

# DUNDEE DISPATCH



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF DUNDEE ELEMENTARY  
PARENT-TEACHER ORGANIZATION



The 2024-2025  
Student Council Members

## IN THIS ISSUE

p. 2-3: PTO Presidents' Note

p. 4: Principal's Message

p. 5: Counselor's Corner

p. 6: October Calendar

p. 7: Fall Festival Details



Twenty-five students and family members  
joined in the fun to clean up the school grounds

## IMPORTANT DATES

**Oct. 2:** National Walk to School Day & PTO Meeting

**Oct. 4:** No School

**Oct. 10:** Dundee Panera Night

**Oct. 11:** Fall Festival

**Oct. 12:** Campus Clean-up

**Oct. 17:** Book Fair Starts & Conferences

**Oct. 22:** Picture Day; Book Fair Ends;  
Conferences

**Oct. 24-25:** No School

**Oct. 31:** Classroom Halloween Parties

See all upcoming events at  
[www.DundeePTO.org](http://www.DundeePTO.org)



## A NOTE FROM THE PTO PRESIDENTS



**SARA KUPZYK  
JILL HEGGEN**

We're excited that fall has arrived! Join us in the library on Wednesday, October 2 at 6:30 pm for our next PTO meeting. Topics will include:

- What PTO events are coming up? How can I be involved?
- What is the OPS Parent Infinite Campus Portal? How do I login?
- What's new? We'll hear updates from Ms. Kennedy, principal, and Ms. Storm, school counselor

Free childcare is available in the cafeteria. If you have ideas for future speakers or information you would like to learn more about, please let us know.

### Dundee Direct Update

Thank you, Dundee families, neighbors, and local businesses, for making Dundee Direct a success! Our goal is \$30,000. So far, we had reached \$25,751 and more donations are expected to come in this week. If you didn't get a chance to donate, you still can by scanning the QR code or clicking on the link or by sending your donation to the school.



A special thanks to Lauren Simpson for helping lead our efforts and so many volunteers for jumping in to help with events. Did you know, TJ Weiss, a parent of Dundee students, even promised to shave his beard if we met our goal!



<https://bit.ly/dundee-direct>

You can pay by Credit Card, Venmo or Paypal  
Make checks to: Dundee Elementary PTO



### Enrichment Clubs Underway

Did you know that PTO helps support Enrichment Clubs? Students in first through sixth grades started in clubs this month including invention club, Lego challenge, loom band, fishing and sports club. There's something for everyone! Thank you to all the staff and parents that are leading the clubs! If you are interested in leading a club or have an idea, we'd love to hear it!



# A NOTE FROM THE PTO PRESIDENTS

## Upcoming Events

We have a lot of fun events coming up and we need your help. If you can volunteer for any of these events, please join our Membership Toolkit at [DundeePTO.org](http://DundeePTO.org) to sign up or email us at [DundeePTO@gmail.com](mailto:DundeePTO@gmail.com). Most opportunities are for just 30 min to an hour of your time . Sign up for what works for you!

**Grounds Beautification:** Shout out to Althea McMickell for leading a group of 25 volunteers to clean up the grounds in September. The area surrounding the blacktop looks amazing! The next campus clean-up will be October 12 from 10 am-12 pm. You can sign up (or just stop by) to help with planting, edging the front garden beds and other projects.

**Fall Festival:** Get ready for some fun! The Fall Festival is Friday, October 11 and entry is free! This year's festival will feature:

- "Are you better at corn hole than a teacher?" Jump in line to find out!
- Book Cart - bring a book to share, and take a new one home
- Photo booth - take a fun picture with a friend or your family
- DJ - get your dance moves on!
- Crafts - make a personalized bookmark
- Face painting & temporary tattoos
- The Pancake Man (\$5/plate)

**Parent-Teacher Conferences:** PTO is happy to provide meals to the teachers during the upcoming conferences (shout out to Ashley Aubry for organizing) on October 17 and 22. Conferences usually last about 15 minutes. It can be helpful to think about a few questions you would like to ask. Here are some ideas of questions to ask your child's teacher:

- What are my child's strengths/things that they are good at?
- What are some examples of work my child is doing this year?
- How is my child getting along with other students?
- What can I do at home to support my child?

