

BEAR ESSENTIALS

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



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**Look Inside for
Details on Holiday
Programs and
Events.**

Download the App!

See page 5 for more details.



Pictured:

Maegan Crowley
(upper left)
Clay Tallmadge
(lower left)
Lenetta Shull
(above)

Dolores School District to Swear in New Members on School Board

A tremendous turnout to the ballot box yielded a good race among the six candidates for the Dolores School Board. Maegan Crowley and Clay Tallmadge were the winners replacing members Deanna Truelson and Vangi McCoy who were term-limited. The one incumbent running, Lenetta Shull, was able to keep her seat in a tight race. Kay Phelps and Casey McClellan return to their seats on the board with two remaining years in their term.

The new members will be sworn in on December 4, 2019, at a brief meeting just for this purpose. Following, the board will immediately leave in order to attend a Colorado School Board Association Conference in Colorado Springs. This is a timely event as there are multiple sessions for new board members to learn about their new role for school districts. The board will use this time to learn together and get acquainted as a working body.

Board meetings for the Dolores School Board are typically held on the second Thursday evening of every month at 6:00 p.m. The board has many important decisions on their docket. This is a very critical time in the life of the school district.

Upcoming Events

- 12/3 HS Basketball, Home
MS Basketball, Away
- 12/4 HS Football Banquet
- 12/5 HS Girls Tourney, Away
MS Girls B-ball Parent Meeting
- 12/6 HS Girls Tourney, Away
Elementary Character Assembly
HS B-Ball Kick off Dinner
- 12/7 MS B-Ball Tourney, Home
- 12/10 Engineering Fair
Sixth Grade Parent Mtg.
- 12/11 Engineering Fair
HS Basketball - Home
- 12/12 Engineering Fair
School Board Meeting
- 12/13 Sources of Strength
MS Winter Formal
- 12/16 MS Girls B-Ball Practice
- 12/17 MS/HS Winter Concert
- 12/18 Preschool Holiday Program
HS/MS Choir Caroling
HS B-Ball Pictures
- 12/19 Elementary Holiday Program
- 12/20 End of Second Quarter
HS Basketball - Away
- 12/21 HS Basketball - Away
- 12/22 - 1/6 Winter Break
No School

Please visit the website for times and locations of the events listed above.

www.doloresschools.org

MS/HS Winter Concert

Featuring the Dolores Secondary Band, Middle School Choir and High School Choir



Tuesday, December 17th

7:00 p.m. in the Main Gymnasium

Teddy Bear Preschool Holiday Program



December 18th

Wednesday at 6pm

Elementary Holiday Program

*December 19, 2019
Auxillary Gymnasium*

7:00 pm



Dolores Students Honor our Veterans

On November 11, 2019, the secondary student body of Dolores Schools honored many of our local veterans. The students served breakfast to the veterans followed by an assembly in their honor.

The assembly began with the honorees being escorted to their seats by students. Our band played and the choir sang the *March of the Armed Forces* honoring each branch of service. The choir also performed two numbers.

A very moving segment of the program was the open comments made by anyone who wished to speak. Many of the Dolores students read prepared poetry, sayings, and small stories of bravery. There were a few veterans who spoke from their hearts to those in attendance. It was a special time of remembrance.

Another captivating portion of the event was the Placing of the Hats ceremony. A very somber presentation took place for all to view. As the lights were



dimmed, the ceremony was conducted by students and each branch of the military was represented by a dress uniform hat that was placed on a chair on the platform. The final placement was the Missing in Action flag representing those who could not be with us but were remembered.



The choir followed the ceremony with a beautiful rendition of *Amazing Grace*. The veterans all stood for the song and remained standing for the final song. The program ended with the

playing of *Taps*.

Following the program, the veterans all lined up outside of the gymnasium and the middle and high school students (pictured above) walked by to shake hands. The students personally thanked every veteran in attendance. Many commented it was the first time they had ever been thanked by young people. The veterans were very moved with emotion.



Superintendent Richard with a 99 year old World War II veteran and former graduate of Dolores High School.

Hat ceremony presented by the band students of DHS.



