



NOVEMBER 2010

THUNDERHAWK MONTHLY

VISITING COMMUNITIES



DFC enjoyed visits from leaders of Sandy Lake First Nation and Cat Lake First Nation. It is very empowering for our students to see their leaders come to the school and encourage them with their studies. It is also a great opportunity for the teachers and other staff members to talk to the leaders about how to improve DFC's academic and student support program. Our door is always open to welcome visitors from the northern communities especially parents, elders, and community leaders.

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Northern Nishnawbe Education Council hosted our Annual General Meeting at Lac Seul First Nation on October 20th and 21st.

Four students from DFCHS – Brandon Meekis, Chanelle Keno, Harley Anderson, and Kaiyah Duncan – attended the meeting with some staff. These students were selected to represent our student body at the meeting. They gave a slideshow presentation to the chiefs that outlined the strengths and the areas for improvement at DFCHS.

Thank you for the opportunity to share what is happening here at DFCHS in Thunder Bay!

TAKWAAKIN CULTURAL DAYS & POWWOW



DFC celebrated Takwaakin Cultural Days from October 7-8 and the event was a big success! Takwaakin refers to the fall season in Anihshiniimowin. In many of the northern communities where our students come from, Takwaakin is a time for hunting and feasting. DFC is continuing this tradition by hosting a cultural event that welcomes other schools and community members to participate and learn more about First Nations culture and language.

Visitors came from Nor'wester View Elementary School as well as Pope John Paul II Senior Elementary School. It was a great opportunity to learn new things together and to have fun!

Charles Brown and Bellina Anderson from Kwayaciiwin Resource Centre in Sioux Lookout put on an excellent workshop featuring Native Language activities and games.

Raphael Moses of Holistic Adventures was here for two days sharing his extensive knowledge of traditional medicines. He provided his medicines to participants of the workshop and also arranged to meet individuals if needed.

DFC teachers Aaron Guthrie and Greg Chomut taught groups of students how to play lacrosse. Some of the senior boys also demonstrated their skills for the younger students.

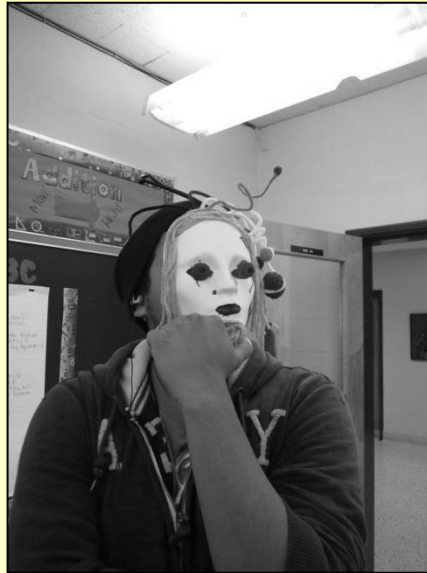
There were many other workshops such as making medicine bags and mini headdresses, hand drumming, and Aboriginal films.

The workshops that were taught by the Elders were the following; Contemporary First Nation Music by Abe Kakapetum, Wildfood Preparation and Outdoor Cooking by Bella Patayash, and Maggie Linklater. Bannock Making was taught by Rebecca Mckay. Traditional Drumming and Teachings were taught by Josias Fiddler and his sons Thomas and Touchan Fiddler. Frances Mckoop of Bearskin Lake and Victoria Beardy of Muskrat Dam were special visitors to our school and they enjoyed spending time with the youth.

The grand finale was a Thanksgiving Feast and Powwow and it was very well attended by youth and other community members. DFC was honoured to have NAN Grand Chief Stan Beardy share a few words to begin the feast and to carry the NAN flag during the Powwow Grand Entry. Kiche miigwech to Shadow Creek Drum Group and the NAN Drum Group for visiting our school and sharing their songs. Special thanks go out to the powwow Master of Ceremonies Calvin Redsky and to the representatives from NAPS and Thunder Bay Police for all their help.

The staff and students of DFC would like to thank everyone for making our Cultural Days a big success! Special mention goes out to Elder Tommy Fiddler of Bearskin Lake First Nation for donating the moose meat for the feast and to the many drummers and dancers that showed off their talents at the powwow. It was an honour to have you here at our school.

HAPPY HALLOWEEN!!



