

SCHOOL DISTRICT #29 DECEMBER 2025

Dufur School Website: www.dufur.k12.or.us

Dear Dufur School District Families and Community, November 17, 2025

As we move into this season of gratitude, I am reminded each day how much we have to be thankful for in Dufur. Our small school district is powered by big hearts, and November is the perfect time to pause and acknowledge the people and partnerships that make our community so exceptional.

I am thankful for our staff. Each month, when we recognize an Employee of the Month, I am struck by the overwhelming support that pours in from colleagues. The email chains that follow these announcements are filled with genuine appreciation, personal stories, and uplifting words that reflect the character of the people who work here. It is clear that our staff take pride not only in their own work, but also in lifting one another up. This culture of encouragement is one of Dufur School District's greatest strengths.

I am thankful for our students. Last week's Veterans Day assembly was a beautiful reminder of the heart and talent of our young people. From the respectful and confident recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance, to the heartfelt songs shared with our guests, to the handmade cards presented to our Veterans, our students demonstrated gratitude, pride, and kindness. Their efforts honored our Veterans in a way that made all of us proud to be part of Dufur School District.

I am thankful for our community partnerships. Our School Board's Committee for Instructional Support has been a shining example of what happens when families and community members invest their time and expertise in our schools. Their commitment to brainstorming ways to support staff, and strengthen our instructional practices means more than they know. Dufur is fortunate to have parents and partners who give generously, collaborate eagerly, and care deeply.

As we head into the Thanksgiving season, I want to extend my heartfelt appreciation to each of you. Whether you are a staff member supporting students every day, a student striving to grow and contribute, a parent volunteering your time, or a community member cheering us on—you play a vital role in making Dufur School District a very special place to learn, work, and support.

Sincerely,

Kristin Whitley

Kristin Whitley
Superintendent
Dufur School District
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Board of Directors Meeting

The December meeting of the Dufur School District Board of Directors will be held on Tuesday, December 9th at 5:30 pm. This meeting is open to the public and can also be joined online via Zoom. The Zoom Meeting link, agenda, meeting minutes and video archive can be found on the Board of Directors page on our website.

Non-School Days

December 12th is a Staff Development Day, and school will not be in session for students.

December 19th will be an early release for students at 1 pm. Winter break will begin on December 22nd and student return to classes on January 5th.

Fundraisers

The Class of 2027 will be holding a Candy Cane Grams fundraiser December 1st through the 12th. Watch for more information in December about FFA Christmas Tree sales.

Robotics Tournament

Our high school Robotics team will be participating in a tournament this month in Salem. They will be traveling to West Salem High School on December 6th to represent the Rangers!

Winter Concert

Please join us for our winter concert, *A Marshmallow World Christmas*.



Athletics

Ranger Basketball will be in full swing during the month of December. Check for the sports schedules with the latest updates on our website Sports Schedule page.

Beyond December...

Jan 5	Students return from break!
Jan 6	Dufur School Board Meeting
Jan 19	Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday – No school for staff or students
Jan 23	End of 1st Semester and 2nd Quarter
Jan 23	High School Community Service Due Date for Semester 1
Jan 26	Staff In-Service – No school for students
Jan 30	Student of the Quarter Assembly
Feb 3	Dufur School Board Meeting
Feb 13	Staff Development Day – No School for Students
Feb 16	Scholastic Book Fair begins
Feb 20	Scholastic Book Fair ends
Feb 23	Missoula Children's Theatre Week begins!
Feb 27	Dufur School and MCT present ***Hercules***
Feb 28	Dufur School and MCT present ***Hercules***

CTE Construction News

Construction students have been working with Mrs. Miller's second grade class building squirrel feeders. Students have also started cutting board and outdoor chair projects. Some seniors have been working hard on cleaning up the greenhouse area, and will start renovating a shed into a chicken coop soon. We also have a new addition to the welding and woodshop. Steve Leady has been volunteering two days a week sharing his knowledge of metal and wood with the students. He is a welcomed addition.



Library News

Don't miss the Hot Cocoa and Gift Wrapping in the Library on December 12th!

Community Food Pantry

The Food Pantry located at Dufur School is open each Thursday from 4 to 6 pm. All members of the community are welcome when there is a need for food assistance. If you need emergency food assistance, please call the school office at 541-298-5141.

Early Release for Students

Our students will be release at 1 pm on Friday, December 19th. This will mark the beginning of winter break. Students return on January 5, 2026!

