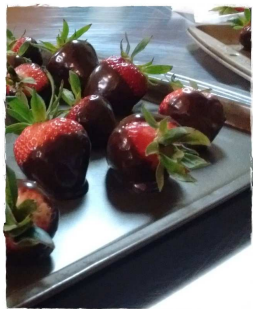


April 2017; *anticipation*

Spring is here, and the one word that kept coming back to me as I was thinking about this month's newsletter was *anticipation*.

There was the anticipation of Easter, there is the very tangible

anticipation of summer, of graduations and final exams, there is anticipation of a concert in Rockyford this week, and of course there is great anticipation of our class field trip to Denver! God has blessed us immensely, giving the kids favor with people as they were selling chocolate covered strawberries and cookies around the neighborhood and prompting one of our summer mission teams to donate towards our trip. Also, some of the parents have been a big help raising funds. I am looking forward to treating the kids to a fun weekend, most of all though I am looking forward to just spend quality time with them just a few weeks before the end of the school year. The timing is unique; this group of kids is not going to be in the same classroom together next year, and even though they are probably less aware of it than I am, I want to make this opportunity count. After a



few days of panic considering how little time we have left in the year to cover what is still quite a considerable amount of content, God gave me a moment of clarity and I realized, it is not so much a question of *there are only a few weeks left and there is so much left to teach* but *there are only a few weeks left where I have this special position to really pour into those kids' lives*. Sure they are going to be around, some of them I will probably see every day at the Rec. Nevertheless there is something different about spending the day with them the way I do now, and the spiritual authority that comes with it, not just because they have to listen to me given that I am their teacher. ☺

So as always, I want to ask you to pray with me for this last month of the 2016/17 school year. A few of our students came with us to the dare2share conference in Denver last month. It was all about Jesus, the reality of heaven and hell, the life of David, and what it means to be a worshipper, warrior, and witness. Ever since we're back there are notable changes in especially one of them. Jesus is working on this heart and I want to be ready for however He wants me to work along with Him. Pray for focus during these last weeks, for open hearts and ears, for the kids to hear God's voice for themselves, clearly, and personally. I know that I know that to be called by name, to be spoken to by God



personally, is what changes lives forever. Please continue to pray for workers, for volunteers, teachers, for parents to get involved, and teens to take up courage and step into the roles God has long since prepared them for.



The past month has probably been one of the busiest of the year, so I'll have to pick a few things out of all that we've done to write about:

In our World Cultures Class, this month we got to teach other students about contemporary Lakota culture and everyday life, internationally! A teacher friend of mine in Germany wanted to present her students with an inside view in the context of teaching about Native American tribes, so the kids took on the challenge, writing letters about their everyday life and Lakota heritage. Speaking of challenges: After reading the account on Esther's life to give our classroom verse (Esther 4:14) a little more context, I presented the kids with the challenge to give God priority over food, or their phone, or iPod from breakfast till school is out. Everybody tried, and a few actually made it, I am really proud of the kids. Last but not least, a very literal challenge was presented to the kids at the NASP State Archery Tournament in Rapid City. The kids were nervous at first, but ended up having a lot of fun.

Thank you for your faithful prayers for the school, the ministry and most of all our kids and teens!

Ela Sutton at Oyate Concern

*Putting Wings on Weary Hearts*