On Friday October 29, all students participated in Halloween activities for part of each class throughout the day. These activities were organized and run by students from Tara's Leadership class.

During Period 1, classes decorated masks. Period 2 classes decorated classroom doors and Period 3 classes carved pumpkins. During Period 4, students toured the Haunted House set up in on the stage in the gymnasium.



SPORTS UPDATES

Senior Football



Jonathan Crane and Sydney Kenequanash are still playing Senior Football for our neighbouring school, the Sir Winston Churchill Trojans. Jon plays Outside Linebacker and is a vital member of the Kickoff team. In a game during mid-October, Jon made a game changing play as he recovered a fumble on a kickoff and secured the ball for his team! This play made a big difference in the momentum of the game and helped the Trojans secure the victory! Sydney plays Wide Receiver and is also on the Kick Return team on Special Teams. Both young men should be extremely proud of their accomplishments and dedication to their team. The winning team from Thunder Bay gets the opportunity to travel to Toronto to compete in the Northern Bowl, against the best team from Sault Ste Marie, in the Rogers Centre!



Basketball

In the next month, John Eves will be running basketball practices with the boys, and plan on arranging an exhibition game with Pelican Falls. Listen to daily school announcements for dates and times and look for more information to come in the next newsletter.

Senior Boys Volleyball

Our boys' volleyball team had a successful road trip to Dryden on October 15 and 16. We played hard, came together as a team and never gave up. We were able to take a game victory over Manitouwadge High School.

Our volleyball team took a field trip to watch the Thunder Bay men's league teams on October 26th. This was a great opportunity for us to see teams of a high skill level compete; through this experience we gained valuable information on areas we could improve.

On October 27th, our boys played like rock stars and had their first regular season victory. The boys faced Hammerskjold high school and were able to win a game with a score of 25 to 23. Way to go boys!

Our season is winding down and we hope to capture a few more wins before it does. There is a possibility of attending another tournament locally and NORWOSSA but nothing is final.

Keep playing hard boys! ☺



CLUBS & ACTIVITIES

Elder's Program

Wachiiye from the Elder's Room! We had lots of exciting activities with students and visitors in the past couple of months.

Some of the highlights are the Youth and Elder's Gathering at Chippewa Park, the Takwaakin Cultural Days and workshops, Thanksgiving feast and powwow, and visits from special guests.

At the Youth and Elder's Gathering, the students heard traditional teachings and participated in storytelling activities with elders from different communities. They also took part in a feast and giveaway.

Bella Patayash, and guests Maggie Linklater and Rebecca Mckay were involved in the Takwaakin Cultural Days by teaching the youth about wildfood preparation, outdoor cooking, and bannock making. For many of the young visitors from the other schools, it was an amazing experience to participate in these activities for the first time.

Elder Abe Kakapetum's workshop about Contemporary First Nation music was an opportunity to learn ways of incorporating the native language into contemporary music. He shared his songwriting and recording experiences and encouraged the youth to learn more about making musical recordings.

The Elder's Program is also enjoying visits from special guests and local elders. It is the belief of many First Nation communities to continually find ways of bringing youth and elders together and our program is continuing this tradition by featuring weekly outdoor cooking sessions and hosting the Beading and Craft Club. Many students are working on beading and craft projects such as hats, mitts and moccasins. They are learning skills that will benefit them for years to come and it is awesome to see their progress.

The Elder's Room was blessed with a huge gift of moose meat by Guidance Counsellor Greg Quachegan and his son Valee. Cutting up the moose head was an amazing experience for all those that participated. Under the direction of Elders Frances Mckoop and Bella Patayash, the moose head was cut up, divided and prepared for the students to cook and eat. Kiche Miigwech for the gift!

Donations of wildfood such as moosemeat and fish are very much appreciated. Our students miss eating traditional food while they are out in the city. Please contact Bella Patayash or Sharon Angecone at the school if you would like to make a donation.



Music Club

Every Tuesday after school the Jam Room is open to all students to play music for fun or practice as a band. We are hosting a battle of the bands competition in late November where students will have the opportunity to show off their musical talent in front of their peers, and also win some great prizes. There will be a combination of student and staff judges for the event and students can use Tuesday night jam sessions to prepare their set lists.

