BEAR ESSENTIALS

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

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Is your child struggling?

We have resources and ideas available for you. Please refer to this link on the website:

Click Here





The year 2020 will forever go down in history as the year of infamy. For educators, all of their practices have been tested. In March of this year, districts were forced by state mandate and a

declared pandemic of the coronavirus to move to online learning. It was quite the challenge. In Dolores we struggled to reach 65% student engagement during this time.

As districts finished their year in this model, educators began to brainstorm best practices. They sought out innovative methods of educating students. One such method was outdoor learning. This has always been something students prefer; however, teachers can struggle with how to present material in such a vast classroom.

In Dolores School District, the staff has worked together to foster creativity and innovation for students. A very dismal situation has become a wonderful mode of learning. The teachers have turned lemons into lemonade!

"Our teachers have had the opportunity to use the garden area behind the

elementary school, a covered tent area, an area under a pavilion, a picnic table in front of the school, and some other areas that are local like the river park. Our teachers have enjoyed being able to get their classes outside (Continued on page 10)



Third Grade Class Learning by the River



Last month Mr. Jeromie Schumacher was featured as the employee of the month. This month, we must share that he is leaving. Mr. Schumacher will be here in Dolores, coaching our students but needs to take care of his family business. See below to hear directly from him:

It's with a heavy heart that I announce that I have resigned from my positions as academic advisor and athletic director at Dolores Secondary School. This was not an easy decision because I consider all of you my extended family and you have treated me and my family likewise. My wife and I are also business owners and we have worked hard to juggle managing our business, keeping up with our assignments as staff members at Dolores Schools, and prioritizing family time. I've struggled daily for the past month on how to do it all and continue to be the best I can at Dolores Schools and continue to spread love and positivity to everyone in Dolores during this pandemic. You are some of the hardest working and committed teachers and community I have ever had the pleasure to work with. I have been blessed to be a part of that. I am also grateful for the support our district administration has given me in the past two years to take on more leadership roles in the secondary school.

I will continue to work with everyone over the next few weeks and help make a smooth transition. I will also continue to coach Cross Country and Track & Field at Dolores. I have kept the door open to come back to Dolores Schools and teach in the future as well. I want to thank you all for the wonderful experience at Dolores Schools in my short 2 years here. I plan to continue to be a huge supporter of our school, athletics and activities. Thank you all for your friendship and support at Dolores.

Mrs. Schumacher plans to continue working as the secretary at the elementary school.

Jeromie Schumacher

We will miss Mr. Schumacher but wish him the very best. Plans are underway to fill vacancies left. Please feel free to call the school office or district office if there are any questions or concerns. Elementary PTA Meeting October 22, at 3:45 p.m. Outdoor Pavilion (Bring a chair and masks are encouraged.)



The PTA would like to invite ALL to become a member and join us in enriching our school. Please request a membership form at the Elementary Office. You may return it to the office or bring it to the meeting. A virtual meeting invite will be sent to all current members.

Hope to see you there!

New School Board President



In the September 2020 regular board meeting, Dr. Kay Phelps stepped down as the board president. She stated that her workload has increased in her position as professor at Fort

Lewis College due to the demands of many formats of instruction they are offering their students. The board took nominations for the vacancy in which Casey McClellan and Maegan Crowley were nominated. The board opted to vote by secret ballot and chose Maegan Crowley in a 3-2 vote.

Maegan accepted the position and was sworn in at the same time. Dr. Phelps will now take the BOCES representative role and Clay Tallmadge will fill the secretary role.

Ms. Crowley is looking forward to assisting the board with a smooth transition and working on strengthening board practices.

DSD BOARD UPDATES

Mission and Vision Driven for our Stakeholders

Current School Board

Maegan Crowley - President
Term Expires: November 2023
Casey McClellan - Vice
President
Term Expires: November 2021
Lenetta Shull - Treasurer
Term Expires: November 2023
Clay Tallmadge - Secretary
Term Expires: November 2023

Term Expires: November 2021 BOCES Representative

Site Selection Committee:

Max McClosky-RATIO Architects Tom Engel-Goff Engineering Ken Charles-Dolores Town Manager Susan Lisak-Dolores Chamber Kyle Riddel-Realtor Mark Lowe-Archeologist Jeromie Schumacher-School Adminsitrator Valiena Rosenkrance-Preschool Director Lenetta Shull and Maegan Crowley-School Board

Community Update from the Dolores School Board RE-4A

As our students and staff head back to school, the Dolores School Board would like to take this opportunity to provide a master plan building project update. During our August 13, 2020, meeting, the board moved to pause the master plan building project and delay seeking a BEST grant for the 2021 cycle.

