



DECEMBER 2010

THUNDERHAWK MONTHLY

DFC CELEBRATES ITS 10TH ANNIVERSARY



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DFC CELEBRATES ITS 10TH ANNIVERSARY

On Wednesday November 24th, DFC hosted an open house to commemorate its 10th anniversary. Staff, students, community members and more all came out to visit the school and join in marking this special occasion.

The following was written by Nancy Currie – a teacher at DFC who has been there since its opening.

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Ten years. Wow! It seems like just yesterday that we were cleaning out classrooms and then setting them up, in anticipation of the arrival of our first students and our new classes. It was so chaotic, but exciting at the same time. The building had been empty for many years and it was wonderful to have the halls alive again with the voices and laughter of so many students. DFC was the fulfillment of a dream come true; the vision of an Aboriginal school in an urban setting, promoting and preserving culture and beliefs. A place that students could feel was theirs. A positive learning environment where students would thrive and be proud of who they were. That dream is still alive today through the caring staff here at DFC and the support of NNEC.

Each year we witness the looks of eagerness, anticipation, and a bit of fear, in the new young faces. It's scary being away from your family for an extended length of time. The city is scary! There are all kinds of new experiences waiting for them. It's an amazing experience watching these students grow up and mature. I can think of so many that started Grade 9 with us, graduated from DFC, and went on to have fantastic careers. Some are employees of NNEC today, and many others have brought their skills to their communities. Often we get visits from previous students and it is so nice to see them. I love hearing what they are up to and meeting any new family members they might have. I really hope they continue to keep us updated on how they are doing.

Being a small school, we get to know the students and we're like a big family. The students care about each other too! I have never seen so many students, be so kind to each other. As in any family, we have our joys and sorrows. Joy for all the successes, even the little ones. Sorrow over losses. We've lost students, while they've been a current student at the school, as well as after they returned to their community. Both are equally devastating! A young life, so full of promise; gone. It makes me feel like I have lost a member of my own family, and my prayers go out to their families. We have also lost staff members, while employed, and past employed. All are in our memories and remain a part of this school. I know I will never forget them. Some staff have taken another path and moved on to other opportunities. They also take with them a little bit of DFC. I guess once a DFCer, always a DFCer.

But, we are here to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of Dennis Franklin Cromarty High School, and celebrate we should! As there have been many pass through these doors, there will be many more. The smiling faces of the students are evidence of our success. Each graduating class confirms the decision to develop this school. The dream is still alive and only growing stronger.

Nancy Currie

STUDENTS UNITE, TAKE BACK THE NIGHT



On Friday, November 19, students from Dennis Franklin Cromarty High School participated in Take back the Night celebrations, along with a group from Sir Winston Churchill High School and the Ontario Native Women's Association. The girls attended an information session about violence against women and learned how to recognize signs of potential violence and how to protect themselves. It was an empowering experience and culminated in a walk to remember victims of violence. Take back the Night is an international event to show society's condemnation of all forms of violence against women.



Darrin Fiddler DFC student and Dakotah Meekis Provincial student were invited to attend Toronto-United Nations Convention on the Rights of a Child through the Provincial Advocate for Children & Youth.

Presented by: DFC's Grade 10 Drama Class & Grade 12 Exploring the Arts Class

The Christmas Princess

By Arthur M. Jolly

It's Christmas Eve – and the palace is in turmoil. The next day is not only Christmas, but the wedding day of the beautiful (but spoiled) Princess and the handsome (but dumb) Prince Charming. The problem: the Princess doesn't want to marry a stupid prince. Desperate to find a way out of the marriage, she disguises herself as a maid, and seeks the advice of Wanda Watt the Witch, who sends her on a quest to find three magical gifts that will allow her to escape her wedding.

Place: Dennis Franklin Cromarty High School Gym
315 Edward. St., Thunder Bay, ON

Date: Thursday, December 9, 2010

Time: 3:00 p.m. – School Performance
7:00 p.m. – Public Performance

FREE ADMISSION
Coffee, Tea, and
Refreshments
will be served.

