

# BEAR ESSENTIALS

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

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## May 14

### Last Day of Instruction — Not School

May 18-20 will be a staggered schedule to get students into the school building to return technology equipment, books, and other items. This will also enable students to secure all of their personal belongings.

**LAST DAY OF "SCHOOL" IS  
MAY 20, 2020.**

## Dolores Bears Class of 2020 Anticipate a Drive-In Ceremony

Amid all of the concerns with the COVID19 virus, the class of 2020 will have a unique graduation. This year the district will honor our graduates with a drive-in ceremony on Thursday, May 14 at 6:00 p.m. The graduates will follow all of the current restrictions in place by the County and will be distanced appropriately on the football field. Only immediate family will be able to attend the ceremony by driving their cars and parking around the perimeter of the football field. The families will remain in their cars during the ceremony.

Graduates will wear their caps and gowns and walk onto the field to the familiar *Pomp and Circumstance*. Senior awards will also be presented at the same time. The class valedictorian and salutatorian will be honored. The senior class has selected their speaker for the occasion to be Ms. Jessica Kuntz. She will deliver the address to the graduates.

Following the ceremony, the graduates will get into their family vehicles and enter a parade led by the first responders of Dolores. It is the hope that family, friends, staff and community members will line the streets to congratulate our amazing graduates. The parade will begin around 7:15 p.m. and will progress down Central Avenue and then back up Railroad which is the main highway through the Town of Dolores.



## Kelly Howerton Resigns

*Our loss is another's gain...*

Mrs. Howerton formally resigned from her position of elementary principal. Her tenure at Dolores Elementary School has been filled with wonderful memories and accomplishments.

Kelly served in the classroom for six years at different grade levels. As a team member, she was instrumental in helping to bring in the love for project-based learning. Her team first began the restaurant projects, the living history museum and the wax museum to name a few. She is quoted as saying, "My fondest memories are those with the people that I was able to work with. My colleagues have been amazing and supporting in every way."

As a wonderful teacher, her gifts were noticed and she was promoted to the Dean of Elementary Students position for three years. She served under the leadership of Mr. Gary Livick. Kelly loved this time in the elementary. She said that her opportunity to learn so many new aspects of leading the school was a fantastic growth time in her career. She thrived learning at a new and different level. One aspect of being the dean that brought her such joy was working with all of the students. She enjoyed helping students problem solve and seeing this skill grow in their lives.

Mrs. Howerton noted that she loved coaching the teachers. She has many fond recollections of helping teachers develop in their own practice. Being able to mentor the teachers and watch the amazing things the teachers accomplished brought her great satisfaction. Being part of the literacy grant for the elementary gave her a new perspective of focusing on best practice through the lens of data analysis and small group instruction. She loved the time given to support the teachers through this.

When asked what she will be remembered for, she laughed and stated that many called her the "Queen of Theme!" She was able to pick the theme for the school year over the past four years. Focusing programs and ideas around a theme was exceptionally fun for her creative mind. She loved sharing those ideas with the staff.

Mrs. Howerton will be moving to Norman, Oklahoma. She is looking forward to the opportunity to be close to her mom. Her

mother is widowed and Kelly is grateful to be able to assist her and spend extra time with her. She will also be located right between her two daughters. Her oldest daughter teaches about seven hours from Norman and her youngest will be attending college in Omaha about seven hours as well from Norman, OK.

Kelly has been grateful for the experience and family of Dolores Elementary School. When asked her final thoughts, she showed tender emotion and stated, "There are just not enough words."

Mrs. Howerton will be greatly missed. She has left Dolores Elementary School better for being there.

**Thank You Kelly!!**



*We wish you the very  
best in your new  
journey!*

# DOLORES SECONDARY UPDATES

**Justin Schmitt,  
Dean of Students**



## **Flexibility, Professionalism, and a Commitment to Excellence**

Prior to COVID-19 full time online learning was a schooling choice that a small percentage of families made. Presumably, parents weighed the pros and cons of online schooling and ultimately chose the learning modality that they believed to be the best for their families. They had time to prepare, to ensure that they had a good internet connection and a computer to access the online coursework. In spite of these advantages, online learning was not successful for a large number of these families.