We have completed the first step in the long term master plan process of selecting a building site. The site selection process began at the very beginning of the global pandemic we are currently still facing. We, as a community, are not sure of the financial impact this will have on us at a local level; however, we are sure that state funding towards this type of project has significantly decreased and will most likely continue to decrease for the next few years. For this reason, the Dolores School Board has decided to pause.

A site selection review committee that consisted of ten members (see list on left) was created. Based on availability and proximity to town, three properties were selected for the committee to review. All three properties had strengths and weaknesses and the committee used a selection rubric to determine the property most qualified to meet the needs of the district.

There is still long term planning work to be done and the Board would like to keep the momentum of this project alive. The board has agreed to appoint two committees to help serve the long term planning needs required to realize this goal. The first committee will be the Design Advisory Group (DAG) which will provide input towards the form and function of our future school. The second committee will be the Bond Initiative Committee that will focus on marketing solutions to obtain a bond that will help fund the building project. The board is looking to fill these committees with professionals from our community that have experience in either of these areas. If you would like to contribute your time please email the school board to express your interest or use our new "Talk to the Board" tab at: https://doloresschools.org/talk-to-theboard/

We heard from our students and staff loud and clear what the future of Dolores School District will need. We listened to input from all sides and we are thankful to have such an involved, vocal, and supportive community. We would also like to thank the committee members for their participation in the committee and for providing a cross section of input from our community. By working together we can create an amazing future for all Dolores students. Reminder: Students are off every other Fri

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 1	DHS JV Cross Country at Ignacio				
October 2	No School-Friday off, DMS Cross Country at Mancos				
October 3	DHS Cross Country at Mancos				
October 5	Booster Club Meeting, 5:00 p.m. Library				
	DMS/DHS Knowledge Bowl Virtual Meet				
October 6-8	Parent/Teacher Conferences (see page 6)				
October 8	DMS Cross Country at Ignacio				
	School Board Meeting, 6:00 p.m.				
October 9	DHS Cross Country Regional at Confluence Park, Delta				
	HS Football at Home , 7:00 p.m.				
October 14	PSAT Testing				
October 15	End of First Quarter				
	DMS Cross Country at Cortez				
October 16	No School for Students, Teacher Professional Development				
October 17	DHS Cross Country State Championship, Colorado Springs				
	DMS Cross Country at Pagosa Springs				
	HS Football at Centauri, 7:00 p.m.				
October 23	HS Football at Ignacio, 7:00 p.m.				
October 28	PSAT Testing for 11th Grade				
October 30	No School-Friday off				
	HS Football at Home , 7:00 p.m.				



FCA-MS and HS bring your lunch every Monday to the Auxiliary Gym.

FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIAN ATHLETES

FREE DESSERT!

Come hang out with some friendly people while you eat lunch, do activities, and learn about what the

Bible is all about. Anyone is welcome. Hope to see you there!



Sign up today for Dolores FCA Huddle information with this Band App QR code!

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Dolores School District

Download our Mobile App for Free! Stay in touch with Dolores School District while on the go.

Notifications
 Calendar
 Schools
 Portal
 Parent Resources

Available on the App Store
GET IT ON
GOOgle play

APP FEATURES:

✓ News

Bear Essentials Newsletter is edited and published from the Dolores School District RE-4A Administrative Office.

Apps by: Divetreeapps

Suggestions and comments are welcome. Please email <u>larnett@dolores.k12.co.us</u>.



Home of the Bears

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

District Office 970-882-7255 www.doloresschools.org

What is up with the App?

Our app feature for the health screen has not proven to be a viable tool for our use. There are far too many variables in setting it up for families. We have students in multiple families and the contact list is far too difficult to manage.

We did our run through testing with the staff and it was so difficult to get the daily reports, we decided to utilize another system separate from the DSD app. Our staff is using a different system they access through our website.

As part of the state order for business and public organizations, we are mandated to screen all staff before they begin work each day. For students, we can ask the parents to do the daily screening at home and make certain students are not attending school with any symptoms. We also have a second layer of precaution by having a screener available at each door for any students who know they did not screen at home.

We do apologize that the app feature is not available. We also thank our parents for their diligence in screening their child(ren) prior to coming into the building. It is the collective effort that continues to keep our students and staff safe.



