

BEAR ESSENTIALS

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

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*Special Thanksgiving Issue:
See pages 12 - 14.*

Veterans Day Event Changed



Dolores School District will host a parade this year on November 11th in honor of our veterans. Due to the restrictions in place from the Colorado Public Health Department, we cannot host our annual event indoors. We would like to invite veterans and community to join by lining the streets in celebration. All grades will be part of a patriotic parade in the veteran's honor. The parade will end at Flanders Park with a short performance and ceremony.

Each one can help with this event by inviting veterans, friends and neighbors to watch the parade and then proceed to the ceremony at Flanders Park. Please wear a mask at the park. Honoring our vets is an important part of our school year. The young people need to have this opportunity to show their appreciation to these fine men and women.

A Word From our Food Service Director:

We are at the time of year when we are planning and looking forward to our Thanksgiving feast for the students at the school on November 12th. As we all know, 2020 has thrown a wrench into many plans for everyone so in keeping with our COVID "no visitor" rule, I am sorry to say that families **cannot be allowed to join their students for turkey on November 12th**. It would take only one positive family member to bring down the entire district.

Thank you for understanding.

Mr. Chuck Soukup

From the Secondary Principal's Pen

As many of you are aware, Jeromie Schumacher has made the difficult decision to leave the Dolores School District. This was not a decision that was easy for him to make and not one that he made lightly. Jeromie made this tough decision because it was what was best for his family and we respect him for that. It is always difficult to lose such a talented and valued co-worker, but it makes it easier when you have experienced, high quality individuals on staff who are willing and able to replace them. Mary Weiss is one of those people. Mrs. Weiss came to Dolores as a very experienced and well-regarded school administrator out of South Dakota. There she served as a school principal for 20+ years, mentored new teachers and administrators, spoke at conferences and even consulted for the South Dakota Governor's office. I am pleased that she has chosen to serve our school as an Interim Assistant Principal. We are fortunate to have her.

Our rationale for appointing Mary to the role of Interim Assistant Principal came out of an understanding that our secondary school, and more specifically our middle school, is in need of more academic support. Dolores Middle School teachers have been tasked with implementing a brand new, very rigorous, instructional program in an environment in which their students are not currently performing at that level. This is due to a number of factors:

- There has been a significant slide in student achievement since March of 2020. This is true not just for Dolores, but for students all over the state of Colorado and our nation.
- Our Middle School students have not developed the foundation that they would have built if they had received Core Knowledge instruction for the past 5-7 years. They will still benefit from the learning that transpires this year, just not to the same level as students who have received Core Knowledge instruction year after year. As students progress through the years more cross-curricular connections will be made and deeper levels of understanding will result.
- Core Knowledge is new for all of our teachers this year.

- We have 3 teachers in the middle school this year who are new to Dolores Schools.

Our goal is to provide teachers with the tools and support that they need in order to be successful and in doing so we will ensure higher levels of student success. Mrs. Weiss's primary focus this year will be on providing academic support to our Middle School teachers through classroom observation, instructional coaching/mentorship, and behavioral support.

Mr. Justin Schmitt, Principal



This month we celebrate a very special employee. Ms. Lezlie Dibsie was chosen by many of her coworkers. She is the district registrar and works so hard day in and day out. This year has been exceptionally challenging with so many students attending school online. Ms. Dibsie has worked with all families to see that their needs are met.

Lezlie Dibsie joined the Dolores School District in February of 2014. She has been working in education for many years. She spent eight years at the San Juan Vo-Tech School in a similar Registrar role and six years with Dolores School District. She hopes to continue her role with this district until retirement.

She did not grow up in this area, but her dad's graduation photo is on the wall in the Dolores High School hallway, class of '49. Her great, great grandparent's wedding is recorded on one of the first pages in the county records. Her roots run deep in this area.

We are very grateful for her dedication and expertise. She keeps our student records in wonderful order and helps the principals with managing student schedules and needs. It is an honor to recognize her this month!