In March of 2020, online schooling was forced upon all of us by an external event that was completely outside of our control. In the face of this challenge, our teachers, support staff, administration, students, and parents stepped up to the plate. Teachers young and old have demonstrated an amazing ability to adapt to online instruction and to do so with professionalism and a commitment to excellence. Students and their families have persevered. This virus has impacted everyone in different ways and to different degrees, but the one thing that is consistent is the grit and determination that each family has shown over the past month. With just three weeks of school remaining, we want to encourage you to continue in these efforts for just a little while longer.

I am proud of the way our district has responded to this crisis and I am looking forward to seeing you all face to face again soon!

## Secondary End of Year Activities



### *Graduation*

Like everything else, High School Graduation will look much different this year. There is some sadness in the fact that the class of 2020 will not be able to have a "normal" graduation ceremony, and that is appropriate. However, our inability to host a traditional ceremony does not mean that we do not want to honor our seniors in every way that we can. This is an amazing group of young adults that we have been privileged to know and we intend to send them off into the world with a bang. Dolores High School will hold a Drive-in Graduation ceremony on May 14 at 6:00pm for our seniors and their immediate family (if you have questions about who this includes please contact the school prior to May 14). The ceremony will be broadcast over FM radio, webcast, and on Mesa TV. Details on how to watch and/or listen to the ceremony will be made available on the district's website and on the district's mobile app as soon as they are available. Immediately following the graduation the graduates will parade through town in their vehicles with a fire department and sheriff escort.

### *Winter Sports Athletics Awards*

Our winter sports athletics banquets are another example of events that got interrupted by COVID-19. We have not forgotten about our winter sports athletes and we will be honoring them in a special way very soon.

### *Academic and Character Awards*

Even though we will not be able to celebrate the accomplishments of our students in-person this year, we want to ensure that their hard work, character, and performance is recognized. Stay tuned for more information coming soon regarding the celebration of student character and academic achievement.

### *End of Year Checkout*

May 18 - May 20, Dolores Secondary will be doing an end-of-year checkout at which time students will return textbooks, chromebooks, instruments, uniforms, and etc. Yearbooks will also be available for purchase and pickup.

# VIRTUAL SPIRIT WEEK BIG SUCCESS



Continued from previous page:

## *Enrollment and Registration*



Colorado is an open enrollment state, which means that parents have the option to enroll their children in a public school other than the school "assigned" to them through districting and zoning. Open enrollment empowers parents to choose the school or school district that is the best fit for their students. Dolores School District has historically been a destination of choice for many Montezuma County families for many reasons, including: its commitment to excellence, its small, safe learning environment, its exceptional teachers, and the opportunity for students to participate in extracurricular activities. If Dolores Schools are right for your family enroll now on our website - <https://doloresschools.org/registration/>

Course request forms for all incoming 6th-12th graders will remain open through the end of May. If you have not already done so please sit down with your student and complete the relevant course request form today. Course request forms can be found on the district's website - <https://doloresschools.org/registration/>.

## Why Community Involvement in Schools is Important

It's no secret that parental involvement is an integral part of a successful educational framework. Numerous studies<sup>[1]</sup> have identified parent engagement as a critical factor affecting the success of individual students and the school environment itself. But what many schools and educational institutions overlook is the fact that high rates of student success are generally the result of three groups collaborating to provide the best opportunities for the future—teachers, parents, and the community. In a 2002 research review by Anne T. Henderson and Karen L. Mapp – *A New Wave of Evidence: The Impact of School, Family, and Community Connections on Student Achievement* – the researchers concluded that there is a significant positive correlation between school, family, and community involvement and student success<sup>[2]</sup>.

Oftentimes, the onus for providing a well-rounded educational experience for every student falls directly on the shoulders of the school administrators, teachers, faculty, and staff. However, this limited perspective overlooks the fact that much of a child's life and education occurs outside the classroom. What happens before the school day starts and after it ends can be just as important and impactful in the lives of your students as what happens during the traditional school day. This is why community engagement and involvement in schools is such an important facet of the educational process.

### *The Benefits of Community Involvement in Schools*

Consistent community involvement and engagement at all levels of the school have been shown time and time again to have significant short and long term benefits.

According to a recent policy brief<sup>[3]</sup> from the National Education Association (NEA), “when schools, parents, families, and communities work together to support learning, students tend to earn higher grades, attend school more regularly, stay in school longer, and enroll in higher level programs”.

With these important benefits in mind, it's clear that a focus on increasing community involvement programs and opportunities should be a consistent goal for your school.