Athletic Update

by Jeromie Schumacher

The Colorado High School Activities Association (CHSAA), CHSAA Board of Directors, and the Governor's COVID Response Team voted to approve variances to allow schools to play football in the fall (Season A) or play in Season C in the spring. Dolores has declared to play in the fall in Season A. Dolores plays in the Southern Peaks League and all teams in our league have declared to play in the fall as well. CHSAA is still working out the final details on what the variances will look like. We anticipate high school to start practicing on Monday, September 28th with games starting around October 9th. The San Juan Basin Middle School league has also started discussion on playing middle school football in the fall as well. Our high school football coaches have already started lining the football field in preparation for practices next week. High school students interested in playing football should complete their sports physical and permission forms this week in order to be eligible to start practices next week. Forms are in the high school main office.

There has been some discussion at CHSAA about playing volleyball in late fall. There is no official word from CHSAA on volleyball at this time.

Dolores high school and middle school cross country are off to a great start. The high school boys defeated Monte Vista and Ignacio this weekend at the 4-Corners classic in Durango. Michael Brafford is one of the top runners in the league and in the Region. The Dolores Middle School girls are undefeated.

JJ Brunner is a top performer for Cortez golf and will be competing in the Regional in Colorado City this week on 9/22. Allie Kible and Erin Brown have been playing softball for Cortez and are ranked 10th in the State with an 8-3 record.



Congratulations! Newly Elected Student Government Officers Dolores High School:

President - Erin Brown Vice President - Autumn Steinberger Secretary - Shiloh Burger Treasurer - Cody Farias

PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES OCTOBER 6-8

Elementary

- + Teachers will contact parents to schedule.
- Parents may call the office if a change is needed.
- Secondary
- Parents need to set appointments with the school secretary.
- Parents may call or come in person to set appointment.

Virtual Option

Parents may arrange to meet virtually. Ask for more details.

BEAR FACTS

Monthly Blog by Superintendent Lis Richard

Importance of Developing Strong Readers

Recently, I had an invigorating conversation with a colleague. We did not see eye to eye on certain issues; however, it was interesting to see that we always land on our passion for developing critical thinkers in our youth. One of the most fundamental ways to do this is to help foster a love for reading.

Abraham Lincoln had very little formal education and yet he loved to read. History records that he was often seen by neighbors walking for miles to borrow a book. Some of his favorites included *Life and Memorable Actions of George Washington, Robinson Crusoe, Pilgrim's Progress,* and *Aesop's Fables.* He is quoted in his youth saying, "The things I want to know are in books; my best friend is the man who'll get me a book I ain't read." Are the youth today as hungry for knowledge?

In his book *The Knowledge Deficit* by E.D. Hirsch, Jr., he notes that one of the fallacies in our quest for academic proficiency is that the curriculum or instructor is to blame. This thought is prevalent today in the State of Colorado. Through the millions of dollars spent on the READ Act legislation to improve reading proficiency, the result after seven years was only one percent point increase in our state's third grade students. Now the state is imposing a mandatory 45 credit hours equivalent on teachers to obtain further knowledge on teaching reading. My strength is not always common sense, but I can see clearly that this is not going to solve the problem. The problem is a missing element in society. It is the lack of knowledge building.

We build knowledge through broad language development. Many of our children grow up in households where both parents work full time or the home has a single working parent. This is economic reality for most families. The challenge is that it causes real language deficits for children. Children no longer have the enrichment of building vocabulary from the cradle. The knowledge deficit is real when students enter school.

I have said it many times and I will say it again that reading is not an acquired skill but rather a learned one. However, the learned skill of reading is missing comprehension and connection without knowledge of content and context. Children in our society today have an extreme deficit of knowledge which contributes to the failing proficiencies in reading.

Teaching children to read is a fundamental tenet in education. Ironically, many who graduate with a degree in education do not know how to teach a child to read and thus the reasoning behind the state's new mandate. One of the reasons for our choice of curriculum (Core Knowledge Language Arts) in the elementary is because of the process used for teaching and implementing reading practices. There are definite components of reading that must be addressed in sequence: phonemic awareness (individual sounds), phonics (putting those sounds together), vocabulary (building words and meanings), fluency (building flow, speed, and automaticity), and comprehension (understanding the content and context in order to formulate thought and opinion). Even with the sequence and technical aspect of coding and decoding words taught correctly, a child without a broad knowledge base will have limited understanding of text. That limited understanding causes one to lose interest, believe whatever they are told rather than researching on their own, lack the initiative to find subjects of interest, and so much more.

