



## NORTH FORK SCHOOL OF INTEGRATED STUDIES

*December 8th, 2020*

### **Christi's Corner:**

*Hello all,*

*By now most of you know that we are dealing with positive COVID case(s) in our community. Our school is committed to following the District protocol around COVID. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to call or email me - [christi.gubser@deltaschools.com](mailto:christi.gubser@deltaschools.com)*

### Calendar:

#### Upcoming important dates

- 12/9 - Community Council - cancelled due to 501 C3 work session on Monday
- 12/9 - 12/10 - 2nd grade play - postponed, TBA

### Later on:

- 12/11 - Spiral Garden during school hours
- 12/14 - 501 C3 work session led by Gwen
- 12/18 - In school Winterfaire celebration

**THERE WILL BE NO HOLIDAY CONCERT/POTLUCK THIS YEAR DUE TO COVID.**

### Gratitudes:

*Thanks to Ana and Sami for the beautiful celebrations they have planned this semester. Thanks to Carrie and the Winterfaire team for pursuing holiday craft for the children despite cancelling Winterfaire. Thanks to Gwen Diaz for leading up our crew to apply for Friends of NFSIS to be a 501 C3 so that we can qualify for grants and such.*

### Please help keep NFSIS staff safe!

Delta County school district is planning to keep school open if possible during this holiday season. If you have plans to travel and see people from outside the North Fork, please keep in mind the health of the NFSIS staff by continuing with good hygiene and other COVID preventive measures. **If you have been exposed, stay home!!** We all come to work each day to serve your children, and partnership with our families is critical in this during this unusual time of tricky public health. In addition, please remember to mask up at pick up time, again to keep our staff safe.



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### **Looking for Winterfaire sponsor**

We have an incredible match donation! A sponsor has put up \$1250 in matching to support WinterFaire. So far we have \$850 donated, so we just need \$400 to complete the match! Can you contribute some today? Please speak with Christi or email her.

### **Important Dates**

You are receiving a BLUE important dates document today in your Tuesday folder. It is also attached to the email. Please put this somewhere where you can easily refer to it so you can know what is coming up for second semester!

### **Fundraising Addresses**

Do you have an address we can include for fundraising? If you did not make time to fill out the form last week, please email your addresses to [christi.gubser@deltaschools.com](mailto:christi.gubser@deltaschools.com)

### **Basketball! Update**

Message for Jessi Heinritz, bball coordinator: Attention Pee Wee basketball players! Due to COVID-19 the Health department has postponed basketball for the next two weeks. Parents will be contacted when our organization becomes aware of what our basketball season will look like. Thank you!

### **Call it in!!**

If your child is absent, please call it in every time! 970 527 3639. We need to know why children are absent during this uncertain time for the health of our school. We all want to stay open as long as possible and we need your help to make this happen. Thank you.

### **Advent**

We have entered into the season of Advent. Traditionally celebrated the four Sundays before the winter solstice, it marks a time of introspection as we all await the return of the sun and lengthening days. This seasonal remembrance of light takes place in many cultures across the globe. At our Waldorf school, we celebrate with Advent spiral walks and Advent tables.

An Advent table may be a tradition to take into your own homes to mark this season of darkness turning towards light. Each week items are added to a small table and an additional candle is lit, taking a quiet moment to celebrate and recognize the strength and beauty of the natural world around us. By remembering the light surrounding us in



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nature, we are helped to kindle a sustaining light within to help us through the dark days of winter.

Here are some ideas on how to incorporate an Advent table into your winter celebrations:

As the verse above guides, in the first week of Advent, we remember the light of the mineral world, of the earth, and our connection to it. Perhaps you can plan a hike together so different than in the exuberant summer, collecting stones to add to your Advent table.

The second week of Advent we honor the plants that nourish both our bodies and our spirits. This is a great time to remember the food growers and preparers, and add some winter boughs or fall leaves to your Advent table.

The third week of Advent we celebrate the animal kingdom for their companionship. We can remember to help our backyard companions through their own difficult winter with full bird feeders and treats for the squirrels, and add a small animal figure to your Advent table.

Finally, in the fourth week of Advent we remember our fellow humans. We can reflect on the special people in our lives who may have helped light the path for us in their own way. Perhaps we can find a way to be a light in someone else's life this week, and add a little figure to your Advent table.