**Scholastic Book Fair:** Reading together at home is a great way to boost literacy skills. Mark your calendar to stop by the book fair from October 17 - 22. Older students often like to help with the book fair and are welcome to if an adult family member is volunteering too. Thank you Megan Hepburn for coordinating the Book Fair!

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Families,

The 24-25 school year began with our new superintendent, Mr. Matt Ray, launching our moonshot for the Omaha Public Schools: All students will read on grade-level by 2030.



Literacy is the foundation of everything. We can work together to make sure ALL of the children who walk through the front door of Dundee Elementary can read at their grade level by 2030.

A few simple things you can do to help your child with literacy:

- Talk to your kids (a lot) – reading is a language activity, and if you want to learn language, you need hear it.
- Read to your kids, with your kids, or set some time for older kids to read by themselves. Books, newspapers, magazines, online articles ... whatever they love to read is great.
- Ask questions! Who is the story about? What is happening? Where does the story take place? What character do you like? Etc.
- Talk about interesting words and the meaning of them.
- Make time for literacy every day.

Thank you so much for encouraging your child to read every day. Together, we can and will meet our goal!

With much care,

Kaye Kennedy  
Principal  
Dundee Elementary

*Learning is a Journey that Never Ends*





## COUNSELOR'S CORNER



Hello families,

Thank you so much for sending happy and healthy children to school each day. I love every scholar that comes through the breakfast line each day. We are working hard on continuing our learning of the **Zones of Regulation**. The zones are a way to help people understand their feelings and how to manage them. No zone is 'bad' or 'good' and we all experience them at one time or another. The goal is to regulate ourselves back to the Green Zone when we need to regain control. Please take some time to ask your students about the Zones of Regulation and work with them to practice some coping skills and strategies for each zone, to help them feel regulated and back in the "Green Zone!"

### Blue Zone

A low-energy state where a person may feel sad, tired, bored, or sick.

### Red Zone

An out-of-control state where a person may feel angry, aggressive, terrified, or elated.

### Yellow Zone

A high-energy state where a person may feel excited, frustrated, anxious, silly, or surprised.

### Green Zone

A calm state where a person may feel happy, focused, content, or ready to learn.

While rounding out our lessons on the Zones, we will flow into October's **National Bully Prevention Month**. Research shows that students with greater social and emotional competency are less likely to be aggressors, targets of bullying, or passive bystanders. While school counselors can be leaders in bullying prevention efforts, it is important to remember that it is a shared commitment between school staff and parents.

We will again celebrate **Red Ribbon Week** at the end of October. This is a time when we celebrate healthy, drug- and bully-free students. More details will be coming soon, but plan for some fun theme days from Oct. 28-Nov. 1.

Thank you for supporting the School Counseling programming at Dundee! If you ever have any questions or concerns, please reach out at [jennifer.storm@ops.org](mailto:jennifer.storm@ops.org).

Jenny Storm, M.S., M.Ed.

School Counselor | Educational Leader

## BULLYING IS...









Several  
Times  
On  
Purpose



# OCTOBER

NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH  
DRILLS EVERY WEDNESDAY

2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2 -Walk to School Day -PTO Meeting School Library 6:30PM <i>Free Childcare in the Cafeteria</i>	3	4 No School 	5
6	7	8	9	10 Dundee Panera Night - Saddle Creek	11 Fall Festival 	12 Campus Clean-Up 10am-12pm 
13	14	15	16	17 Parent-Teacher Conferences Book Fair Starts 	18	19
20	21 	22 -Parent-Teacher Conferences -Book Fair Ends -Picture Day	23	24 No School 	25 No School	26
27	28	29 Two Hour Late Start 	30	31 Halloween Parade & Classroom Parties 		



4TH ANNUAL  
DUNDEE ELEMENTARY PTO

# Fall Festival

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11

4:30 - 7:30 PM

FREE ENTRY!

PANCAKE MAN (\$5/PER PLATE)

DJ - MUSIC & DANCING,

PHOTO BOOTH, FACE PAINTING,

CRAFTS & CORN HOLE GAMES!

BRING A BOOK, LEAVE WITH A BOOK!