### *Easy Ways to Encourage Community Engagement in Your School*

Volunteering is one of the most common and popular ways to encourage community involvement in schools. Connect with local businesses, civic organizations, charities, nonprofit foundations, and other groups in your community to enlist volunteers to come in before, during, or after the school day.

Volunteering can come in many different shapes and forms. Invite local leaders and individuals in the community to visit classes and speak about their chosen profession for Career Day. Encourage community members to get involved by volunteering with enrichment opportunities before and after school, such as tutoring, fine arts clubs, and athletic teams.

Not every organization, business, family, or individual in your community is going to have the time or capacity to participate in in-person and on-premise volunteer opportunities. That's why it's important to also prioritize community involvement in the form of sponsorship and donation programs.

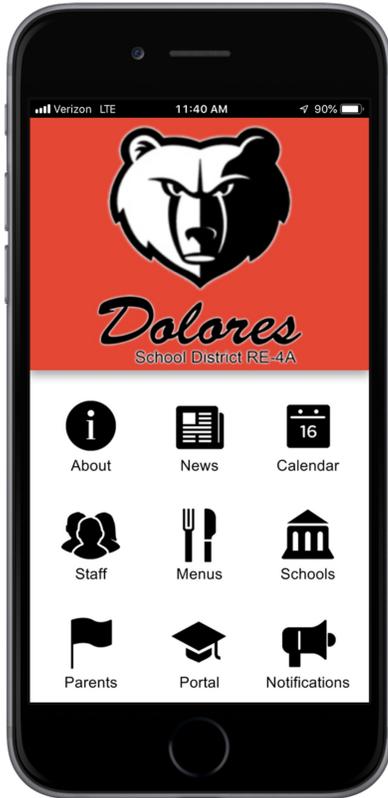
Does your school need a restaurant to provide food for this year's field day? Do your teachers need iPads or Smart Boards to engage students with new technologies? Does an extracurricular club or team need supplies, uniforms, or equipment?

Create and publicize sponsorship and donation needs throughout your community, to give local organizations and businesses the opportunity to partner with your school.

# 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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Dolores, CO 81323

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

## *Make Community Involvement a Priority for Your School*

The responsibility for raising a well-educated and civic-minded generation of children cannot rest solely with schools. The research review<sup>[4]</sup> by Henderson & Mapp examined 51 research studies that offered perspectives on the relationship between parent (and community) involvement and student achievement. As a whole, “these studies found a positive and convincing relationship between family involvement and benefits for students, including improved academic achievement... Although there is less research on the effects of community involvement, it also suggests benefits for schools, families, and students, including improved achievement and behavior.”

However you work to increase community involvement, remember that when schools, parents, and communities partner together, great things can happen in the lives of children and young adults.

[1] “Research Spotlight on Parental Involvement in Education: NEA Reviews of the Research on Best Practices in Education.” National Education Association. Retrieved from <http://www.nea.org/tools/17360.htm> on March 3, 2016.

[2] Henderson, Anne T. and Karen L. Mapp. “A New Wave of Evidence: The Impact of School, Family, and the Community Connections on Student Achievement.” SEDL. Retrieved from <https://www.sedl.org/connections/resources/evidence.pdf> on March 3, 2016.

[3] “Parent, Family, Community Involvement in Education.” National Education Association. Retrieved from [http://www.nea.org/assets/docs/PB11\\_ParentInvolvement08.pdf](http://www.nea.org/assets/docs/PB11_ParentInvolvement08.pdf) on March 3, 2016.

[4] Henderson, Anne T. and Karen L. Mapp. “A New Wave of Evidence: The Impact of School, Family, and the Community Connections on Student Achievement.” SEDL. Retrieved from <https://www.sedl.org/connections/resources/evidence.pdf> on March 3, 2016.

# BEAR FACTS

## Monthly Blog by Superintendent Lis Richard

Leadership is a passionately pursued topic. It is the subject of many books on the market today and it is the target of most problems organizations face. In our school district we have not been exempt from the topic of leadership and the responsibilities that come with this.

When I was young, my dad would reward me and my brothers for reading certain books that he felt would help us develop as leaders. He had an envelope of \$20.00 bills and each book we finished and presented an outline to him, we would get one of those bills. The money was nice (back in the day when it had greater worth) but the value that has come from that foundation has been priceless.

