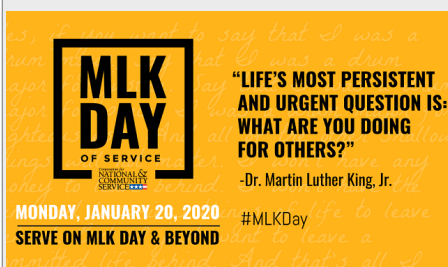


BEAR ESSENTIALS

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

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No School January 20

The Martin Luther King, Jr., holiday marks the 25th anniversary of the day of service that celebrates the Civil Rights leader's life and legacy. Observed each year on the third Monday in January as "a day on, not a day off," MLK Day is the only federal holiday designated as a national day of service to encourage all Americans to volunteer to improve their communities. The Corporation for National and Community service has been charged to lead this effort for the last quarter century.

State of the District Address by Superintendent Richard



As we begin a new year, it is with great anticipation that I write. The district has been through many phases of change in my short tenure. When I accepted the position last March, I had no idea that I was stepping into so many different projects. This is not uncommon in school districts; however, my desire to gain the trust and understanding of our community and staff was of utmost importance as I moved forward.

The district has undergone many leadership changes in the recent past. With leadership flux, there is always a bit of uncertainty for the future and direction. I sincerely believe that we have begun to turn the corner on providing stability to our students and staff. The staff has come together in a remarkable manner and is demonstrating this on a daily basis.

We have several exciting directions we are headed. Our school district is in the process of refining our curricular practices through aligning our resources more closely to the standards and providing we are vertically working in tandem from grade to grade. This has been a process that was started under former leadership and will be completed by this leadership. The need for more content-rich curriculum is very evident. The middle school currently has the greatest area of need and will be an immediate focus area of vertical alignment.

Another concentrated effort of this leadership is communication. We see the absolute importance of articulating our message and making sure that our stakeholders are aware of what is happening in the district. We have added this newsletter, *Bear Essentials*, as a means of communication as

SCHOOL BOARD NEWS

MEETING UPDATES AND HIGHLIGHTS

School Board Members:

Kay Phelps - President

Term Expires: November 2021

kphelps@dolores.k12.co.us

Casey McClellan - Vice President

Term Expires: November 2021

cmcclellan@dolores.k12.co.us

Lenetta Shull - Treasurer

Term Expires: November 2023

lsnull@dolores.k12.co.us

Maegan Crowley - Secretary

Term Expires: November 2023

mcrowley@dolores.k12.co.us

Clay Tallmadge - Director (BOCES representative)

Term Expires: November 2023

ctallmadge@dolores.k12.co.us

Upcoming Board Projects:

- ✦ Decisions on the future renovation or move the campus for Dolores School District
- ✦ Strategic Plan Goals for 2020
- https://doloresschools.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Strategic-plan_letter_only.pdf
- ✦ Policy updates
- ✦ Budget Final Approval and Appropriations for 2019-2020.
- ✦ Proposed Student Fees for 2020-2021
- ✦ Processing Survey Input from the District Accountability Committee
- ✦ Calendar Approval for 2020-21 (February)
- ✦ Superintendent Evaluation
- ✦ Parent Survey - DAC is conducting
- ✦ New Budget Process for 2020-2021

Board Recognizes Student Author

Ryan Eastman a junior in Dolores High School was recognized by the board in the December meeting. He was chosen to have an essay printed in the *Cortez Journal*. The board presented a certificate to him and congratulated him on his outstanding work as a student.



President, Dr. Kay Phelps presenting certificate to Ryan Eastman.

Board Meeting January Dates:

January 16, 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
District Administration - Board Room

January 18, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Dolores Public Library
(Work Session-Retreat)

Continued from page 1

well as a district app that is easily downloadable for free. The app enables us to send immediate notifications and keeps everyone up to date on a daily basis. We have completely overhauled the website and endeavored to make it more user friendly and informative. One of the concerns of our high school parents was the need to have access to college and career resources. We have added a tremendous amount of resources for this information. I have also added a superintendent blog that provides updates on community and board issues.

In an effort to build transparency and trust, the administration and school board have continued to reach out to the community and provide information and forums to listen. We have held several community conversation forums and plan to do more. In the same effort, we have put out surveys seeking input from the tax payers and parents of our students. We also plan to do more of this in the near future. Your continued support is greatly appreciated.

