a new toy to Toys for Tots.	¹⁴ Take cookies to the fire department.	¹⁵ Donate stuffed animals to the police.
¹⁶ Sing Christmas Carols at a nursing home.	¹⁷ Hand out gloves and mittens to the homeless.	¹⁸ Offer to return someone's shopping cart.	¹⁹ Hide a few dollar bills around the Dollar Store.	²⁰ Offer to take the neighbor's dog for a walk.	²¹ Smile at everyone you see today.	²² Compliment at least five people today.
²³ Make a card for a soldier.	²⁴ Tell five people that Jesus loves them!	²⁵ Merry Christmas!				

Message from the Library

Please return all school library books
to the library before Christmas
break—December 18th 2020

Thank you



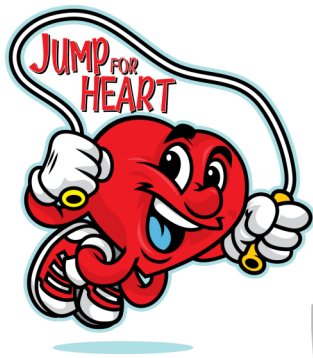


CHRISTMAS ACTIVITY COUNTDOWN



1	Draw a picture of a snowman	2	Make paper snowflakes	3	Write 10 adjectives about Christmas	4	Look up Christmas traditions in another country	5	Write about your favorite Christmas memory.
6	Make a list of things you can do to bring cheer to others	7	Write an acrostic using the word Snowman	8	Write your spelling words in snow (shaving cream)	9	Build a snowman out of cotton balls	10	Make Christmas cards!
11	Look up how to say Merry Christmas in 3 other languages	12	Write an alternate ending to your favorite Christmas story	13	Watch a Christmas movie you have not seen before	14	Make Santa's sled out of LEGOS	15	Do something kind for a neighbor
16	Build a gingerbread house	17	Watch our favorite Christmas movie	18	Make a Christmas tree out of construction paper, ribbon, scrap material...get creative!	19	Make a batch of your favorite cookies	20	Take turns telling a story about an elf working at Santa's workshop
21	How many words can you make out of the word CHRISTMAS?	22	Read a Christmas book	23	Sing Christmas Carols	24	Make a cup of homemade hot chocolate	25	Celebrate!





Congratulations to our

"Jump Rope for Heart" Winners

Grand Prize Winner: Olivia M

2nd Place: Maddien M

3rd Place: Lauren L

Level 3:

Chloe G Berkely M

Talia G Abigale M

Raylee V DeckerZ

Zoey Z

Level 4:

Hannah M Jersey J

Carlene F Claire F

Joel F Chandre L

Nicole L

Level 5:

Jake F Kayla F

Xander B Brendan K