MESSAGES FROM STAFF

Social Service Worker Placement

My name is Mike Donio. I am a First Nations student from Rocky Bay, Ontario. I am attending Confederation College doing a placement at Dennis Franklin Cromarty High School. I am in my second year of the Social Service Worker Program and am really enjoying the experiences and opportunities available to me. I am located in room 111, acting as a student support person. Anyone who is struggling attending their class for the full duration may ask their teacher if they can come to my room for a break. You may come and continue your work that you are doing or sit and engage in some activities. All are welcome in room 111. It is a place where the students can relax and be themselves. I hope to get to know everyone and hope to build some strong relationships with you. I also hope to learn a little from each student that I encounter. I hope to learn more about our culture from the students and from helping the Elders.

FNSSP – First Nation Student Support Program

Hi there, I am Kevin Kakegamic originally from Keewaywin First Nation. I am the Special Assignment Teacher for FNSSP at DFCHS. My duties are to work with the Literacy, Numeracy, and Special Education teachers and to work with administration on Student Retention.

This past month I have been working with the FNSSP team and have some new and effective resources for our Numeracy and Literacy departments. Literacy has collected some culturally relevant materials and the Numeracy department has researched and found a program that will improve our students' numeracy skills called Key Math 3. I also have been working with our Native Language teacher to gather information about a Nintendo DSi software program. This is a language tool being developed at this time to support Native language courses. Our Special Education Resource teacher is working with another resource teacher named Pat from KO to conduct Remediation +, a program that has been brought into our school from KO to build literacy skills. To help with student retention we had two cultural days for which we combined with other schools in community (see article about Takwaakin Cultural Days for more information). We also held a pep rally for the students involved in sports and recognized students for their academic achievements in the first half of the semester.

It was a privilege and honour to give an update about FNSSP to the chiefs at the AGM.

We, the FNSSP team, are looking for new opportunities and ideas for the students into this school year.

Message from the Principal

It is mid-term already! This is the time when most students realize that they need to improve and make changes in their work ethic. Students, I encourage you to meet with each of your teachers to see where you are at in your studies. Being a student requires daily attendance, participation in class and completed assignments. Don't forget that tutorials are available after school every day and it is important to make up time if you have missed classes.

We are looking forward to our annual Halloween school party, the annual visit to the haunted Fort William Historic Park and Trick or Treating. Before you know it, snow will be covering the ground until April. ☺ Just a reminder that we have activities planned, and please see Justin and Ashley for more details. It is time to finish the second part of the semester safe and strong. Watch out for each other and keep safe. Only 7 more weeks until Christmas. ☺

CLASSROOM UPDATES

Ken Liddicoat

TTJ2O – Grade 10 Transportation Technology

The Grade Ten Transportation Technology the students continue learning and practicing workplace and shop safety, engine construction and the basics of operation including the four stroke cycle. Shop projects that we have been working on are a vehicle service, tune up, seasonal maintenance discovering the ignition, fuel lubrication systems, tire construction and repairs and the foundations behind these systems and their importance to vehicle operation.



TWJ3E – Grade 11 Custom Wood-working

The Grade Eleven Custom Wood-working students continue learning and practicing workplace and shop safety focusing on the operation and safe use of equipment found in the woodshop. Upcoming activities and projects look at introducing and developing wood joinery skills required for cabinet making and fine woodworking. We are discovering new tools techniques and materials through the design and manufacturing of our projects, learning from our mistakes and developing troubleshooting skills as we go.

TMJ2O – Grade 10 Manufacturing Technology

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. The students have been and continue to learn about measurement, design, properties of materials and mechanical systems. We are discovering new tools techniques and materials through the design and manufacturing of our projects, learning from our mistakes and developing troubleshooting skills as we go.



Katie Adams

ENG 1P – Grade 9 English

We have just wrapped up a unit on Media Studies focusing on elements of advertising. Students analysed a variety of media forms and created original media products including CD album covers, magazine advertisements, and public service announcements. We are now starting a unit on the one-act-play "Toronto at Dreamer's Rock" by Aboriginal playwright, Drew Hayden Taylor. Students will examine the issues and themes in the play through various activities and develop an understanding of the structure and style of dramatic plays.

ENG 2P – Grade 10 English

Students have been working on a persuasive essay as part of the Media Studies unit. To better understand the persuasion techniques of advertising, students are writing a persuasive essay with the aim of convincing the reader that their opinion on an issue is correct. Students have been following the writing process to create their essay as well as learning about the structure and style of a 5-paragraph persuasive essay.

