

APRIL 2025

ELEMENTARY GOOSE

CAUTION! FUTURES UNDER CONSTRUCTION



MRS. HILL PRINCIPAL

Hello Families!

This month I am celebrating 2nd grade and their Wax Museum Project, Student Council and their fun activities for the school, and CMAS Effort!

Our 2nd grade students did an amazing job on their Wax Museum. This was a high level project that included a lot of research, a 4-5 paragraph essay, memorized speech, and 2 hours of presentation, all dressed up as their historical character that they researched. I am so proud of each student! You could tell that they put in the time and effort to make this project stand out! Please see all of the wonderful pictures below!

Next up is our wonderful Student Council! They have worked hard this year figuring out all the ins and outs of running a successful council. They have created a fun environment for all of the students with dress up days and treats that they sell. This last dress up day was "Twin Day"! The students had a blast dressing up as each other. They also had cotton candy this month and that was a huge hit! Way to go Student Council! I can't wait to hear what your plans are for next month!

Last but certainly not least I want to recognize the outstanding effort that I am witnessing the students in grades 3-5 put in on the CMAS state assessments. They are taking their time, working and thinking about each problem, and saying that they are happy because of how much they know! These tests bring the whole staff together and we get to share all of the accomplishments because even though only grades 3-5 take the test, it is a reflection on all our teachers! Thank you students for shining and making all your teachers shine as well!

Important Dates Coming Up:

April 22nd- Dolores Building Project Community Event- 6pm- Library

April 25th- PTA Family Fun Night- More info to come

April 29th and 30th- NWEA Testing-Attendance is important

May 5-8th- DIBELS Reading Assessment

May 19th- Field Day- 3-5 in the AM and K-2 in the PM



MRS. DOMAGATA

Hello All,

April is flying by so fast! This month my lessons were on respect and responsibility.

In kindergarten we read the book The Little Spot of Responsibility- A Story about Good Decision Making. We talked about three questions we can ask ourselves to help us make responsible decisions, they are: Is it safe? Is it respectful? Is it kind? We had a group discussion using a variety of scenarios and then decided what would be the responsible decision.

In 1st and 2nd grade we read A Little Spot of Respect- A Story about Respecting People, Places and Things. We wrote about different ways we can show respect to the people around us, the places we visit and the things we use.

In 3rd grade we read The Little Spot of Responsibility- A Story about Good Decision Making. We learned how to use decision charts to make the best decision. The decision charts examine positive and negative consequences and how ourselves and others are impacted by the decisions we make. We also talked about the importance of reflecting on our decisions as a learning experience.

In 4th and 5th grade we talked about responsible decision making. We watched a short video and discussed a case scenario. We took a decision making assessment and used the results to reflect on our strengths and weaknesses in decision making. We talked about thinking through positive and negative consequences and how our decisions impact ourselves and others.

For our last lesson of the year we will be talking about Optimism.

As always, please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions.

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Elementary Counselor
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970-882-4688





KINDERGARTEN MRS. JABURG, MRS. PEJSA

Spring is here and our kindergarteners are enjoying the warm weather. We are currently learning about Taking Care of Our Earth and have, or will go, on a walk to pick up trash around our school/neighborhood. The kids are learning about recycling and how to conserve our natural resources. Our youngest students CAN make a big difference.

In reading, we continue to learn new "tricky" words. These are words with letters that don't always do what they are supposed to. We also continue to work on sounding out more and more challenging words. We work with double consonants, blends, digraphs and more. We also read many decodable stories on a daily basis.

In math, we just reviewed our 2D and 3D shapes. Currently, we are working on teen numbers and seeing them as 10 ones and more ones. This gives the kids a foundation in place value for next year.

We also continue to write daily. We focus on letter formation, nice handwriting, and sentence structure. Our students are doing a wonderful job and have done many independent writing assignments. We are excited for the many things still to come over the next several weeks!