I learned early on that my greatest strength in leadership was to serve alongside. I also learned from Abraham Lincoln's writings that leadership involves failure. He once said, "My great concern is not whether you have failed but whether you are content with your failure." Leaders fail particularly when they are unable to work in their areas of strength. I have quickly learned that leadership is not a comfortable position and is often lonely. I can look to the past and wish that my focus in this school year was different. I am not content with some failure and will further commit to continue serving others with more fervor.

My heart is heavy with the challenge of leading our district. There are many factors that were unknown prior to my coming and as I learn about them, I need to purposefully move with

cautionary compassion for our students and staff.

Steven Covey, in his book entitled *Principle-Centered*

*Leadership* states, "If I try to use manipulative strategies and tactics to get other people to do what I want—while my *character* is flawed or my *competency* is questionable—then I can't be successful over time. Rhetoric and good intentions aside, if there is little or no **trust**, there is no foundation for permanent success. But if we learn to manage things and lead people, we will have the best bottom line because we will unleash the energy and talent of people." My hope is to unleash positive energy geared toward our students and parents and unleash creative talents within all. Trust does not come easily. In a smaller community and one that has experienced leadership turnover often, trust is a rare commodity. I will work to earn that through serving with integrity and transparency.

In *Future-Focused Leadership*, the author, Gary Marx makes several lengthy arguments for leaders stepping back and searching their intentions and motivations. I need to take the time to intentionally step back and search my heart. Failure is difficult but part of the journey.

Passionately Pursuing Excellence,

*Mrs. Lis Richard*

Superintendent



**"My greatest concern is not whether you have failed but whether you are content with your failure."**

**—Abraham Lincoln**



# Teddy Bear Preschool

Dolores School District



Infant - 5 years old

We are currently accepting applications for the 2020/21 school year. We are accepting applications for the Infant/Toddler program from 6 weeks of age to 3 years old, and Preschool from 2 ½ years old to 5 years of age. If your child attended Teddy Bear Preschool this school year and will not go to Kindergarten in August you will still need to fill out an application. Please send requests for applications to be emailed to:

[msteinberger@dolores.k12.co.us](mailto:msteinberger@dolores.k12.co.us) and specify which application (Infant/Toddler or Preschool) you are requesting.

Once applications are filled out they can be scanned and emailed back to the above email or mailed back to Teddy Bear Preschool, PO Box 727, Dolores, CO 81323.

## From our District Nurse

*Denese Brisbin*

I know during this difficult time there is not a lot we have control over. We are staying home as much as possible, not touching our face, washing our hands and possibly wearing masks when we go out in public. Something else that we should be doing is trying to increase our natural immunity. If we do come in contact with COVID- 19 we want to be in our best shape to fight it off.

### *Eat the rainbow*

Concentrate on fruits and vegetables of every color, nuts and seeds are good also.

### *Sleep*

Get plenty of sleep, that is when your body repairs itself.

### *Avoid Stress*

Try to keep your stress level down, visit the counselor's corner on the school website, play with a pet, laugh with friends or family from a distance or try Gov, Polis's decorate a mask contest at [coloradomaskcontest.org](http://coloradomaskcontest.org).

### *Exercise*

Make sure you are getting exercise at least 30 minutes per day. We are allowed to go outside in our towns and neighborhoods for exercise, just keep that 6-foot distance. Be sure to limit sugary foods and drink, refined carbohydrates and highly processed foods. Studies show that spikes in sugar intake can suppress your immune system. Stay well my friends and see you soon.



### Dolores Elementary and Dolores Preschool

#### Yearbook 2019-2020 Order Form:

Mail this form and check to:  
Dolores Schools  
PO Box 727  
Dolores, CO 81323  
attn yearbook

If you have questions email  
Karen Webster  
[kwebster@dolores.k12.co.us](mailto:kwebster@dolores.k12.co.us)

