

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

As the summer season approaches and the end of the school year draws near, we're excited to bring you our June newsletter, filled with important updates and upcoming events. It's been a remarkable year of growth, learning, and memorable experiences, and we are immensely proud of all that our students have achieved.

June is a busy time at DDS—with field trips, special events, and the final stretch of curriculum learning, there's lots to celebrate and look forward to.

This month, we also bid a fond farewell to **Mrs. Sarah Vandenberg, Mrs. Chancey Andrews, Mrs. Joan Watson, Mrs. Avelina Guenter and Crystal Neels**. We extend our heartfelt thanks for the many contributions they've made to our school community. We wish them all the best in their future endeavors—you will be missed!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Parent Council Meeting & AGM

Our **Home & School Council** will meet on **Monday, May 26 at 7:30 p.m.**, followed by our **Annual General Meeting**. You're welcome to join us **in person or virtually**—all are invited, and we'd love to see you there!

Track and Field Day – June 5

We're excited to welcome families to our **Track and Field Day on Thursday, June 5!** Parents and guardians are invited to cheer on students throughout the day. Our **Home & School Council** will provide a **BBQ lunch for all DDS students and staff**. If parents would like to join us for lunch, meals can be purchased in advance through **School Cash Online**.

Event Schedule:

9:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. | Morning Events

11:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. | BBQ Lunch

12:50 p.m. | Attendance in Classrooms

1:00 p.m. | Afternoon Events

2:30 p.m. | Ribbons & Awards in the Gym

We're looking forward to a fun and active day together—see you there!



Grade 6 Farewell & PBHS Visit

Our Grade 6 students will visit **Picture Butte High School** on **May 28 (afternoon)** and **May 29** to tour the school, meet staff, and get a sense of what's ahead. We're excited for them as they prepare for this next chapter—so many new adventures await!

Please also join us for the **Grade 6 Farewell Ceremony** on **Friday, June 20 at 12:45 p.m.**, as we celebrate this special milestone with our students and their families.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership throughout the school year. Wishing you all a safe, joyful, and restful summer!

Yours in Learning,

Mrs. McGregor

Teacher Staffing 2025-26

Early Learning: **Miss. Allin**

Kindergarten & Music: **Mrs. Neufeld**

Grade 1: **Mrs. Nishikawa**

Grade 2: **Mrs. Ashley McLeod**

Grade 3: **Mrs. Gurr**

Grade 4/5: New Hire (**Ms. Mohrmann's Leave**)

Grade 5/6: **Ms. Milne**

Principal & Learning Support: **Mrs. McGregor**

Early Learning Program

JUNE



IMPORTANT DATES

Father's day Sunday June 15th

Last day of Preschool for the year June 18th and 19th

Farewell party June 19th (both groups may attend this day)

Our class code(RC443363) can be used for Scholastic book orders. The points raised by each order goes towards books for the program.

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS MONTH?

- This month's colour is Yellow
- The shape is Square
- This nursery rhyme we will be learning is "Humpty Dumpty"
- The theme of the classroom will be Transportation and Summer time FUN!
- We will be working on Writing our names and proper use of scissors

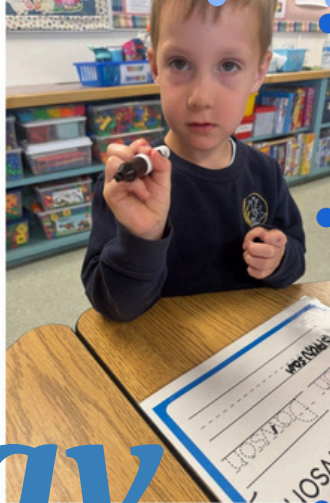
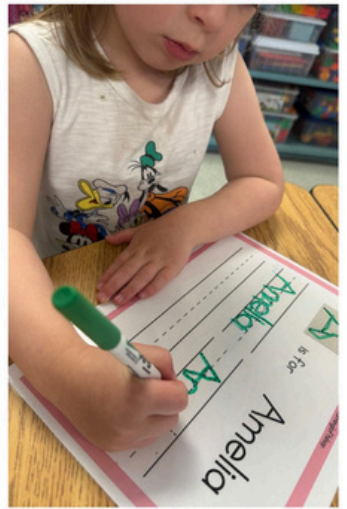
REMINDERS

Please remember to **notify** if your child will be **absent** as soon as possible to ensure accurate attendance is recorded and not missed in the morning.

