

# DUNDEE DISPATCH

Issue 01 | September 2022



## A Message from the Principal

September Greetings,

Welcome to the 2022-2023 School Year! **S M I L E** – See Magic In Life Every day, is our theme for the year. Our 475 wonderful students provide us with so much to smile about.

It was great to see so many families at our Back to School Night. If you haven't returned the Student and Family Information packet, please do so as soon as possible. We want to make sure all of your information is accurate in our student information system, Infinite Campus.

If you didn't get a chance to stop by, our Open House is scheduled for the evening of September 12, from 5:30-7:30 p.m.

**A few reminders. . .**

### **DEVICE PROTECTION PLAN**

If you plan to participate in this plan, the \$20 per device fee is due September 2.

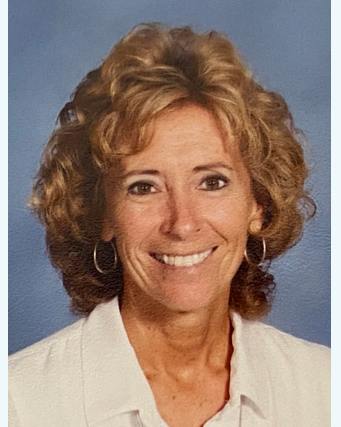
### **BREAKFAST PROGRAM**

Dundee provides a free, nutritious breakfast each morning to any student who would like one. All students enter the building at 8:30 a.m. Those participating in the breakfast program should first check in with their teacher and then immediately come to the cafeteria to pick up their breakfast. Thank you for timing your drop off accordingly. There is not adequate supervision before 8:30 a.m.

### **AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES**

We understand emergencies during the day can happen, however, we receive many calls, at the last minute, regarding changes for a student. As you can imagine, the end of the day is very busy and it can be difficult to get all of those messages delivered by dismissal, causing a confusing situation for all. Please discuss after school procedures with your child each morning. **If an emergency situation occurs and you need to leave a message for your child, please call the school before 3:15 p.m.**

Continued...





## SEPTEMBER IS NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH

At Dundee, we are committed to providing a safe environment for students, staff, and visitors. In order to prepare staff and students for possible emergencies, we will be practicing all of our emergency drills this month. Planned drills include:

- **Secure Drill – Wednesday, September 7**  
Takes place when an external threat is identified. All staff/students return to the building if outside and remain inside. Outside doors are locked. No entry into or exit from the school will be allowed until an “all clear” announcement is made.
- **Lockdown Drill – Wednesday, September 14**  
Takes place if an internal threat is identified at the school. All school doors are locked and students are confined to classrooms. No entry into or exit from the school will be allowed until an “all clear” announcement is made.
- **Severe Weather/Shelter Drill – Wednesday, September 21**  
Students take refuge in designated areas to protect from severe weather or other hazards.
- **Fire Drill – Wednesday, September 28**  
Building is quickly evacuated when fire alarm sounds.
- **Evacuation Drill – Wednesday, October 5**  
In the event of certain building emergencies, students will be relocated to an evacuation assembly area. Our evacuation site is A.V. Sorenson Community Center. Our alternate site, if A.V. Sorenson is closed, is Brownell Talbot.
- **Hold Drill – Wednesday, October 12**  
Students clear the hallway and remain in their classroom. This could occur if a child got sick in the hallway, or another minor incident.

You can help us by ensuring that your child’s emergency contact information is accurate and current. Please contact us if your cell phone, house phone, or work phone numbers change. If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to give us a call.



## STUDENT CELL PHONE USE

It is the expectation of the Omaha Public Schools, that **students in elementary grades shall leave their cell phone powered off and in their backpacks during school hours.** “School hours” means the time a student enters the school bus or school property until the end of the school day when they leave the school property or get off the school bus. Staff will be discussing this policy with students. We will be letting them know that if their phone is out during school hours, it will be kept overnight and returned to them the next day. No exceptions. If the problem continues, the phone will be kept until a parent can come to the office and pick it up. We really appreciate your help in this matter.

