

# BEAR ESSENTIALS

Monthly Publication | Dolores School District RE-4A | 970-882-7255

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## November 11

9:00 a.m. at DHS

See page 3 for more information on Veterans Day Celebration.

*See Page 9 for  
Board Candidate  
Information*

## High School Volleyball Team Undefeated in League



Dolores Bears Volleyball is having an outstanding season thus far. The Lady Bears played in Telluride this last Saturday in a tough battle where they finished on top. The win in Telluride brought the Bears' league record to 12-0 on the season.

This season the Lady Bears have earned the title of undefeated San Juan Basin League Champions for the 2019 season. This is the second team under Coach Hollen's stint to earn this title. The team from 2017 was the first undefeated league champions Dolores had seen since the 1970's. Currently, the Lady Bears are ranked 11th in the 2A Class for Colorado. If the Lady Bears hold onto this ranking they earn the right to host a regional tournament which will be held November 9.

The team has grown together into a fierce offensive force. Come out and watch these girls work together.

# Moving Forward with Building Excellent Schools Today (BEST): Speak Your Voice!

The Dolores School Board, Dolores School Personnel, and the Dolores community at large are at a *crossroads* (n. “a crucial place”); we need to decide whether to renovate the school campus, keep it in its current location, or purchase a lot on which to build an entirely new campus.

Decisions of this magnitude demand careful deliberation as there are multiple factors to consider. What’s more, exploring a topic as complex as this can be daunting when the goal is to hear (and honor) many perspectives. What do families want? What are the concerns of teachers? Business owners? The Town Board? Here is where the World Café protocol helps to ensure that everyone in a room contributes to the conversation and all voices are heard. It’s fun, it’s collaborative, it’s respectful - and it strengthens and unifies communities. All we need is for people to show up!

Working closely with engineers from the Colorado Department of Education, school leaders have assessed current facilities with the requirements of the Building Excellent Schools Today (BEST) Grant in mind. BEST funds can be used for the construction of new schools as well as general construction and renovation of existing school facility systems and structures, but BEST grants are competitive. It’s vital that the community understands why our school facilities need upgrades, and what makes us eligible for the grant. Superintendent Richard will begin the World Café conversation with a detailed report, then board members and candidates will host subsequent table conversations.

Are you still uncertain what, exactly, BEST Grants are? BEST helps meet the capital needs of districts across the state. As explained by the Colorado Department of Education,

The BEST legislation was designed to use the growth in the Public School Fund—money and resources that reside in a state trust fund originally created as a result of federal lands dedicated to Colorado’s public schools when Colorado became a state—to create resources for school construction. The money utilized under the BEST legislation is generated from interest earnings, lease payments and mineral royalties earned on the school trust lands and other investments. It is not tax revenue. By using these funds, the state has been able to create a pot of hundreds of millions of dollars to address high-priority school capital construction needs. Under BEST, school districts are expected to bear part of the costs for these construction projects, according to the ability of local taxpayers and the school district.

Please join us for the World Café forum on November 6th from 6:00 to 8:00PM at the Dolores Community Center. *Be informed and be heard!*

Contributing writer (pictured) is Dr. Kay Phelps, President of the Dolores School Board of Education.





## November is National Health Awareness Month

In the month of November, there will be many reports given on health issues that face our nation. One of those issues is the teen vaping surge. This particular concern has made its way to our campus. The media has not helped in this area. The advertising has been such that the teens mistakenly believe that it is somehow less dangerous than cigarettes. They also have social media adding to the fascination by packaging the vapes in youth-friendly wraps.

Parents should get on social media and even Amazon and look into how the teens are purchasing their vape pens and mist. The flavors are deceiving as they are named after fruits. A popular type of vaping device, called pod mods, look like USB drives and can even be charged via a laptop or USB port. Amazon even sells ways to conceal your vape pen. Parents need to join the school personnel in our attempts to rid our teens of this deadly habit.

Read this excerpt from a recent Yale Medicine Journal:

During a recent media briefing, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) advised people to avoid e-cigarettes while federal and state officials investigate a nationwide outbreak of severe respiratory illnesses associated with the use of e-cigarette, or vaping, products.

“Of course, e-cigarette use is never safe for youth, young adults, or pregnant women,” said CDC’s Dana Meaney-Delman, MD, who is managing the agency’s response to the outbreak.