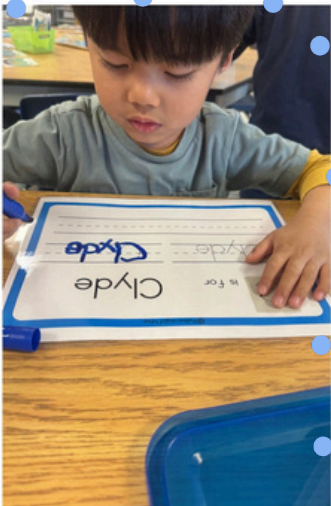
A friendly reminder that children must be **picked up** promptly at **11:30** as I have afternoon classes I assist in. If not possible, please make alternate arrangements to ensure a safe pickup for your child. After 11:30 your child will be walked down to the office where they will wait for you.

Also, when alternate arrangements are being made please let the school or myself know the name and their relationship to the child that is being picked up. We will not release any child to an adult without a message from parents.

CHECK OUT YOUR EDSBY DASHBOARD FOR SOME PHOTOS OF ALL THE LEARNING FUN WE HAD IN MAY!



May



KINDERGARTEN

Can you believe May has already come and gone? It's been an exciting, productive, and joyful month in Kindergarten filled with hands-on learning, creativity, and meaningful connections. As we begin to wrap up our school year, I wanted to share some of the wonderful things we've been working on across subject areas.

Literacy: This month, we focused on printing our first and last names neatly on lined paper, with special attention to proper spacing and capital letters. We've also been building our sentence writing skills by listening to simple sentences like "The cat sat," and writing them out while focusing on isolating sounds, using capital letters at the beginning, and ending with correct punctuation. In reading, we identified characters, and practiced distinguishing fiction from nonfiction. Students also reinforced concepts like reading from left to right and using pictures to support understanding. To build vocabulary and decoding skills, we practiced high-frequency spelling words and dove into new phonics patterns, specializing in the sound of "Ch."

Math: Our math lessons this month centered around building strong number sense. We practiced addition and subtraction using pictures, stories, and manipulatives to develop mental math strategies. We also explored measurement concepts, learning the difference between **height** and **length**, and using unit cubes to compare and record the sizes of different objects—including safari animals! As we continue our math journey, we're beginning to explore **weight** and use comparison words like heavier and lighter.

Science: In science, we've been working through two exciting units: **The Five Senses** and **Reduce, Reuse, Recycle**. Each week, we isolated and explored one of our senses. Students especially enjoyed the **taste test activity** where they closed their eyes to sample lemon juice, a gummy bear, and popcorn—discovering the difference between sour, sweet, and salty! We also explored our sense of hearing, touch and smell. and will be wrapping up with sight. In our recycling unit, we've been talking about how we can help care for our Earth by reducing waste, reusing materials, and sorting items to be recycled.

Social Studies: This month, students shared wonderful presentations about their family cultures and traditions. It's been such a heartwarming experience to learn about the rich diversity within our classroom community. We also discussed what we would like to be when we grow up, and how it might be a community hero!