Facility Update

Three Options Board Presented to Voters in Recent Survey:

1. **Stay at our current site on Central Avenue and rebuild.** This is possible; however, the challenge is the disruption of education during construction and the fact that our campus rests in a FEMA designated flood plain that will require all ground to be raised a minimum of 3 ½ feet. Another challenge will be to relocate the football field.
2. **Purchase a property located close to town and build a new Pre-K - 12th campus with all sports fields at the same site.** All engineers working on the concept have advised to explore this option. The challenge with this option is the sentiment of the current site and potential impacts to business owners.
3. **Postpone the construction and plan the construction onsite or seek a site more suitable to the community within the Town limits.** The challenge with postponement is the Building Excellent Schools Today (BEST) Grant Program currently has two funding sources for school construction. After 2020, one of the funding sources will be gone, making it much more competitive and difficult to obtain BEST Grant funds.

School Board Holds Off on Decision for District Facility

In the November 2019 regular board meeting, the school board tabled a vote on which option would be pursued for the possible building project. Due to the new board members joining the board in the December meeting, Casey McClellan made a motion to table the decision in order for the new members to weigh in on it. It was unanimously agreed upon by all members.

The board held a work session prior to the meeting and discussed many facets of each option before the board. The idea of a survey was discussed and in the regular meeting a decision was made to send out a survey to all of the registered voters in the Dolores district. This was put together and mailed out the week following the meeting. The board is seeking more representation of the full community before taking these important decisions to a vote. The survey gives the constituents a background of the options and then asks what their choice would be if the district moves forward.

It is the goal to have as many of the surveys gathered and tabulated prior to the next meeting. The next meeting will be held on the second Thursday in December. It is expected that the board will make a decision in this meeting.

Dolores School District

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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.

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Dolores Lady Bears Take Regionals



Team picture after regional win!

The Lady Bears High School Volleyball Team took first in the regional tournament. Their leading record enabled them to host the tournament. The Dolores main gym was not ready for competition so the tournament was held at Montezuma-Cortez High School. The Lady Bears dominated and defeated both teams they played. This advanced the team to the state tournament.

The ladies left the Town of Dolores with a full police, fire, and forest service escort. The tournament was held at the Denver Coliseum. The competition was tough and all matches played were close; however, Bears did not see a win.

This was one of the Lady Bears High School Volleyball Program's best years. They really demonstrated great team play. The girls were very competitive and remained stellar in their character. The administration and student body are proud of their success this year.

BEAR FACTS

Monthly Blog by Superintendent Lis Richard

During the holiday season it is very easy to get caught up in all of the festivities that we often forget the essence of the season. It is a time to celebrate family, memories, sacred beliefs, and other traditions. For some, it is a difficult time of year. Whatever the holidays bring, it can be a wonderful time of year if we do a bit of reflection on our practice.

In a school setting, the holidays are the most difficult time of the year for students to focus on learning. The students minds are on all of the exciting sounds, smells, and sights of the season. If the school and home can partner during this time of year, it will benefit our young people greatly.

Here are some helpful tips for this time of the year:

1. **Conflict needs to be kept behind a closed door and not in front of the family.** Young people are very aware of stress and conflict in the home. It causes them pain and anxiety even if they are not involved. They will often feel that they have some part in it or even be the cause of the conflict. Holidays bring out disagreements so try to let these find resolution away from the children.
2. **Try to avoid manipulative comments about behavior.** An example of manipulative comments would be, "If you don't do your homework, Santa will know and you might not get what you want for Christmas." Parents try to take advantage of every opportunity to get desired results from their children but manipulation is not a good idea. This may work for the moment but does not yield intrinsic motivation and change. Whatever happened to doing what is right simply because it is the right thing to do?
3. **Work to eat healthy during this time of the year.** We all experience the rich and delicious foods of the holidays but during the school week, please limit these foods. Your children need a well balanced diet full of nutrient-rich foods. It is already a challenge to get them to focus but when they are loaded up on sweets, it is nearly impossible. Keeping their diets balanced will also yield good restful sleep.
4. **Maintain a normal schedule.** The tendency during this time of the year is to drag our children

everywhere we need to go. They end up being out late into the evening and miss meals. If a babysitter is possible for the younger ones, it is worth it to keep them on schedule for bed time. If they are older, let them stay home to have a restful evening or excuse your family when the hour becomes late. Holiday events are wonderful but limit the over stimulation of these events.

5. **Create family traditions.** Families take on all different shapes and sizes today! Embrace whoever makes up your family and create special holiday traditions. Use this time of year to do something special for others.

One of the most memorable Christmases I had when my children were young was one year when it was just me and four small children. We had little money and I felt quite a lot of pressure to have all of the festivities for the kids. I went "old school" and used every night of one week to make a tree decoration. On each night we created a different decoration. We strung popcorn with needle and thread, did the same with cranberries, made paper snowflakes and hung them, picked up pine cones outside and put glitter on them and hung them, made a large star for the top of the tree and sang carols as we put it on top of the tree. Now as over 25 years have passed, that Christmas was the favorite of all the kids! As a parent, I was hurting inside that I could not do more and it was the best Christmas the kids remember. It is not the abundance of gifts but rather the gift of ourselves.