Our facilities are an ongoing project. Our school board has voted to postpone applying for the Building Excellent School Today (BEST) grant until the January 2021 cycle. This will give the leadership more time to develop a more comprehensive design and plan that also involves more parent and community input. The current state of our facilities are in disrepair. We have some estimates that put the repairs needed at over \$11 million dollars. The board and community need to come together on the best way to approach the needs. This will be an ongoing topic over the next few months as we formulate a plan to move forward.

Last year the board voted a 6% increase for teachers, added to the step scale for salaries, and the district assumed all of the increases (14%) in our insurance and benefits package for employees. This was the right thing to do for our staff but added some financial strain that we are

continually working to relieve. We are doing this through a concentrated effort in increasing enrollment, enhancing programs and offerings to bring more students, and making prudent financial decisions. We need to get our district in a position to do even more for our staff.

Our school board is now in place and will be having a retreat in January to help train and plan. The group of individuals who comprise the board are very diverse. This is a wonderful feature of the board. They will better represent the different views of the community while sharing the common bond of doing what is best for our students. Each member has a desire to work together for our district. It is an honor to serve with such dedicated individuals. The future under their governance looks very promising.

One of the greatest challenges of this school year has been assuming the two roles in leadership. I serve as the superintendent and now as the secondary principal. Although this is daunting at times, the opportunity has provided me with a unique insight into our secondary school. It has enabled me to see firsthand some of the immediate needs of our students and teachers. It will be a benefit to the future school leadership to have things in a more cohesive order and operation. It has also allowed me to get to know the secondary staff and grow to respect them. All of the secondary staff have been exemplary in acceptance of leadership and supporting the needed changes.

Each month, the directors of our district gather together for a leadership team meeting. We have been blessed with a very competent group of leaders. It is comforting to know that each one of them take their job so seriously and show their unmistakable dedication daily. As I work to develop them and our direction, I have complete confidence in their leadership.

May we all embrace 2020 as a year of stability and growth!

Sincerely,
Mrs. Lis Richard



Upcoming Events

- 1/1 Happy New Year!
- 1/6 Teachers Back - PD
- 1/7 Students Return
- 1/7 MS Wrestling 1st Practice
- 1/8 MS Girls Basketball Home
- 1/11 HS Wrestling - Away
- 1/12 Ski Club Session 1
- 1/13 MS/HS Knowledge Bowl @ Telluride
Booster Club Mtg. 5 pm
- 1/14 HS B-Ball - Away
- 1/16 Math Curriculum Team
MS Girls B-Ball Away
Board Meeting - 6 pm
- 1/17 MS Girls B-Ball Away
HS B-Ball - Home
- 1/18 HS Wrestling - Away
HS B-Ball - Home
- 1/20 MLK Day - **NO SCHOOL**
- 1/21 HS B-Ball - Home
- 1/22 MS Girls B-Ball Away
- 1/24 Elementary Character
Assembly, Aux Gym
- 1/26 Ski Club Session
- 1/28 HS B-Ball - Home
- 1/31 HS B-Ball - Home
HS Wrestling - Away
- 2/1 MS Girls B-Ball - Home
- 2/2 Ski Club Session
- 2/4 HS Girls B-Ball @ Cortez
HS Boys B-Ball @ Dove
Creek
- 2/5 Local NHD Competition
Library/Main Gym
MS Girls B-Ball - Home
- 2/6 HS B-Ball - Home
- 2/7 **NO SCHOOL** - PD Day
- 2/8 HS B-ball - Away
- 2/9 Ski Club Session 2



**Students participating
in team activity with
Sources of Strength.**

Dolores Secondary Students Participate in Sources of Strength

Some of our secondary students participated in an amazing training delivered by Sources of Strength. Our secondary counselor, Elisa Olson coordinated with Sources of Strength who graciously sent a trainer from Denver on December 13, 2019. Sources of Strength (SOS) is a best practice youth suicide prevention designed to harness the power of peer social networks to change unhealthy norms and culture, ultimately preventing suicide, bullying and substance abuse.

