



## 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...

Link to our district's approved  
[2021-2022 Calendar](#)

### Bags O'Golden Treats:



### Principal's Corner

Dear Little Bear Families,

We are thrilled to offer our congratulations to the winners of **February's** (colleague selected) **Star Staff Member Award** for exceeding expectations and reaching students: **Brooke Elder and Kate Lein!!** Along with an honorable mention in our weekly Galloping Goose Newsletter, they will also each receive a certificate of recognition and a \$25 gift certificate to a local merchant!

We are excited to read a new children's book by our High School Teacher, **Nyibol Bior!** It's called **My Beautiful Colors: A Refugee Story** and is available to order by calling **Dorrance Publishing at 1800-788-7654**. Thanks to an anonymous donor, each classroom will get their own signed copy; and Ms. Bior has graciously offered to schedule readings with our classes, as well!

We are so grateful for all of our staff members contributing funds to help make our HS Seniors feel valued and honored on St. Patrick's Day! **Ms. Debbie Hite organized and filled a "Bag o' Golden Treats"** for each senior with special tokens of appreciation and notes from their sponsoring students. We are over the rainbow proud of these future graduates for persevering during a pandemic and hope the little golden treat bag brightened their day!

Many of our staff have completed the Covid vaccinations. We are relieved to hear that the number of cases are dropping in our community, and we are hoping that we can start allowing parents back in the building next year. Our staff members miss the support and involvement so much, and I am eager to get to know everyone! Please remember that registered volunteers are still welcome to support any outside event and recess activities. We appreciate those of you who have joined us and helped, especially with field trips!

Finally, we were delighted to have the **Teddy Bears** visit our Specials classes and hope they all felt welcome! We are excited to offer our **Kindergarten Round-Up registration event April 22 from noon to 6:00**, where we hope to meet other future Kindergarten students from our community! More details will be coming soon!

Warmly,  
Lurleen McCormick



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### Upcoming events:

- **March 24** - Class Picture Day
- **March 25th** - Elementary PTA's Book Swap
- **March 26th** - No School - First day of Spring Break
- **April 5th** - First day back after Spring Break
- **April 8-** 6:00 pm-8:00 pm in the District Office Board Room
- **April 9th-** Backwards Clothing Day
- **April 16th-** Teacher work day; No school
- **April 30th-** No school

February Star Staff Members, Wendy Moore and Brooke Elder



### Counselor's Corner

Hello Little Bear Families!

One of the most insidious "bully thoughts" that causes untold numbers of adults and children alike to wallow in misery and frustration is the belief that, "Things have to be fair!" Yet we often hear ourselves telling our children, "Life's not fair!" with a deal with it tone and flair. So I need to explain myself when I tell you that in this month's 2nd lesson I will be teaching your children that life is, in fact, fair.

We have worked all year on resilience, the most important aspect of that being that we can be patient and wait for good things to happen. If we wait long enough, we will see that in the end, it really is fair. In the meantime we can examine what "else" we get out of the unfair situation that makes us stronger and wiser. And getting stronger and wiser and handling things with grace when they are not fair will be the prize that in actuality does make it fair in the end.

My brother was paralyzed at age 16 from his neck down. Was that fair? No. He would dream that he was running and riding bulls again in the rodeos and then wake up to his new reality. But he worked with what he had. He made many friends who would come play board games with him for hours on end. He learned to use a voice activated computer and wrote short stories and novels. He got a degree in journalism. And one month before he sadly

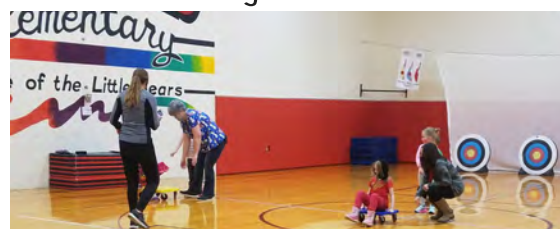


### Other Announcements

4th Grade Virtual Field Trip



Teddy Bear visit:

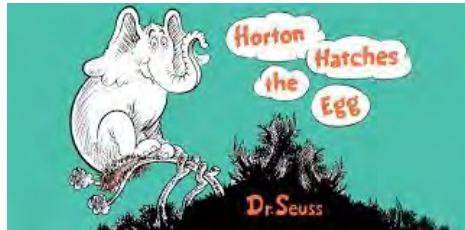




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passed away, he received his acceptance into law school. If you use the "opportunity" of the injustices to improve and progress, you end up emotionally invincible. My brother never got depressed. Who is capable of handling anything that's unfair? The kids can point to themselves and say, "me!"