EMS 3O – Grade 11 Media Studies

Students have been working on Unit 3: Selling Images and Values, which focuses on the ways in which the media promotes certain values and lifestyles. A variety of topics have been discussed including advertising techniques, the use of photoshop in advertising, subliminal messages in the media and how alcohol advertising may influence teenagers.

Emily Hicks

CHC2P – Grade 10 History

Our grade 10 history class is continuing to look at different historical events and figuring out how Canada fits in. We have looked at the World Wars, Oka Confrontation, watched Dances with Wolves, and much more. In weeks to come we will be focusing on the great depression and looking at all the hardships it brought.

SNC1P – Grade 9 Science

The Science class has just completed their chemistry unit. We finished off this unit by conducting tests to see the changes in chemical and physical properties (some experiments we did included mixing vinegar and baking soda, road salt and various other chemical formulas). We spend time building different molecules structures to represent different elements on the periodic table and their compounds. We have now started working through out unit on space. During this unit we will be looking at Canada's participation in space, our solar system, constellations, the planets, different types of eclipses and watch movies based on space exploration. This is an interesting unit I hope the students will be fond of.

GLC20 – Grade 10 Career Studies

Career studies was a half credit course where students learned about different career choices, themselves and how to prepare themselves for getting a job. In late October students completed their culminating activity and final exam for this course. There culminating activity was to create a resume that they can use for getting a job. There final marks for this course will appear on their report cards. I hope students enjoyed this course and I wish them luck in the rest of the semester.

CHV20 – Grade 10 Civics

Civics is a half credit course that began right after midterms (October 22nd) and will run until Christmas break. This course teaches students about democracy and how political decisions are made in Canada. They will explore their own and others' beliefs and perspectives on civics questions, and learn how to think and act critically and creatively about public issues.

Nancy Currie

There will be two student teachers joining my classes from November 8 until the end of the term. I'm sure that they will enjoy their time with us and find it a rewarding experience.

ADA 20 – Grade 10 Drama

The Grade 10 Dramatic Arts class is beginning a unit entitled "Life Choices." This unit deals with the complexity of making informed choices and the sometimes unpredictable consequences which may result. Through a variety of dramatic activities such as role playing, tableau, sculpting, monologues, storytelling, visual imaging, and journal writing, students explore situations which require difficult decisions and choices. Through these activities, students also share their perspectives on issues and choices which concern them. A variety of stimuli and resources are used to analyse issues, choices and consequences, including pieces of text, images, and concrete objects to generate questions and concerns. Upon completion of this unit the students will begin preparations for the culminating activity, a full production to be performed for the student body.

ENG 3C – Grade 11 English

The Grade 11 English class is beginning a poetry unit. In this unit, students will study various types of poetic styles and examine a variety of literary devices. Students will read, write and explore poems to demonstrate an understanding and appreciation of the poetic form. Students will display their comprehension of the poetic form in the creation of individual poetic works. Through the study of many Aboriginal poems, students will examine common themes portrayed in poetry. The summative activity for the unit examines common elements found in contemporary songs and students demonstrate their knowledge in the creation of a song poster. Upon completion of this unit the students will work on a media unit.

ENG 4C – Grade 12 English

The Grade 12 English class is beginning a poetry unit. The purpose of this unit is to introduce the students to the use of poetry as a medium for personal or social expression. In addition to reading poetry analytically to understand both explicit and implicit information, students are challenged to examine, analyse, and assess issues presented in the texts. Students will be given the opportunity to examine various forms, as well as write their own poetry in the form that is best suited to them.

Next, the class will begin a drama unit. During the reading of *A Streetcar Named Desire*, students examine how a variety of literary and rhetorical devices are used to enhance meaning. Students examine the influence of social, cultural, and economic factors on the themes and interpretations of the play. As a summative task, students further develop their essay writing skills in a narrative essay on a topic of their choice in relation to the play.