Ms. Olson also coordinated with Piñon Project to host the event. Piñon Project provided lunch and their team will be collaborating with our counselor to keep the program alive at the school. Melanie Begay from Community That Cares supports the FOR Club in our district. She was also invited to see what our students were doing with SOS. Community that Cares is looking to invest in "safe spaces" for activities involving students.

More information is available at: sourcesofstrength.org
Sources Of Strength:

Mission: Our mission is to provide the highest quality evidence-based prevention for suicide, violence, bullying and substance abuse by training, supporting, and empowering both peer leaders and caring adults to impact their world through the power of connection, hope, help and strength.

Vision: We believe that many strengths are more powerful than one, and our united goal is to activate and mobilize these strengths in ways that positively change individuals and communities.



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.

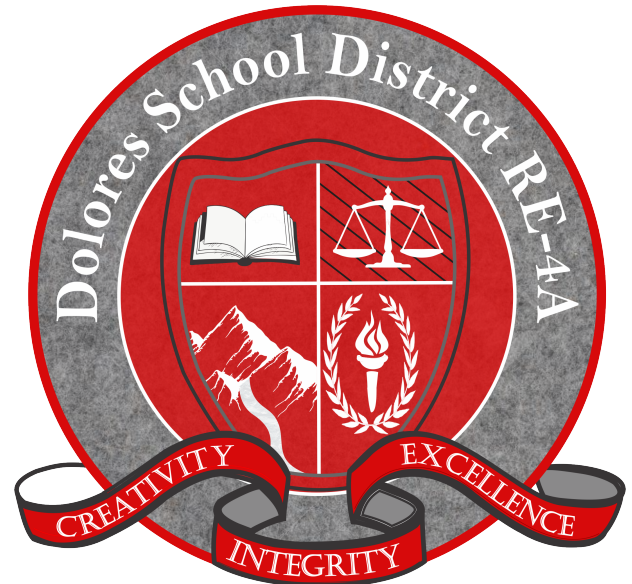
Suggestions and comments are welcome. Please email larnett@dolores.k12.co.us.

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District RE-4
100 N. 6th Street
Dolores, CO 81323

District Office
970-882-7255
www.dolores.k12.co.us

Board Approves Academic Seal

Logo for Dolores School District



An Explanation of our Academic Crest:

- ♦ Books Represent Academic Focus
- ♦ Scale Represents a Balanced Approach to Education
- ♦ Mountain and River Symbolize the Appreciation and Integration of our Resources and Community
- ♦ Torch is Significant for Character Development, Scholarship, Leadership and Service
- ♦ The Three Words: **Creativity** Signifies honoring all student and their passions, **Integrity** was chosen as the pursuit of every facet of our district, and **Excellence** reminds one to never settle for less than the best in all we offer

BEAR FACTS

Monthly Blog by Superintendent Lis Richard

The Arts in Education

Is it important to you that your child takes music and art every week? One of the important elements of our academic program is developing within our students an appreciation for the arts. Dolores School District is a district for the arts. Students at DSD pursue not only the good and the true. They strive for the beautiful. Every human being is endowed with an aesthetic sense no less than a moral one. This sense intuitively understands order, harmony, and proportion. The most tone-deaf person will wince at a sour note. The least imaginative and artistic will be struck by a beautiful sunset over a rolling landscape or a wide ocean. Like the moral sense, the sense of beauty must be trained to act in its fullest capacity. If it is not trained, it remains mere untutored potential, longing for something good but little able to love or affect it. The primary means by which human beings cultivate the beautiful is through the arts. At DSD, the arts are taught through music and "art": painting and drawing, but also the appreciation of sculpture and, to a lesser extent, architecture. In keeping with the way of liberal education, the school teaches music and art largely through the works of the best masters: Bach, Mozart, Beethoven, Raphael, Michelangelo, and Monet.

At the same time, the arts require an intensive study of technique, both to appreciate the great works and to try to make or perform art on one's own. The great advantage the arts have over other disciplines is their exacting demands of performance, indeed public performance. It is not

true that other disciplines do not have their performances: the student of rhetoric must speak, science students must experiment, everyone in math class must "do math." Indeed, one of the purposes of education is to produce actors, as both men and citizens. Yet such "performances" are few, private, or remote from our present tasks. The singer, player, or painter performs chiefly for the discriminating view of others. He or she must get it right: every note, every pitch, and every brushstroke. No one says of a concert as he would of a written test: that's a great job, they got every note but one! Public performance demands perfection. Practice, rehearsal, the difficult measure gone over again and again until it is right is the necessary effort to attain that perfection.