Please accept my deepest wish for all of you to have a wonderful holiday season. May this coming new year be the very best for each of you and for our school district. We have so much for which to be grateful.

Passionately Pursuing Excellence,

Mrs. Lis Richard

Superintendent



As a parent, I was hurting inside that I could not do more and it was the best Christmas the kids remember. It is not the abundance of gifts but rather the gift of ourselves.

A Christmas Story

It's just a small, white envelope stuck among the branches of our Christmas tree. No name, no identification, no inscription. It has peeked through the branches of

our tree for the past 10 years or so.

It all began because my husband Mike hated Christmas---oh, not the true meaning of Christmas, but the commercial aspects of it-overspending...the frantic running around at the last minute to get a tie for Uncle Harry and the dusting powder for Grandma---the gifts given in desperation because you couldn't think of anything else.

Knowing he felt this way, I decided one year to bypass the usual shirts, sweaters, ties and so forth. I reached for something special just for Mike. The inspiration came in an unusual way.

Our son Kevin, who was 12 that year, was wrestling at the junior level at the school he attended; and shortly before Christmas, there was a non-league match against a team sponsored by an inner-city church, mostly black.

These youngsters, dressed in sneakers so ragged that shoestrings seemed to be the only thing holding them together, presented a sharp contrast to our boys in their spiffy blue and gold uniforms and sparkling new wrestling shoes.

As the match began, I was alarmed to see that the other team was wrestling without headgear, a kind of light helmet designed to protect a wrestler's ears.

Jordan Elder Signs for Scholarship



Congratulations to senior Jordan Elder who signed with Northern Arizona University with a full scholarship to play volleyball. Jordan is an honor student and has worked hard to put herself in this position. She had a remarkable year in volleyball leading her team in hits. She was an offensive and defensive force for her team. One of the outstanding aspects of Jordan is her excellent character. Way to go!



Christmas Story Continued...

It was a luxury the ragtag team obviously could not afford. Well, we ended up walloping them. We took every weight class. And as each of their boys got up from the mat, he swaggered around in his tatters with false bravado, a kind of street pride that couldn't acknowledge defeat.

Mike, seated beside me, shook his head sadly, "I wish just one of them could have won," he said. "They have a lot of potential, but losing like this could take the heart right out of them."

Mike loved kids-all kids-and he knew them, having coached little league football, baseball and lacrosse. That's when the idea for his present came.

That afternoon, I went to a local sporting goods store and bought an assortment of wrestling headgear and shoes and sent them anonymously to the inner-city church.

On Christmas Eve, I placed the envelope on the tree, the note inside telling Mike what I had done and that this was his gift from me.

His smile was the brightest thing about Christmas that year and in succeeding years.

For each Christmas, I followed the tradition---one year sending a group of mentally handicapped youngsters to a hockey game, another year a check to a pair of elderly brothers whose home had burned to the ground the week before Christmas, and on and on.



The envelope became the highlight of our Christmas. It was always the last thing opened on Christmas morning and our children, ignoring their new toys, would stand with wide-eyed anticipation as their dad lifted the envelope from the tree to reveal it's contents.

As the children grew, the toys gave way to more practical presents, but the envelope never lost its allure. The story doesn't end there.

You see, we lost Mike last year due to dreaded cancer. When Christmas rolled around, I was still so wrapped in grief that I barely got the tree up. But Christmas Eve found me placing an envelope on the tree, and in the morning, it was joined by three more. Each of our children, unbeknownst to the others, had placed an envelope on the tree for their dad.

The tradition has grown and someday will expand even further with our grandchildren standing around the tree with wide-eyed anticipation watching as their fathers take down the envelope. Mike's spirit, like the Christmas spirit, will always be with us.

May we all remember each other, and the Real reason for the season, and His true spirit this year and always. God bless---pass this along to your friends and loved ones.

Retrieved from: <https://motivateus.com/stories/c-story.htm>

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?

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

Classifieds *District Classifieds*

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 School District is seeking a maintenance worker for the day shift. If interested, please contact Laurie Arnett at the district office or see the website for an application.

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

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

Dolores Athletic Department is seeking a middle school wrestling coach. Please contact Jeromie Schumacher for more information; jshumacher@dolores.k12.co.us

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.