1ST GRADE MRS. MYERS, MRS. TOURJEE, MRS. WHITE

First grade is welcoming in the springtime with tons of games and fun! In math we are learning about defining and non defining attributes to a 2D and 3D shape. This involves a TON of hands on learning and exploring with all of our different shapes. The students have been enjoying this unit and taking it into the real world with them. For knowledge, we are learning all there is to know about all of the different kinds of animal habitats. For each habitat, we fill in our habitat journal, so we are able to then go through our journal at the end of the unit and choose an animal habitat the students want to learn more about. Since it is April, we are also writing Earth Day promises. These are promises we make to one another and to the Earth that explain how we can do our part to take care of our Earth. As always, read, read, read! We have seen SO much growth in the students' literacy skills, so all of the hard work is paying off! Take a book outside and enjoy the sunshine as an added bonus! Thank you for sharing your awesome kiddos with us!



2ND GRADE MRS. LEIN, MRS. WADE

We are above and beyond proud of our second-grade historians! They did a fantastic job with their Wax Museum presentations. We are very grateful for your support at home with helping our students memorize their speech and their costumes were top notch!

We are beginning a new unit on "Cycles in Nature" to learn about the many natural cycles that make life on our planet possible, including seasonal cycles, cycles of flowering plants and trees, and animal life cycles. We will learn about the water cycle for living things and the importance of conservation as we depend on a limited fresh water supply.

We have also started a new unit in math that focuses on geometry and fractions. Students are learning about characteristics of polygons, partitioning shapes into equal parts, identifying fractions, and starting to investigate arrays which will help them with multiplication and division.

We are continuing an in-depth study of the "War of 1812" in our CKLA reader and continuing to work on word analysis skills, syllabication, and phrasing to help with decoding and fluency. Sharing in your child's reading at home has helped with their growth as independent readers - thank you!





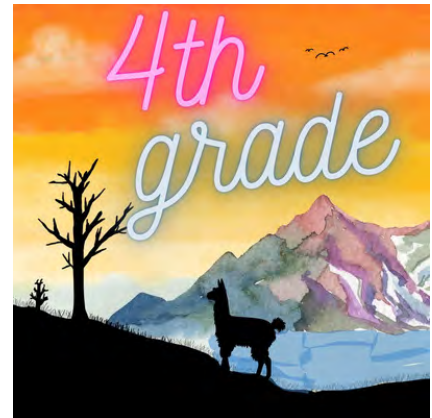
3RD GRADE MRS. CHRISTENSON, MRS. WERNER

April has been a busy month as we balance state testing preparations and continue learning. First, students are learning about ecology which includes information such as food chains with consumers, producers, and decomposers and how environmental changes affect animals and plants. On Tuesday, we'll take a trip to the Dolores Public Library for a lesson and activity on animal adaptations. Second, this month's book report project is a shoe box diorama. Students will create a 3D scene from their chapter book and write a description. Some students are able to complete this in class and others will be working on it at home. Finally, Ask your child about a new math game called Garbage! or Trash! that helps build multiplication fluency. You can easily make this game at home with some index cards. Here's a video that shows how the game is played.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v1lxHQQHp78>



4TH GRADE MRS. COPENHAVER, MRS. LINDSAY, MRS. SCHRAGE

We are so proud of the 4th grade students and how seriously they took CMAS testing this week! Thank you to all the families that provided snacks to keep the students energized and engaged. We have one more week of the Peep Project with their final day being the 24th. We appreciate the students being responsible and weighing the true costs of their financial opportunities. The students have displayed understanding of this state standard and we are overjoyed with their commitment. We have NWEA testing the week of April 28th. More information to come out about that. We are looking forward to an awesome ending to this school year!



5TH GRADE MR. KRUMWIEDE, MRS. THORNBRUGH, MR. WERNER

Please note the following important upcoming days and activities:

- **Week of April 14th** - CMAS Math and Reading Testing
- **April 17th** - 5th Grade Maturation Class @ 3:00
- **April 24th** - Galloping Goose Field Trip to Durango (students who receive a major referral or 2+ minor referrals will not be eligible to participate!)
- **April 29th and 30th** - NWEA Reading and Math Testing
- **May 14th** Water Festival in Durango

Greetings Parents,

We cannot believe it's already the 4th Quarter at Dolores Elementary! The following is a quick snapshot of the happenings here in 5th grade.

