



## ***Del Norte December Newsletter***

### **Del Norte Winter Program**

We will hold our first annual Del Norte Winter Program on December 21st! All grade-levels will be performing. The first performance will be held at 1:30pm. An evening performance will be held at 6:30pm. Cookies and cocoa will be served at the evening performance. Additional information will be distributed by your child's classroom teacher. Hope to see you there!

### **Important Dates**

- 12/11-12/14:** Parent Observation and Support Week
- 12/12:** Del Norte vs. Chooshgai (Home)
- 12/14:** Del Norte vs. Twin Lakes (Away)
- 12/21:** Del Norte Winter Program (see above)
- 12/22:** Classroom Christmas Parties (more information to come)
- 12/22:** Spirit Day - Everyone wear an UGLY SWEATER!
- 12/25-1/5/18:** Holiday Break
- 1/8/18:** Data Day - No School for Students



### **Around the School...**

#### **The "Star" Team:**

The PBIS Team has changed its name to the STAR Team to represent our school core values. We are cancelling student Buy-In days and instead initiating Spirit Days. We are not raising any money with Buy-In days and we want students to have the opportunity to show their school spirit each month. Our first Spirit Day will be Ugly Sweater Day on Friday, December 22nd. Get in the spirit of the holidays by wearing your ugliest sweater! In order to raise money for student incentives, we are going to start selling pickles, suckers, and Hot Cheetos in January. Students will be able to purchase these items at school to take home, not to eat in class or on the bus. The money will be used to reward student behavior throughout the school year. Finally, our Integrity assembly has been postponed until January in order to focus on the Winter Program and help organize it.

#### **Climate and Culture Team:**

The Climate and Culture Team has celebrated Del Norte staff October and November birthdays with cake at our PLC on November 17th. The team has been recognizing our staff by choosing 4 staff members to be named as **STAR STAFF of the week** every Monday. THANK YOU DEL NORTE staff for being true **STARS** for all you do for our students and school!

### **Student Awards Team:**

The Student Awards team has been busy getting ready for the end of the quarter. With that comes our 2nd quarter awards assemblies. Please mark on your calendars that January 12th will be our assemblies. Kindergarten and 1st grade will be having their assembly at 8:30am. 2nd and 3rd grade students will be having their assembly at 9:15am. 4th and 5th grade students will have their assembly at 10am. Just a friendly reminder that we are still doing the "Less Than Five campaign." The students who complete the year with less than five absences will be rewarded at the end of the year. Keep encouraging your students to be here!

### **Systems Team:**

The Systems team has been focused on making sure procedures are established in preparation for upcoming bad weather days. The Systems team is concerned about student health as well as possible mud issues. Also, trying to manage student recess is a major concern when students aren't able to go outside for recess. The Systems team has also recognized the lack of school zone signs surrounding the school building and is working on trying to get signs mounted. Another big issue that the Systems team has been addressing is parking in the new parking lot. The main issues are parents illegally parking and incorrect student drop off and pick up procedures. Del Norte staff and parents are working on learning the new procedures established since the new parking lot has been finished. Our main concern is student safety as everyone learns the new procedures. On occasion, a Gallup Police Officer will be on campus to help monitor traffic. We appreciate the cooperation of parents to help ensure student safety as everyone gets the hang of the new systems.

### **Safety Team:**

During the first semester of the 2017-2018 school year, the Safety Team at Del Norte has focused on keeping our students safe. We have done this by having all students trained on Code Red, Code Yellow, Duck and Cover, and Evacuation drills. We hold fire drills once a month and we average getting all the students out of the building and accounted for in 5 to 5 1/2 minutes. We held our yearly evacuation drill where we exited the building and walked to the Boys and Girls Club. It took us 15 minutes to escort all 476 students and staff out of the building and reach the Boys and Girls Club. We will be holding our Code Red and Code Yellow drills during the second semester of the 2017-2018 school year. We look to maintain the safety and happiness of all students and staff.

### **Staff Support Team:**

The Staff Support Team will be presenting a professional development training on how to have a successful Christmas party in our classrooms. This will include ideas for games and activities, as well as tips to ensure great healthy snacks. We will also be providing information on what to do on hazardous weather travel days.

## **Important Reminders**

**Interim Testing:** We have begun our interim assessments in all grade-levels, except Kindergarten. It is essential that your students be here in order to have every possible chance to be successful on these tests. Parents, please ensure your children come to school rested and ready for the day. Testing will be completed by the end of December.

**Absences and Tardies:** We have over 150 tardies most every week and between 120-150 absences. These numbers are alarming! We understand that many of these situations are not preventable, however, we ask our parents to do your best to ensure your children come to school by 7:45am every day. Student attendance is one of the most important things that you can control in order for your child to be successful at school.

**Del Norte Parent Group (ASC):** Monika Crowfoot, our Parent Representative for the Advisory School Council, is looking for parents who are interested in meeting and sharing ideas, concerns, and suggestions to make Del Norte better. Her email address is [monikacrowfoot@gmail.com](mailto:monikacrowfoot@gmail.com). Please feel free to reach out to her!

## **Parking Lot Concerns**

When dropping your child off in the morning, please make sure to stay in the drop-off lane. Do not drop off your children in the parking lot as traffic is heavy and we do not want students to get hit by a car. Unless you have a handicap permit, **DO NOT** park in the handicap spots. This parking is reserved for those who need closer access to the school.

## **Assistant Principal**

As you may know, Mrs. Daugherty has taken the Principal position at Tsa' Gai High School. We wish her the best of luck. She will be missed. We are happy to announce our new Assistant Principal, Georgia Manning! Please give her a warm welcome when you see her!

As always, please contact the school office if you have any suggestions or ideas to make Del Norte better. Have a happy and safe winter break!!!

Best,

Kristen K. Bischoff  
Principal

