

# **GALLOPING GOOSE EXPRESS IS BACK**

**SEPTEMBER 15, 2022**

PHONE NUMBERS: K-5 882-4688 MS/HS 882-7288 PS 882-7277 BUS 882-2649

## **A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL:**

A Note from Dr. Thornton

What an exciting and busy year this is starting out to be. I have enjoyed meeting many of you in the car lines, at the school, and around town. Please continue to help me as I learn your names.

As you likely have heard, one area we are stressing this year in Reading. We are doing this in many ways. The most obvious is through a collective effort to provide small reading groups first thing in the morning for all staff and students. At home, you can help as well.

Several hints include:

- Set and adhere to a weekly reading time with your child. A common time is the “bedtime story.” If you read to your child, let them see the print and follow your finger along the text as you read. If the book is easy enough for your child to read, encourage them and help sound out words and learn vocabulary as appropriate. This can easily include your looking up an unfamiliar word.
- Discuss the books or stories with your children. If there is an affinity for a particular type of book, try to include more of those in your reading time. Try a book on topics your children enjoy.
- Keep a visual, sticker chart or similar item, for each book your child reads to you. Express pride for their progress; make it a “big deal.” This can help build confidence as your son or daughter reads.
- If you are not sure where or how to start, ask your child’s teacher or a librarian. There are lots of options.

Another subject we are addressing this year is improving our math scores. The teachers are making a directed effort to plan around deficiencies found in math performance. We are hoping to “double down” on instruction around any weaknesses. This is just the beginning of our efforts toward improving math scores. We hope to examine various programs and staff development options available for our teachers and ultimately your students’ success.

The greatest impact on student success comes from the home. Through your support for the school’s efforts to provide good education, your children will reap benefits and take learning seriously. Make sure you send your children to school each day. The time they spend “on task” is the number one indicator of student success. Missing days hinders this, and your efforts to get your child to school each day have a great impact on the child’s academic improvements.

I want you all to be aware of a negative trend impacting public schools over the past two years. There have been a series of destructive behaviors posed to the nation’s children through social media, most commonly through TikTok. Challenges of destruction toward the school facility, safety of others, and even violence against school staff have been presented to children accessing TikTok. This behavior shows up at schools throughout the nation and damage to the facilities happens, or negative behaviors are levied toward others. This is not something you or I want or will accept for Dolores Elementary. Our students must have clean and safe places of learning. I am asking for your help in making sure our children do not get influenced by these negative social media impacts. Some actions you may take to help include:

- Discussing with your child the value of our public schools and the need to be good stewards of our buildings.
- Letting your child know how the internet/social media does not always reflect appropriate or acceptable behavior.
- Clearly letting your child know expectations are for responsible, good behavior and to refrain from being negatively influenced by social media.
- Monitor/limit your child’s activity on the internet.
- Model and teach respect for schools, education, teachers, and authority.

I again want to say thank you for welcoming me. I find the people, community, and area to be a wonderful haven from the world around us. Let's all do what we can to help the little bears grow into strong future members of society.

## **P.E. TIME WITH MRS. ELDER**

Dolores Elementary



**Our second year of Mileage Club is up and running (pun intended) now during lunch recess!**

**Kids have the option to run or walk (or skip...we're not picky) laps to earn prizes and get fit. Some kids opt for other fun movement activities at recess...no pressure with this club.**

**Watch the video below to see how our new system will work: <https://youtu.be/f7thx4q7Yl4>**

or...ask your student about it, they are the experts.

**The DES Mileage Club benefits your students in the classroom and on the playground with –**

- Effectively getting kids more active, reduces obesity, and gets kids' brains engaged!
- Students that are more focused with increased learning readiness.
- Students can maintain proper social distancing while staying active.
- Reduced playground hassles.
- Another avenue of activity.
- Students can earn fun Toe Token incentives!