National Honor Society Induct New Members

The National Honor Society (NHS) inducted new members into the Dolores Chapter on October 6, 2020, at a lunch ceremony in the library. Inductees applied last spring during remote learning, but they were not able to meet because of the COVID-19 virus pandemic. Students were inducted in the semi-traditional ceremony where members sign the official record, make the pledge to be a member, and four candles are lit to speeches, which correspond to the four pillars of NHS. The new members include Seniors: Akira Edwards, Kenya Escarcega, Anaya Martinez, and Hayden Tallmadge; and Juniors: Erin Brown, Shiloh Burger, Annabel Baldwin, Cody Farias, Faith Gates, and Kamri Willbanks.

For nearly 100 years, NHS members have been making a difference in their schools and communities and the NHS is one way of recognizing the most exceptional of these student leaders. Candidates are chosen based on their demonstrated work to support the four pillars of NHS: scholarship, service, leadership, and character. To be considered for NHS, one must have a minimum grade point average of 3.4, they need to finish a second semester of their sophomore year, and provide evidence of excellence for the four pillars.

The inductees join with current members Nina Huffman (President, Senior), Autumn Steinberger (President, Senior), Samantha Castillo (Vice President/ Representative, Senior), Keegan Spurlock (Treasurer, Senior), Justin Brunner (Senior), Ryan Eastman (Senior), Faith Myers (Senior), and adviser, Mrs. Webster.



Red Ribbon Week



Red Ribbon Week is an anti-drug abuse campaign done nationwide. It is a lot of fun, and it helps to establish the norms necessary to help the majority of kids resist the peer pressure to abuse drugs and the neurological temptation to self medicate.

Each day the elementary celebrated in a different way:

Monday: Students and staff wore Bear Wear for the Red Ribbon kick off. The students signed a pledge to stay drug free and received a red ribbon bracelet.

Tuesday: Students and staff wore sports team attire to Team Up Against Drugs. Students tied a red ribbon on the fence by the bus area (shown below).

Wednesday: Everyone wore red. The students received mustache props for a photo booth that said, "I mustache you not to do drugs!" Teachers had a question and answer session about drug abuse to clarify any misconceptions the kids may have had.

Thursday: Students and teachers dressed up in costumes on this day. They also announced the winner of the poster contest. The theme was "Be Brave, Be Happy, Be Drug Free."

Thank you to all of the staff, parents and especially the elementary counselor, Susan Miller for this amazing experience for the students.



Students placing red ribbons on the elementary fence



DSD BOARD UPDATES

Mission and Vision Driven for our Stakeholders

School Board Members

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

Kay Phelps - Director

Term Expires: November 2021

BOCES Representative

**BOARD MEETING
DATE CHANGE FOR
NOVEMBER:**

**NOVEMBER 5
6:00 P.M.**

**PLEASE NOTE THE
CHANGE DUE TO
SCHEDULE
CONFLICTS AND
HOLIDAY SCHEDULES**

October Meeting Update

The Dolores School Board of Education met on October 8, 2020, for their regular monthly meeting. It was the first meeting under the new chair, Maegan Crowley. Ms. Crowley was not able to attend in person due to a family need; however she joined via Zoom. Despite the challenge of the chair attending remotely, the meeting moved along well and the board accomplished good work.

Due to a recent resignation in the secondary school, the board heard from Superintendent Richard in regard to the restructuring plans for the secondary and some district positions. Data was given to show the need for extra administrative support in the middle school and overall secondary. The move to online learning last year has left a regression in academic progress for many students. This was taken into account while talking about the restructuring of personnel.

The superintendent showed only reading scores from the NWEA Maps testing this fall. The entire data report for the fall will be presented in the next board meeting. The data displayed was concerning for all students as it visually gave the overview of lack of student growth during the time the district was online. There were exceptions with some individual students but the average scores did not show adequate yearly growth. The superintendent noted that this is similar data to what we are seeing all over the state and nation.

Mr. Chris Majors serves as the auditor for the district. He presented the final report of the audit for 2019 to the board. He stated that the district finish the year in a healthy position.

Doreen Jones presented her monthly financials to the board. She also stated that the board would see an updated budget in the November meeting and hopefully pass the revisions in December. It will be submitted to the state in January of 2021.