Do you ever recall hearing the phrase, "Readers are leaders?" Well, this is a true statement. The challenge for educators is seeing that the readers we develop

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understand the power in comprehending the written word. Societies have seen devastation and innovation on the shirttail of the written word. Even today we see the immense power of the written word through social media in leading young people into certain behaviors. Many young people lack the knowledge base of certain subjects to make sound critical decisions in their life. Due to their lack of comprehension, they are often easily misled by charismatic personalities.

What is the point of this article? It is to point out that our school district is dedicated to best practices and developing critical thinkers. Vertical alignment in districts is an essential piece to this. We must build a broad base of knowledge for each of our students beginning in preschool. This begins with rich literature, content and exposure. The read aloud process from preschool through third grade is a key component. From there, students begin to foster a love for reading. We cannot lose sight of this in education. The techniques come but the intrinsic desire must also be there. The need in a democracy to teach children a shared body of knowledge was explained many years ago by Thomas Jefferson when he described his bill "to diffuse knowledge more generally through the mass of the people." A common grade-school education would create a literate and independent citizenry as well as a nesting ground for future leaders (Hirsh, 1999). Elementary education in our country needs a robust "kick in the pants." We need to love our children enough to build their knowledge base.

Lis Richard

Superintendent



Resources:

Arment, Ainsley, *Call of the Wild and Free*, Harper Collins, NY, 2019.

Hirsch, E.D. Jr., *The Schools We Need*, Anchor Books, NY, 1999. Hirsch, E.D. Jr. *The Knowledge Deficit*, Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston, 2006.

From the District Nurse - Denese Brisbin, RN



Reminder to all families:

It is expected that all students will be screened at home before they are sent to school. So, please take your student's temperature. As always, keep them home if they are 100.4 or higher. If your student has a loss of taste or smell, a new or unexplained persistent cough or shortness of breath/difficulty breathing keep them home. If your student has two or more of these symptoms, keep them home: sore throat, runny nose or congestion, muscle and body aches, headache, fatigue, nausea/vomiting, diarrhea. Call the school and let us know.

If you are ever unsure of what to do there are resources on the district website doloresschools.org, click on Parent and Student Health. You will find guidelines for the symptoms present and the phone number if you need to call and ask questions. Don't worry, we know that mornings can get hectic and occasionally a screening can get missed. We have thermometers available here if needed.

As you know, flu season is upon us. We have had our first case already. Flu shots are always recommended but this year even more than ever. Since the signs and symptoms of the flu and COVID-19 are very similar it will be hard to tell which one you have. Either one will result in a number of missed school and work days, potentially 2 weeks if you don't have negative test results to show. Of concern also is that it is not known if COVID and the flu can occur at the same time and make you very ill. Consider if a flu shot is right for your family. Luckily hand washing, sanitizing, distancing and masks are helpful for any respiratory spread illness.

Thanks for your help in trying to keep us all healthy and meet the mandates to keep school open. So glad to be able to have in person learning.

October 1, 2020

Elementary School Update

We have begun using 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. Students will collect them and exchange them for available options. Our PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports) committee is creating a list of items, activities, and adventures that can be "purchased" with the Bear Paw tickets. 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 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.

Now until Oct. 1st, Elementary's 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 valuable baseline data to use for progress monitoring academic growth throughout the school year. Please thank your child for doing "their best on the test!"

We are excited that several dads have signed up for Watchdog Dads Volunteer Program! It's not too late to be one of our "outside" volunteers for the year, just ask the office for an application. The PTA also invites you ALL to become members and join us in enriching our school! Please request a membership form and return it to us soon. Our PTA is also still accepting orders for this year's Bear Wear. Shop online at: <u>https://t-</u> <u>shirtpeople.com/dolores_elementary_school/shop</u>, or you may request a paper copy from the office. All orders are due by Sept. 25th!

Warm Regards, *Lurleen McCormick* Dolores Elementary School Principal





Teddy Bear has had a very gentle and easy start to the year. The families bring their children to the front gate where a teacher from each classroom is there to greet the families and then walk the children

into the building to their individual classrooms. This process has made the children feel more independent and confident, it is truly amazing to watch a three-year old turn, tell mom have a good day and walk in the building with no clinging or tears. Families have been very appreciative and understanding of the precautions we have had to take with the Covid virus. To help our families feel included in their child's school experience, staff are busily taking photos and videos of the children and their activities to email and text to the families. Classrooms are also sending daily sheets home that report the child's mood that day, the activities their child did, what they ate or didn't eat and any other information that is needed. One classroom has been using the east end of the football field daily for their outdoor time, while the other two classrooms are using separate ends of the preschool playground. Overall, our program is running smoothly with no concerns.

