



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...

Unfortunately, the **BOCES Summer Enrichment Program will not be provided** as we had hoped. Thank you to all those who applied, the BOCES team for their efforts and hopes, and to Helen Reynolds and Tom Schaper for their assistance with the applications. We do not have an alternative plan for the Dolores IEP students at this point. We have struggled to staff programming this summer, as many educators feel they needed a break after this challenging year. BOCES does have several staff members embedded into the Pinon Project programming for the summer; however, and they offer an amazing range of activities throughout the entire summer. This may be an option for families who don't already know about their expansive offerings. We can't speak to the availability of this program, but the website is <https://www.pinonproject.org/> and contact number is **970-564-1195** if families want to explore options.

Our Dolores Elementary summer sessions are full with Director Kristin Peja, and those offerings will be provided as scheduled. **Ms. Peja has already been in contact with the families enrolled** to share details, and we hope they enjoy their summer learning under her **much appreciated leadership!**

In the fall, we will change things a little by having an **"Open House-Welcome Back to School"** morning on our **First Day of School, August 16th**. Parents will be welcomed into the building to take students and supplies to classrooms and join us for a parents' informational meet and greet and tour of the school. We will have the same parent meeting that afternoon for those who can't join us in the morning. Please **save the date and look for more details to be sent** out prior to the start of school.

Also, our Elementary School **Start and Dismissal Times for 2021-2022 School Year will change to 8:00am - 3:40pm**. Secondary times are 7:45 to 3:50.

Principal's Corner

Dear Little Bear Families,

So many emotions come to the surface as I reflect on this past school year, and I'm really struggling to express myself. As I try, please know that it's with tears of gratitude filling my eyes.

First, I still feel so very privileged to be welcomed into this community in the middle of a pandemic, and I'm extremely honored by the support from our district, our Little Bear staff members, students, and families. As I started the year with our "Adventure Begins" school theme, I loved being closer to my son and his wife in Durango, and then I completely fell in love with the people and area of Dolores! I have to share that your students are the most respectful, caring, and loving children that I've ever had the privilege of serving as a whole group. I am so grateful for every single one of them, and I'm really looking forward to next year when I can get to know more parents better, too!

I'm also so grateful that we were one of the few schools nationwide that was able to stay open for in-person learning the whole school year without any full-school closures. Kudos to our elementary students, staff members, and families; and, especially, to our District Nurse, Denese Brisbin, for her excellent guidance and safety protocols! Denese worked tireless hours during and after school to prepare our protocols, guide our implementation, hold us accountable, answer questions, stay updated with the changing regulations, and field countless phone calls from those seeking advice (including me). I think she deserves a National award for her accomplishments while still caring and loving our students the whole time, too! Denese has been an amazing contributor to our whole districts' health needs and will be missed greatly next year. I'm thrilled that our new district nurse, Jennifer Gaddis, has made time to come into the building during the last few



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August at a glance: Elementary's Open House and Back-to-school event is the 16th:

		AUGUST '21						
		S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
9	Staff Returns (Pre-service 9-13)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
10	MS Student/Parent Orientation	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
12	HS Student Orientation	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
16	First Day PK-5, 9-12	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	Sixth Grade Only	29	30	31				
17	Seventh Grade Only							
18	Eighth Grade Only							
19	All MS Students							

Please see this linked [Elementary Supply List](#) for student supplies needed for 2021-2022 classes for all elementary grades. Thank you Debbie Hite and Ashley Schrage for eliminating the need for many requested items by sorting through our current inventory! Parents, please bring your students supplies on the first day of school during our Open house. Your contributions are greatly appreciated!

To help inspire summer reading, please know that all students who read **20 or more books** over summer (with a parent verification signature) will be entered into a drawing for prizes the first week of school!

Counselor's Corner

Hello Little Bear Families!
I can't believe the year is over and more importantly I can't believe how much I have come to know and love your children! They are darling, amazing, empathic, hilarious, and smart. We spent most of the year working on resilient thinking! Now that your children have come home with their grades for the year, you can help them put that resilience to good use. When they come home with satisfactory grades, complement them on their hard work, as well as their capability (Personal). Let them know that because they did well in school, they will do well in other areas of their life too (Pervasive).

months and train with Denese. I'm confident that she is well informed and ready for a successful start to the new school year with us in the fall!

I was saddened to hear that our Superintendent, Lis Richard, will also not be returning in the fall, as I am extremely grateful for her guidance and support this year. I will join with my fellow Little Bears who wish her well with her future endeavours. I am excited that our Elementary Team is heading into summer fully staffed, and I am very grateful to start the year with so many seasoned professionals, especially with a new Superintendent coming on board. Ms. Richard has definitely set us up for success, and I'm committed to doing my part to provide all students with the opportunity to reach their potential and keep us climbing toward academic excellence and whole child wellness.