There will be a change in the next board meeting date due to schedule conflicts. The meeting will be held one week earlier on November 5 at 6:00 p.m. This will serve well with the upcoming Thanksgiving Break on November 23-27.

Reminder: Students are off every other Friday



November 2	DHS/DMS Knowledge Bowl Virtual Event, 3-7 p.m. HS Football Team Pictures, 3:45 p.m. Booster Club Meeting, 5:00 p.m.
November 5	ASVAB Testing - Sophomores, 8-noon School Board Meeting - 6:00 p.m.
November 7	DHS Football at Del Norte, 1:00 p.m.
November 11	Veteran's Day - School in Session
November 13	No School - Friday Off Professional Development for Teachers DHS Football at Home, 7:00 p.m.
November 18	Picture Retakes
November 21	DHS Football at Norwood, 3:00 p.m.
November 23-27	Thanksgiving Break



- ♦ First PTA Book Swap is COMING November 20th! Disinfection guidelines of quarantining books for no less than 14 days in a plastic bag will be strictly enforced. Students may bring up to 3 gently used books to trade. BOOKS MUST BE TURNED IN ON OR BEFORE NOVEMBER 5TH to be eligible to trade. Book swap will happen on November 20th for Thanksgiving Break reading. Chapter books are needed.
- ♦ PTA is meeting Thursday, November 19th at 4:00 PM. Location to be determined and virtual invitation to be sent out closer to the date.
- ♦ Please join the Elementary PTA. Request a membership form from the office and return with dues.



[CLICK HERE FOR ALL SCHEDULES](#)



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

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!**

Dolores School District

Download our Mobile App for Free!

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- ✓ 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.



Home of the Bears

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Dolores, CO 81323

District Office
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www.doloresschools.org

Athletic Update



High School Golf

Our very own JJ Brunner won honorable mention for the All-State Boys Golf Team at the High School State Golf Championships!



Middle School Cross Country

Congratulations to the Dolores Middle school girls cross country team who were undefeated this season and the San Juan Basin League Champions.

Football Games Left in November

Don't miss the last home football game on November 13 at 7:00 p.m. This year our team only had six total games and three home games. The season is short due to COVID.



Overthinking?

When you overthink, your judgments can get cloudy and your stress level can elevate.

Overthinking can take many forms: endlessly deliberating when making a decision (and then questioning that decision), trying to predict the future, reading into the smallest details - the list goes on. But all types of overthinking have one thing in common - there's very little benefit from the time and effort spent overthinking. In fact, there are major downsides to spending too much time with thoughts. When you spend too much time thinking, you might miss opportunities and endure unnecessary worry and anxiety.

So, what can you do to reduce or free yourself from overthinking and the anxiety that is associated with it? Following you will find some tips:

Awareness is the beginning.

Before you can begin to address or cope with your habit of overthinking, you need to learn to be aware of when it's happening. Anytime you find yourself doubting or feeling stressed or anxious, step back and look at the situation and how you are responding. In that moment of awareness train your mind to say - "Hey - I'm overthinking".

Turn mistakes into opportunities.

If you are prone to overthinking because you don't want to make the "wrong" decision, be open to the possibility that you might. You are human, making mistakes create opportunities to learn and grow.

Every opportunity is a new beginning and a place to start again.

Tame the fear.

In many cases, overthinking is caused by a single emotion: fear. When you focus on all the negative things that might happen, it's easy to become paralyzed. Next time you sense that you are overthinking out of fear: stop yourself. Whether you are afraid because you have failed in the past, or you are fearful of trying or overgeneralizing some other mistake or failure, remember that just because things did not work out before doesn't mean that has to be the outcome every time. Visualize all the things that could go right!

Put things into perspective and own your decisions.

The next time you catch yourself making a mountain out of a molehill, ask yourself how much will this decision matter in one year or five years. (Or for that matter, next month). Sometimes just this simple question can help put things into perspective and help shut down overthinking. Keep in mind that all you can do is make the best possible decision with the information you have. Stand tall and keep your head up, no matter what the result is. Even if it doesn't turn out the way you wanted, own your decision.