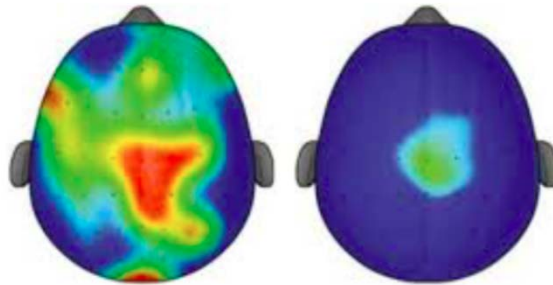


\*A BIG shout out to the [Dolores State Bank](#) and our local [Dolores Rotary Club](#) for sponsoring our Mileage Club! They helped make this happen by purchasing our QR scanner cards, and our card lanyards that we can re-use every year. **Thank you!**

**Let's get moving-Mrs. Elder**

**Take a peek at how engaged a brain can look after just 5 minutes of vigorous walking:**

## **Why Our School Moves!**



**CLASSROOM NEWS:      Exercise      No Exercise**

### **Ms Pejsa & Mrs Zion – Kindergarten:**

Wow – the Kindergarteners have been busy! They have been reading Little Boy Blue, Baa Baa Black Sheep, Humpty Dumpty and the Lion and The Mouse! In Writing, they have been exploring spirals, loops and canes. They have also been practicing writing vertical lines, horizontal lines, circles, diagonal lines, cups, humps, waves and zigzags. In Math, they count quantities to 5, sequence numbers 0-10, and playing “Guess my Number”.

### **Mrs. Christenson & Mrs. Tourjee – 1<sup>st</sup> Grade:**

Please send a SNACK every day. We have settled into routines of learning. **1<sup>st</sup> Grade Discovery** started the year with **Astronomy**, learning about the sun, stars, constellations, moon, astronauts and the planets. It was a beautiful night for our family stargazing experience. We are wrapping up our Universe Learning and will begin our journey of discovery on **Geology**, learning about the layers of the earth, types of rocks, scientists, volcanoes, and dinosaurs. Reading and spelling **short vowel words** with spelling patterns including consonant beginning and ending blends, digraphs of sh, ch, th wh and ph, the Short-Short Rule of special spellings after a short vowel: Floss Rule – ff, -ll, -ss, -ck, -tch, -dge. We have started our first **Decodable Chapter Book**. Look for some stories coming home. Students are writing sentences using **COPS** to check for Capitalization, Organization, Punctuation and Spelling. In math, we are building number sense with counting patterns to 120+ and **addition** within sums of 10. Refer to the **Skills List** that went home the beginning of the year.

### **Mrs. Lein, Mrs. Margeson and Mrs. Wade – 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade:**

Second graders started a new writing curriculum. So far the students have learned about the importance of setting goals and being organized. Some of the fun activities for this have also been writing journals, unscrambling words, and learning to place words in alphabetical order. Students will be learning fun jingles while learning about the parts of speech like nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, prepositions and articles.

### **Mrs. Furse, Ms Johnson and Mrs. Lowe – 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade:**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> graders have had a busy start to their 2022/2023 school year. We began by studying world rivers and then focusing on the Dolores River and how our community relies on it. Big thanks to Fozzie's Farm for hosting us for a field trip and teaching us all about the Dolores River. Students are also starting to gain an understanding of multiplication and division and we are looking forward to their mastering of these facts! Next up is our Animal Classification Unit, where our students will become animal researchers.

### **Ms Knight, Ms Schrage and Mrs. Werner – 4<sup>th</sup> Grade:**

4<sup>th</sup> grade is off to a great start! We are starting Unit 2 of CKLA! This unit is all about life in the Middle Ages. We are working on setting up our first field trips shortly. Keep an eye out for any permission slips sent home in the next week or so.

### **Mrs. Thornbrugh, Mr. Krumwiede and Mr. Werner – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade:**

Wow – the first 5 weeks has flown by! In Math, we are studying the Base 10 number systems. In Language Arts, we have been studying personal narratives and discussing the parts of a good paragraph. In Social Studies, we are studying the geography of the US and we are memorizing the location of each state and state capitals. In Science, we are talking about matter and all of its properties.

### **From the Artists Palette with Mr. Vaughn:**

How wonderful it is to be back in school this year! I'm excited to start my 27<sup>th</sup> year as a teacher, and so happy to be the Art Teacher here in Dolores these past several years. Below you will find a quick note about the artists we have been studying these first few weeks along with the concepts and style that the artist is known for. Please ask your child more about what they learn as I'm sure they'll be happy to share with you.

