



## 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.

### In the news...



Membership drive for Elementary PTA. Please look for a membership form to come home with your student Next week. A gift basket drawing will be made in February for all paid members. **PTA Meeting Thursday, February 18th at 4:00 PM. Location to be determined and virtual invitation to be sent out closer to the date.** Virtual Book Fair coming to Dolores Elementary March 1st-12th. Please look for more information to come home with your student very soon! **PTA Book Swap is COMING March 25th! 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 March 10th to be eligible to trade. Book swap will happen on March 25th for Spring Break reading. Chapter books are needed.**

### Upcoming events:

- Feb. 26th - No School
- March 2nd - Elementary Parent/Teacher conferences from 4:00 to 7:00.
- March 4th - Elementary Parent/Teacher conferences continue from 4:00 to 7:00.
- March 1st-12th - Elementary PTA Virtual Book Fair
- March 10th - Last day to turn in 3 books for PTA's upcoming Book Swap
- March 25th - Elementary PTA's Book Swap
- March 26th - No School - First day of Spring Break
- April 5th - First day back after Spring Break

### Principal's Corner

Dear Little Bear Families,

I am so proud of our students and staff members for making hundreds of Valentines for our local Veterans. We especially appreciate Ms. Hite and the Outreach Center for giving us this opportunity to express our love and thanks and for delivering them to our area Veterans. We also had lots of fun with several Valentine's Day parties, and I loved seeing the love our Little Bears shared!

Ms. Hite has also organized a way for our High School Seniors to feel recognized and supported. She assigned each of our homerooms a HS Senior to sponsor. Homerooms have had creative ideas to connect and value their Seniors like meeting outside for meet and greets and making gifts like Valentine baskets with treats, cards, and gifts. It's a great way to Spotlight and honor our HS Seniors and for our students to honor the success of others and inspire them to look forward to their own Senior year!

We are excited to announce this year's 5th grade Student Council Members and Officers: Emilyynn Hill, President; Tenley Bryan, Vice President; Tori Lopez, Secretary; Matthew Vega, Treasurer; Levi Rantz, Student Leadership Member; and Mikki Robertson, Publicist. These students met and decided that their goals are to: organize a school-wide community service project, gather information to make a donation of something special to our school, set some school spirit days, learn how to run a meeting, and develop communication and leadership skills. We are very grateful to Ms. Elder for being their sponsor and supporter! Ms. Elder has also organized and started practices for a 5th grade Archery Tournament! We are thrilled to have such an outdoor enthusiast and outdoor learning advocate on our team, and you can read more about her endeavours in an upcoming Cortez Journal issue!

It is with mixed emotions that I announce a couple of staff changes. Ms. Russell and Ms. Ramsay are both



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Please remember that Parents and Community Members can keep up with District news by checking out our District's **Bear Essentials** Newsletters linked below:

[February 2021 Newsletter](#)

[Holiday Edition December 2020](#)

[November 2020 Newsletter](#)

[October 2020 Newsletter](#)

[September 2020 Newsletter](#)

[August 2020 Newsletter](#)

[Summer 2020 Newsletter](#)

leaving our team after having served our district for almost 10 years each. Both have moved out of our area and are looking forward to serving new schools in their new areas. We wish them the best, and we held appreciation celebrations for our staff and students to be able to say goodbye and express their love and gratitude before these beloved employees left to pursue their new adventures elsewhere. Ms. Russell is leaving her 5th grade classroom in the capable hands of Ms. Forse, and Ms. Ramsay is leaving her OT clients in the capable hands of Ms. Guilfoyle. We are thrilled to welcome them both to our team along with Mr. Schaper as our new additional Learning Resource teacher!

Many of our staff members were grateful to receive our first round of Covid vaccinations on Thursday, and we will hope this helps in decreasing the risk of exposure within our school and community.

We are also looking forward to our Elementary Parent/Teacher conferences on Tuesday, March 2nd, and Thursday, March 4th from 4:00 to 7:00. Teachers should be contacting you soon to schedule those meetings. Thank you in advance for attending; and please remember that masks are required for all indoor meetings, and we can make arrangements for outdoor meetings if you prefer not to wear a mask or just prefer not to come into the building. We look forward to seeing you!

Warmly,  
Lurleen McCormick

### Valentine's for Veterans. Thank you and we love you!



## Counselor's Corner

Hello Little Bear Families!

We will start on the higher level social skills this month. Specifically, Collaborative Problem Solving, by Dr. Ross Green. It's a simple way of negotiating with kids and for them to learn negotiating skills with friends and teachers as well. Most of the time kids throw a fit because they can't fathom that both parties' needs can be satisfied. They are discouraged because they think they will never get their way. CPS is a way to teach them to have Both empathy for the other party (i.e. you, their teacher, or their friends), AND empowerment for their own

## **Other Announcements**

High School Seniors gifts from homeroom sponsors:





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underlying wants and needs.