Federal and state officials have reported hundreds of total possible cases of pulmonary disease and several deaths that may be related to vaping. Patients’ symptoms ranged from cough, chest pain and shortness of breath to fatigue, vomiting, diarrhea, and fever, according to the CDC.

[Originally published by Yale Medicine, Kathleen Raven: September 13, 2018. Updated: September 7, 2019.]

Parents, consider assisting the school by checking your teens backpack regularly. If they drive, check their car for any of this paraphernalia. This could save their life!

Dolores School District believes in the importance of teaching our young people to honor the sacrifice of those who have served our country. It is our objective to teach them in a visible manner that freedom in America is not free. Freedom has cost lives and many sacrifices given from the veterans of this great country.

Many school districts are not in school on this day but in Dolores, we take this opportunity to bring in those who have served to honor them. Our students help to facilitate this event. On November 11, at 9:00 AM, the program will begin in our auxiliary gymnasium. Before the program, the students will serve breakfast to the veterans. The breakfast is prepared by our own Food Service Department and paid for by the band funds.

If you know of veterans in the area who may not be aware of our festivities, please invite them to attend. This solemn and celebrating event is open to the public. Parents, grandparent, neighbors, and other are all welcome to attend. Students will perform and other ceremonies will surely express our gratitude to these men and women of the armed forces.

### **VETERANS DAY CELEBRATION**

**NOVEMBER 11**

**Breakfast for Veterans at 8:00 AM**

**Performances and Celebration at 9:00 AM**

# BEAR FACTS

## Monthly Blog by Superintendent Lis Richard

In a famous scene from *The Wizard of Oz*, Dorothy's dog, Toto, finds the wizard behind a curtain, controlling his machines. When he's discovered, the wizard comically yells into a microphone, "Pay no attention to that man behind the curtain!" The joke, of course, is that the wizard refuses to acknowledge what Dorothy can plainly see: He's much less impressive than he wanted Dorothy to believe.

This scene is so true when it comes to any school district leadership trying to be less than transparent. All of the financial information related to a school district are a matter of public record. Several years ago, the state required that every district post a financial transparency link on their website. DSD has done this as well. Also, as a public school district, the purpose is to partner with families in the education of their children. Transparency is absolutely essential for trust in this process.

The Business Dictionary defines **transparency** as a "lack of hidden agendas or conditions, accompanied by the availability of **full** information required for collaboration, cooperation, and collective decision making" and an "essential condition for a free and open exchange whereby the rules and reasons behind regulation."

Although our district is not necessarily a business, this definition does ring true.

Home of the Bears



Hidden agendas are detrimental to trust and growth. Hopefully, those who read this blog and others will see that our current leadership is working diligently to keep things transparent and open.

Our Community Conversation event on November 6th is an example of how important collaboration must be for our future. It is our true desire to present information and listen to input. Much time has been devoted to preparing information for the public. In our smaller community, it is often easier to discuss important decisions in more comfortable environments like the coffee shop, friend's home, PTA meetings, rotary meetings, and much more. These are all healthy environments and certainly ones that invite discussion. It is even more important that these conversations continue with those responsible for making decisions. It is the goal of the DSD leadership to see that many such opportunities are provided.

We believe in transparency.

Passionately Pursuing Excellence,

**Mrs. Lis Richard**

Superintendent



**Community  
Conversation**  
**11/6/19, Wed.**  
**With Dolores  
School District  
Administration  
at the  
Community  
Center**

**Renovate Current Facility  
vs.  
Build on New Site**

**6:00 - 8:00 pm**

We need your input!

Come and see our presentation and then give us your  
opinions.

*Call for more information: 882-7255*

# First Responders Honored by DHS Football Team



Decor was amazing!



## Setting the Standard

This year our football moms really set the standard for years to come. It was their desire to see their sons recognize the effort of our local first responders. The moms met together and planned an amazing evening honoring these fine men and women. Those fire fighters, EMT's, and police in attendance truly were honored. This was a tangible example of how we should be thankful for the service of others to keep our community safe.

Football moms helped the team serve honorees dinner.



Marching Band



Mr. Monk singing the National Anthem

The football players served the first responders dinner and then joined in to eat before their game. They barbecued hot dogs and burgers with all of the side dishes.



