

# Principal's Message

**Hello Dorothy Dalgliesh Families,**

We hope you all had a wonderful Family Day and a refreshing February break! While students enjoyed their time off, our teachers were engaged in professional learning at the Teacher's Convention, bringing back fresh ideas and strategies to enhance their classrooms.

February at DDS has been a month filled with friendship and kindness. Ms. E, our Making Connections Worker, and I had the pleasure of leading kindness-focused presentations across all grade levels. Students participated enthusiastically in discussions and carried out thoughtful acts of kindness for their peers and school staff. One highlight was students writing kind messages on coffee sleeves, which are now being distributed locally at Uptown Convenience—spreading joy beyond our school walls!

## **A Heartfelt Thank You!**

A huge shoutout to our 2/3 volleyball coaches, **Ms. Milne and Adam Griffiths**, along with our **Grade 6 volunteers**, for fostering such a positive and supportive environment for our young athletes. It's been a joy to watch their skills blossom, and the beach ball drills were a definite highlight—seeing their enthusiasm and progress has been truly rewarding!

A big thank you as well to **Mrs. Vandenberg and Mrs. McLeod** for their time and dedication in coaching **mini-basketball** this year. Your encouragement and leadership have helped our young players grow in confidence, skill, and teamwork. We're excited to celebrate their progress at our **final tournament on Thursday, March 13, at 1:00 PM**. Parents and guardians are warmly invited to come cheer on our athletes and share in the excitement!

Finally, a special thank you to our Home and School Council for generously purchasing new sports equipment. Your support helps keep our students active, engaged, and excited about physical activity!

## **Student-Led Conferences & Cake Silent Auction**

Mark your calendars! On **Thursday, March 20**, we will be hosting **student-led conferences** at DDS. Keep an eye on Edsby in the coming days for sign-up details.

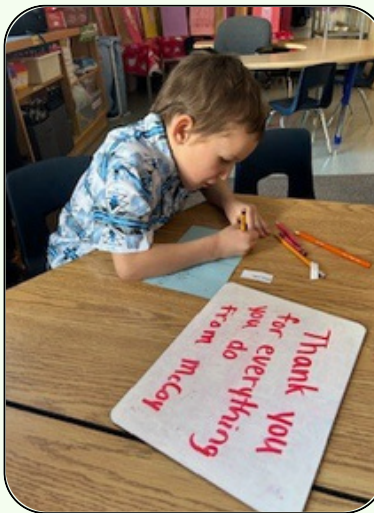
That same evening, our **Grade 5 and 6 students** will be hosting a **Cake Silent Auction** in the gymnasium. Be sure to stop by and check out their amazing cakes and baked goods—it's always a highlight of the year!

## **Alberta Education Assurance Survey**

Parents of students in **Grades 4-6** should have received a **random access code** and **survey link/QR code** from our office. If you received the survey, we kindly ask you to take a few minutes to complete it. Your feedback is invaluable in shaping our school's future and ensuring continuous growth. Thank you for your support!

Yours in Learning,

Crystal McGregor



# Kindergarten Kids!

As we wrap up the month of February, I wanted to take a moment to share the wonderful learning experiences our Kindergarten class has had. It's been an exciting month, filled with both educational growth and the spirit of kindness!

**Wellness:** To start, we've been celebrating **Kindness** here at DDS. We were fortunate to have Miss Nicole, our Making Connections worker, and Mrs. McGregor, our administrator, join us in the classroom to talk about the importance of random acts of kindness. The students were inspired by their visit and took part in spreading kindness by creating cards for every staff member in the school. We also worked with Miss Nicole on a new "**Worry Woo**" character named **Squeak**, who helps children manage feelings of change. The students learned strategies for recognizing and coping with changes, which is an important skill at this stage in their social-emotional development.

