



LITTLE BEARS' WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

In the news...

Do we Accept Donations?

POSTED ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2020 BY LIS RICHARD, District Superintendent



Recently, I received information from some community members that our teachers were asking for donations of items for their classrooms on a Facebook page that supports teachers. I also received a call from our local radio station asking why we don't take donations. These events led me to post this blog on the topic.

What school in America would not be grateful for donations during this incredibly difficult time!? We are open to help from those who want to share their generosity; however, we have a very serious responsibility to the taxpayers of Dolores School District boundaries to be prudent and transparent with the money they contribute monthly. In 2016, a Mill Levy Override (MLO) was renewed in our district. The ballot measure read:

"Without creating any new tax, shall Dolores School District RE-4A be authorized to continue the said district's previous tax increase in the amount of \$390,000, which was approved by the voters on November 4, 2008, so that said previous tax increase shall be extended for eight years to and including December 31, 2024, and so that for such eight-year period the district may continue to impose a property tax levy at a rate sufficient to produce the amount specified above, to be used for any legally authorized general fund purpose of the district including: Building maintenance and repairs, including but not limited to upgrades to address safety issues, instructional materials, supplies and technology, staff recruitment and retention. Which taxes shall be deposited into the general fund of the district, and may be collected and spent without further voter approval, and shall constitute a voter-approved revenue change notwithstanding the limitations of Article X, Section 20 of the Colorado Constitution or any other law? Yes___ or No___"

The ballot measure passed. Because of this, we have set aside the designated funds into specific accounts which include instructional materials, supplies, and technology. We want to honor the monies that are delegated to those things first before we have teachers asking the community to donate. The community is already sacrificing and giving so we want to use that delegated money first. We take our responsibility with taxpayer money quite seriously. There are government entities that do not feel that responsibility; however, we are not one of them.

Staff members at Dolores School District RE-4A should follow our process of filling out a purchase order and requesting any items for their classroom, and wait to see if we can fill their request. If we are unable to do so, then we have given them the go ahead to seek other entities such as the Facebook page in Montezuma County that supports teachers. We are very grateful that there are members in our County who know the financial drain our teachers face. Colorado educators are the lowest paid in the nation. Many times teachers will spend money out of their own pocket to have things for their students. We have made it very clear in our district that we do not want this for our teachers. We want to support them and have the tools they need available. There will come a time when our budget is spent.

The MLO will sunset (end) in 2024. When this happens, it will be a challenging time for our district. Until that time, we want to honor our many supporters by following the district's process for requesting instructional materials and supplies before we seek help from our community.

Please feel free to reach out to the district office if there are any further questions. Hopefully, this information sheds some light on the controversy that has swirled around the community.

Sincerely,
Lis Richard, District Superintendent



Dear Little Bear Families,

Our thoughts and hearts are with those who lost so much on 9/11/2001. A close friend lost her Father, and I am humbled to remember his fearless sacrifice and that of all our service members.

Thank you all for helping us make improvements and enjoy another safe week of school! We cannot do our in-person learning without your compliance and support, and we really appreciate your efforts and understanding!

We are relieved to finally have most of our online learners connected to Edgenuity classes and want to thank Joy Cochran for her diligence in this challenging process! Please contact her at jcochran@dolores.k12.co.us if you have questions or still need assistance.

We have received questions about the removal of a large tree in our parking lot. Unfortunately, I do not have answers. We lease the property and can only assume that the owner had good reason to remove it. It will be greatly missed!

We are looking forward to all the smiles we expect to see on picture day! Flyers with order forms went home today, and **pictures will be taken on Wednesday, Sept. 16th**. Students will be allowed to remove masks once seated in front of the camera a safe distance from peers.

We are also excited to enjoy a new outdoor classroom setting under an extremely large canopy, and appreciate our maintenance team for setting that up!

We feel so privileged to serve this wonderful community, please keep giving us feedback for improvements and know that we are grateful for your encouragement and support!

Warmly,
Lurleen McCormick





LITTLE BEARS' WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Counselor's Corner

I will be starting to go into the classes this week to teach guidance lessons. The first lesson will just go over what the school counselor does: Consult with parents and teachers, meet with kids individually who have an immediate need, meet with students in small groups, go into all the classes twice a month to teach about resilience, anti-bullying, friendship skills, etc. and to be a listening ear! I will also introduce the 3 "magic" words that promote resilience. Some of you and your kids have already been introduced to it. But it never hurts to go over it again and practice practice practice. Tell your child something true (it needs to be something positive, not negative) that they can't do.