SENIOR BOYS VOLLEYBALL

The volleyball season this year went extremely well. We had a strong group of athletics that were devoted to the sport and gave practices and games their all. Even though win did not have many victories, we learned a lot and grew as a team. Our team enjoyed many Pizza hut suppers, tiring practices and a lot of hard work. We were able to go watch the Thunder Bay men's league volleyball teams and see what we can grow to do. We attended tournaments in Dryden, Thunder Bay and in Atikokan. Our tournament in Dryden was a great experience for our team, here we were able to capture a win again Manitouwadge and was a team building turning point. The Thunder Bay tournament was another valuable experience where our team learned how to stay positive and always have fun. Our last tournament took us to Atikokan for the NWossa finals, here we faced off against Manitouwadge and Atikokan. We gave it our best and fought for every point. This season made me really proud of our school; our boys never gave up, worked hard and I cannot wait to coach them again next season!



CLASSROOM UPDATES

Ken Liddicoat

Technological Education

The Technology wing at DFC is as always a hub of activity as we crest this last bit of the semester heading towards Christmas, exams and culminating activities. What a semester it has been with all classes working hard at their projects and assignments quite a lot has been accomplished in such a short period of time. December is here already it seems like only yesterday when we opened the shops up from their summer break and had sweat out the first few weeks of school.

One important theme that has been stressed in the school throughout the year has been community and the students have been making great efforts to be part of it, the classroom community the school community and the Thunder Bay community. We have discussed the communities' perspective and worked as individuals and members of the DFC school community to welcome the community of Thunder Bay to Dennis Franklin Cromarty High School and see what DFCHS is all about from inside the school. With pride the students presented and showcased their Home communities their school and their individual and collective talents and accomplishments at the 10th anniversary open house held at the school on November 24. Students also created, decorated and marched alongside an exceptional float they entered in the annual Santa Clause Parade where they braved the bitter cold to entertain and share in this event with participants both young and old on Saturday November 20.

TJ20 - The Grade Ten Transportation Technology the students continue with shop projects practicing workplace and shop safety. Culminating activities for this class will involve students researching and presenting a project on vehicle operating systems or safety systems.

TWJ3E - The Grade Eleven Custom Wood-working students continue to complete their personal and community based projects that they will finish and present.

TMJ20 - The Grade Ten Manufacturing Technology students continue learning and practicing workplace and shop safety focusing on the operation and safe use of equipment found in industrial or manufacturing worksite. Culminating activities for this class will involve students researching and presenting a project on a Manufacturing Technology process or a chosen career in the industry.



Nancy Currie

ADA 20 – Grade 10 Drama

ENG 3C – Grade 11 English

ENG 4C – Grade 12 English

Another successful term almost completed. We have had student teachers in our classes for a few weeks now, and they will be with us until just before Christmas Break. We thank them for their dedication to the learning of our students and wish them all the best in their future careers. All classes are now working on their culminating activities and are preparing for final exams.

Please be sure to check out the advertisement for the Christmas play to be put on by the Grade 10 Drama Class and the Grade 12 Exploring the Arts Class on December 9th. There will be a live feed on the NNEC site for the 3:00 performance. For anyone in Thunder Bay, please try to attend the free public performance in the gym of Dennis Franklin Cromarty High School at 7:00 on the 9th.

Emily Hicks

Grade 9 Science, Grade 10 Civics and Grade 10 History

Well the semester is winding down but there is still work to be done. This week we will be starting our culminating activities, which are major projects that account for a large portion of their final marks. Students are encouraged to be in class and push themselves to finish the semester off strongly; it is easy to fall behind when going home in on the brain. Our culminating activities will focus on many of the topics we looked at this semester and allow the students to put their knowledge together in 1 final project. It is crunch time! Any students that are missing assignments should be attending tutorials with Bob to get caught up. I am here to help you succeed, please come see me if you need help, to get extra assignments to boost your marks, or need study tips for the exam. I wish everyone luck on their culminating activities and final exams!



Aaron Guthrie

Happy Holidays!

Wow, these first three months of school sure have flown by! It seems like just yesterday we were registering students in their courses and getting ready for our first day of classes.

Some highlights from this term so far:

Grade 12 Recreation & Fitness Leadership:

- Travelling to McKellar Park Elementary School to work with their boys and girls Volleyball teams. The students in this class acted responsibly and maturely as they mentored the younger student athletes. Both groups of students learned a lot from each other and from this experience.
- Field Trip to the Nor West Outdoor Centre. Our class got the chance to participate in a variety of Team Building and Leadership based exercises. The students also really enjoyed the Adventure Park Challenge as the activities were exciting and thought-provoking.
- Health Promotion Presentations – Our class prepared display boards about Tobacco, Alcohol, Oxycotin and Marijuana for the 10th Anniversary Open House. These presentations outlined the health risks to the human body & mind, as well as strategies to help in quitting. They were all very well done!