Set a boundary.

Set a timer for 5 minutes and give yourself that time to think, worry and analyze. Once the timer goes off, spend 10 minutes with a pen and paper, writing down all the things that are causing you to worry, causing stress or increasing your anxiety. When the 10 minutes is up, throw the paper out and move on - preferably to something fun.

Movement.

A great way to get out of your head is to focus on your body. Get moving. When you feel stuck in thinking mode: stand up, do some exercise, walk, dance, do jumping jacks - anything that breaks up the chain of thought.

Continued on page 8

BEAR FACTS

Monthly Blog by Superintendent Lis Richard

Stop and Give Thanks



It is during this time of year we set aside some time to state what we are grateful for in our lives. I am grateful for so many things too great to name. Today, I would like to mention my gratitude for a district like Dolores RE-4A.

It is a privilege to be part of a district that honors the individual child and upholds the duty of education. Abraham Lincoln once said, "The philosophy of the school room in one generation will be the philosophy of government in the next." This quote has certainly played out on the pages of our history. May this district always stay true to the principles and ideals that have kept our nation free and secure.

How about some history trivia? Who were the Pilgrims? According to our kindergarten Core Knowledge Series entitled, *What Your Kindergartner Needs to Know*, "The Pilgrims made the hard trip to America because they wanted to pray and worship in a way that was not allowed in England. The Pilgrims were very religious people. Because they wanted to pray and live in the way they believed was right, they were willing to sail off to the New World" (Hirsch, 1997).

Parents must be intuitive and see that the "new" version of our history in some text rewrites the above. The truth is that the Pilgrims were deeply

devoted and grateful people. When one studies the lives of the individuals who journeyed across the ocean on the Mayflower in 1620, they were not angry people but broken hearted individuals seeking a better life. They wanted to raise their families in peace and harmony. After some long hard winters and establishing friendship with the indigenous people, they stopped to give thanks to their God for his bountiful harvest and goodness. This was the *first* Thanksgiving.

Even though they suffered greatly and many died, they were eternally grateful for their freedom. The pioneer spirit of the founding Americans brings resolve in my heart to let their spirit live on in our young people. Our children must be free to think and learn without a system or agenda keeping them from reaching their full potential.

Our Bill of Rights states in the very first Amendment, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances." We know that the Native Americans were the first to live on this land, but some of the next to arrive on the continent cherished their right to worship freely. Those same ideals became part of our founding documents that are still governing this great country today.

Even the mention of religion from an educator causes some to be concerned. May I respectfully remind all that we have freedom of religion; it is not freedom **from** religion. Our rights are protected in a beautiful manner in our founding

documents. Please allow my words to remind us to focus this year on all that we have to be thankful for in this time. It is easy to focus on fear and concerns, but may we choose to stop and be thankful today.

With gratitude,
Mrs. Lis Richard



Continued from page 6 - Counselor's Corner

Accept your best.

The fear that grounds overthinking is often based in the feeling that you aren't good enough, not smart enough, hard-working enough, or dedicated enough. Once you have given your best effort, accept it and know that, while success may depend in part on things you can't control, you have done what you could do.

Be Grateful.

You cannot have a regretful thought and a grateful thought at the same time, so why not spend time focused on what you are grateful for? Every morning and every evening, make a list of what you are grateful for or what happened that brought you joy during the day. Get a gratitude buddy and exchange lists so you have a witness to the good things that are around you.

Be Kind to Yourself.

Overthinking is something that can happen to anyone. If you have a great system for dealing with it, you can at least ward off some of the negative, anxious, stressful thinking and turn it into something useful and productive. All we have is the present, the here and now. If you spend the present moment worrying about the future, you are robbing yourself of your time in the here and now. Be kind to yourself, instead of judging your emotions, give yourself permission to experience them, make your decisions and choices, and own them.