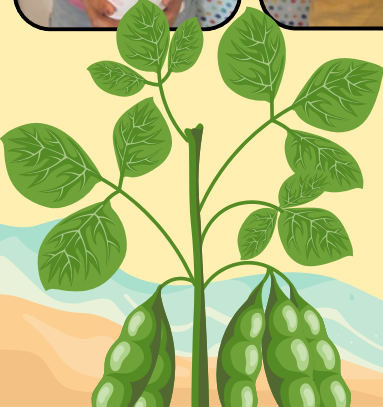
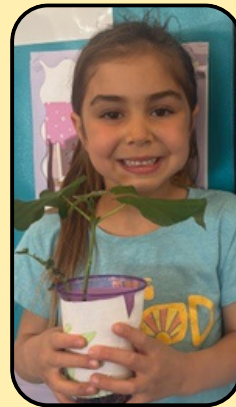
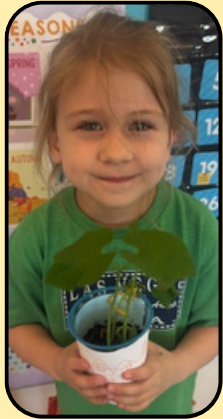
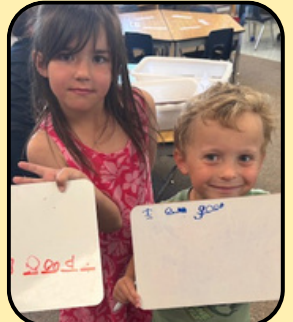
Physical Education & Wellness: In P.E, we worked a lot with our aim using different materials such as frisbees, volley balls, beach balls and more to hit targets while keeping proper form! For Wellness we had two special visits from Miss Nicole, who introduced us to new Kimochi characters—**Cloud** and **Bug**. Cloud helped us talk about feelings like happy, sad, and mad, and how quickly emotions can change. We discussed better ways to express our feelings, especially when we feel frustrated. Bug taught us about bravery and how to overcome fears, a message that really resonated with the class.

As we move into June, we're looking forward to some exciting field trips, Sports Day, Kindergarten Graduation, and of course, soaking up every last moment of this wonderful year together.

Thank you for your continued support and for sharing your incredible children with me. It's been such a privilege to watch them grow!

Miss Babe

KINDERGARTEN



GRADE 1

And just like that, another month has come and gone! May was a lot of fun in Grade 1. We got to finally deliver our amazing rocks that we painted in April! We had a great morning to venture out for a DDS Family Community Delivery! We loved spreading "Spring Wishes" to people in our Picture Butte community.

We also LOVED celebrating our moms at our K-3 Mother's Day Celebration! We think our moms are pretty AWESOME!

In Literacy, we continued to refine our reading and writing strategies, and we are writing our final story of the year. As well, we have continued to work on mastering some mental math skills in Numeracy. We have been very busy learning about Living Systems in Science. We have learned quite a few interesting facts about plants and animals around the world. In gym, we are trying very hard to get prepared for our Track and Field Day in June. Learning that high jump is HARD WORK, but we are doing it!

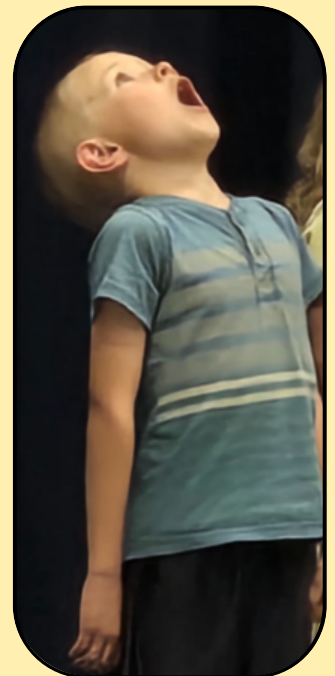
We would like to send out a great big thank you to our Hot Lunch moms who have worked so hard all year to keep us fed with fun lunches! Thank you for everything you do for us!

We would also like to thank Mrs. Takeda, Mrs. Guenter and Miss Allin for keeping us all sane in Grade 1! Mrs. Nish makes us CRAZY with all the work!

We are looking forward to a speedy June so we can start enjoying our summer holidays!

Have a wonderful June, everyone!

~ Mrs. Nish



GRADE 2-3

June here we come! This month will be filled with field trips, year end activities, and lots of curricular review! We know it will be gone in a flash!