We'll be reading Horton the Elephant Hatches an Egg, by Dr. Seuss. As we read we'll list all the characteristics of both Maizy, the Lazy Bird, and Horton.



When the story is done, the board is covered with words like, honest, responsible, committed, sacrificing, kind, enduring, patient, accommodating, etc. under Horton's name . . . and words like, selfish, mean, impatient, manipulative, irritable, angry, under Maizy's name. The story is unfair all the way through, but in the end, Horton ends up with the baby bird. The story is made to be fair in the end. But I have the students pretend that the story is real and that the judge awards the baby bird to Maizy., which would probably be the case. That would not be fair.

However . . . we read the list of words under each character's name and see that Maizy gets the baby bird, but will she be happy? Will it be any easier for her to take care of her baby now that it has hatched than it was when she was just sitting on the egg? Or will it be harder for her now? Will she be even more dissatisfied and discontent? And Horton does not get the baby bird, which is sad. But will he be able to be happy no matter what trials come his way? Has he become impervious to hardship? Of course! Not only will he be happy still, he will probably have the patience and creativity to wait for his opportunity to offer to babysit for Maizy. Since there is no stimulation in the drama of fighting for the baby, it will be boring for her and she might just relinquish her rights after all.

We will discuss who wants Maizy for a parent? Who wants Horton? Who would hire Maizy to work for them? Who would hire Horton? Who . . . if they had an amazing opportunity to offer to someone, would they offer it to Maizy? And who would offer it to Horton? It doesn't take long for the students to realize that it is absolutely fair in the end! And it is

### Teddy Bear visit:



### PBIS Bear PAWS ticket winner enjoys lunch at Depot with a friend and Principal McCormick:





## LITTLE BEARS' WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

definitely worth their while to handle the injustices in their lives with patience and grace. It doesn't mean they can't fight for things to be literally fair . . . but they will see that if they do it with creativity and resilience, they will be much more successful than if they waste their time whining and complaining and demanding hopelessly that someone else swoops in and fixes it for them.

We play hangman. I give team #1 a very easy short word and I give them hints. I give team #2 an impossibly long word with no hints. I ask, is that fair? Can team #2 handle it if it's not fair? When team #1 guesses the right word, I pull out a fun decorated party bag with their prize in it. This represents Maizy and the easy fun time she had. Then I pull out a wrinkled, smashed brown paper bag for team two. That represents Horton and the hardship he had to endure. In the party bag? Dry beans. In the crumpled bag are . . . ta da . . . starburst candies! Now I ask team one if they can handle not getting any candy . . . and almost always they say yes because it "really was fair!" At that point I give everyone a candy . . . not to rescue them . . . but because they realized the truth: that if you learn to handle life's injustices, if you can reply to the bully thought "It has to be fair" by saying, "I don't care if it's not fair!" . . . then it really will be fair in the end!

Sincerely,  
Susan Leavitt Miller

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The Little Bear Adventure Room is a wonderful place to build relationships and have some fun! The HS Art class is painting a mural to make the room even livelier, too!

Reading to furry friends at the Medicine Horse Center:





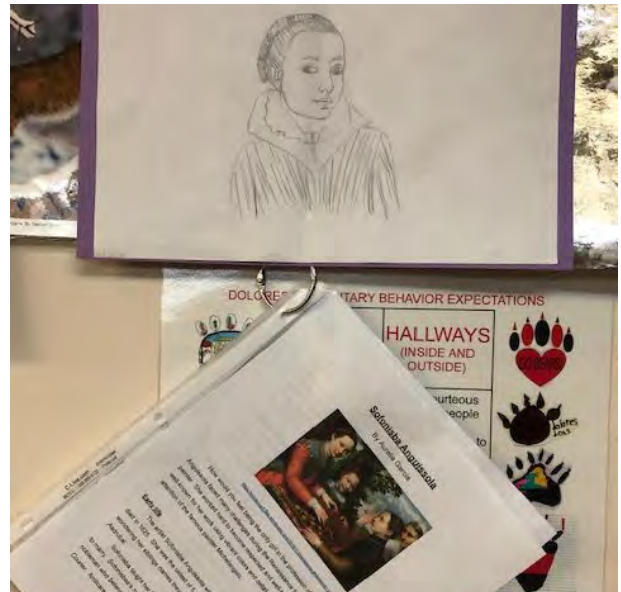
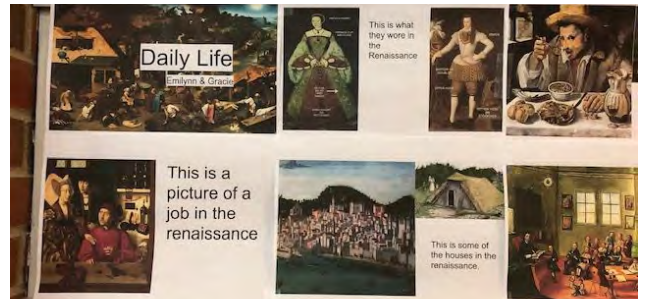
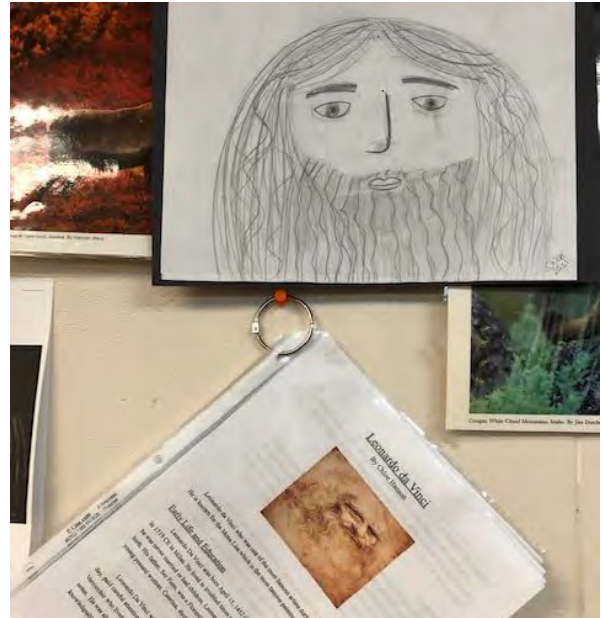
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DES Student Council Members are honored at School Board Meeting:



## 5th Grade CKLA projects:

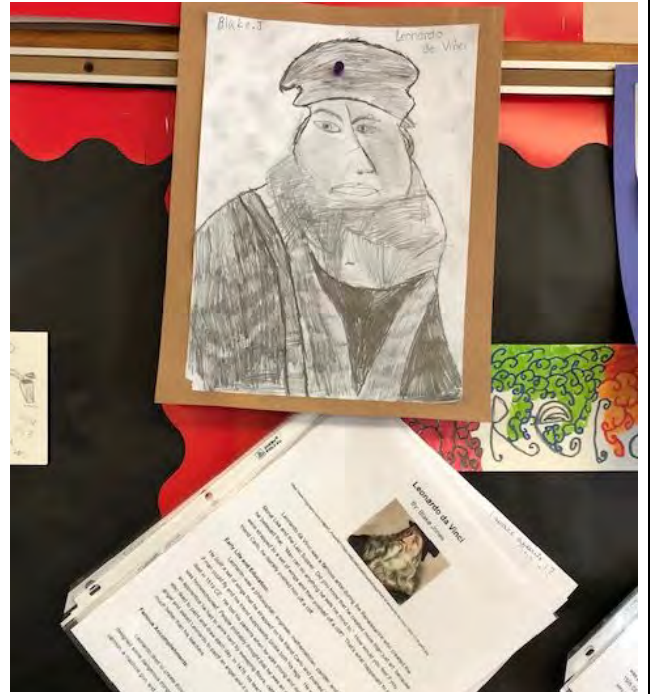
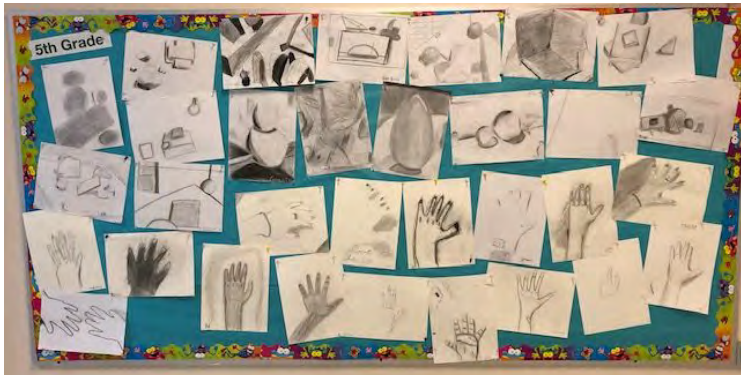




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## 5th Grade Art:



**Character Dress Up day was a blast!**



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