John Eves

SBI 3C – Grade 11 Biology

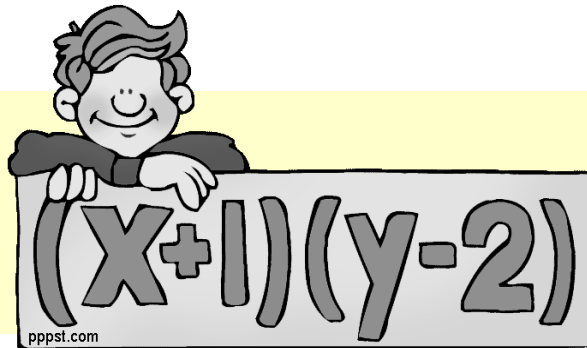
This class has been going well. Recently students have been looking at different types of microorganisms and looking at ideal growing conditions for mould. We will be testing these conditions on various fast food hamburgers to see if they will grow mould. In the next month, we will be looking at genetics (how traits are passed from parent to child) and looking at mammal biology, the various systems in the human body. We will be conducting dissections of pigs towards the end of the month.

BTT 2O – Grade 10 Information & Business Technology

This class introduces students to the use of various computer programs used in business. Students are currently using spreadsheets. They will be moving on to use publisher, powerpoint, and proper use of email for business.

MFM 1P – Grade 9 Math

Students are currently learning about equations. In the next month, we will be looking at graphing, analyzing graphs, and statistics. The math class is also assisting in the running of a canteen at the school. The money raised through the canteen shall be going to the graduation.



Alyssa Saij

MFM 2P – Grade 10 Math

This class has been working through a unit on quadratic expressions. In this unit they are developing the necessary algebra skills in order to work through the next unit on quadratic relations. The Quadratic Relations unit will introduce students to how these types of situations are modeled in real life and in mathematics. After this unit, students will cover topics including trigonometry and measurement.

MBF 3C – Grade 11 Math

In this course, students are just finishing up the unit on Geometry in Design by completing a unit project in which they are designing and creating a model for a sports complex. Their next few units will cover trigonometry, personal finance, and probability & statistics.

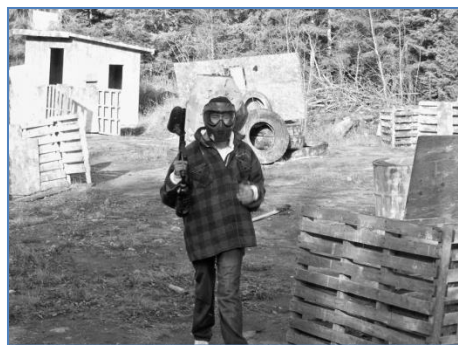
HIR 3C – Managing Personal and Family Resources

Students have started a unit on financial decision making. This unit will show students the different costs of living in the years to come after school (including supporting a family and retirement). Students will explore the resources available to them for financial assistance and will learn techniques for making smart financial choices. Following this unit, students will look at how the economy affects relationships, careers, and finances.

Aaron Guthrie

SNC 2P – Grade 10 Science

During October the Grade 10 Science class finished up their unit on Earth's Dynamic Climate. During this unit we had the chance to discuss and understand natural and human related causes of Climate Change and Global Warming. Students had the chance to complete laboratory experiments where they modelled the Greenhouse Gas effect and simulated the effects that rising levels of carbon dioxide in the oceans are having on animals that live there. After finishing this unit we have moved into our third unit which is based around Chemistry. This unit allows us the opportunity to understand common chemical reactions that constantly occur in the world around us. During November we will also begin planning for our Culminating Activity, which will be participating in the "Let's Talk Science" Aboriginal Science Fair, which is run through Confederation College. Student projects must be based upon scientific concepts found in traditional Aboriginal teachings and lifestyle. Last year some of the projects included: traditional medicines and plants, the difference between commercial and traditional tobacco, snowshoes, tipi making and traditional tools & weapons. If you have knowledge that you would like to share about any of these topics, please feel free to email me at AGuthrie@nec.on.ca as I'm sure our students would benefit from learning this knowledge first hand from their elders!



PPL 30 – Grade 11 Healthy Active Living Education/

PLF 4C – Grade 12 Recreation & Fitness Leadership

The Grade 11 Healthy Active Living Course finished up at the end of October. We ended the course with our Culminating Activity, which was an overnight retreat out to Eagle's Cove Ministry Centre. While at Eagle's Cove the students had heaps of fun while playing paintball and other games. This was also the second meeting of the "Polar Bear Club." The rules of this club are simple, in order to join all you need to do is warm up in the lake-side sauna, jump into the cold lake, and repeat. This activity was completely optional, but we did have over a dozen students (and myself and Ashley the Recreation Worker) join in! Many students commented that the water was actually warmer this time, compared to when we first started the club in September. The club members are still in the 'cub' stages, and won't be deemed full Polar Bears until completing the dip with snow on the ground! Something to look forward to for our next trip to Eagle's Cove in early December.