Provided by: Elisa Olson, School Counselor



From the District Nurse - Denese Brisbin, RN



Rules Related to COVID from CDPHE and CDC:

Scenario #1

If anyone in our school is a close contact to a positive covid case they will be quarantined for 14 days from the last time they were in contact with that positive person. None of their contacts need to leave. It is recommended that a covid test be done at day #7 but this is not mandatory. Should this person become symptomatic or test positive, then all of their contacts in their last 48 hours at school will be quarantined for 14 days. We have not had this situation to date.

Scenario #2

If someone in the school tests positive they will quarantine for 10 days following symptom onset. All of their "close contacts" will be out for 14 days from their last contact to the ill person. Non symptomatic positive cases will stay out for 14 days.

- Please wear your mask or face shield properly covering your mouth and nose if you are medically able to do so.
- "Close contact" is people less than 6 feet apart for more than 15 minutes; everyone in a cohort; AND as determined by the Health Department's input.
- The Health Department will be consulted on quarantines because they factor in size of room, time of exposure, ventilation and number of people in the room.

Great job to our staff and students for their continued diligence in safety protocols!



Archery in Elementary

by Brooke Elder

Mrs. Hanson's fourth grade class just finished a two week long unit studying the *Eleven Steps to Archery Success*, practice with a string bow, time learning how to shoot a genesis bow, and taking part in some friendly team versus team competitions!

After having received the required training to be a National Archery in the Schools Instructor, our school applied for and received a matching grant to purchase all of the needed equipment to start a program at our school. Our school matched funds with Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) and started our National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP) here at Dolores Elementary. This is our second school year offering this to elementary students during PE class for fourth and fifth grade.

As the 4-5th grades come through their designated quarter for PE, each class will be receiving a two week archery training before the end of this school year if we are able to remain in person!

Gina Hollen is also trained as a certified instructor and she plans to offer this sometime this school year as well in the secondary.

There are so many reasons we love this program at our school:

- Offering subjects that get students excited to come to school.
- Leveling the field a bit...anyone can excel at archery, not just the typical good athlete.
- Teaches new sport specific concepts and vocabulary.
- Requires a lot of focus, thought, and reflection to improve.
- Another sport option for those who are looking for their fit.
- Torso and arms get super strength and endurance workouts when doing a range day.

- Teaches something that is a life skill and could very well help these kids provide for their families when they are adults.

Mrs. Elder states, "I look forward to the future when I can help my PE classes do some virtual tournaments with other schools around the state." CPW hosts a couple of these a year, but not currently under COVID times.



Fourth grade physical education class is showing their archery skill.



Teddy Bear Preschool Update



You are in for treat, these infants are sweet! It is joy to watch the youngest of our bears as they become more mobile, find their voices, and explore the world around them! We are supporting these developing skills through a lot of sensory play such as finger painting, sensory bags, water and noodle play. They are becoming more vocal through sign language and gaining balance through baby yoga.

**Preschool
Update
Continued:
Hands on
activities to
support
learning**



To celebrate the completion of the beginning of the year study preschoolers made books based on some of the content they talked about. This study was about making friends, having routines, and learning about the many kinds of families that are in our

**Some thoughts from
School Counselor,
Stephanie Armentano,
LCSW.**

*How do we talk to our kids
and teenagers about COVID?*



Our children and teenagers are hearing information from adults and other kids throughout the day about the CoronaVirus. It is important to make sure that they are hearing not only correct information but that it is also age appropriate. It is important not to expose our little ones or teens to too much news and it is helpful to know how kids might respond when they are experiencing stress or trauma, as it may look different from adults. Littles may have stomach aches, headaches or they may begin to act clingy and moody. Adolescents may become increasingly irritable and may isolate. Kids and teens may not take it upon themselves to initiate a conversation so it is recommended that parents and caregivers periodically check in with their children about these topics. Below is a list of tips endorsed by the National Child Traumatic Stress

Network and the CDC around addressing the pandemic with our kids of all ages.