We are looking forward to partnering with you for another GREAT year!

With much care,

**Ms. Kaye Kennedy**  
School Principal  
Dundee Elementary



[kaye.kennedy@ops.org](mailto:kaye.kennedy@ops.org)  
(531) 299-1340



# WELCOME BACK

## WILDCATS

### PRESIDENTS ARTICLE

#### Welcome Back Dundee Families!

We are excited to kick off a new year of events and activities made possible by good people like you working through Dundee PTO.

As an organization, we have had to make adjustments to past activities over the last few years due to Covid but we feel it has been for the better. It has even ushered in new traditions! For example, we have added Popsicle Playdates for Kindergartners and outdoor celebrations like Fall Festival and Spring Carnival.

Events like these are possible with the help of volunteers like yourselves. Please check out our website at [www.dundeepto.org](http://www.dundeepto.org) and sign up today. There is no cost or commitment. Use it to stay up to date with happenings at our school. The website can sync school events to your calendar and has a directory to help connect our community. This can be so useful in scheduling playdates and contacting us with questions, comments, and/or suggestions.

We plan on having volunteer opportunities listed on the website and you can get updates via email. Signups to volunteer at specific events will be available as the event nears.

We have been part of Dundee and its PTO since our current 7th grader was in Kindergarten! She now attends Lewis and Clark. We also have 4th and 2nd graders currently at Dundee.

We kick off our fundraiser, Dundee Direct, this month. 100% of the funds raised go to the school.

The first PTO meeting will be on September 6th at 6:30 in the library and there will be free childcare provided in the cafeteria. This will be a great chance to meet folks excited to get involved in their school community. Hope to see you there!

*So Yun and Mike Grace,  
PTO Presidents*



#### A MESSAGE FROM YOUR 2022 - 2023 DUNDEE ELEMENTARY PTO PRESIDENTS

So Yun and Mike Grace

### PTO Announcements

#### MEET YOUR 2022 - 2023 PTO BOARD

<b>Presidents:</b>	So Yun and Mike Grace <a href="mailto:DundeePTO@gmail.com">DundeePTO@gmail.com</a>
<b>Vice Presidents:</b>	TJ Weiss and Kelly Kelly
<b>Secretary:</b>	Jayne Aliano
<b>Treasurers:</b>	Peter Lilja and Nino Krilova-Lilja <a href="mailto:DundeeTreasurer@gmail.com">DundeeTreasurer@gmail.com</a>
<b>Past Presidents:</b>	Joe and Trisha Howard
<b>Principal:</b>	Kaye Kennedy

#### PTO MEETING

Tuesday, September 6th at 6:30 p.m.

Join us in the Dundee Elementary School library. Meet other parents, hear from Principal Kaye Kennedy, and learn about what the PTO has in store this year.



Free childcare will be provided in the lunchroom.

# 2022 DUNDEE DIRECT - Let the Giving Begin!

## Updates From:

Sara Kupzyk, Dundee Direct Committee Chair

### DUNDEE DIRECT, OUR ANNUAL DIRECT-GIVING FUND RAISER RUNS THROUGHOUT THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER.

Instead of having students sell something like candy or wrapping paper, we ask families to give what they can to support Dundee Elementary. Families can also invite friends, neighbors, and businesses to donate. You can also give by sharing your talents with PTO or in your child's classroom and visiting businesses that support Dundee. **ALL of the money raised goes to the PTO to keep Dundee amazing for all children.**

This year, our goal is to raise \$20,000 to help fund the following:



Grants for teachers to buy items for their classrooms such as new books and supplies



Classroom activities, celebrations, and enrichment clubs



Furniture and resources for the library and classrooms



Scholarships for Dundee alumni graduating from high school



Great family events like the Back to School Night Pizza, Fall and Spring Festivals



Improvements to the school grounds



### NEIGHBORHOOD WALK

On Thursday, September 15th, 2nd through 6th graders will take a neighborhood walk with their homeroom teachers to invite neighbors to support the school. Look for a permission form in the Wednesday folder.