Flag Team and fans waiting for their Bears!



Little Bear cheerleaders at their best!

The activities before the game brought many to tears. The fire trucks and police vehicles were lit up and flashing while the huge American flag was displayed. Both football teams circled the infield while our bears held flags. The music played was well chosen and the reading at the start of the game inspired everyone.



Psyching up before the game!



Unforgettable pre-game presentation

The Bears were not able to pull out a win but truly played from their hearts. A highlight of our hometown games is the Little Bear Cheerleaders. They were so great! The marching band and flag team added to the unforgettable evening.

# Project-Based Learning Firsthand

## Third Grade Cafe Event

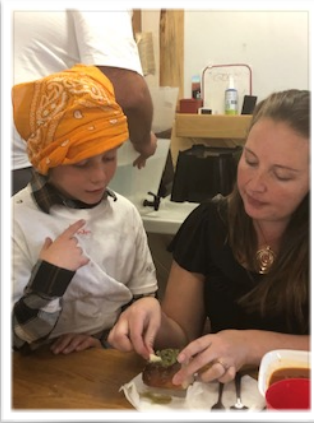
by Kelly Howerton

Project Based Learning has its roots in inquiry learning methods. One of the annual project based events for our third grade is the Restaurant Project.

The third grade class at Dolores Elementary completed another successful Restaurant Project! For the last six years students have participated in an amazing learning project which gives students a hands-on, real world learning experience where they learn what it takes to run a business and have a job. Students learn all about producers, consumers, goods and services, and how to create a business plan with a budget that will earn them a profit. Even though these are the third grade standards being taught for this project, students walk away having learned so much more. They truly understand the meaning of teamwork, problem-solving, and the value of hard work. Mrs. Russell's class created **The Osa Cafe**, which served up a delicious breakfast. Mrs. Lowe's class created **The Italian Bear Scratch Cafe** that specialized in fine Italian cuisine. The two classes transformed the Dolores Firehouse Station into an amazing fine dining experience for the community serving almost two-hundred happy customers. All of this hard work definitely paid off for these students. After all of their expenses had been subtracted, they were able to profit \$700.00 for the improvement of the garden. Way to go third grade!!!



Very proud of their t-shirts!



Students figuring out how to use their math skills!



## Middle School Sports News



The Middle School Girls Cross Country Team finished 5th in the Colorado Middle School State Championship in Denver on October 19th. The Dolores Cross Country team improved from 18th in 2018. The Bears were also the best 2A school in the State! The girls were led by 7th graders and 6th graders and return all top runners for next year.



Our student chefs hard at work!

# Dolores School District

Download our Mobile App for Free!  
Stay in touch with Dolores School District while on the go.



### APP FEATURES:

- ✓ News
- ✓ Notifications
- ✓ Calendar
- ✓ Schools
- ✓ Portal
- ✓ Parent Resources



Apps by: bluetreeapps

**Bear Essentials** Newsletter is edited and published from the Dolores School District RE-4A Administrative Office.

Suggestions and comments are welcome. Please email [larnett@dolores.k12.co.us](mailto:larnett@dolores.k12.co.us).

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**District Office**  
 970-882-7255  
[www.dolores.k12.co.us](http://www.dolores.k12.co.us)

# Better Communication

## *What is being done?*

There is not an organization that has the solution to communication shortfalls. It is an ongoing uphill climb. Our school district has taken many steps in trying to communicate more effectively.

Here are some of the methods used for communication:

- ✦ School Website - The website has been completely revised. An outside company worked with the district on formatting a site that would provide easier access to information.
- ✦ School District App - (as seen to the left) Apps are invaluable in 2019. They serve as a mechanism to provide instant information at a parent's fingertips. In this district, the app is linked to the website and is filled with pertinent updates. Parents have access to PowerSchool portal to view their students grades, attendance, and behavior. School calendars, lunch menus and more are provided on the app. Perhaps one of the most important elements of the app is the ability for the district to send notifications.
- ✦ *Bear Essentials* is the new school newsletter. This is a document that is designed to keep parents up to date on the district-level news. The district office welcomes input on this.
- ✦ Newspaper - It is the practice of the district to use the community news features provided by the local papers.
- ✦ Superintendent Blogs - Our superintendent, Lis Richard, posts regular blogs providing information and updates. These are available on the website and the school app.
- ✦ *Galloping Goose* and Secondary Announcements are provided to parents and guardians on a weekly basis. This is school-level information.