In Reading we have been analyzing a variety of Mentor Texts and further developing our self monitoring skills, such as questioning, rereading, visualizing, and making connections.



In Writing the students have recently begun a Poetry Unit, whereby they will be using poetic devices, such as rhyming, repetition, and imagery to enhance their writing. Students will experiment with a variety of poetic structures, such as acrostic, limerick, haiku, and rhyming couplet. The students will then be practicing memorizing and reciting poetry! They are also investigating the proper usage of conventions and punctuation and how this can support communication in their written works. There has already been excellent creativity in student work and we can't wait for more!

In Math we concluded the Statistics/Data Unit. We have recently started learning about fractions. The grade 2s and 3s will be interpreting part-whole relationships using unit fractions and identifying, comparing, and modelling said fractions. In addition, the grade 3s continue to work on developing strategies to solve problems involving division facts.

Max and Alex in grade 2/3 A have mastered their 0-10 multiplication facts and are working hard at applying that knowledge to their division facts. Ellie J, Ellie B.R., and Avery are working hard to master their 7-10 facts and to develop division strategies! We would also like to celebrate Sam in 2/3B who has mastered all of his facts to 10X10. Octavia, Jesus, Maverick, Charley and Austin are also working very hard to finish up! Great work Grade 3s!

In Science, students concluded the Computer Science Unit. They enjoyed this unit so much that they continue to choose coding programs during the last 10 minutes of Computer classes as "free time"! We have just started our Living Systems Unit, whereby the students are analyzing and describing how plants and animals interact with each other and within environments.

We have concluded our "travel" for the year. However, students are now tasked with applying their learning to appreciate Canada's roles and responsibilities in global citizenship in relation to communities in India, Tunisia, Ukraine and Peru.

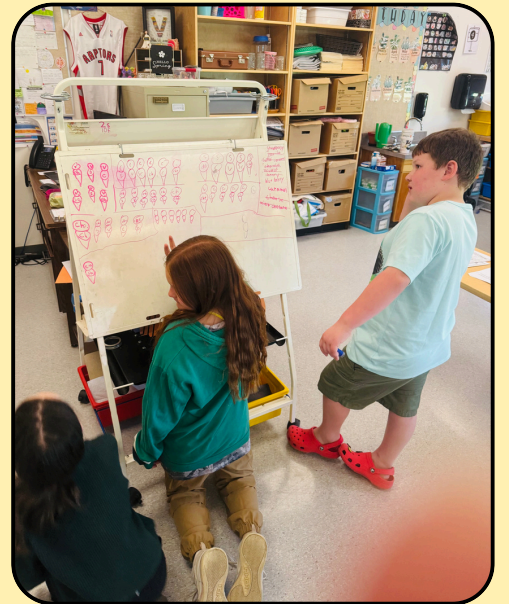


Thank you to all the moms/guests who attended the Mother's Day Celebration! It was lovely to see so many smiling faces in the audience!
Thank you to everyone for completing field trips forms so promptly! We really appreciate the attention to detail and can't wait to take the kids on their year end adventures!