### THE GRAND FINALE WHEN WE MEET OUR GOAL

We will be tracking our progress on signs around school and on our website. We also have some fun activities planned each week for grades that win the weekly challenge. If we meet our goal, we'll have a blast seeing...

## Ms. Kennedy in the dunk tank!

### WAYS TO DONATE

1

Send a donation in an envelope to school with your child.

*If donating by check, please make check payable to Dundee Elementary PTO.*

2

Donate online by scanning the QR code or visiting: [Omaha Public Schools Foundation-Dundee Direct](#)

3

Send a check to:

Omaha Public Schools Foundation

Attn: Dundee Direct 2021-2022

Fund Raiser, 3861 Farnam St., Omaha, NE 68131



# LOOKING AHEAD

## SEPTEMBER 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>September is the Kick Off for the Dundee Direct Fundraiser!</b> <b>September is National Preparedness Month</b>				1	2	3
4	5 <i>Labor Day No School for All Students</i>	6 PTO Meeting 6:30 p.m.   Library	7 <i>Secure Drill Day</i>	8	9	10
11	12 Dundee Open House 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.	13	14 <i>Lockdown Drill Day</i>	15 Dundee Direct Neighborhood Walk Day Grades 2-6	16 <i>No School for All Students</i>	17
18	19	20	21 <i>Secure Weather/ Shelter Drill Day</i>	22	23 <i>No School for All Students</i>	24
25	26	27	28 <i>Fire Drill Day</i>	29	30	

## OCTOBER 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3	4 PTO Meeting 6:30 p.m.   Library	5 National Walk to School Day 8:15 - 8:45 <i>Breakfast donated by PTO Evacuation Drill Day</i>	6	7	8
9	10	11	12 <i>Hold Drill Day</i>	13	14 Dundee Fall Festival 4:30 - 7:30 p.m.	15
16	17	18	19	20 Dundee Conferences	21 Donuts with Grown Ups 8:00 - 8:45 a.m. <i>Breakfast donated by PTO</i>	22
23	24	25 Picture Day Dundee Conferences	26 Classroom Halloween Parties	27 <i>No School for Elementary Students</i>	28 <i>No School for Elementary Students</i>	29
30	31 <i>No School for All Students</i>					



## Counselor's Corner

*Hello Dundee Families,*

*My name is Jenny Storm and I am thrilled to be the new counselor at Dundee. I hope that some of you have had the opportunity to meet me, or at least hear about me from your kiddos.*

*Some fun facts about me are that I graduated from Omaha Central High School, Peru State with my teaching degree, Creighton University with my counseling-preventive mental health degree and Northwest Missouri State with my educational leadership degree. I have three kiddos of my own, Aubrie (13), Brody (11) and Grady (8) as well as two dogs Shelbie and StanLee. I had previously worked in OPS as a para-professional, a teacher, substitute and a counselor. I took some time off from public schools to teach, write curriculum, and advise at a local graduate school where I quickly realized I missed OPS dearly and knew I needed to find a new home within the District. I couldn't be luckier to have landed at Dundee, where so many of you and your kiddos have made me feel incredibly welcomed. The energy in this community is contagious and I feel like the luckiest counselor in town!*

*My first few lessons with your kiddos will involve me getting to know them and allowing them to ask me all the fun questions kids like to ask adults (which often lead me to a huge dose of belly laughter). With primary students (k-3) I am focusing on teaching them the Zones of Regulation, which explores the range of emotions and how each emotion is okay to feel, but ultimately, we need to find successful ways to regulate ourselves which will land us back in the GREEN ZONE. With our upper elementary students (4-6) we are homing in on the imperative skill of empathy and putting ourselves in other people's shoes. Please take some time to ask your students about what they've learned in their first few lessons with me and please reach out if you would like material to further those discussions at home.*