In Math, we have been reviewing 5th grade skills in preparation for CMAS and NWEA testing, which will take place over the next couple of weeks. We just wrapped up our unit on fraction operations and will be working on some geometry skills over the last quarter in preparation for middle school next year. Continue supporting your students if they are not all the way fluent in their times and division tables as this will be a huge expectation next year!

In Language Arts, we have been reviewing the elements of Plot, which include setting, rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution. We have also focused on character traits, and how the progression of the story can change a character's traits. Just a reminder, we have one more book report! Students will need a cereal box. This project is due April 30th!

In Science we just finished up our unit on Protecting Earth's Resources through conservation and being great stewards for the planet. Next we dive into space and will explore the moon, stars, and planets of our solar system with our Astronomy unit. This will include a fun "Planet Walk" with the class along the Dolores River.

In Social Studies your students have just finished up a unit on the Westward Expansion Before the Civil War, which will lead us into our last unit on the Civil War. It will cover the timeline and events that surrounded and led up to the war between the Union and the Confederacy. They will have then been introduced to the history of the United States, from the very first steps of settlers on the land, through the war that ended slavery and shaped the country as we know it.



FRIDAY FUNDAY MRS. WERNER

If you are interested in joining Friday FunDay, sign up on the Dolores Website.

<https://doloresschools.org/free-friday-fundays/>



April showers bring May flowers!

April is a month of growth and renewal! As we embrace the warmer weather and increased outdoor activities, it's a perfect time to focus on health and wellness across our district.

HEALTHY REMINDERS

- **Sleep:** Make sure your child gets their much-needed rest every night.
- **Handwashing:** Frequent handwashing with soap and water is the best way to prevent the spread of germs.
- **Sun Safety:** Even though it's still early spring, the sun's rays are getting stronger. Remind your children to wear sunscreen and hats when spending time outdoors.

APRIL IS NATIONAL HUMOR MONTH

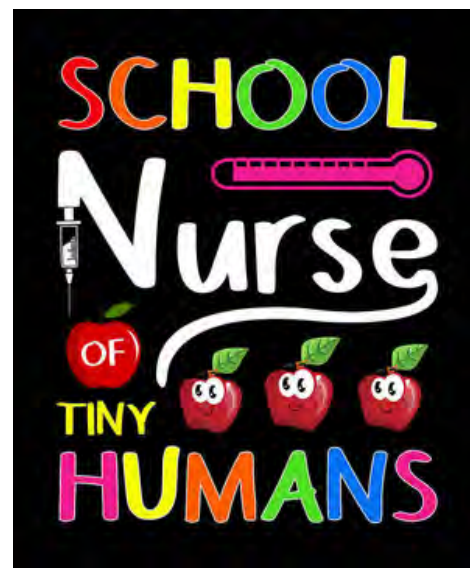
You know what they say, laughter is the best medicine! Tell a joke or act silly for just a moment every day. Humor is contagious, be prepared to smile!

How Sick is too Sick?
School Required Vaccines

As always, be safe, healthy, and well.



BRANDY DUNN DISTRICT NURSE



PE MRS. ELDER

I'd like to thank all of you parents and caregivers for sharing your kids and families with me for the last 17 years. Dolores Elementary School has been a big part of my life for a long time and has brought me so much joy and fulfillment through this time teaching 4th grade, 3rd grade, coaching, and P.E. My three daughters were raised at this school as well so we know how special this place and its staff is! It has been a hard decision to make, but I will be retiring from full-time teaching at the end of this school year to support my family through some medical challenges and get more time with friends and family (my grandkids need more "Meemer" time). My husband has been patiently waiting for the last four years for me to join him in retirement, but I just love my job so much I've been putting off this decision for quite some time. I will be telling each of my classes this information as I see them over the next week. The love I have felt for and from the families, students, and staff here in Dolores overflows my cup and I want to make sure you know how much my time here has meant to me. We will still be living in the home we have been in for the last 24 years here in Dolores, working with MS/HS FCA on campus, and possibly the occasional sub day, so I'll see you around I'm sure (especially if you spend any time on the river, lakes, or trails)! In our family we don't say goodbye, but say "See you when I see you." So Dolores family...see you when I see you!