Kinder – Wassily Kandinsky – Color, Line, Space – Abstract

1<sup>st</sup> – Piet Mondrian – Line (Horizontal/vertical), Primary Colors – Abstract

2<sup>nd</sup> – Jasper John – Line (Diagonal), Color – Abstract

3<sup>rd</sup> – Mr. Vaughn – Line (gesture/contour drawing) – Realism

4<sup>th</sup> – Georgia O'Keeffe – Line (organic), Area, Perimeter – Abstract Expressionism

5<sup>th</sup> – Dondie White – Line (space), Light, Calligraphy – Modern Abstract

I can't wait to see this year's new art work on the walls! If you do have the chance, please peek in and see the framed work in our Art Gallery!

## **TECHNOLOGY TIME:**

We are so grateful to have Mari Chubbuck as the long term sub until we find a Tech teacher!

## **Music:**

We are so grateful to have Krista Draper as the long term sub until we find a music teacher!

## **MID-TERM REPORTS:**

Mid-Term Progress Reports are coming home Thursday, Sept 15<sup>th</sup>. Parents, please take a look at your child's progress for the first 4 weeks of the school year! You can see how your child is performing, and it may be a great time to visit with your child's teacher about the progress being made in class. Educating your child is our priority, and with you as a partner, we can ensure children are learning! End of quarter report cards will be coming out in October!

## **IMPORTANT DATES/EVENTS TO MARK ON YOUR CALENDARS:**

- October 6<sup>th</sup> – Elementary Picture Day
- October 17<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> – **PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES** – your child's teacher will be sending a note home with your Conference Date & Time

## **FREE FRIDAY FUNDAYS:**

There is still time to sign up for Free Friday Fundays! This month's activities are:

9/16: We are staying at school and learning about the garden. We also have a scientist from the PowerHouse coming!

9/23: We are walking to Joe Rowell Park to learn about water ecology. Please wear comfortable clothes.

9/30: We are going to the Durango Rec. Center to spend time in their gym and to swim. Please bring a swimsuit, towel and a change of clothes.

10/7: We are staying here and working in the garden.

10/15: **NO FREE FRIDAY** – it is a work day for the teachers.

Sign up on the Dolores School District Website.

I hope to see you all there!

### **Community Helpers:**

#### **DOLORES FAMILY PROJECT:**

IF YOU NEED A LITTLE EXTRA FOOD EACH WEEK – the Dolores Family Project will send a backpack home with your child each Thursday with yummy foods. Please call Ms Debbie (970-882-4688) and I will send a form home with your student.

### **PBIS (POSITIVE BEHAVIOR AND INTERVENTIONS):**

Dear Little Bear Families,

We want to thank you and your extended families so very much for supporting the Positive Behavior and Interventions (PBIS) fundraiser that we started last year . . . the School Store. You were incredibly generous. But remember . . . the main goal of the fundraiser is to earn passive income (i.e. free to you!) by having all our staff and families access their normal online shopping through the [schoolstore.com](http://schoolstore.com) website. Pretty much everything you can order online is there except (sadly) Amazon! But Wal-Mart, Kohl's, Bass Pro, Old Navy, Disney and 600 other online stores - even tire stores and tax services are all available!

Again, here's how it works: go to [schoolstore.com](http://schoolstore.com) and click on the small top right banner "find my school". Type in and Click on Dolores Elementary School and the little banner will change to "Now supporting Dolores Elementary." Then click on the "MERCHANTS" tab and all the categories will come up on the left! Click on any of those tabs and all the available stores in that category will come up. You will be accessing the store's regular official website, but it will register a kickback percentage for our school!

The prizes and the gift cards will not be a part of this school year - because you were so generous last year . . . but will be again next fall when and if we decide to re-register. Keep in mind however it is not necessary for you to spend money in their store, "The Family Bookstore" under the "shop" tab, unless it is something you would buy anyway and the price is comparable. . . but they give us a 50% kickback for that store.

Otherwise, we are simply hoping you will do your normal online shopping - same prices as you would normally get . . . accessing the websites you would normally shop at through the [schoolstore.com](http://schoolstore.com) website and clicking on "merchants".

Thanks again! - The Dolores Elementary PBIS Committee