*School Counseling is an integral part of the educational process. I work in partnership with teachers and families to help students explore their abilities, strengths, interests and talents to achieve school success now and in their future endeavors. In our comprehensive school counseling program at Dundee, I will visit your students' classrooms for weekly guidance lessons, provide small group counseling for more specific objectives, as well as provide individual "Solution Focused Brief Counseling" sessions when a student, parent or teacher requests to see me.*

*Thank you for making me feel like a part of the Dundee Family and I look forward to getting to know you and your children!*

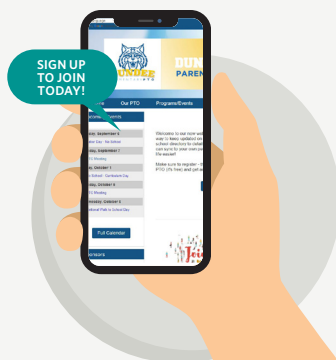
Ms. Jennifer Storm  
School Counselor  
Dundee Elementary School

If you would like to visit or have me visit with any of your children, the best way to reach me is through email.

My email address is [Jennifer.Cooper@ops.org](mailto:Jennifer.Cooper@ops.org)  
(531) 299-5017



Join  
the  
PTO  
Today



### HERE'S HOW...

Make sure to register and sign up to join the PTO at [www.dundeepto.org](http://www.dundeepto.org).

Registering on the PTO website is how you can officially join the Dundee PTO (it's free) and get access to all the PTO has to offer!



# DUNDEE DIRECT

THE ANNUAL DIRECT-GIVING FUNDRAISER

September 1st - 30th

## WHAT IS DUNDEE DIRECT?

Dundee Direct is our annual fundraiser. Instead of asking our kids to sell popcorn or giftwrap, we ask our families to give what they are able to give. With this direct giving campaign, ALL of the money raised goes to the Dundee Parent Teacher Organization (PTO).

## WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO?

The PTO uses the money raised to make sure our school stay amazing for all of our children. In the past, money raised funded the purchase of computers for the classrooms, a sound system for the gym, books for the library, fun events for students and their families, and classroom parties. The money raised also went directly to grants for the teachers, who bought things like educational games, classroom supplies, and innovative new teaching material used daily by the students.

Our goal is to raise \$20,000 to help fund the following:

- Grants for teachers to buy items for their classrooms such as new books and supplies.
- Classroom activities, celebrations, and enrichment clubs.
- Furniture and resources for the library and classrooms.
- Scholarships for Dundee alumni graduating from high school.
- Great family events like the Back to School Night Pizza, Fall and Spring Festivals.
- Improvements to the school grounds.

## HOW CAN OUR FAMILY BE INVOLVED?

1. You can make a donation in any amount.
2. You can ask family members, friends, neighbors, and businesses/workplaces to donate.
3. You can volunteer to help with school activities and support your child at home.

Students will learn more about Dundee Direct at a pep rally on September 15th. Students in grades 2-6 will take a neighborhood walk with their classroom teacher to place letters in neighbors' doors. Our goal is to reach neighbors who may have had children who attended Dundee or those neighbors who would like to support our school. This has raised over \$2,000 in previous years. If your child is in grades 2-6, please return the permission form to allow your child to participate.

## WAYS TO DONATE

**1** Send your donation in an envelope to school with your child. If donating by check, please make the check payable to Dundee Elementary PTO

**2** Donate online by scanning the code below or visiting: <https://omahapublicschoolsfoundation.org/dundee-direct/>

SCAN ME



**3** Send a check to:  
Omaha Public Schools  
Foundation  
Attention: Dundee  
Direct 2021-2022  
Fundraiser  
3861 Farnam St.  
Omaha, NE 68131

