



LITTLE BEARS' WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

The vision of Dolores Elementary School is to provide an educational foundation that fosters personal success through an innovative and positive learning environment.

Upcoming events:

- **Oct. 30th** – No School
- **Nov. 1st** – Daylight Saving Time ends
- **Nov. 5th** at 6:00 PM – Board of Education meeting.
- **Nov. 11th** – Veteran's Day – School in Session
- **Nov. 12th** – Thanksgiving feast for students only in cafeteria and Mrs. Shue's last day
- **Nov. 13th** – No School (Professional Development for Teachers)
- **Nov. 18th** – Picture Retakes
- **Nov. 23-27** – Thanksgiving Break
- **Nov. 30th** at 5:30 via Google Meet – Next District Accountability Committee (DAC) meeting. For information, go to our district website:
<https://doloresschools.org/district-accountability-committee/>
- **Dec. 3rd** at 6:00 to 7:00 pm – **Virtual Parent night** to educate ourselves about the dangers of drug abuse for our children

Current Lost and Found items:



Principal's Corner

Dear Little Bear Families,

We had a wonderful Red Ribbon week full of informative activities and substance abuse awareness events! We are so proud of students, staff members, and parents who made the commitment to stay drug free, and we thank everyone who continued the conversations to answer questions and share ideas for fun activities to do instead of drugs. We are so grateful for you all! I also want to acknowledge that many families are affected by loved ones with substance abuse issues, and we



respect the difficulties that brings and hope you will reach out for support if needed. Please see our Counselor's message for more information.

We also had lots of fun during our Halloween events this week, and I hope you enjoy the pictures! Our building was so full of contagious energy, I had even more fun than the children! I cannot apologize enough for the Covid restrictions in place for parents, but we were very grateful for parents who volunteered to help with our outdoor activities and for those who cheered on our paraders! Thanks for all the yummy treat donations, as well! Our Little Bears were beaming, and seemed to enjoy all the festivities!



As we look forward to Thanksgiving, I am going to share an email below sent by our amazing Art Teacher, Kevin Vaughn. His words reminded me of how grateful I am to be part of Dolores Elementary everyday! Thanks so much for being part of our family, as well, and we hope you all enjoy a safe and fun weekend!

Warmly,
Lurleen McCormick





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Erin Schomacher was born and raised in Connecticut and came to Colorado in 2016 to be closer to family and enjoy the amazing outdoor opportunities. She has owned and run her own business in personal wellness and life coaching for over a decade, helping people overcome obstacles that prevent them from



being their truly authentic self. In addition to her wellness practice she has been a cross country and track & field coach for eighteen years. She is currently our Elementary secretary and her husband was working in the Secondary school. Together they coached High School and Middle School cross country and track & field. Their son is a fourth grader in Dolores, as well. Erin loves our district very much, but their family has decided to return to Connecticut at the end of the month. Her last day with us will be November 12th. Please join me in wishing them well with their family move and new adventures, and in thanking them for their tremendous support and service to our students and community. We will miss our delightful Mrs. Shoe more than words can say!



Dear Colleagues,

This morning I attended a virtual meeting of the Commissioner's Teacher Cabinet. Dr. Anthes, along with several CDE staff members, provided us with an update concerning: the teacher shortage and teacher retention, the READ Act, teacher effectiveness and accountability, and how each issue has been affected by the COVID situation. As with all the meetings I've attended in the past, it was great to be able to provide not only my personal perspective, but to have the opportunity to share what I've heard from many of you here in our district and my teacher friends in neighboring districts as well.

There wasn't much information of which I was unaware, but what I did take away from this meeting, and wanted to share with all of you, is how fortunate we are to be teaching here in Dolores.

With some twenty teachers representing various areas from across the state, I learned that several districts started, and continue to be, teaching remotely. We know what a struggle that is. Many districts have some sort of hybrid model - i.e. teaching one section (half the class) two days a week and the other section the other two days, keeping the fifth day for remote learning for all [from my math it would be difficult to cover more than 50% of the curriculum that way]. There were stories of classrooms with students coming and going due to having been quarantined, and how difficult it was to keep those students up to date on a daily basis whether in or out of school [some accounts sounded like it was a revolving door in their district]. And, one member attended the meeting from a friend's home, as his district was one of two that have been evacuated due to the wild fires. He doesn't know if his house is still standing, but he did mention that there were teachers that have already lost their homes. To hear the personal stories presented this morning was almost heartbreaking.

