



LITTLE BEARS' WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Principal's Corner

Dear Little Bear Families,

Apologies that the newsletter is a little late this week, but I wanted to share the musings of our staff members (in the column on the right) and needed a little extra time to add them to this format. These came to me when I requested that they share a positive experience from their first weeks of school with me. After reading a few, I thought that I should share them with all of you, too. I hope you enjoy reading their comments as much as I did.

As you will see, we are so grateful for everyone's compliance to safety mandates which allows us to remain open and offer in-person learning. I know there are still lots of frustrations, but please know that we are grateful to be here, able to serve our wonderful community due to your continued support and respect. We love what we do, and we are thrilled to be here with your children!

Warmly,
Lurleen
McCormick



In the news...

Positive comments from staff members:

- "I love to see all the happy faces. Great to see that kids missed us. So glad to be back where the love flows like a stream."
- "I have enjoyed getting to know all of my new students & enjoy the beautiful weather with them"
- "Today one of the first graders told me, "I am so excited to eat lunch and I AM SO HAPPY TO BE AT SCHOOL! I don't even wanna go home--well, until all the teachers leave, and then I'll go home I guess." Made my heart smile."
- "I'm enjoying learning more about my students and seeing their personalities really shine through."
- "I have such an amazing class!! I am just so thankful to be teaching in person. I make a point to thank each one of my students each day for being here!! I am blessed to love my job!!"
- "So much acceptance, support, the family atmosphere, patience, kindness, and suggestions! Most of all the Xenia I have felt from my fellow teachers, the staff, maintenance crew, and students has made me feel welcomed and befriended."
- "I love having such great kids and families! My team rocks! It is so nice to have great ideas and a new curriculum! Custodians are working hard keeping our school clean and safe. I love having a mid morning recess back for the kids. I'm excited to be going to the Nature Center up the hill for some outdoor learning."
- "Seeing students get back into the swing of things after such a long time out makes me super hopeful we get to stay in person!"
- "So happy to be back to teaching art in person and influencing the students to create!"
- "I am very grateful to be with the little Bears. They work hard and are so respectful. I love how CKLA (Core Knowledge Language Arts) has lots of interactive activities especially art tied into literacy; kids are being creative and enjoying themselves."
- "I've missed our Dolores staff and students. It's so good to be back in person. We are one big family!!!"
- "I walked a Kindergartner to her mother this week and was met with: "Are you the new music teacher? My daughter makes us play Music Class every night." My heart is warmed by you all, and I thank you for making my new home a welcoming place."
- "I love all the staff and the students are so darling and fun! Dolores is Dreamy!"
- "I love being able to share laughter and virtual hugs with our school family again. Hearing the laughter of little ones in the halls is definitely my favorite."
- "My class is super sweet & keeps me smiling throughout the day! I have realized how much I missed teaching!"
- "I am loving my class so much. They groan when it's the weekend because they're so happy to be back in school!"
- "I look forward to coming to work to be with you all and the kiddos."
- "Does my heart good watching our students run around at recess being able to just be 5 year olds playing with their friends."
- "I absolutely love my job! This staff is amazing and it's such a fabulous feeling to have kiddos giggling in our hallways!"
- "I looooooove my job, all of the staff and the kiddos so much!!!"
- "I adore the littles and staff and look forward all week to my day with you all!"
- "I love my class and all the amazing people who work in Dolores! Thank you all for all the big and little things (which are really big things in my world 😊) that you do everyday to show our students what family is all about!"



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Other Announcements

-Now until Oct. 1st - **Community Teddy Bear Hunt** is ongoing. Please join the fun by "hiding" bears in windows for students to "find" during field trips and outdoor learning activities.

-Our beginning of the year **assessments** have begun and will provide baselines to use for progress monitoring academic growth. Please thank your child for doing "their best on the test!"



-Don't Miss out on this year's **Bear Wear!**
 Shop online at:
https://t-shirtpeople.com/dolores_elementary_school/shop

Or you may request a paper copy from the office. **All orders are due by Sept. 25th!!!**

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

Counselor's Corner

Hello Little Bear Families!

Here are a few updates regarding our Positive Behavior Supports:

- **Bear Paw tickets** are given out when students are showing resilience, staying calm, following rules, managing hard behaviors, and modeling positive behaviors. Our PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports) committee is working to create a list of items, activities, and adventures that can be "purchased" with the Bear Paws. Students will collect them and exchange them for available options.



- **Little Bear Character Cards** are given out for demonstration of **exceptional** positive behaviors, especially resilience and diaphragmatic breathing. These are very rarely handed out, and the student will bring it to the office to get a pencil or other small prize and have the Principal or myself (Counselor) call home to let parents know that the student has done something exceptional.



- **Reflection sheets** will also be used for students who struggle in the classroom setting. The emphasis will be placed on being resilient and saying to themselves, "I haven't solved my problem **YET**. What **ELSE** can I try instead? Who is good at not giving up until they solve their problem? **ME!**" If the 1st reflection plan doesn't work, the 2nd one will be sent home to go over with parents and caregivers. If that doesn't work the student will be referred to the Principal to work something **ELSE** out. See PBIS.org

LITTLE BEAR REFLECTION SHEET

1. Did you take some belly breaths? Yes No
2. Do you feel calm YET? If not, take some more belly breaths now.
3. Think about what happened. What would be different if you had remained calm?
4. Your problem is not solved YET. What ELSE can you do now to fix things or make things better, even if it was not your fault?
5. If it was your fault, how will the other person react to you if you say you are sorry and try to fix it now?
6. What is your plan? You can write it on the back or tell the teacher, then do it.
7. Is your problem solved YET? Yes No
8. If No. Start over on step 1.
9. If Yes. How do you feel now that you have solved your own problem?
10. Now Celebrate! Give yourself a bear hug or strike a power pose! Tell your family!

Little Bear Reflection Sheet

Name _____ Date _____

My Plan:

My plan made the other person feel better. Yes No

I feel better now that I fixed my own problem. Yes No

If I solved my problem, I celebrated with my family. Yes No

If I did not solve my problem YET, I know I can try something ELSE. My family can help me with a new plan. I will not give up. Who is a great problem solver? Me My family Both

Parent Signature: _____

Date: _____

Sincerely,
 Susan Leavitt Miller, Counselor