

GALLOPING GOOSE EXPRESS

OCTOBER 14, 2022

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FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK:

What a great feeling I get when I walk through the elementary school halls. The teachers are busy teaching, and the students are learning. When I enter the classes during reading time, I cannot help but smile. Little ones are working on phonics and basic reading from words to sentences. The others are all working on everything from simple stories to more complex reading. Seeing the elementary team combine efforts and apply a “full court press” to improve elementary student reading fills me with joy.

While working to focus on reading, we are also looking to add emphasis on improving our mathematics and writing/grammar scores. The teachers are using independent results of various assessments like our NWEA (Northwest Evaluation Association) math scores combined with professional teacher observations to help guide student placement and develop more individualized and beneficial instruction.

Along with an increased focus on “basic” education instruction, our staff continues to provide lessons geared toward developing rounded and healthy students. One place this is quite evident is in visits to the “Specials” classes, Art, Physical Education, Music, and Technology.

In Technology, Mari Chubbuck, Kindergarten has been working on logging in with QR codes and improving keyboard skills. First and second graders are getting basic exposure to computers, usernames, passwords, and navigating a website. Third through fifth grade students are developing various helpful Google program skills. Mrs. Chubbuck has also worked to help students check out books from the elementary library.

In Physical Education, Mrs. Elder, is working with the students to build good healthy habits. Students participate in lunch recess “Mileage Club!” Every child has a personal scanner card and lanyard for recording laps ran, walked, skipped, or even by jumping rope. Students can earn special foot charms, necklaces, certificates, and even some BIG prizes for those that eventually reach “20+” miles. Mrs. Elder wants to give a special thank you to Dolores State Bank and the Dolores Rotary Club for purchasing the scanner cards and lanyards! Grades three through five have already taken part in a casting clinic and now this week are part of our annual Dolores Elementary Fishing Derby. Again, thanks to Colorado Parks and Wildlife for donating a bunch of reels, rods, and line for not only this unit, but for our Little Bear Trading Post as well.

In Music with Krista Draper, students are learning and implementing a myriad of concepts tying in with the Core Knowledge program. This class is designed to build upon previous concepts by continuing to practice what was taught while learning new things. Students started off with learning about beats including making their own, mimicking, creating and performing beats in small and large groups as well as individually. Music notations (whole, half, quarter, quarter rest) were introduced after using 4/4 time. Right now, Kindergarten through second grade can sing simple bars of music accompanied and unaccompanied while third through fifth grades are singing as well as playing music with instruments. The students perform what they have learned and created. Students are diving into rhythm, music appreciation and a few genres of music and then learning the names of notes and reading a score of music.

While in Art Class: Kevin Vaughn, has incredible student work displayed in the “Dolores Elementary Art Gallery.” Mr. Vaughn finds it increasingly more difficult to limit each grade level project to just one masterpiece, and amount of talent in this community continues to impress this teacher. As the year progresses, lessons in the art room will continuously be revamped in order to ensure alignment with the CKLA curriculum. Students will have the opportunity to access the core knowledge from a different perspective and through their own creativity. And, of course, Mr. Vaughn will continue to add to the gallery sharing what students are learning and creating.

Finally, the elementary teachers, as well as the middle and high school, are working on improving instruction and school climate to benefit student learning through the Get Better Faster initiative brought to our district by Dr. Reece Blincoe. This work includes building on student needs, increasing routines, and increasing student time on task. Lesson plans directed at learning targets are seen in use in each classroom.

Counselor Corner:

Counselor's Corner:
Little Bear Families,

Just a heads up that we have completed the first 2 sets of guidance lessons. #1. Steps to Deal with Bullying and conversely . . . #2. Steps to Make and Keep Friends.

Hopefully your students have brought home their drawings and papers and attempted to teach you what they have learned. If they try their best and you sign their paper, as with all my lessons, I will make them a personalized button.

I have made handouts that are answer keys and teaching tools for adults. Here are the links to those handouts and there are overall references listed. But if you have any questions at all about the principles being taught, let me know.

Guidance Lesson Handouts/Reference

Tools: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1LXPR6JVW37tT8VqMhjzZ5SdjT9KoAmJL?usp=sharing>

Thanks,
Susan Miller
Dolores

Persistently POSITIVE PBIS! October 2022

Little Bear Families:

It is essential that you be aware of and familiar with our whole school behavior management plan. We are following the well researched and highly effective Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports (PBIS) plan. You can familiarize yourself with it here: <https://www.pbis.org/pbis/what-is-pbis>.

But here is a quick overview of the Positive Reward side of the program:

First and foremost is supporting and rewarding the students for Positive Behavior.

--The positive behavior expectations are taught in lessons at the beginning and middle of the school year and they are posted throughout the school.