1. First, find out what your child already knows. For older children, you may ask what they have heard and then ask what questions they have. For younger children, you might say, "Do you have any questions about the sickness that is going around?"
2. Let your kids lead the conversation. They may want to talk about it and they may not, and either is okay!
3. Offer comfort and honesty. Do not offer more detail than your child is interested in. If you don't know the answer to something, say so and find out together.
4. Speak calmly and reassuringly. Explain that most people who get sick feel like they have a cold or a flu. Speak calmly and do not seem upset when speaking about the news, even to others, as your child is always listening.
5. Give your child space to share their fears. Let kids know that they do not seem to get as sick as adults and that they can always come to you with questions.
6. Help kids/adolescents to feel in control. Teach kids that getting plenty of sleep and washing their hands often can help to keep them well. Let them know that doctors have learned a lot about the virus and are working hard to treat people and make them better.
7. Find out what kids are learning from their friends and correct any false or misleading information. For current information check www.cdc.gov/coronavirus
8. Let kids know that it is normal to feel stressed out at times and help them feel empowered to use strategies to reduce their stress. These strategies may include self-care, doing fun activities, playing outside, watching a funny movie or having a nice family meal.

we're *Thankful*

November 1, 2020

Ms. Tourjee's students are thankful for...

my family and Electra, Domino and Emma. - Patricia Nielson
my mom and dad and Sutter and Josiah. (friends) - Gabriel Bourbeau
my dog, Annabelle, and Josiah and Gabriel. (friends) - Sutter Whitten
my whole family which is including my pets. - Bella Pizzini
my teacher, Mrs. Tourjee, and my family. - Ileana Willden
being drug free and for my Mam and Bella. (grandma and friend) - Nya Holgate
my dogs, Annie and Sam. - Oakley Perry
my family including the ones that live far away and my pets. - Daisy Williford

Mrs. Christensen's students give thanks for...

Finn Tarpey-I am thankful for my teacher for everything.
Karsynn Stieglmeyer-I am thankful for my mom and dad because they help me out.
Chevelle Salt-I love my mom and dad because they love me.
Beckett Jones-I am thankful for my dog because he plays fetch with me.
Ryatt Calvillo-I am thankful for my dog because I love him and he is the best dog. I love him.
Everly Vigil-I am thankful for my dog because I love him but he is a little rough.
Lilliana Walker-I am thankful for my grandma because she helps me to do my projects.
Nashiah Begay-I am thankful for my mom because she cooks for me.



Kade - Christmas
Atticus - X-box because
I play it with my dad.
Sean - School
Aleiah - Christmas
Kaydon - American Flag
Litsey - her dog, family
and sister
Ayden - American Flag
Reigan - our country
Bailey - the world
Alex - America Flag
Mrs. Maloney - my
family
from Mrs. Maloney's 3rd
Grade Class

Mrs. Lein's class is thankful for...
Devon: Being able to read alone
Tresdan: School
Loma: It is almost Christmas!
Josh: Christmas!
Hailey: Spend time with my family and cousins
Chanelle: Coloring
Sonia: helping my parents
Sasha: Animals! I want to be a vet.
James: My class!
Creeedence: Having her family and grandma
Aspen: Having her family
Autumn: Halloween!

My students talked about how
they were thankful for the
opportunity to be in school after
missing out on the fourth
quarter last year. They were
thankful for the teachers and
classmates they get to see every
day. They were thankful that we
have been able to stay healthy
so far this year and this year has
felt more or less "normal".
Mr. Werner, Fifth Grade

My class expresses that they are grateful for our school, family and also their
pets. What was profound is one of my students mentioned our first responders
i.e. firefighters who are battling our wildfires. (Parker Petit)
What I am grateful for is my new job here in Dolores. I feel blessed to be working
with such wonderful people and students who have made me feel so welcomed
in the community. Mrs. Knight's Third Grade Class



Mrs. Jones - Fifth Graders

Riley Bullock - I am grateful for video games.

Adelina Shetter - Life!

Aubree Smith-Lively - To have Mrs. Jones as our teacher.

Ryder Goddard - School and teachers

Makala Clifton - I'm grateful for my dog.

Dalon Peterson - To be able to have an education

Victoria Lopez - I'm grateful to have a family and a roof over my head

Kadence Bragg - I am grateful for my moms so they can give me an education.

Zachary Heppler - I am grateful for pizza. I love pizza.