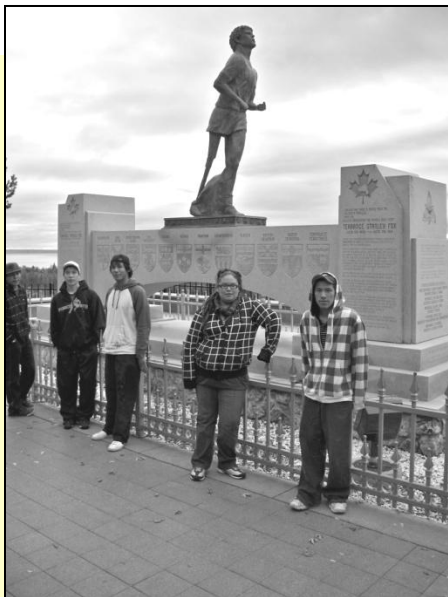
Grade 12 Recreation and Fitness Leadership started with a lot of fun leadership games and activities. We have been discussing different types and qualities of leaderships, as well as discussing leadership opportunities that exist in our students' lives. We will also be discussing conflict resolution, decision-making and overall healthy living behaviours. The students in this class will get the chance to plan, organize and lead large group recreational activities during the month of November.

Heather Lammers

Heather's student teacher, Melinda Tait, will start on November 8th. She will be working with all of Heather's classes.

HPC 30 – Grade 11 Parenting

Students are examining the influences on parenting – personal and outside influences. In the process, they are reflecting on culture, values, theorists, and agencies within Thunder Bay.



CGG 30 – Grade 11 Travel & Tourism

Cultures in major world tourist regions are being examined, including Brazil and Australia. Students are learning more about cultural differences and the effects of tourism on cultures. As well, the impact of deforestation on the rainforests in Brazil is analyzed.

CGC 1P – Grade 9 Geography

We are just starting to look at bioregions and their relationship with "Ecological Footprints." Students will examine the characteristics of bioregions, including flora and fauna, soil and natural vegetation. Two other topics in Unit 3 are Canada's natural resources and energy megaprojects.

Brandon Wright

BDV 4C – Grade 12 Entrepreneurship

Dennis Franklin Cromarty's grade 12 entrepreneurship class is continuing to make great progress towards potentially establishing small business ventures. With the trade show about five weeks away, students have begun working on the poster boards that will display their business ideas for the trade show. So far, the students have shown some very creative and promising ideas for small business ventures like Brandon Meekis' comic/anime magazine, Darlene Barkman's traditional clothing store, and Storm Keewasin-Edwards' coffee shop. Aside from working on our trade show booths, we are currently learning about how to finance, market, and launch a small business.

GLS 10 – Grade 9 General Learning Skills

The students of Dennis Franklin Cromarty's grade 9 general learning strategies class are pursuing potential career opportunities in its latest unit, School and Career Options. The focus of this unit is to get students to start thinking about their futures in terms of senior year class, post-secondary education, and life in the workplace. Although young, the students are very eager to learn about what skills they'll need to achieve their educational and career goals as adults. In this unit, students are also sharpening their group communication skills through problem solving and team-building activities. Keep up the good work, guys and girls!

UPCOMING EVENTS**DON'T FORGET ABOUT...**

NOVEMBER 3	Take Your Kids to Work Day	<p><u>Shop Nights</u> - build your own project every Wednesday 7-9pm</p> <p><u>Tutorials</u> - make up those missed classes daily from 4:10 – 5:10pm Room 117</p>
NOVEMBER 15	NAN Day of Prayer	
*NOVEMBER 24 (tentative date)	DFCHS Open House	
DECEMBER	Final Exams	
DECEMBER 15	End of Semester 1	

ATTENTION!!**To all Social Counselors and Education Directors:**

To improve communication between DFCHS and the communities, please send your email address to school secretary Mary Ann Cascanette (MCascanette@nec.on.ca).

CONTACT US

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