



LITTLE BEARS' WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

In the news...



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.

First PTA Meeting will be held October 22nd @ 3:45 in the outdoor pavilion located in the elementary playground. Please bring a chair and masks are encouraged. A Virtual Meeting Invite will be sent to all current members when the date is closer. Hope to see you there!!

Bear Wear is expected to be delivered by October 23rd.

Upcoming events:

- Oct. 13th- Emotional support dogs visit
- Oct. 15th- End of First Quarter
- Oct. 16th- No School for students- Staff members only
- Oct. 30th- No School

Principal's Corner

Dear Little Bear Families,

Have you ever thought about walking into a little snow globe and becoming part of that little world for a moment, feeling surrounded by peace, tranquility, hope, and love? Coming to Dolores Elementary feels that way to me. Every time I open the doors of our school, I walk into a place where love and respect abounds, people sacrifice their own needs for others, care and concern are rampant, and children's giggles echo in the halls. It truly feels like we are sheltered from all problems that exist outside our walls.

At parent teacher conferences this week, I realized what a sheltered little space we have, and how much I appreciate it. We have staff members who open the doors to our building and lovingly set aside their pride, sometimes their personal beliefs, and definitely their personal comfort; in order to serve your children daily. They put on masks for up to eight hours a day, they relentlessly sanitize and disinfect, they gently remind students to do the same, and they always do it with amazing love. It doesn't matter if they believe it's necessary; it doesn't matter if they believe that it's a waste of their time; it doesn't matter if they believe that it actually puts their own health at risk; it doesn't matter that mask-fatigue exhausts them; they do it because they love our kids, and they want to keep our doors open. They want students coming back into the school daily, and they know they have to follow the State laws and mandates that have been dictated by health officials. I admire and applaud them, as I have been so blessed to witness this dedication, devotion, love, and sacrifice. I see true servant hearts at work everyday, and it inspires me to be better with my own compliance and attitude. I hope that during our parent teacher conferences, some of you got a glimpse of what I mean.

Recently, I was challenged by our Superintendent, Lis Richard, to keep the most important things in my life, the most important things in my life. It made me think about what I set aside, and how that affects my overall wellness and quality-of-life. I hope our staff members keep their main thing, their main thing, too. However, I know that one of our shared main things is the education of your children. We are here to serve. We follow mandates and regulations with obedience and compliance in order to be able to serve. We are grateful for every day those doors open, and your children walk through them. We hope this continues, and that our lives have meaning by helping others find meaning in theirs. We love our Little Bear families, and we will continue serving you in-person for as long as possible in order to keep this one of the best communities it can be.

As always, please give us feedback on how we can do that better, and please forgive us if the mandates and policies we must follow in order to stay open seem offensive to you. We are looking forward to mandates lifting more than anyone, and I'm so very grateful for those of you who have offered encouragement, kindness, and support!

Warmly,
Lurleen McCormick





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Counselor's Corner

Hello Little Bear Families!
First off, we want to let you know that the weekend "food Backpack program for families in need" is starting up again. It will be a backpack full of food for your family to pick up on Thursdays after school to help get you through the weekend. There is a form to fill out with "number of people in the household", etc.; but income and housing questions are not asked. Typically, it has only been shelf stable foods, but they received a grant which allows them (until December) to include local fresh produce and perishables such as milk, eggs, cheese, flour and beans, etc. Let our secretary know you are interested, and I will call you and send home the form.

Secondly, there have been some questions about school counseling. Parents need to know that School Counseling services are NOT therapy. It is also NOT special education or any kind of legal accommodation. We work on thinking skills and classroom strategies that will help your child feel better and do better. Any notes I take or documentations made, are locked in my file cabinet and destroyed at the end of the year. It's an easy way to help empower your child without it being on their "permanent record."