--Students are rewarded regularly through praise and randomly through bear paw tickets for following the expected behaviors. Students can receive bear paw tickets from any staff member. Students are also supported by accommodating age levels as well as special needs and behavioral tendencies. We do our best to make it easier for students to keep the expectations. We have alternative seating, fidgets, proactive behavior plans for students in need, etc. Teachers also usually teach and reteach the expectations whenever a student is struggling, then reward them as soon as they get it!

Our Bear Store is a place where both tangible and non-tangible rewards can be obtained. I know some parents are against tangible rewards and feel the rewards should be internal in nature. Trust us . . . that is the end goal for all the students and what will make them the most successful in the long run! And it works very well for 2/3rds of our students. But for the other third, a tangible reward is needed to be stimulating enough to help them focus long enough that the behavioral rewards can eventually be internalized! (Neurologically it takes these students ten times longer to internalize and get that feeling of satisfaction. It's no one's fault!). The research continues to bear this out! Without it, the internalizing may not occur until negative self images are already set. PBIS helps us avoid that and helps all the students to learn to internalize the satisfaction that comes from positive behaviors. It's a good thing.

We try very hard to make the tangibles meaningful and fun. We are open to suggestions as well. We are well stocked with fidgets to help the kids focus and are going to start carrying bear wear. Mr. Tyler Nielsen has donated Bear earrings and necklaces! Skill building toys like Rubik's cubes, jump ropes and art supplies are regularly stocked, as our sports and fishing equipment.

Please email our PBIS committee with any questions or concerns you have Care of smiller@dolores.k12.co.us or call! We will discuss it and get back with you. Better yet, we can invite you to our meetings! Stay tuned next month where we will explain the positive side of discipline!

UPCOMING DATES/EVENTS TO MARK ON YOUR CALENDARS:

10/17 & 10/19: Parent Teacher conferences

10/17 & 10/19: Scholastic Book Fair during Parent Teacher Conferences

10/24 thru 10/31: Red Ribbon Week – Please See Attached Flyer

10/31: Halloween Parties will start at 3:15 – your child’s teacher will give you more party details

11/10: Picture Retakes

11/21 thru 11/24: Thanksgiving Break

CLASSROOM NEWS:

Ms Pejsa & Mrs Zion - Kindergarten:

The Kinders just got done learning the 5 senses and number sense. Next, they will be learning 2-dimensional flat shapes and 3-dimensional solid shapes. Be sure to check out your child’s “How To Fill A Bucket” and “Who Am I” artwork hanging in the halls by your child’s classroom.

Mrs. Christenson & Mrs. Tourjee – 1st Grade:

The 1st Graders had so much fun on their field trip to the Nature Center at Butler Corner yesterday. Be sure to check out your child’s “Space” artwork next week at Parent Teachers Conferences.

Mrs. Lein, Mrs. Margeson and Mrs. Wade – 2nd Grade:

In Math, students are learning place value of 1’s, 10’s and 100’s. Please be sure to check out your child’s book report hanging in the halls by their classrooms – they learned how to write a narrative book report.

Mrs. Furse, Ms Johnson and Mrs. Lowe – 3rd Grade:

WOW – be sure to check out the descriptive writings about animals and the Amazing detailed drawings of each animal that your child studied – they are hanging in the halls by your child’s classroom.

Ms Knight, Ms Schrage and Mrs. Werner – 4th Grade:

The 4th Graders are busy going on field trips – on October 5th, they went to the Anasazi Heritage Center and on the 18th, they will be going to spend the day at Crow Canyon. Last Thursday, Empire Electric came to talk to the kids about electric safety and took the students up in the bucket lift truck.

Mrs. Thornbrugh, Mr. Krumwiede and Mr. Werner – 5th Grade:

Wow – the 5th graders have been busy researching the 3 ancient civilizations, practicing multiplication and division math facts, studying chemical reactions in science and learning the United States geography and the capital cities.



Dolores Elementary Red Ribbon Week 2022

"Celebrate Life. Live Drug Free."

**Learn more about
Red Ribbon Week!**



**Poster Design
Contest!**



Have your child design a poster using this year's theme: "Celebrate Life. Live Drug Free."

Each classroom will have a winner!

Winners receive a Shaved ice/Cotton Candy party!

Entries Due: 10/27

Winners Announced: 10/31

Party: 11/3



Monday 10/24



Team up Against Drugs

Wear your favorite team shirt!



Assembly

K-2nd: 2:50-3:20

3-5: 3:20- until bell

Tuesday 10/25



Peace out to drugs!

Dress like a hippie or wear tie-dye



"I pledge to keep my hands off drugs."

(During Lunch)

Wednesday 10/26

My future is too bright for drugs!



Wear neon

Photobooth

(During Lunch)



Thursday 10/27

Red-y to say no to drugs!

Wear red or bear wear

Group Picture

3:00 p.m.

*****Poster entries due!*****



Monday 10/31 Say BOO to drugs!

Classroom parties and poster design winners announced!