RPEF Amazon Giving Tree

This season, our teachers have hung their classroom wishes on the Amazon Giving Tree—from basic supplies to special enrichment experiences that aren't covered by the district. Every item you give makes a teacher's day easier and a student's world brighter. Just stop by the foyer and scan a teacher's QR code and browse their Amazon Wish List. Anything you purchase ships directly to their classroom. Thank you for always showing up with such big hearts, Ranger community!

RPEF Dufur School Holiday Carnival!

Join us for the Dufur School Holiday Carnival. The Ranger Pride Education Foundation invites you to celebrate the season at our Grinch-themed Holiday Carnival! Bring the whole family for pictures with the Grinch, cookie decorating, a coloring contest, raffle baskets, and plenty of holiday fun for all ages! It will be located in the foyer of the school from 11am to 3 pm on December 13th, during Dufur's Hometown Christmas Celebration. Stop by for hot cocoa, enjoy a chili dog, and don't forget to mail your letter to Santa at our special North Pole station. Come share the holiday cheer and support our students—we can't wait to see you there.

Employee of the Month



We are excited to announce October's Employee of the Month, Eileen Gratiot. Eileen is being honored for her exceptional mentorship within the elementary wing with teachers entering the profession, and her unwavering dedication to student engagement. Eileen consistently supports her colleagues with excellent modeling of effective instructional strategies and fostering an engaging learning environment. Her commitment to ensuring that every student feels empowered to learn is evident in their daily interaction, where she prioritizes inclusive practices, and a deep belief in each child's potential. Eileen's leadership, professionalism, and commitment to her students make her an invaluable member of the Dufur School community! Thank you Eileen!

HEALTH & WELLNESS *newsletter*

STAY SANE DECEMBER

ISSUE 1 | 12/1/2025



KEEP CALM & HOLIDAY ON...

The holidays are here—which means sparkle, joy, sugar, schedules, and the occasional urge to hide in the pantry with a cookie or twelve. We get it. This month we're focusing on simple, sanity-saving ways to reduce stress for students and families as the holiday hustle ramps up.

Encourage your students (and yourselves!) to get consistent sleep, take quick movement breaks, and sprinkle in a little daily gratitude. Families can support wellness by keeping routines steady-ish, building in pockets of quiet time, and remembering that "doing nothing together" absolutely counts as holiday magic.

And because we know December can feel like a marathon in a snow globe...

CALM THE CHAOS

ONE-MINUTE BREATHING RESET

"Hot Cocoa Breathing"

- Pretend you're holding a warm mug of hot cocoa.
- Inhale slowly through your nose for 4 seconds as if smelling the chocolatey goodness.
- Exhale gently through your mouth for 4 seconds as if cooling it off.
- Repeat for one minute.
- (Bonus: actually make cocoa later.)

ONE-MINUTE TENSION MELT

"Unwrap Your Shoulders"

- Lift your shoulders up to your ears like you're trying to hide in your scarf.
- Hold for 2 seconds.
- Let them drop all the way down.
- Roll your shoulders back in slow circles.
- Repeat 3–4 times.

ONE-MINUTE GROUNDING MOMENT

"Find 5 Things"

Name aloud or quietly:

- 1 thing you can see
- 1 thing you can hear
- 1 thing you can feel
- 1 thing you can smell
- 1 thing you're grateful for today
- This brings the brain back to the present moment—fast.

HEALTH & WELLNESS NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 1 | 12/1/25



Peace on Earth

DUFUR SCHOOL HEALTH & WELLNESS COMMITTEE

ONE-MINUTE FAMILY RESET

"60-Second Silent Night"

- Everyone sits comfortably.
- Set a timer for one minute.
- No talking. No doing. Just quiet.
- Let it be peaceful, silly, or a mix of both.
- It's amazing how quickly kids settle when the whole house goes quiet together... theoretically...

ONE-MINUTE RE-CENTERING RITUAL

"Wish for the Day"

Ask each person to answer one prompt:

- What's one thing you hope for today?
- It can be as big as "peace on Earth," or as small as "I hope we find the tape for wrapping gifts."

This helps reset the mood, reduce tension, and set a positive direction.

OPTIONAL ADD-ON: TWO-MINUTE CALMING PLAYLIST

We invite families to play:
A peaceful instrumental holiday song
Nature sounds
A quiet lullaby
Or simply enjoy the silence