Other Announcements:

Kindergarteners sure seemed to enjoy their first field-trip studying Fall foliage and making collections for observations:





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Also, during the first 2 weeks of October, we will be learning how to respond to someone if they are mean to you. Most kids who do mean things are not true bullies. True bullies are very rare. There are "safe school" violations that must be reported right away to an adult. Those are: #1. If you get physically hurt. #2. If property is damaged, and #3. If someone wants to talk about, touch, show pictures or make fun of the private areas of your body that are covered by a swimsuit. For everything ELSE, the first and most powerful thing you can do is act like you don't care! This will prevent bullying from even getting started or put a stop to it if it has started in almost every case. Most kids are trying on behaviors like clothing and if you shrug your shoulders and act like you don't care about the mean behavior they won't get reinforced. A great line kids can say if they feel compelled to say anything at all is . . . "I'm sorry you feel that way." It lets the other student know that they don't care about the put down without being interpreted as a "bully back."

We should all be teaching the kids that if they show they care by pouting, crying, or preaching; they might as well pay that person \$5 to bother them some more! We will learn about the "bully pool". This is an easy visualization that helps the students to feel sorry . . . not

PE students enjoyed Archery classes:



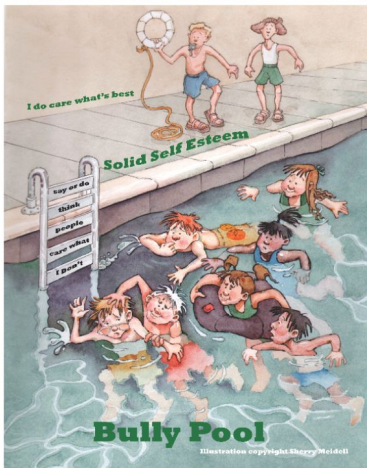
Students are enjoying their Garden School to Farm curriculum:





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for themselves . . . but for the person who is being mean. Being mean and acting like you are better than someone else is an unexpected, even weird and awkward way to gain status and "fake" friends. We feel sorry for mean people. I can't stress that enough. One benefit of making that adjustment in our thinking is that pity is the LAST thing a mean person wants from us. They want power and control and when being mean doesn't work or get reinforced they will almost always stop. We'll be talking about the Bully Pool a lot. At the end of the month the kids might be ready to draw it for you or at least explain it to you. This is not what is typically taught about how to respond to "bullying", but not teaching it is also the reason bullying continues to be such a big problem. Please come see me or call if you have questions.



Sincerely,
Susan Leavitt Miller

And, Thank you to our maintenance team for filling our sandbox!!!
Our students are loving it!



Other announcements:

TAKE-AND-MAKE

CRAFTS & ACTIVITIES FOR KIDS

are available at the Dolores Library! They are first come, first serve and free to anyone--stop by and pick up an activity bag, or give us a call at 970-882-4127 to request curbside service.

1002 Railroad Ave. Dolores CO 81323



cheyenne@doloreslibrary.org



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The poster for the "Fields of Faith" event features a dark blue background with a starry sky. At the top center is the FCA logo, a cross with "FCA" inside, surrounded by the text "FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIAN ATHLETES". Below the logo, the text "FOUR CORNERS FCA PRESENTS" is written in yellow. The main title "FIELDS OF FAITH" is in large white letters, with a cluster of yellow dots to the left of the word "FIELDS". Below the title is the tagline "ONE DAY. ONE MESSAGE. ONE STAND" in white. The event location "MONTEZUMA COUNTY FAIR GROUNDS" is written in yellow. A yellow banner contains the date and time "OCTOBER 14 2020 - 6:00 PM" in white, with "GATES OPEN AT 5:30PM" in blue below it. A green banner contains the text "Pre-packaged burrito dinner will be provided" in white, "Keynote Speaker: Bay Forrest Former Phoenix Suns" in blue, and "Worship music & Student Testimonies!" in white. At the bottom, a dark blue banner contains the text "MORE INFO AT: WESTERNCOLORADOFCA.ORG" in white.

FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIAN ATHLETES
FCA

FOUR CORNERS FCA PRESENTS

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Former Phoenix Suns

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