

# Letter of Intention - Dragonfly Learning Community

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*"Learning to stand in somebody else's shoes, to see through their eyes, that's how peace begins. And it's up to you to make that happen. Empathy is a quality of character that can change the world." - Barack Obama*

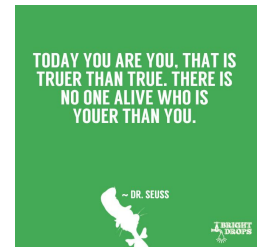
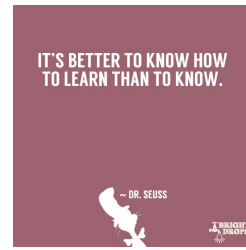
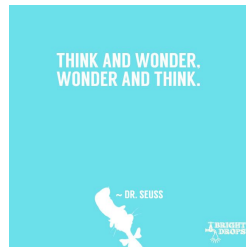
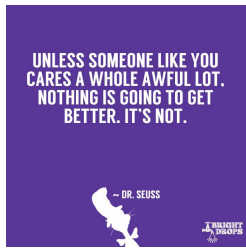
Our Big things for this year:

Intention

What do you bring to our community? What part of yourself can you share with us?

Joy in Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Learning should be FUN and involve passion</li></ul>
Connecting with each other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Creating opportunities for students to connect in different groupings (pairs, groups, as a whole)</li><li>• Students learn to branch out from their friend group</li></ul>
Connecting with nature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Providing opportunity to observe, feel, experience, and learn from and in nature.</li></ul>
Caring for each other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Accepting each other, taking care of each other, celebrating success and supporting struggle</li><li>• Celebrating each other's strengths and differences</li></ul>
Caring for our environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Learning that each of us can make a difference and that small things can have a big impact</li></ul>
Self assessment and awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Knowing ourselves as learners - recognizing our strengths and stretches</li></ul>
Happy, comfortable, safe learning environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Kids learn better when they feel happy, safe and cared for</li><li>• Need to feel valued and that they belong</li></ul>
Celebration of self	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Connecting with and caring for self.</li><li>• Expressing ourselves in our own unique ways</li><li>• Understanding our emotions and healthy ways to cope</li></ul>
Being a contributor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Each person doing their part for the whole</li></ul>
Being a collaborator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Learning happens between us and it grows <math>1 + 1 = 3</math></li><li>• Learning to contribute and to compromise</li><li>• Valuing the ideas of others</li></ul>
Being a global citizen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Making connections to ourselves, our community, and the world</li><li>• Focusing on sustainability and stewardship</li></ul>

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Dear families,

In the Dragonfly Community, we believe in creating a comfortable, accepting learning environment where students feel valued and connected. Each student brings unique gifts to our community and we strive to help each member recognize and celebrate their individuality. Together, we encourage learners to stretch their boundaries and step out of their comfort zone in a safe and supportive environment.

Our overarching theme for the year is "*Our environment shapes who we are and we shape our environment*".

Some of the questions we plan to explore include:

- How do we grow compassion and empathy for ourselves, our learning community and the world beyond?
- How is our natural local environment connected to our daily lives and the way we meet our needs?
- How can learning about our local environment change the choices we make in our lives?
- What impact can we have on our community, city and world? How can small changes make a big impact?
- What do the stories of First Nations people teach us about the reciprocal relationship with our natural environment?

Our goal is to provide fun, engaging and meaningful experiences to ignite curiosity in our students. We invite learners to explore and dig deeper into topics they are passionate about. Students are encouraged to ask questions, inquire and wonder about the world around them.

By connecting to our local environment, our hope is that students will understand that they can make a difference through the decisions they make on a daily basis. *We strive to help students feel empowered and motivated to take action, solve problems and create lasting change in the world around them.*

Sincerely,

Jenni Rubuliak and Pam Thibert  
Dragonfly Learning Community  
Chute Lake Elementary