Grade 10 Applied Science:

- The students in this course have been working very hard to catch-up on old assignments and bring their grades up in preparation for the Final Exam.
- As our Culminating Activity the students have been working on Science Fair projects that are based on a combination of traditional Aboriginal concepts that involve science. When the Let's Talk Science, Aboriginal Science Fair at Confederation College arrives in April, our students will already have their projects completed and can enter the contest if they wish.

Alyssa Saj

MFM 2P – Grade 10 Math

MBF 3C – Grade 11 Math

HIR 3C – Managing Personal and Family Resources

As the semester comes to a close, students are working hard to complete assignments, work on culminating activities and prepare for final exams. Congratulations to all students for their hard work and perseverance this year. Thanks for a wonderful semester!

Heather Lammers

Heather's student teacher, Melinda Tait, has been doing a fantastic job with the students in each class. They will be starting their final culminating activities during the first week in December and then final exams will happen. They're almost done!!

HPC 30 – Grade 11 Parenting

Students are examining the social and legal responsibilities of parenting. They were able to take a field trip to Aboriginal Head Start to learn more about organizations within Thunder Bay. Students have also had the opportunity to make dream catchers and medicine bags.

CGG 30 – Grade 11 Travel & Tourism

Some of the topics students have looked into during Unit Five include: safety issues when travelling, marketing tourism, conservation and preservation of land and animals. Students have been challenged to use their thinking and creative skills to complete the assigned tasks.

CGC 1P – Grade 9 Geography

Global warming has been a main topic throughout this unit. Students had the opportunity to build mini-greenhouses to better understand the effects of a greenhouse.



If you have any concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at hammers@nec.on.ca. It has been very enjoyable and helpful talking with those of you whom I have reached over the telephone.

John Eves

SBI 3C – Grade 11 Biology

Students had a lot of fun dissecting fetal pigs, although I don't think they will eat bacon for a while. Students are working hard to finish assignments before exams.

BTT 2O – Grade 10 Information & Business Technology

Students will be designing the program for the play and completing their culminating activity.

MFM 1P – Grade 9 Math

Students will be finishing up work on volume and angles and completing their culminating activity.



HAPPY HOLIDAYS



"I wish all of our students and their families a safe and happy holiday and look forward to seeing everyone for a new semester and a new year!"

- Alyssa Saj

"Happy holidays everyone! I hope everyone has a wonderful Christmas holiday with their loved ones. I know how hard it is to be away from your family most of the year, so enjoy being home and spending time with each other. I look forward to seeing all the students back in the new year. Be safe, have fun and come back to Thunder Bay rejuvenated and geared up for another semester ☺"

- Emily Hicks

"I would like to take this time to wish all of the students a happy and safe Christmas and New Year. This will be an exciting Christmas for me as it will be my son's first Christmas. Hope to see all of the students old and new in the new year."

- John Eves

"I would like to wish everyone a wonderful and safe Christmas and all the best for 2011."

- Nancy Currie

*"Dear Parents and Students,
Best wishes for a safe and happy holiday season. I wish for peace and health of mind, body and spirit to each and every one of you as we finish off one year and enter a new year and semester."*

- Colleen McCreery (aka "Florence")

"Wishing you a very merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!!"

- Heather Lammers

"I would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and best wishes for the New Year! To the students, congratulations on finishing another semester and I look forward to working with you again in the future. It is an honour to work with such an amazing group of young people! Take care of each other during the holidays and stay safe."

Miigwech,

- Sharon Angeconeb

Ricky Strang of Poplar Hill First Nation and Beatrice Mamakwa of Kingfisher Lake First Nation recorded a Christmas Greeting to air during the holidays on Rock 94FM. Make sure you tune in and check it out! Miigwech to Ricky and Beatrice for sending out a greeting on behalf of DFC Staff and Students.

DFC students will also be recording Christmas Greetings to air on Wawatay Radio. This is a great opportunity to send greetings to family and friends in the north. We are very proud of our students who are fluent in their native language and they will be showcasing their skills on Wawatay Radio.



CONTACT US

**DENNIS FRANKLIN CROMARTY HIGH SCHOOL
315 NORTH EDWARD STREET
THUNDER BAY, ON P7C 4P3
PHONE: (807) 623-8914
TOLL FREE: 800-265-1243**

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