Mr. Werner from 5th grade will be the new PE Teacher! Let's wish him the best!

Many hugs and much love-Brooke Elder



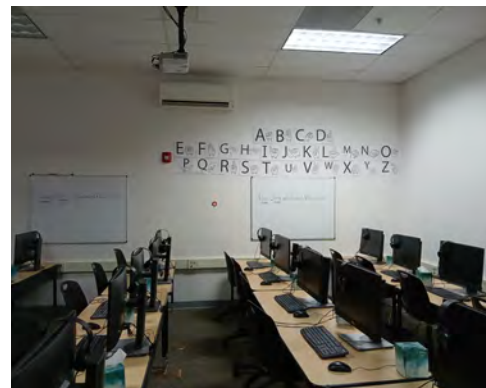
MUSIC MS. DRAPER

Hello all of you incredible parents, guardians and loved ones. We have been having a lot of fun in music reviewing names, values and placements of notes, as well as dynamics. This month we will be putting that knowledge into creating and performing musical compositions. I am looking forward to seeing the fabulous pieces these remarkable students will be working on =*)

Carpe Diem,
Krista Draper- Dolores Elementary Music Teacher
kdraper@dolores.k12.co.us

MS. SPENCER TECHNOLOGY

Brenna Spencer
Elementary Technology
Teacher



ART MRS. LOWE



Each grade level has just finished up their latest projects. Kindergarten students studied the later work of Pablo Picasso and created cubist portraits emphasizing geometric shapes and bold colors. First graders combined the concept of symmetry and the painting style of pointillism to make colorful butterflies. Second grade analyzed Vincent Van Gogh's "Starry Night" and recreated their own version of the painting focusing on movement and texture. Third graders used Amate Mexican Bark paintings as their inspiration to paint fanciful images of birds and plants on crumpled brown paper. 4th grade students have practiced a variety of watercolor techniques and used their newfound skills to create watercolor paintings of animals. Fifth graders learned how to use the vanishing point to create a 1 point perspective drawing. They drew the inside of an art gallery, and chose to recreate famous works of art on the canvases or make up their own. They are using a variety of media to add color to their drawings. Come check out the newest artworks on display throughout the building!



DOLORES ELEMENTARY FACEBOOK

CLICKABLE LINKS

DOLORES ELEMENTARY
HANDBOOK

ONLINE ABSENCE FORM
PEP SPRING CONFERENCE
SPANISH

HIGH DESERT DEVO

GIFTED PARENT NIGHT

COMMUNITY INFORMATION SESSION



FUTURE DATES

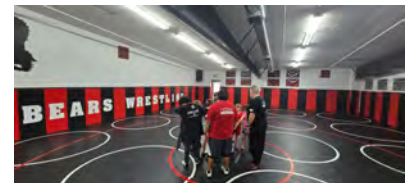
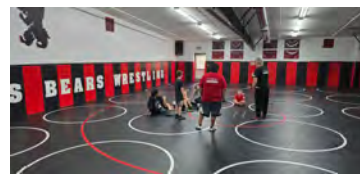
4/25 PTA LITTLE BEAR LUAU 5-7PM
4/29-4/30 NWEA TESTING
5/5-5/8 DIBELS TESTING
IREADY TESTING
5/19 FIELD DAY
5/22 CHARACTER ASSEMBLY
LAST DAY OF SCHOOL



TOWN OF DOLORES
BEST LOGO DESIGN-
YOUTH CATEGORY
AVERY CHUBBUCK



Let's wish the Dolores Pee Wee Wrestling Club good luck this weekend. They are taking 11 kids to Farmington for a large wrestling tournament.



PTA HAPPENINGS



PTA RENT A BEAR

PTA MEMBERSHIP FORM