Their job is to respond back, "I can't do that YET!" You can go further and process "What ELSE can you do?" "How ELSE can you accomplish that?" "Who ELSE can help you accomplish this?" "When ELSE can you accomplish it?" At the end they need to make a resilient conclusion: "Who is capable of not giving up? ME!" A good book that explains resilience for children is The Optimistic Child by Martin Seligman. These 3, easy to memorize words, will cool off any hot thought and make you feel better! Call me if you have questions.

Susan Miller
Dolores Elementary School Counselor



Other Announcements

- Please follow the attached guidelines to know when your student needs to stay home as well as prior "How Sick is Too Sick" guidelines which are on the Dolores School District website. (doloresschool.org under the Parent tab and Student Health). We are currently at "Low Community Transmission (Protect Your Neighbor)" level. If your student has (1) major symptom or (2) or more minor symptoms they need to stay home. Please call the school to notify the office. If you have ANY questions please call the school at 882-4688.
- Please remember that now until Oct. 1st, we are still having our Community Teddy Bear Hunt! As our adventure begins at the elementary school, we're asking community members to please join the fun by "hiding" bears in windows for students to "find" during field trips and outdoor learning activities throughout the town.



LITTLE BEARS' WEEKLY NEWSLETTER



Calling all Dads and other Father-figures (Grandpas, Uncles, etc.)!

We just want to let you know that we still have our Watch DOGS (Dads of Great Students) Program set up for this school year with one change for health and safety precautions. Watch DOGS are welcome to help at our school but only for outdoor activities, such as walking field trips, outdoor learning activities, outdoor recess/lunches, etc. If interested in this great program, please call the Dolores Elementary office at 970-882-4688.

BEAR WEAR sales are available! Shop online at this link https://t-shirtpeople.com/dolores_elementary_school/shop

Or you may request a paper copy from the office or print the attached order form. DUE SEPTEMBER 25th

The PTA would like to invite ALL to become a member and join us in enriching our school. Please request a membership form and return it to us soon.

2020 - 2021 OFFICIAL BEAR WEAR ORDER (4 pages) DUE SEPTEMBER 25th

<p>Unisex Dry Blend Short Sleeve Black T-shirt</p> <p>Youth Sizes \$15 S M L Adult Sizes \$20 S M L XL \$22 XXL 3XL</p>	<p>Unisex Cotton Long Sleeve Black Shirt</p> <p>Youth Sizes \$18 S M L Adult Sizes \$22 S M L XL \$24 XXL 3XL</p>	<p>Unisex Heavy Cotton Black Hoodie</p> <p>Youth Sizes \$25 S M L XL Adult Sizes \$30 S M L XL \$33 XXL 3XL</p>
---	---	---

2020 - 2021 OFFICIAL BEAR WEAR ORDER (4 pages) DUE SEPTEMBER 25th

<p>Unisex Dry Blend Short Sleeve Black T-shirt</p> <p>Youth Sizes \$15 S M L Adult Sizes \$20 S M L XL \$22 XXL 3XL</p>	<p>Unisex Cotton Long Sleeve Black Shirt</p> <p>Youth Sizes \$18 S M L Adult Sizes \$22 S M L XL \$24 XXL 3XL</p>	<p>Unisex Heavy Cotton Black Hoodie</p> <p>Youth Sizes \$25 S M L XL Adult Sizes \$30 S M L XL \$33 XXL 3XL</p>
---	---	---

2020 - 2021 OFFICIAL BEAR WEAR ORDER (4 pages) DUE SEPTEMBER 25th

<p>Unisex Dry Blend Short Sleeve Black T-shirt</p> <p>Adult Sizes \$20 S M L XL \$22 XXL 3XL</p>	<p>Unisex Heavy Cotton Black Hoodie</p> <p>Adult Sizes \$30 S M L XL \$33 XXL 3XL</p>
--	---

2020 - 2021 OFFICIAL BEAR WEAR ORDER (4 pages) DUE SEPTEMBER 25th

<p>Unisex Dry Blend Short Sleeve Black T-shirt</p> <p>Adult Sizes \$20 S M L XL \$22 XXL 3XL</p>	<p>Unisex Heavy Cotton Black Hoodie</p> <p>Adult Sizes \$30 S M L XL \$33 XXL 3XL</p>
--	---

Student Name(s) _____ Teacher _____ Grade _____
 Parent/Guardian Name _____ Phone _____
 Number of Items Ordered _____ Amount Enclosed _____
 Please Make Checks Payable to Dolores Elementary PTA





LITTLE BEARS' WEEKLY NEWSLETTER



COLORADO
Department of Public
Health & Environment

COVID-19 GUIDANCE

Can I go to school today?