**Literacy:** We have been using writing journals with prompts that encourage personal reflection and growth, such as "What was your favorite activity during Family Day week?" In **phonics**, we focused on the letters **U, R, and S**, practicing letter recognition and their corresponding sounds. The students have made significant progress and are becoming more confident in their letter knowledge. Additionally, we continued exploring rhyming words, and the children had fun engaging in various activities to identify similar sounds in words.

**Numeracy:** The students have been working hard to understand number relationships. We used materials like unit cube blocks to demonstrate how numbers come together in different ways. For example 4 green blocks and 2 red blocks makes 6, but so does 3 red blocks and 3 green blocks. This hands-on activity helped them develop a solid foundation for addition. We also explored number lines (1-10) and used ten frames to help visualize numbers, and even started writing simple addition equations!

**Art:** For **Valentine's Day**, the children had a blast creating artwork to celebrate the season of love. Our Kindergarten Heart Buddies were an activity to understand that colouring doesn't always have to be done, in order to make something beautiful. As well their mailboxes gave the opportunity to express creativity in their own way. It was a fun and creative way for them to express their excitement about the holiday.

**Social Studies:** The students explored **Groundhog Day**, which occurred on February 2nd. We discussed the tradition and the significance of the groundhog's prediction, helping the children understand this fun cultural event. This will act as a starting point for our next Social studies topic of culture and traditions.

I'm so proud of the growth and progress the children have made this month, and I look forward to all the exciting learning ahead!

Miss Babe



## See all the Fun in Grade One!



### Grade 1 News

And just like that...February is GONE! How did that happen?

February is always a whirlwind in Grade 1! Not only did we continue to work hard being the best version of ourselves by learning all that we could about reading, numeracy, how to be responsible citizens, and Earth Systems, we had a ton of fun things to do as well. To start off, we had a wonderful DDS Family Activity where we decorated and addressed candy-grams to other students throughout the school. We LOVE when we have time to get together in our family groups. We then celebrated our 100th Day of School on February 12th in the afternoon. We got lucky and roped the Grade 2s and 3s into joining us for the landmark day! We are now closer to the end of Grade 1 than we are to the start of it! It's simply unbelievable that we are this far into the year already. We also got the unique opportunity to head over to the Picture Butte Fish and Game Association and learn about Archery! Some of the Grade 1 students were very good at the sport for their first time trying it. We would like to send a huge thank you out to Mrs. McLeod for organizing this for us, as a lot of students would never get the chance to try such an interesting sport. We FINALLY won the Spirit Cup on Valentine's Day! We were starting to wonder if we ever would. We enjoyed sharing valentine's and treats with all of our friends! We have, as always, enjoyed some delicious food on our Hot Lunch and Hot Dog days. A big shout out to our amazing moms who organize and prepare these lunches for us! We couldn't make it through the week without them! The Grade 1 students are growing up so much and learning even more, I can't believe they are the same kids that moved into my classroom 6 months ago! Here is to a fantastically beautiful March and beyond!

~ Mrs. Nish



# 100 Days of School





## Come and see grade 2/3

March is here and we truly can't believe it! It seems like the older we get, the faster each year flies by!

In Language Arts we are reading *The BFG* by Roald Dahl. We are learning about story plot, developing characters and making predictions as we read. The students have really been enjoying the events in *BFG* so far and we can't wait to see how the characters change throughout the story!



In writing the children published nonfiction books where they worked through the process of writing their drafts while learning various lessons on text features and how to add information. When the drafts were finished, students published their books (some by printing them out and some by typing,) complete with editing, adding pictures and making sure they were ready to share with an audience. This past week we had a Gallery Walk to celebrate all of the hard work students have put into their books.

In math we are just finishing our unit on patterns with our next Grade 3 unit being multiplication and division. During class time, students will be working on learning their multiplication facts to 10X10 by drawing pictures to represent various multiplication equations and also using arrays to visualize the concepts. We will also learn the correlating division facts. Any extra practice you can do at home to learn the multiplication facts will definitely be beneficial to your child. The Grade 2 students will be learning about partitioning sets of objects, estimating using benchmarks and equality / inequalities in equations.