Levi Rantz - I'm grateful for my friends.

Brooke Halencak - I'm grateful for my brother, mother and my dad.

Joseph Padilla - I'm grateful for books.

Blake Jones - I'm grateful for my family.

Mrs. Jones - I am grateful for everyone's health, a wonderful family, and good friends. I am also grateful for the little faces that bless our building everyday with laughter and the eagerness to learn new things.

Miss Hanson's 4th grade class:

Bodie - I am thankful for friends.

Rian - I am thankful for my family.

Maddisyn - I am thankful for my mommy.

Fielder - I am thankful for family and my dog.

Gavin - I am thankful for the school because it is back in and I get to see my friends more than every Friday in the grocery store.

Trenton - I am thankful for BMX and sports.

Sophia - I am thankful for food.

Stella - I am thankful for my family.

JJ - I am thankful for to live.

Myles - I am thankful for my friends.

Emma - I am thankful for my animals.

Brayson - I am thankful for people who fight for our country and family.

Marshal - I am thankful for football and my friends.

Everly - I am thankful for being back in school.

Miss Hanson - I am thankful to be teaching in person.

Mrs. Wade's Kindergarten:

Keaden Albo - my Xbox and my dog

Breckyn Berdzar - my rabbit, my chickens, my ducks, & my snake

Cassidy Edmondson - my family

Neo Holgate - my mom

Kinley Hollen - my dog and my cat

Madison McClure - my friends and my family

Dixie Mecham - my friends and my school

Lukas Rennert - my toys

Memphis Riffle - my fox, my dog, and my cat

Tripp Sturdevant - my dirt bike, and my brother

Kaydence Sutch - my dog

Kaiden Wall - my toys

Josie Wallace - my dad

Braxton Winter -my dirt bike

Mrs. Wade - I am thankful for my family, being able to teach in person, and my health.



Staff is thankful for...

Wonderful family, wonderful friends, wonderful job, wonderful home. I am truly blessed—Lezlie Dibsie

I am most thankful for my children. They teach me, they make me smile, and most of all they keep 1 foot in front of the other—Shauna Wark

I'm grateful for my students who refuse to give up despite the challenges they face each day. However big or small, any progress they make means the world to me. I'm also grateful for their teachers who encourage them not to settle for less than their best. Happy Thanksgiving, Dolores Bears! —Nyibol Bior

I am Thankful that my family is happy and healthy! I am grateful for all my amazing children, who have taught me to be patient and kind and to never give up! I am amazed at the people I work with and how they push our students to be all that they can. But mostly I and humbled to be living this awesome life! —Kim Bailey

I am thankful for all the amazing people I work with each day! They are my inspiration to keep moving forward and making this a year to remember!—Susan Burger

God and Family—Laurie Arnett

I am so grateful for my best friend, Dave to share my life with, six great kids and their spouses, and 13 grandkids! So grateful to be part of the Dolores School District.—Lis Richard

I am Thankful for my Lord and Savior, for my Wonderful Husband and our Three Amazing Boys. I am Thankful for my Family, Friends, our Freedom and Good Health...Truly Blessed! —Shelly Purkat

I am grateful for my parents. They have each had good, long lives and have

Ms. Johnson's third graders are grateful for: friends, family, parents and grandparents, their class and teacher (hey that's me!), the trees and leaves changing color and fun fall activities such as playing in leaf piles and picking apples, carving pumpkins and making autumn art. They are grateful for Halloween and Thanksgiving and how that brings family together they don't often see.

I am grateful for this sweet class of kiddos and their kind hearts.