When there is a conflict, you simply teach them to ask why they want what they want, until you both figure out the "underlying concerns." But why don't you want to do your homework right after school? Is a good example. For the child it's usually because they are too tired after a long day at school, or they are afraid their friends won't be able to play later. For the parent it's usually because they don't trust it will get done and it's their job to make sure the child learns.

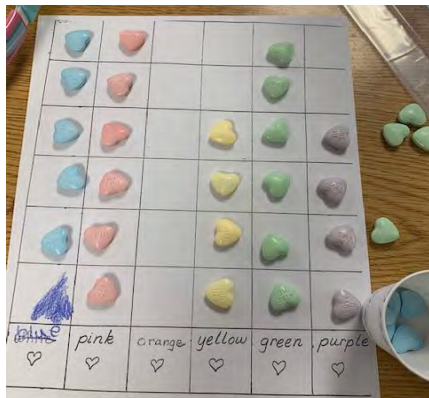
So then you brainstorm ways to give the child a break, or make sure they get to play with friends and still prove to the parent they are learning what is needed. Ideas such as: 1-do 3 problems first, then play and finish the rest after dinner. 2-Do homework first one day and play first the next. 3-Do homework with a friend, etc. When you find a solution that meets the underlying concerns of both parties, you give it a shot. If it doesn't work (maybe they get too distracted doing homework with friends, or they get the first three problems wrong every time) you can always try your other ideas, or brainstorm some more.

It reinforces the resilience we have been working on all year: "We haven't found a solution we both like YET. What ELSE can we try? And who is capable of not giving up until we find a good solution? WE are!

Dr. Green has great training videos for both parents and teachers. Check it out at [livesinthebalance.org](http://livesinthebalance.org).

Sincerely,  
Susan Leavitt Miller

## First grade's math graphing activity:



## Farewell and Gratitude parade for Ms. Russell:





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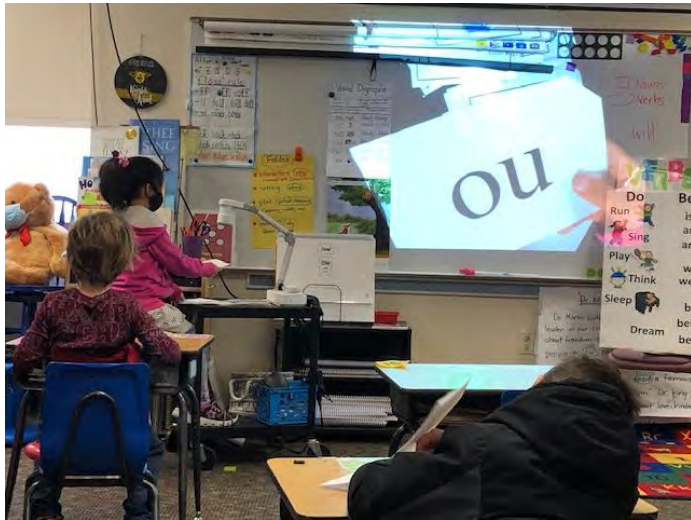
First grade's Peek at their Presidential Portrait Gallery:



Gratitude and Farewell celebration for Ms. Ramsay:



Student led instruction:



Student Council Members learn the importance of handling the Flag of the United States of America as they undertake the responsibility of raising it and lowering it daily:

PBIS Bear Paw prize winners and guests enjoying the rewards of exceptional behavior...





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More PBIS Bear Paw prize winners and guests enjoying the rewards of exceptional behavior...



Mask fatigue affects us all. Please be patient with us as most of us are feeling a little worn out at the end of the school day.

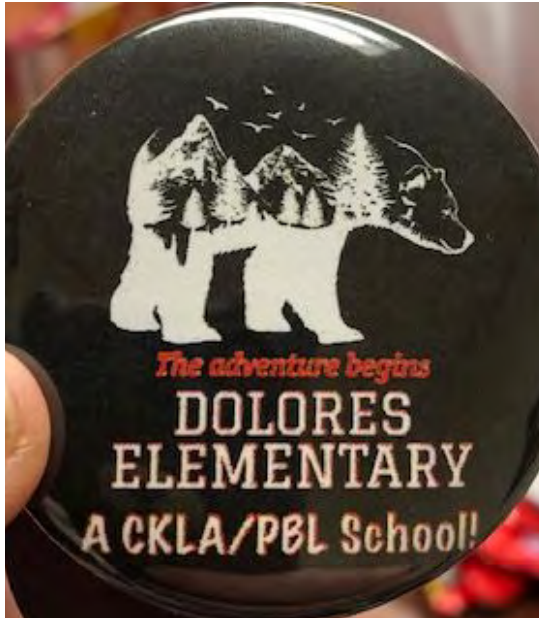


Outdoor learning is Snow much fun!





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PE students are jumping at the chance to show off jump rope skills:



Staff members participated in a full day of PBL (Project Based Learning) professional development on Friday to compliment our Core Knowledge curriculum. We thank the district for contributing \$500 towards supplies for each classroom!





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