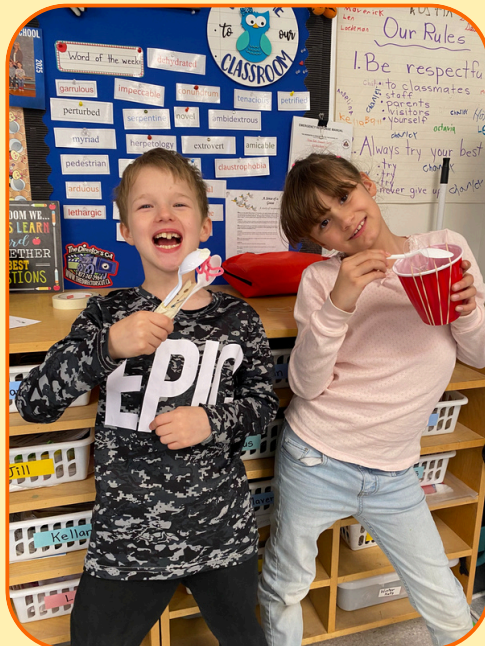
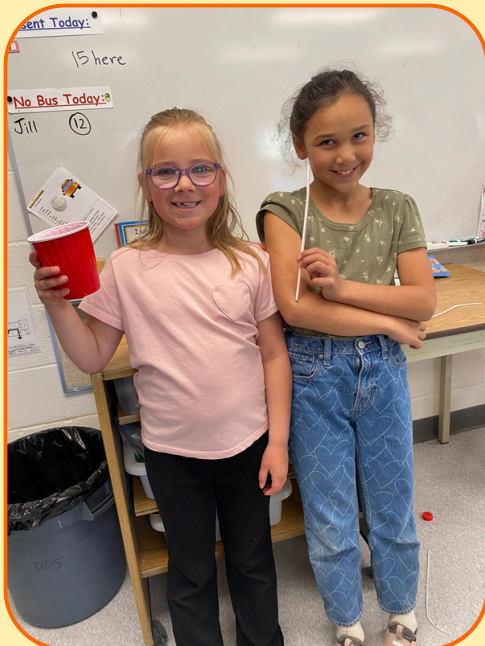
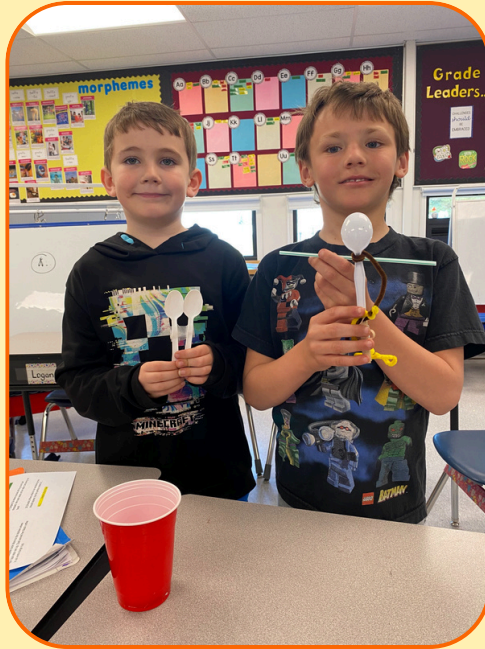
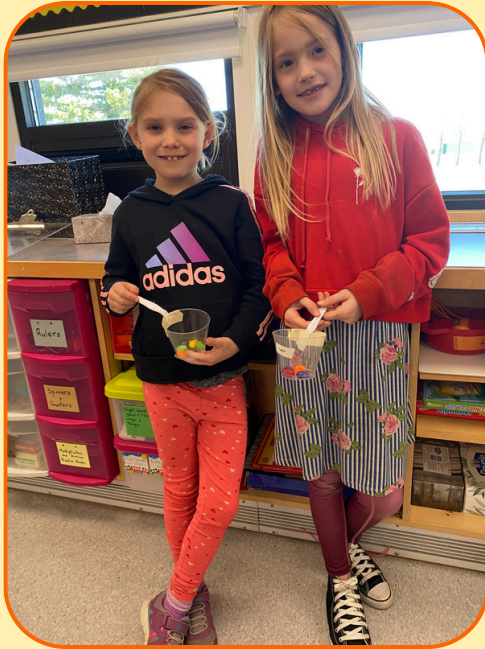
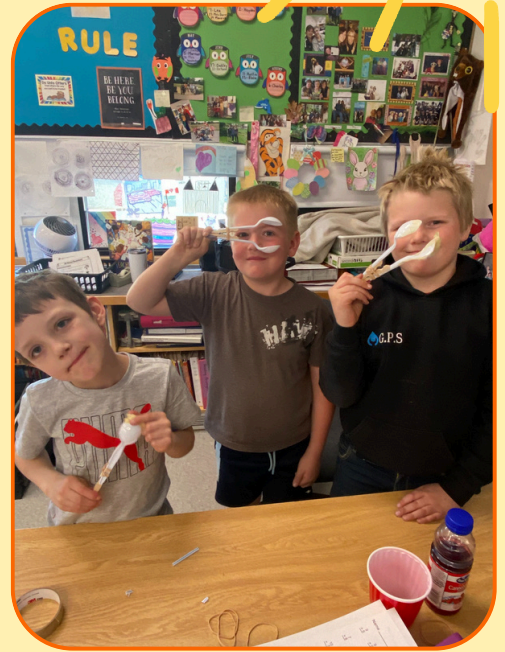
As always, if you ever have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact us through Edsby or call us at the school.