More from our staff...

taught me so much about being a good parent and modeling a strong healthy marriage. I recognize in both of them that they are service-oriented. In their mid 80's they still visit widows in their community and invite others into their home to curb the loneliness of isolation that sometimes happens with the elderly. What a blessing it has been to have been born into their home.—Alesa Reed

I am extremely thankful for the time I get with all of the students! I am very grateful for the strong relationships I've been able to form with them. I also am glad that I can help nurture the love of reading—Ms. Bridget

Our Geographic Isolation that has limited the spread of the virus, allowing us to reopen in person and remain in person, my job in Dolores, and the MUSIC that brought me here!—Helen Reynolds

I'm so grateful to have found such a great school to work at, wonderful kind and professional co-workers, not to mention the delightful little town of Dolores and the incredible natural beauty on all sides! How blessed I am to now call Dolores my home!—Susan Miller

I am thankful for the decision-makers who found a way to purchase robots for the computer lab. I can't wait to take coding to the next level with our students! I am also thankful for our team of wonderful people who are all pulling in the same direction.—Mr. Juan Vega

I am so grateful for teaching in-person. I am so grateful to all who wear masks and social distance for everyone's safety.—Karen Webster

I am grateful for kind enthusiastic students and dedicated colleagues.—Miriam Baines

I am grateful that staff members and students are demonstrating love, kindness, grace, joy, resilience, perseverance, and strong work ethic during these difficult times.—Lurleen McCormick

I am so grateful for my boys, my country, and my faith. Without God the others are not possible.—Tyler Nielson

I am thankful for the opportunity to work with the staff and students in Dolores.—Mary Weiss

I am thankful for students being so patient and kind through the time I was in quarantine. They worked really hard and were very good for my sub. I am also very thankful for Rylee Kiddoo for stepping in to be my sub during my quarantine.—Mr. Mike Nielson

I am grateful to be back in the classroom teaching and I am grateful to be working with a SUPER AWESOME middle school team.—Lisa Vaughn

I am thankful we are going to make it through Homecoming week without being Quarantined!—Laura Cranmer

All year I am grateful for:

Life - every morning that I open my eyes and have another opportunity to experience a new day.

Love.

Family.

Friends.

Good health.

Freedom.

The opportunity to make positive contributions to society.—

Elisa Olson

Secondary students are grateful for...

- ✦ my friends
- ✦ lunch
- ✦ having a cheer team this year.
- ✦ that the school is open.
- ✦ having great teachers and a good education.
- ✦ having good friends
- ✦ the great school I can go to.
- ✦ that I have a loving group of friends to come to every day at school.
- ✦ having a sports season.
- ✦ being in school
- ✦ my friends and the weird stuff they do.
- ✦ being happy.
- ✦ my friends and family that supports me
- ✦ living in the USA and to be alive
- ✦ My clothes
- ✦ warm place to sleep, because not all people have that.
- ✦ my education
- ✦ for soup, I like soup.
- ✦ flowers cause they make me feel a little more happy
- ✦ to be happy all the time
- ✦ teachers, cause they work way to hard and deal with way too much and are underpaid
- ✦ my friends and family.
- ✦ neuroplasticity! I get to change my mind.
- ✦ for food, especially crab legs.
- ✦ for football.
- ✦ for Technology
- ✦ my animals and friends.



I am grateful for my family having food and shelter. - Reanen B. - 7th grade

I am grateful for hunting season. Rabbit hunting. - Wyatt W. - 7th grade

Snow - Ayden O. - 9th grade

Being alive. - Neiko M. - 9th grade

I am grateful for friends and family for always being there to listen. - Hailey Melvin - 10th grade

I'm grateful for snow days. - Maggie M. - 10th

I am grateful for my friends, my Best Friend Sharma, family, pets, a roof over my head, food on my plate, and a good family. - Katalina M. - 10th grade.



Congratulations to our 2020-21 Homecoming Royalty:

Freshmen:

Kayla Tallmadge and Dylan Koskie

Sophomores:

Akima Edwards and Ethen Robson

Juniors:

Delpha Houston and Gabe Allred

Seniors:

Grace Burress, Akira Edwards, Sydney Smith, Ryan
Nowlin, Kevin Purkat and Tim Wyman

Senior King and Queen will be announced at the Homecoming Football Game on October 30. The next edition of *Bear Essentials* will feature pictures and highlights.



Is your child struggling?

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

[Click Here](#)



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 full time paraprofessional. If interested, please call 970-882-7255.

Elementary School Secretary: DES is seeking a secretary for the front office. This position is critically important to the operations of the elementary. If interested, please call the district office at 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.

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.