I hope you and your family find some great learning opportunities this summer and enjoy a wonderful, restful, summer of adventures to treasure! Thank you all for an amazing year of Adventure as your Elementary School Principal!

Warmly,
Lurleen McCormick



Other Announcements

Many thanks to Kim Sheek and her high school Art Class for their amazing work in adding this beautiful scene in our "Little Bear Adventure Area" which is used for sensory needs throughout the day.

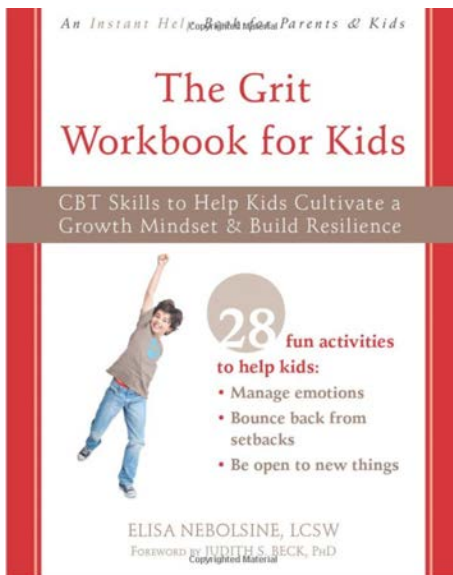
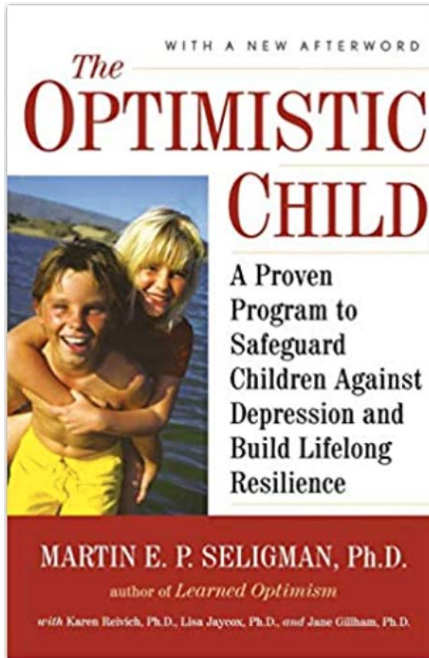




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When they come home with unsatisfactory grades on the other hand, help them to see that it is temporary. "They haven't improved YET." (Not permanent) and that you can try different ways to learn, or different methods of helping to remember to get homework done first. Also discuss what ELSE they have been successful at, sports, kindness, empathy, appreciation, fun, etc. (Not Pervasive). You will see that speaking resiliently with your children helps them to know you believe in them and it strengthens your relationships.

If you would like a good summer read to help you understand the resilient thinking paradigm better, then try Dr. Seligman's book, *The Optimistic Child*. It was published a while ago, along with his original book, *Learned Optimism*. All his books since then are good. Also remember the spin offs from his former students like, Karen



Reivich (Resilience Factor) Carol Dweck (Growth Mindset), and Grit (Angela Duckworth) are all just semantic twists on the same thinking paradigm. It's powerful stuff, and the research on how effective it can be keeps building; but it needs to be practiced, modeled, and utilized in real life situations. That's where you

come in!



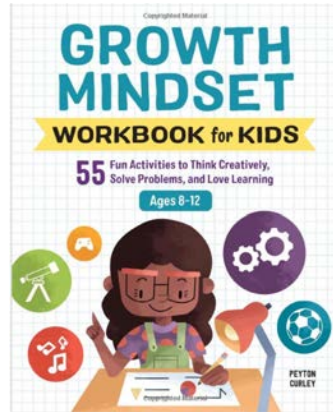
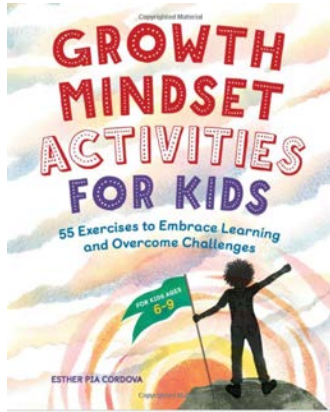
So grateful for Wendy Moore's 20+ years of service, & we hope she enjoys every minute of her retirement!





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Make your summer a resilient one and you kids will bounce back in the fall stronger than ever!



Sincerely,
Susan Leavitt Miller