Our new unit in science is Forces. Students will investigate movement and energy sources.

We have officially "traveled" to Ukraine in Social Studies.

Congratulations to Oakley in grade 2/3 B, who has had 100% on her spelling tests, five times in a row. As a result she has "bumped up" to a more challenging group! Great work on your spelling, Oakley!

Thank you to all families who sent valentines or treats for the Valentine's Day party. We really enjoyed all of the yummy goodies and the students were so excited to open their valentines from classmates. It warms our hearts to see the Grade 2/3 students treating each other with such kindness and respect!

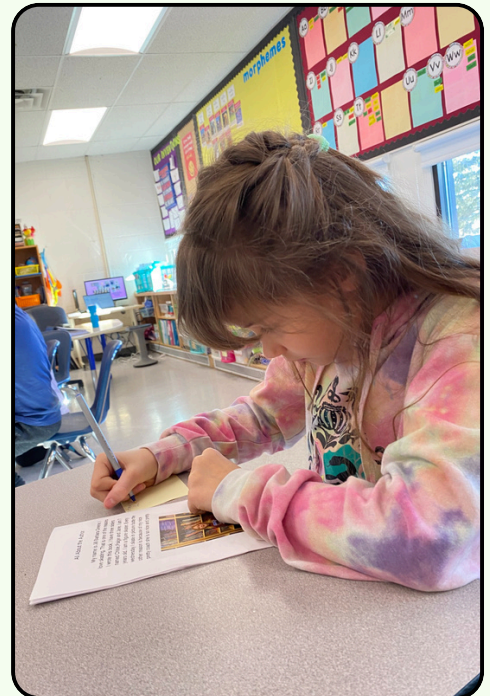
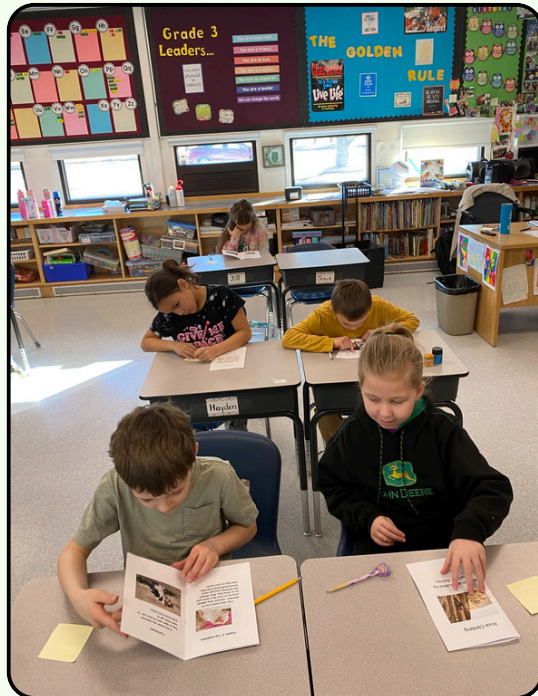
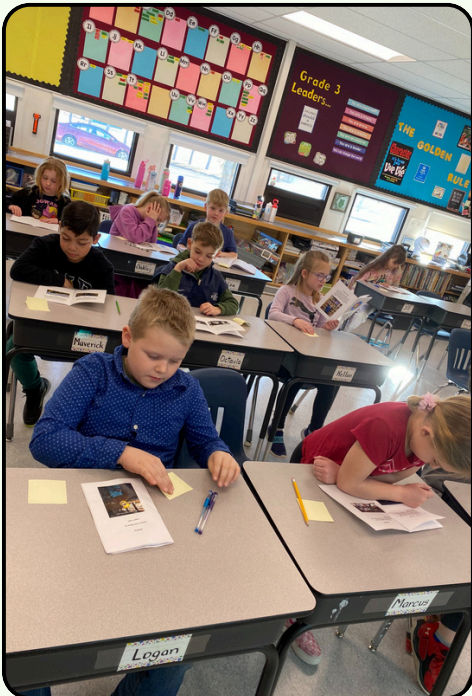
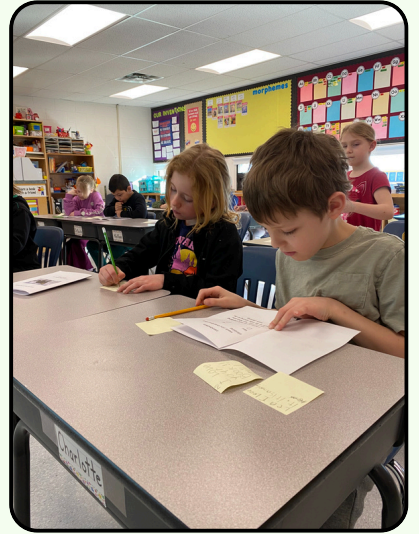
As always, if you ever have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact us through Edsby or call us at the school.