If it is not trained, it remains mere untutored potential, longing for something good but little able to love or affect it. The primary means by which human beings cultivate the beautiful is through the arts.

Thus the arts—in striving for the beautiful—employ the trained senses, the power of habit, and the best use of human pride to overcome one of the worst barriers to human excellence: complacency, the handmaiden of sloth. It is no accident that Plato required his young guardian to study music as well as math. A rigorous training in the

beautiful is, or should be, a refinement of taste and an opening of the heart to the wonders of a more-than-material world.

An appreciation of the fine arts is a powerful way to provide an excellent education. Aren't you grateful to be at such a district?



Passionately Pursuing Excellence,

Mrs. Lis Richard

Superintendent

Elementary Christmas Shopping 2019



The students had such a blast this year Christmas shopping with 24 preschool through fifth grade students. The High School Student Government was exceptional in helping supply these kiddos with what they needed and a little something they wanted. A special thank you is in order to Cortez McDonald's this year for partnering and giving each student a free happy meal. McDonald's invited us back and asked that they are included in on our yearly tradition.

Christmas is all about giving!





Updates from our Preschool

Valiena Rosenkrance, Director

The Tubes and Tunnel Study offers children many

opportunities to investigate tubes and tunnels in everyday life. During the investigations about tubes and tunnels, children develop their skills in literacy, math,

technology, and the arts as they gather information. They explore science and social studies concepts as they modify and create tubes, meets experts who use tubes and tunnels, and work together to plan and create different projects using tubes and tunnels.

The preschool students went on a site visit to the hardware store to see what kinds of different tubes and tunnels they could discover there. The students went up and down each aisle as they made each tally mark on their clipboard every time they saw a tube or a tunnel. (See picture on left.)



They also went on a visit to Dolores State Bank and saw many tubes there as well. They took them behind the teller's desk to show the tubes that send the money from the drive-thru and back to the building. They toured the maintenance room in the district and saw all of the tubes in the room. The final visit included going in the elevator and seeing more tubes in the elevator.



Teddy Bear Toddler Room



For the month of December the toddlers have been keeping an eye on their flower bulb that all helped plant in class. They predicted what the



bulb will grow into, the color, and of course the size of the plant. The children helped water with a spray bottle and noticed the physical changes daily.

They planted the bulb on October 29, 2019, and witnessed actual flowers blooming on December 16, 2019.



Ms. Karen and Ms. Heather's Class News

Ms. Karen & Ms. Heather's class recently did a study called, "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle." They learned about how materials in the environment can be reused for other uses. Students set up their own recycle boxes for plastics and for paper. After saving cups, they used them to make musical shakers, monsters, and used the other materials such as paper plates, paper, and plastic bottles, to make musical instruments.

They walked to the recycling center near the elementary school and took boxes of recyclable materials. Their class built an awareness of how to take care of the environment by recycling, reusing, and reducing materials.



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 at 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.

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 - Travelling Team Food
- * Destination Imagination-Globals Support
- * Middle School Student Government - Water Fountain
- * Sponsor of the "Just Because" scholarship given to graduating seniors
- * Dolores Chamber - Bear Wear Gift Box

The Dolores Booster Club can do all this because of **YOU**, our Bear Backer supporters!

New This Year:

Please consider a Dolores Bears Booster Club "Active" Membership! By joining as an "active" member, we will call on you to help with various Booster events and needs. **You don't have to hold an office to help!** We need help with the following: Baking, cooking, organizing, concessions, community outreach, and parent outreach, just to name a few!

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.

Want to get involved?

<u>Level</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Gym Sign and Business Card Ad in Athletic Programs Sign (\$250 Level):</u>
Platinum	\$250	
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

"Active" Membership

\$30 - Sign up to help with various needs. This is a way to share your time and skills in ways that work for you! (Includes T-shirt)



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 principal. 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.

Dolores Athletic Department is seeking individuals who will help with the clock and other duties at home basketball games. Please contact John McHenry at: jmchenry@dolores.k12.co.us

Volunteer Opportunities:

Community Members, Parents, Business Owners for the **District Accountability Committee**: If interested, please call 970-882-7255.

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.