Valiena Rosenkrance, Director

Home of the Bears

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occasionally, but they struggle with not having a writing surface for students who cannot use clipboards adequately. They have come up with some great ways of modifying assignments to where those students can do the writing when they get back to their indoor classrooms (Lurleen McCormick, Elementary Principal)."

"We are fortunate to live in a quiet, beautiful, small town where teachers have the ability to take advantage of outdoor learning opportunities. Some teachers take students on river walks or go to the public library. The 6th grade teachers will be taking students to McPhee Reservoir to study sediment. Band and choir utilize an outdoor tent area. Our PE program has an outdoor CrossFit workout area. Many other classes take advantage of shaded areas around campus that they can utilize to take a break from the classroom and enjoy the fresh air. Our secondary teachers have really embraced the opportunity to use our outdoor learning spaces (Justin Schmitt, Secondary Principal)."

The weather will soon change. This will force teachers back to the drawing board of ideas. Knowing the phenomenal staff of Dolores School District, our students are in store for some amazing experiences!



Students in the High School Working Outside



Outdoor CrossFit Class -High School Students



Sixth Grade Science Class



In September, the toddler room has been exploring the world of bugs. The children have really enjoyed the activities provided. They have freed the frozen bugs, went on a bug hunt, did bug stamping and more. They have learned that bugs have six legs and come in all shapes and sizes. Some have wings and some don't. It has been really fun watching them get to know bugs.



Outdoor Learning Fun



Elementary Students by the River

Home of the Bears

HAVE YOU ORDERED YOUR BEAR WEAR?





	S	М	L	XL	XXL	XXXL	Add \$4 XXL Add \$6 XXXL		TOTAL
Gildan softstyle short sleeve t-shirt								\$15 EA.	
Ladies Gildan softstyle V-neck t-shirt								\$20 EA.	
Next Level Unisex Triblend 3/4 sleeve Raglan								\$25 EA.	
Gildan Long Sleeve t-shirt								\$25 EA.	
Gildan Pull Over Hooded sweatshirt								\$30 EA.	
Gildan full zip hooded sweatshirt								\$35 EA	
Gildan crew neck sweatsirt								\$20 EA.	
Order Form for EMBROIDELRY, whit	te thre	ad or	left o	chest	(bear)	or fror	t of head we	ear.	
Gildan Double Piqué Polo Men's								\$26 EA.	
Gildan Double Piqué Polo Women's								\$26 EA.	
Core 365 Men's or Women's Fleece Vest								\$40 EA.	
Jerseez Quarter-Zip Cadet Collar Sweatshirt								\$37 EA.	
Flexfit Caps - S/M or XL					\$25 EA.				
Richardson Snapback -black/heather/white						\$25 EA.			
Yupoong Flatbill Snapback- black/red						\$20 EA.			
Beanie or Headband							\$18 EA.		
Sweat Pants vinyl lettering. Size:						\$32 EA.			
NAME			Pł	IONE			(Grand Total	

Richardson Snapbac Flatbill Snapback Beanie Head Band



Elementary Bear Wear: Click below to purchase special bear wear for the elementary: <u>https://t-</u> <u>shirtpeople.com/</u> <u>dolores_elementary</u> <u>_school/shop/home</u>



Dolores Bears Booster Club Proudly Supporting Our Bears

		Bear Backer Support 202	20-2021		
<u>Level</u> Platinum	<u>Cost</u> \$250	Gym Sign and Business Card Ad in Athlet			
Gold	\$100	Sign (\$250 Level): YES or NO (Circle whether sign is requested and if so, attach business card with information wanted on sign. This will also be used for ad Program. 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)

Please make sure to add Phone number and email below

Volunteer to help specifically with the following:

Date:	Amount Paid:	_ (cash or check #)
Name:		
Address:		
City:		
Phone:	Email:	

Amount Paid:

Bear Backer Membership - Receipt Tax ID: 30-0350968

____ (cash or check #)

Date:

Name:





Employment:

District Librarian: The district is seeking someone who is interested in full time employment and has a desire to run the library. If interested, please call 970-882-7255

Special Education Para: The secondary school is in need of a part time paraprofessional for Tuesday and Thursday. If interested, please call 970-882-7255.

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

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

Secondary Band/Music Teacher: Please contact the district office or view the information on line. 970-882-7255

District Accountability Committee: Look on the district website under the "About Us" tab for more information on the DAC.

Booster Club is seeking volunteers for concessions and other activities. For more information contact: Shelly Purkat 970-759-3101, Brenda Spurlock 970-739-1925

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. There will be a meeting on October 22nd at 3:45 p.m.