Book Price: \$20

Make checks payable to: Dolores Schools  
Please add Memo: Yearbook

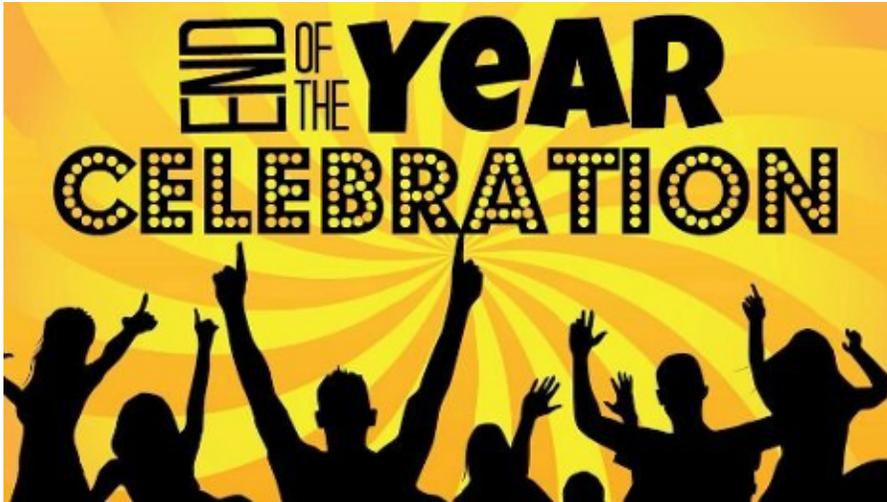
Total Number of Books:  
Total Amount included:

Student Name:  
Grade:

Student Name:  
Grade

Student Name:  
Grade





## 2020 Celebrating the Completion of the School Year

The completion of a school year signifies accomplishment. This has been an eventful year filled with uncertainty, change and multiple transitions. Helping students gain some type of closure is paramount no matter what age or grade. Every student who completed this school year definitely deserves to be acknowledged and celebrated!

*The end of the school year should be a time of review, reflection, and celebration. Even though the end of the school year hasn't gone according to plan, don't be afraid to have some fun celebrating the year and looking forward to the future!*

Following are some ideas to make celebrating fun:

### Teachers:

#### **Virtual Class Party**

On the final day of classes, throw a class party. Share Greatest Moments and Memories: Ask everyone to share at least one of their favorite moments in class, or an assignment or project they were most proud of.

#### **Teacher Dance Challenge**

Create a new dance and post it as an assignment. Have students learn the same dance, and record themselves completing the challenge.

### Teachers and/or Parents/Guardians:

#### **Make a Top 10 List**

Ask kids to make their "Top 10" list of what they have learned during the school year.

#### **Write a Letter to your Future Self**

This year has been full of firsts and lasts for students. The end of the year is a great time to write to our future selves: setting goals, making predictions, talking about family, expectations and dreams.

### Parents/Guardians:

#### **Make a Welcome to Summer Banner**

Have the kids decorate it.

#### **Have a Scavenger Hunt to Summer**

Create clues and plant them around the neighborhood on the last day of school. The last clue will lead them straight to your house where their favorite summer treats are waiting under a "School's Out for Summer" banner.

#### **Family Summer Bucket List**

This is a great activity that allows everyone to contribute. Each family member can fill up buckets with what they would like the family to do together over the summer. It can be a written scroll or objects to represent their wish.

If you have more ideas on how to celebrate while socially distancing – please share your ideas!

*And of course, our Seniors Deserve Graduation!*

*The "Drive In Graduation" will commence on*

*May 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm.*

Provided by: Elisa Olson, School Counselor

**Registration is Now Open for 2020-21**

VISIT THE WEBSITE FOR DETAILS

*REGISTRATION FOR NEW STUDENTS CAN BE FOUND IN THE "PARENT RESOURCES TAB" ON THE HOME PAGE OF THE WEBSITE*

Note from our Registrar:

I will be reaching out to parents who have not completed their registration forms that were sent out prior to moving to remote learning. These are forms required each school year. If any parent or guardian needs additional information, please email at [ldibsie@dolores.k12.co.us](mailto:ldibsie@dolores.k12.co.us) . I am happy to be of assistance!

Ms. Lezlie Dibsie, Registrar  
Dolores School District RE-4A

**Board Meetings**

The Dolores School Board of Education meets every second Thursday of each month at 6:00 p.m. Anyone in the community is welcome to attend the meetings. As we strive to bring Dolores School District back into the forefront of achievement, your input is important.

*PLEASE NOTE THAT THE MAY BOARD MEETING WILL BE ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 13, IN ORDER TO ACCOMMODATE PLANS FOR GRADUATION*



**Employment:**

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

Dolores Elementary 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 a head football coach for the fall season. If interested, please email the athletic director, Jerome Schumacher [jschumacher@dolores.k12.co.us](mailto:jschumacher@dolores.k12.co.us)

**Volunteers:**

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.