By marking our seasonal journey out of darkness with the quiet contemplation of an Advent, we make space in this hectic time of celebration and busyness to remember our connection to the earth and each other. In this way, we kindle the light of our own spirits and perhaps help light the way for others.

### Advent Verse:

*The first light of Advent is the light of the stones  
that sparkle through seashells, crystals and bones.*

*The second light of Advent is the light of the plants  
that reach to the sun and in the breeze dance.*

*The third light of Advent is the light of the beasts*



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*that swim, crawl or fly, be they great, be they least.*

*The fourth light of Advent is the light of you and me,*

*in love and in our hearts, to give and understand.*

### Highlights

#### Kindergarten

This week in the kindergarten we have had a bit of a plot twist. We have a small class this week and two incredible, gracious, warm, and loving teachers who are holding the children and making sure that school continues to be magical and welcoming and joyful. My deepest gratitude to Ms. Heather and Ms. Jacquie for stepping in to lead the Kindergarten class this week!

In the mornings, Ms. Heather is continuing our rhythm mostly outdoors. She is leading circle, telling stories, and allowing the children to explore nature, and of course, to play. The children have been so extremely well prepared for playing outside. Thank you for layering their clothes and continuing to send warm winter gear each day. It makes a HUGE difference! Ms. Jacquie is following our regular afternoon rhythm, and we are so lucky to have her.

I enjoyed connecting with so many of you over the weekend. I feel that this experience brings us closer as a community, and I'm grateful to be walking this path with all of you right now. So much love to you all.

#### First Grade

First Grade had an amazing hike last Friday in Dominguez Canyon with the Second Grade. It was a beautiful, sunny day and we even saw two Golden Eagles and Bald Eagle that sat in a tree and let us get right up next to him! What an amazing experience for all of us. This week we are writing a short Narrative about our adventure to Dominguez Canyon, working on the four operations and making seasonal crafts.



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We will count by tens using walnuts and then we will make beeswax candles out of the walnut halves. We will work on ornaments for the children to bring home next week and we are going to be making holiday cards to share with our families. We are listening to advent stories about plants this week and celebrating the amazing kingdom of plants.

The second light of advent is the light of the plants plants that reach up to the sun and in the breezes dance.

### Second Grade

I hope you all stay healthy this week. Dominguez canyon was magical on Friday. It will be cold this week, so there will be no Forest Friday field trip.

We have decided to postpone the play until most of the children are back at school, which we hope will be next week. Each morning we celebrate advent as a class. This week is the second week of advent, the week of the plant kingdom.

Also, on Monday Saint Nicholas left all the children gifts of a golden walnut and a cutie tangerine.

The children have been working on form drawing and are learning stories of Remarkable People. I am thankful for each of you and I send you all the best. Please call or text with any questions.

### Third/Fourth Grade

Gracias to Jenna for taking on the class last week and this week. I will return this Friday and we will walk around a spiral garden in celebration of advent. In main lesson, children are finishing up their final copies of the composition they each wrote about the Asgard world in Norse Myths. They are engaged and hearing exciting stories about Odin and his eight-legged steed. I hope everyone is remaining safe and healthy.

Spelling for the week:

1. Regular jotuns feared the wrath of Thor when he was fighting.
2. Odin sat by the hearth of the doctor giving him advice.



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3. The norms are spinners and know the birth and death of each person.
4. Loki was worried when he saw the depth of Thor's anger.

### Fifth/Sixth Grade

The 5th and 6th Grade is continuing our North American Geography and History block this week. We are completing our United States research project. Each student has picked a state to study and create a marketing poster and a facts poster.

Last Friday, we went to the Nature Connection to get our cross country ski gear for the winter. This Friday, we are going to go cross country skiing on the Grand Mesa for our first day of the year. We will go to County Line to enjoy the snow and learn how to cross country ski. If you would like to join us, please let me know. I have included an information sheet with gear the students should bring each time we go. Please keep this sheet for future ski days.

We will start to learn about some of the Greek Myths this week in preparation for our class play, which is scheduled for February 10th and 11th. I will be sending the script home over Christmas Break for the students to start learning since we don't have a lot of time after break to learn. Please make sure your student is practicing the lines each day to learn them. We will pick parts as soon as we get back from break, so the more they learn now, the easier it will be. It will also give them a chance to try to figure out who they want to play. All students will have significant parts in this play. If you have any questions, please let me know. Have a great week!