At-home symptom screening for parents and staff

Parents and guardians can use these symptom checklists to determine when to keep their child at home based on the level of COVID-19 transmission in their community (e.g. Is the community in Protect Your Neighbor or Safer at Home or Stay at Home). School staff can also use this tool to determine if they need to stay at home. **Any student or staff diagnosed with COVID-19 or who is a close contact of a COVID-19 case should not go to school and should isolate or quarantine according to public health recommendations.**

These lists refer only to new symptoms or a change in usual symptoms. A student/ staff should not be kept home for usual symptoms they experience due to a chronic condition unless they are worse than usual. These guidelines are in addition to your regular school guidance (for example, a child with vomiting should also not attend school based on usual school guidance).

If your child is/ you are experiencing any potentially life-threatening symptoms please call 911.

Low Community Transmission (Protect Your Neighbors):

If any of the following symptoms are present, keep the child at home/ stay at home, inform the school of symptoms, and reach out to a health care provider about COVID-19 testing and next steps for treatment.

- Feeling feverish, having chills, or temperature 100.4F or higher.
- New or unexplained persistent cough.
- Shortness of breath.
- Difficulty breathing.
- Loss of taste or smell.

Sustained Community Transmission (Safer at Home or Stay at Home):

If any of the following symptoms are present, keep the child at home/ stay at home, inform the school of symptoms, and reach out to a health care provider about COVID-19 testing and next steps for treatment,

- Feeling feverish, having chills, or temperature 100.4F or higher.
- New or unexplained persistent cough.
- Shortness of breath.
- Difficulty breathing.
- Loss of taste or smell. *major*
- Fatigue. *minor*
- Muscle aches.
- Headache.
- Sore throat.
- Nausea or vomiting.
- Diarrhea.
- Runny nose or congestion.



LITTLE BEARS' WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

GET HELP BUYING FOOD WHILE SCHOOLS ARE CLOSED



Pandemic EBT, or P-EBT, helps you buy food to make up for the meals students missed during school closures this spring.

RECEIVE UP TO \$279 PER ELIGIBLE CHILD TO STRETCH YOUR FOOD BUDGET!

ELIGIBILITY

P-EBT is now being issued to students who were eligible for free or reduced-price meals last school year (2019-20), regardless of immigration status. It is not part of the public charge rule.

APPLY ONLINE

Apply online by 9/23/2020 at ColoradoPeak.force.com/PEBT or scan this QR code!

If you received SNAP in March, April and May, your P-EBT benefits may automatically have been added onto your existing EBT card this July.

Families with eligible children who were not receiving SNAP during those months or who did not receive the automatic issuance should apply for P-EBT online at ColoradoPeak.force.com/PEBT.



To learn more about P-EBT, visit HungerFreeColorado.org/p-ebt





LITTLE BEARS' WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

OBTENGA AYUDA PARA COMPRAR ALIMENTOS MIENTRAS LAS ESCUELAS ESTÁN CERRADAS



EBT de la pandemia, o P-EBT, proporciona a las familias fondos para ayudar a comprar alimentos ya que los estudiantes perdieron el acceso a comidas durante el cierre escolar esta primavera.

¡PUEDE RECIBIR HASTA \$279 POR CADA NIÑO ELEGIBLE PARA ESTIRAR SU PRESUPUESTO DE ALIMENTOS!

ELEGIBILIDAD

P-EBT está disponible para estudiantes que fueron elegibles para las comidas gratuitas o de precio reducido el año pasado (año escolar 2019-2020), sin importar su estatus migratorio. P-EBT no es parte de la regla de carga pública.

APLICA POR INTERNET

¡La fecha límite para presentar una solicitud es el 23 de septiembre!

ColoradoPeak.force.com/PEBT
O ESCANEAR EL CÓDIGO QR EN ESTE VOLANTE

Si su familia recibió SNAP en marzo, abril y mayo de este año pudo haber recibido automáticamente los beneficios de P-EBT en la tarjeta EBT que ya tiene.

Las familias con niños elegibles que no recibieron SNAP o que no recibieron este pago automático deben solicitar P-EBT en ColoradoPeak.force.com/PEBT.



¡Para aprender más sobre P-EBT, visite HungerFreeColorado.org/P-EBT!