I understand we've had our own trials, tribulations, and difficulties, and will continue to have them for sure. But, from my perspective, it seems that we have been handling them all professionally, and I feel blessed to be here, face-to-face for the vast majority of our students AND providing for those who chose remote learning as well. Thanks to those of you who worked so hard to make this happen, and to ALL of you who, through your vigilance and dedication, continue to make it happen. I'm so very impressed with those I am privileged to call my peers in education. Thank you once again for allowing me to continue to work with each and every one of you.

Kevin Vaughn
Elementary Art
Dolores Elementary School



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Counselor's Corner

Hello Little Bear Families!

This week we have had a great time celebrating **Red Ribbon Week**. I appreciate all the parent and teacher support. The kids have learned from their teachers, worn their bracelets, made their pledges, tied their ribbons, taken their pictures and paraded their support! What fun! We received 70 poster entries! Wonderful stuff. I would be amiss if I did not give a big shout out to Keely McClain, Tiffany Nichols and Brooke Riffle for their help to make this week a success. Our PTA also pitched in the funding and all of the teachers and staff helped the kids do the daily activities esp. Debbie Hite who organized the Poster Judging and put up all the pledges and posters around the school! Thanks so much to everyone who helped!

On the tails of Red Ribbon week, I'd like to clear up a common myth that leads to phenomenal increases in and susceptibility to substance abuse in our youth. That myth is that putting them on medication for significant mental health needs will lead to later substance abuse and addictions. You have the right to know that the exact opposite is true. The research proving this has continued to accrue for nearly half a century now! Most children, teens and adults who suffer from substance abuse and addictions of all kinds are invariably self medicating UNdiagnosed and UNTreated mental health issues. If you are a parent who used to suffer from an addiction or if you still do . . . think about what you were self medicating and how your life would have been different if the urge to self medicate were slashed in half or even if you just knew it wasn't your fault??

Other Announcements:

Be Drug Free:



Tying Red Ribbons to stay drug free:



We "mustache" you to stay drug free photo booth:





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Very rarely is it simply peer pressure. If there is no underlying neurological need, most people who experiment can walk away, (unfortunately the younger they are, the less true that will be). Proper diagnosis, and treatment of any kind, whether pharmacological, neurological or even natural in nature, leads to various degrees of help and healing! A diagnosis alone will help a child separate themselves and their nature from the disorder. This is when the shame and blame can be shaken off . . . NOT by denying and hiding it.

Pharmaceutical industries as well as other empirically sound treatment industries benefit to be sure, but they are enterprises that lead to some degree of healing for the patient. Addiction industries on the other hand, benefit financially at phenomenally higher rates . . . but to the profound detriment of those in greatest need. What senseless sorrow! We would like to have a PARENT NIGHT to discuss the etiology and repercussions of drug abuse and addiction – especially for the youngest of our children. Please start by saving the date of Thursday December 3rd from 6–7 pm for an online parent night via zoom. We will be sending out the link for you soon. Officer Green and our nurse, Ms. Brisbin will be helping with the presentation.

Sincerely,
Susan Leavitt Miller

Thanks to Vance Feast for donating 150 pumpkins for our Kindergarten students to enjoy!



Garden Education Continues with AmeriCorps Volunteer Ms. Rachel:





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THE DOLORES PUBLIC LIBRARY PRESENTS

THE GARDEN OF UNEARTHLY DELIGHTS

October 31st, 2020

4pm - 7pm

1002 Railroad Ave. Dolores, CO



Please join us for treats and terrors in the library's haunted garden!

All ages are welcome to this socially distanced outdoor event.
The use of CDC approved masks is strongly encouraged.

Please call 970-882-4127 or email cheyenne@doloreslibrary.org if you have any questions!



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Valve



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is a safe space

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