Mrs. Gurr and Mrs. Vandenberg











## Peek Through the Door into Grade Four

Just like that, February has flown by! It was an exciting month in Grade 4, filled with archery, a school family activity, and Valentine's Day celebrations. Our class had an amazing time at the archery range, thrilled to learn a new skill! A huge thank you to the volunteers who took time out of their busy schedules to accommodate us at DDS—we truly appreciated it and had so much fun!

To celebrate Valentine's Day, our class created a fun art project called 'Blow Art,' and we can't wait to showcase these at our Student-Led Conferences. Additionally, we worked together in our school families to design Candy Gram tags for the entire school. It was wonderful to see everyone's excitement as they received their Candy Grams on Valentine's Day!

In Literacy, we wrapped up our Fictional Writing unit and have now moved on to Informational Writing. Students will be selecting a topic they either consider themselves experts in or are eager to explore further. We're looking forward to applying our learning as we create books to share at Student-Led Conferences!

In Numeracy, students have begun exploring fractions. We will be covering equivalent fractions, simplifying fractions, ordering fractions, and converting them into decimals and percentages.

In Science, we are currently studying Energy and Forces. This unit is nearing completion, and students will be writing their unit test next week. Please check Edsby for the Science review.

In Social Studies, we've recently introduced our next unit, "The Stories, Histories, and People," where we will be diving into the history of Alberta. I'm excited about the engaging projects students will be working on throughout this unit!

Please feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns.

Warm regards,  
Mrs. McLeod





## Feeling Alive in Grade Five!

Grade 5 students embraced the themes of friendship and love this month, celebrating both Valentine's Day and Pink Shirt Day. We also had a blast on our archery trip, impressing everyone with their skills and positive attitudes. Basketball intramurals have been taking place every Monday, and we look forward to seeing our skilled players in a mini-tournament on March 13th!



In Language Arts, we've finished our poetry unit. Students did a great job creating, reading, and reciting poetry. We've started analyzing figurative language and enjoyed looking for it in song lyrics. Next, we'll focus on writing descriptive paragraphs, incorporating similes or metaphors and proper paragraph structure. Word study continues to help students improve spelling and vocabulary by exploring word parts and patterns.

In Mathematics, we've wrapped up units on fractions and measurement. Students showed great dedication to learning perimeter and area of rectangles. Next, we'll explore fractions, ratios, decimals, and percents, along with 3-digit by 2-digit multiplication using the standard algorithm. Math routines continue to help students strengthen their basic skills, setting them up for success with new concepts.