Mrs. Gurr and Mrs. Vandenberg

GRADE 2-3 A



GRADE 2-3 B



GRADE 4

It's hard to believe how quickly the year has flown by! It has been a time of tremendous growth and development, and I'm incredibly proud of the progress I've seen in each student throughout the school year.

June is shaping up to be a busy and exciting month, with Track Day, field trips, and swimming all on the calendar. Summer break will be here before we know it!

A recent highlight was our class family activity—delivering painted rocks to homes in our community. It was a wonderful way to spread some joy together. We also celebrated a fun win: our class took home the Spirit Cup with 20 out of 23 students dressing up as “Tacky Tourists”! We marked the occasion with some delicious cookies.

In Literacy, we wrapped up our Poetry Unit, and the students did an outstanding job crafting their own poems. Their poetry books will be coming home by the end of the week. We've now begun our Opinion Writing unit, where students will learn to express and support their ideas in writing.

In Numeracy, we've completed our Geometry unit and are now exploring Transformations. By the end of June, we'll also cover Measurement, Time, and Statistics.

In Science, we finished our Living Systems unit and are now diving into our Space unit. Students will explore objects in space and their connection to everyday life.

In Social Studies, students are preparing for their Alberta: Stories, Histories, and People unit test on Friday—please check Edsby for the study guide. Our final Social Studies unit will be Celebrations and Challenges.

This year has truly been filled with growth, learning, and wonderful memories. It has been such a joy getting to know each and every student, and I'm so proud of all they've accomplished!

Warm regards,
Ashley

GRADE 5



May has flown by with sunshine and a lot of exciting learning! As we approach the end of the school year, students have been motivated and full of energy. May has also been filled with lots of school spirit, from fun theme days to preparing for our upcoming Track and Field Day. A highlight this month was our community walk, where students delivered dot-painted rocks to homes around the neighborhood, a wonderful way to spread kindness!

In Language Arts, students began writing their informational essays. They've done a fantastic job applying their knowledge of descriptive writing and nonfiction text structures to develop clear, engaging multi-paragraph pieces. I've been so impressed by their enthusiasm and topic choices! We've also started a novel study of *Hatchet*, which has sparked thoughtful discussions. Next we will study the elements of stories, folk tales and oral traditions.


In *Math*, we've been exploring patterns and arithmetic sequences and reviewing the order of operations. Next, we'll solve algebraic expressions using the order of operations and algebraic equations using opposite operations. Reviewing place value and adding and subtracting with decimals has also become part of our daily morning work.

In Science, we kicked off our unit on climate and weather. Students have been learning about climate zones, weather tools, and how climate impacts human and animal activity. We've also collected weather data, which students have analyzed by organizing it into frequency tables, finding the mode, and creating bar graphs and dot plots.