# DSD BOARD CANDIDATES

Elections will be held on November 5, 2019. Your vote counts!

## Six Candidates Running for Three Open Seats

### Current School Board

#### Kay Phelps - President

Term Expires: November 2021

#### Casey McClellan - Vice President

Term Expires: November 2021

#### Lenetta Shull - Treasurer

Term Expires: November 2019  
(Appointed and running for second term)

#### Deanna Truelsen - Secretary

Term Expires: November 2019  
(Term Limited)

#### Vangi McCoy - Director

Term Expires: November 2019  
(Term Limited)



**Maegan Crowley**



**Lenetta Shull (Incumbent)**



**Phil Kasper**



**Spark Reed**



**Alex Prime**



**Clay Tallmadge**

Visit the District Website for More information on the Candidates.  
[www.doloresschools.org](http://www.doloresschools.org)  
Turn in your ballot by November 5.  
Your vote matters!

## You Can Be a Bear Backer

The Dolores Bears Booster Club is a Colorado non-profit corporation that was developed to support academic **and** athletic activities for the Dolores High School and Middle School students by seeking donations, financial support, and volunteers from individuals, businesses, and community organizations. We are a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization that provides financial assistance for students to have opportunities beyond what our local school can supply.

The Dolores Booster Club can do all this because of you...our Bear Backer support! Please consider a Dolores Bears Booster Club Membership!!! Together we can accomplish so much. Even the smallest of donations can help build our funds to help serve our kids.

For more information contact: Leah Boyd 970-759-5597, Brenda Spurlock 970-739-1925, Laurel Schafer 970-318-1341 or Shelly Purkat 1-970-759-3101.

## Want to get involved?

<u>Level</u>	<u>Cost</u>	
<b>Platinum</b>	<b>\$250</b>	<b>Gym Sign</b> and <b>Business Card Ad</b> in Athletic Programs
<b>Gold</b>	<b>\$100</b>	<b>Business Card Size Ad</b> in Athletic/Activity Programs
<b>Silver</b>	<b>\$50</b>	<b>Recognition</b> in Athletic/Activity Programs
<b>Bronze</b>	<b>\$25</b>	<b>Recognition</b> in Athletic/Activity Programs
<b>Be A Bear</b>	<b>\$10</b>	<b>Recognition</b> in Athletic/Activity Programs

School Organizations receiving contributions 2018-2019:

- \* Operation Graduation - Financial Support
- \* Teacher Appreciation - Dinner
- \* Staff Meal for Parent Teacher Conferences
- \* Homecoming Week Spirit Contest
- \* Hope Montezuma
- \* Knowledge Bowl (HS & MS) Financial Support
- \* Sports Banquets (HS & MS) (Drinks, Dinnerware)
- \* High School Baseball Warm Ups
- \* NHD State
- \* Weight Room Benches Re-Covered
- \* High School Football - Traveling Team Food
- \* Destination Imagination-Globals Support
- \* Middle School Student Government - Water Fountain
- \* Scholarship of "Just Because" for graduating seniors
- \* Dolores Chamber - Bear Wear Gift Box



### Employment:

Dolores School District is seeking an elementary school counselor. This person must have the required certification. If interested, please call 970-882-7255.

Dolores Secondary School is accepting applications for a special education paraprofessional. Please see the website for additional information.

Substitute Bus Drivers Needed: Training is available. If interested, please call 970-882-7255.

Substitute Teachers Needed: If interested, please call 970-882-7255.

### Volunteer Opportunities:

Community Members, Parents, Business Owners for the **District Accountability Committee:** If interested, please call 970-882-7255. We currently have enough who have volunteered; however, we will take names for future reference.

**Booster Club** is seeking volunteers for concessions and other activities. For more information contact: Leah Boyd 970-759-5597, Brenda Spurlock 970-739-1925, Laurel Schafer 970-318-1341 or Shelly Purkat 970-759-3101.

PTA - Do you want to be involved in your child's education and provide support to the school? Call the elementary school office for more information.

If you have anything for the Classifieds, please submit it to Laurie Arnett at 882-7255.