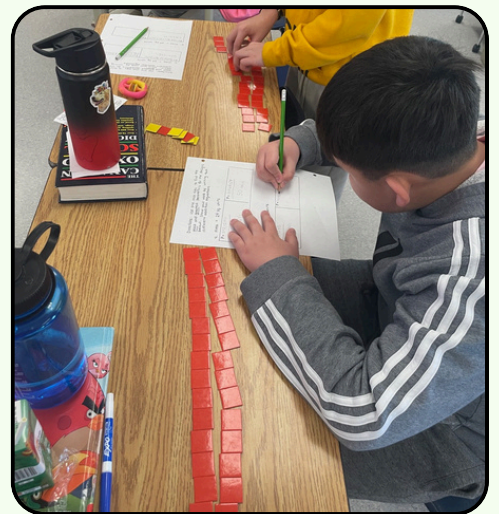
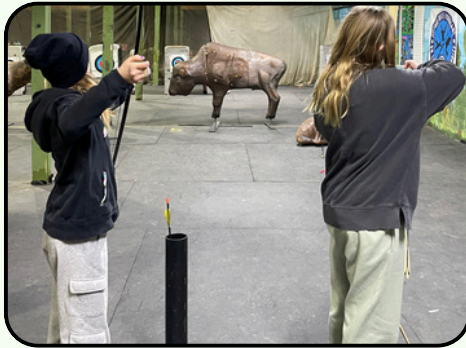
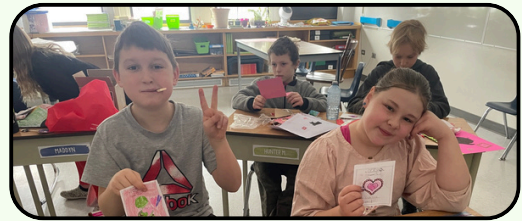
In Social Studies, students researched social scientists in a jigsaw activity and shared their findings in small groups. We've also been practicing mapping skills and learning about latitude, longitude, and absolute location. Current events were also explored through research on CBC Kids News.

In Science, we began our Energy unit, where students researched renewable and non-renewable energy sources. They presented their findings to the class and asked insightful questions. Next, we'll explore flight and buoyancy to compare how forces affect objects in air and water.

### **Notes:**

- A big thank you to the Parent Council for the Valentine's doughnuts!
- Fluency with multiplication/division facts is crucial for upcoming units. Look out for practice games in the coming weeks!

~ Mrs. Andrews



# The Grade Six Mix.



Nothing like a strong Chinook to change the landscape for us! Students enjoyed archery this month and a big thank you goes out to the Picture Butte Fish & Game Archery Club. We are looking forward to our Grade 5-6 field trip at the Royal Tyrrell Museum on April 15-16th. Our yearly Cake Bake fundraiser is just around the corner. It helps to raise money for this costly, but worthwhile field trip.



In **Language Arts**, students are writing nonfiction research essays and have selected some fascinating topics including: the Black Plague, the French Revolution, the Battle of Britain, WWII, the terrorist attacks of 9/11, the assassination of JFK, the evolution of the automobile, and the lost city of Pompeii to name a few. Students are focusing on developing an essay 'hook,' building a strong thesis statement and using transitions between paragraphs.

In **Mathematics**, it is with some relief that we have completed our fractions unit. We are just finishing up the Cartesian plane, and transformations, including translations, rotations and reflections. Next, students will be jumping into an algebra unit!

In **Science**, we are studying Particles and Temperature. We are reviewing states of matter and phase changes including freezing, fusion, sublimation, condensation, vaporization and deposition. We will be conducting several experiments related to matter including thermal expansion and contraction activities. We will be making Oobleck this week to discuss at a particle level, how this cornstarch suspension possesses characteristics of both solids and liquids.

We continue to study Democracy in **Social Studies**, and we are just wrapping up our Ancient Athens unit. Students are writing a reader's theatre skit involving citizens, metics and slaves interacting with the political systems of Ancient Athens: the Assembly, the Boule and the Courts. Next, we'll be looking at consensus-based democracy within the Haudenosaunee culture.

A few Reminders...