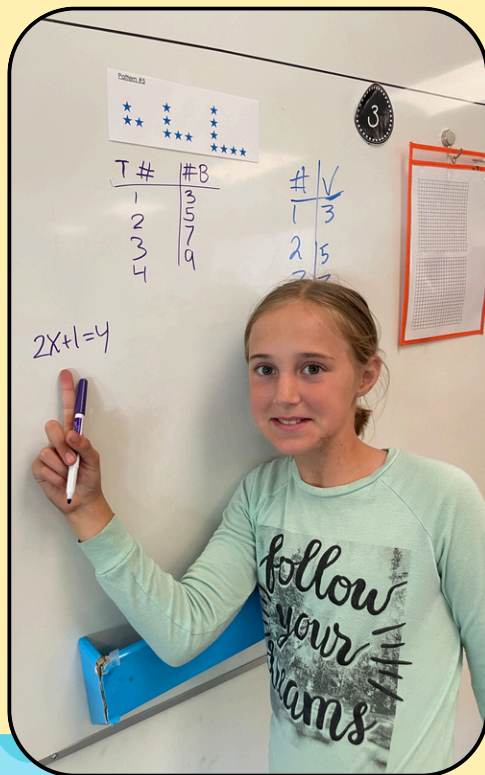
In Social Studies, students are working in groups to research a region of Canada. We are researching things like climate, geography and landforms, natural resources, bodies of water, indigenous groups, and quality of life. They're enjoying unlocking new sections of their research booklet through mini-lessons in class. I'm looking forward to seeing their hard work displayed in a final project.

Thank you, families, for your continued support!

Notes:

- Another heartfelt thank you to the Parent Council for providing two delicious hot lunches this month. We truly appreciate your efforts and the treat!
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GRADE 5



GRADE 6

In Grade 6, it's been a fun filled month practicing for track & field, taking a community walk, attending the orientation at PBHS, and writing our first Provincial Achievement Test! And June hasn't even started!! Save the date: June 20th is our Grade 6 Farewell at 12:45 pm! Students are asked to wear their very best for the farewell.

In **Language Arts**, we are reading an excellent novel called "Touching Spirit Bear," that features Cole Matthes, an angry juvenile delinquent who finds himself sentenced to banishment to an Alaskan island as part of Indigenous restitutorial justice. We will be starting a Land Literacy unit and researching how historical and current cultures use the land, creating landmarks and historical sites to communicate their values. We are also reading as much as possible with Reading: Part II of our PAT quickly approaching.

In **Mathematics**, we are in the thick of our Geometry unit and using formulas to find the area of triangles, parallelograms, and trapezoids. We are also learning about the unique properties of triangles, finding missing angles, and classifying triangles by angles: acute, obtuse and right; then classifying triangles by sides: equilateral, isosceles and scalene. Volume is our next topic as students come to understand fluid metric measurement volume concepts.



In **Social Studies**, we are finishing up the election process for provincial and federal elections in Canada. Our final unit is a study of Roman democracy and promises to be a fascinating study!

In our **Science** unit, we will be looking at climate change and how human activities are having an impact on the environment, animal habitats and human health.

A few Reminders...

- PATs are on, Thursday, June 12 (ELA Part B), Friday, June 13 (Math Part A), and on Tuesday, June 17 (Math Part B). Get lots of sleep the evening before each exam.
- Bring a clean water bottle and stay hydrated!

Enjoy the last month of school!!

Ms. Milne

GRADE 6



May has been a beautiful month of singing, strumming, drumming, and celebration! This past month, the Division 1 classes as well as our Ukulele Club did an AMAZING job performing their songs for our Mother's Day Celebration. I know it is not easy to stand up on stage in front of a crowd for some children, and I was so impressed with how each class brought their best to perform for some very special people in our lives. It shows just how important you truly are! Thank you to all of those who came to celebrate with us and for those of you who were not able to attend, I hope you were able to spend some quality time together outside of school and that you each know how much you are loved and how special it was helping the children prepare for this celebration!

I would like to extend a huge thank you to our wonderful Parent Council group for your dedication to supporting student learning with a variety of musical instrument purchases. I was recently able to complete a class set of "Djembe" and "Tubano" drums that all students have been using over the past three weeks. We have all begun with learning the language of the West African Djembe to know how and where to play the notes on the drum. Each class is working on keeping a steady beat as a group and the various grades are extending their learning with games to listen for and practice different rhythm patterns. I am incorporating some learning from Professional Development I attended at SWATCA that uses the idea of a drum circle to connect how our brain learns through "Attention" and "Repetition". Each part of the group is equally important, just like everything we pay attention to and repeat changes our brain and helps us to form new pathways and connections.