- Indoor and outdoor shoes are required especially in the spring when damp, muddy conditions.
- I'll be sending home a multiplication facts sheet. Practicing multiplication facts is a great way to help build math confidence.
- Don't forget to bake a cake for March 20th :) (Cookies or any other baking treat would be great in case cake baking isn't your thing...)

Spring? Is that you?  
Ms. Milne







## The Music Minute



Although February has been a short month, we have had many wonderful learning moments in the music room!

In February, Kindergarten continued focusing on matching pitches while singing and also started learning unpitched percussion instrument names such as the guiro, claves, triangle, bells, and hand drum. We had a lot of fun guessing the names of instruments from their sounds. We continue to move to music in a variety of ways. The Grade 1 class celebrated our "Peter and the Wolf" unit with a listening party. I hope you were able to discuss various instrument names and families at home with the booklets the children coloured. We then moved into some singing and listening games to celebrate our friendship theme for February.

Grades 2, 3 and 4 wrapped up the recorder unit and enjoyed playing along with a variety of beginner songs. Some students were also challenged to add a Bass Xylophone accompaniment to a Valentine themed song. It is so exciting to begin combining instrument sounds! A huge THANK YOU to our Parent Council for approving the purchase of 5 new specialized recorders that I can lend to students whose hands may be too small to cover the holes properly. The Parent Council also supported the purchase of 7 more djembe drums and I am looking forward to a drumming unit with the classes closer to the end of the year!

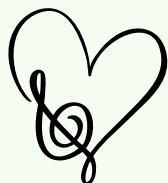
The Grade 5 class has learned about spirituals, blues, and jazz music to celebrate Black History Month and have been experimenting with elements of jazz music such as improvisation and scat singing with the song Scoo Be Doo.

The Grade 6 class has been busy experimenting with instrument sounds and rhythms to create a soundscape for the picture book "Stranger in the Woods". They enjoyed performing their work for the Kindergarten class. It was so much fun seeing how each group created their own unique musical addition to the story.

As we head into March, I will once again be offering a Ukulele Club for interested students in Grades 4 - 6. The Club will run from March 4th - April 15th on Tuesdays from 12:00 - 12:20.

As always, a big THANK YOU to our wonderful classroom assistants who are so committed to supporting students! 🎵

Keep Singing!  
Mrs. Neufeld





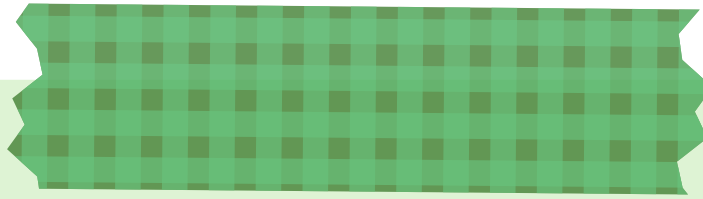
# STUDENT OF THE WEEK

## FEBRUARY 14

Sarah (K), Cooper (1), Paul (2/3A),  
Charley (2/3B), Zara (4), Saul (5), Ava (6)



# School Council News



Palliser School Division is looking for parent feedback and experiences with the design of the school day/week. They've created a survey which can be found at <https://forms.gle/NeFE9NofP5kemu5d9> and will be open till March 7. Please take a moment to complete the survey.

At our meeting in February, we passed a motion to purchase reversible jerseys for our volleyball and basketball teams, as well as a few recorders for the music program. We will be hosting another art evening in April so keep your eyes open for more information. Our next meeting will be on Monday, March 17 at 4pm in the project room. If you have any questions for council, please reach out to [dds.schoolcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:dds.schoolcouncil@gmail.com)

Hot lunch will be serving chili on March 6, and pasta with meat sauce on March 20. Thank you to the group of parents who keep this program running. We're always looking to expand our team so if you're able to help shop, meal prep, serve or clean up, please reach out to [dds.hotlunch@gmail.com](mailto:dds.hotlunch@gmail.com)