Also, I would like to extend a huge THANK YOU to all of the teachers, assistants and Grade 6 students who helped to make our Mother's Day Celebration a success! Your dedication to helping out wherever and whenever needed is so appreciated!


Keep Singing!
Mrs. Neufeld



We held our AGM on May 26 with Avelina Guenter being elected as chairperson. Thank you to Michelle Marti for her time in this role. Laurell Greene remains as our vice-chairperson, Ashley Cleghorn as treasurer and Danielle Ross as secretary.


At our regular meeting we passed a couple motions for year end treats and gifts. We also provided feedback about an upcoming presentation on Consent and Boundaries for the DIV 2 students. There will be no council meeting in June. To join our council e-mail list, please reach out to dds.schoolcouncil@gmail.com

Our final meal for hot lunch will be at the track meet on June 5 where we'll be serving hamburgers and veggies for the students and staff. If you're available to help barbecue (starting at 9:30am), chop veggies (10:30am) or serve (starting at 11:30am), please let Laurell know at dds.hotlunch@gmail.com



We'd like to thank our sponsors, Schooten & Sons Feedyards and 6A Cattle Co., for sponsoring all our delicious meals over the course of the year. 6A Cattle donated \$1624.12 plus beef and there were 748 orders. Schooten's donated \$1304.96 plus beef and there were 680 orders. Amazing! Thank you to our school families for donating items to the turkey dinner in December. These meals wouldn't have been possible without our parents coming in and cooking over the past year so a big Thank You to Willow Baarda, Ashley Cleghorn, Jenae Emond, Laurell Greene, Carrie Remple and Brooke Vance. This program relies on volunteers, so please consider joining next year to help keep free hot lunches for our students!

We hope you all have a wonderful, safe summer and we can't wait to see you in the fall! For those students, families and staff who are moving on to other schools or adventures, we wish you the very best in this next chapter!



FYI...



A huge thanks to Hunter M and Brysen for using their green thumbs and prepping the Mother's Day plants! We are lucky at DDS to have so many helping hands!



Thank you to the
Palliser ATA Local #19
for supplying ice
cream treats for all
students at our track
meet

Congrats to Natalie,
Emily and Allison for
representing DDS in
the Little Souls Kids
Marathon!



We had a fantastic
Community walk on
the 22nd! DDS loves
Picture Butte!



STUDENT OF THE WEEK



**K- Iktan , 1- Jason, 2\3A- Hazel,
2\3B- Kellan, 4- Liam, 6- Lily, 6- Oleksii**




**1- Sierra, 2\3A- Raiyn, 2\3B -Blake,
4- Ethan, 5- Hunter M, 6 Rylan, 6- Brayden**

JUNE

WELLNESS
WORD OF THE
MONTH

PERSISTENCE

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
2 GRADE 3-4 FIELD TRIP TO FRANK SLIDE 	3 KONA ICE IN THE AFTERNOON! K-3 AT COYOTE FLATS  	4 	5  TRACK AND FIELD DAY GRADES 1-6	6  KINDERGARTEN SPIRIT DAY DDS BLUE DAY
9 	10 KINDERGARTEN FIELD TRIP TO THE FIRE HALL AND AFTERNOON SPORTS DAY AT LIONS PARK  	11 	12  KINDERGARTEN FIELD TRIP TO HOLIDAY BOWL GRADE 6 PAT ELA PART B	13 GRADE 6 PAT MATH PART A
16 GRADES 1-2 FIELD TRIP TO GALT MUSEUM 	17 GRADE 6 PAT MATH PART B  SWIMMING 1-3PM GRADES K-6 	18 	19 KINDERGARTEN GRADUATION 	20 GRADE 6 FAREWELL 12:45 
23 	24  SWIMMING 1-3PM GRADES K-6 LAST DAY FOR KINDERGARTEN! 	25  LAST DAY FOR STUDENTS!	26 HAVE A GREAT SUMMER! SEE YOU ON SEPTEMBER 2ND! 	27 