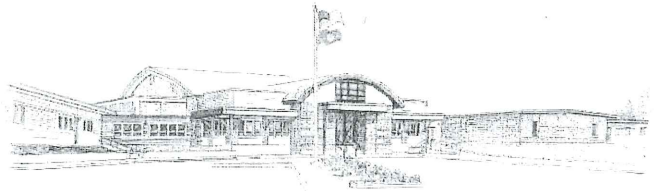


## WASCO COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT #29

### DUFUR SCHOOL

802 NE 5th Street  
Dufur, OR 97021  
541-467-2509 fax 541-467-2589



Dear Dufur School Supporters,

As the Christmas holiday quickly approaches, I have several things to update you on.

- The **Seismic Renovation Project** that occurred during the summer/fall is complete and leaves the Dufur School building better able to handle seismic activity in the area. This project was paid for through the Seismic Renovation Grant Program that provided \$2.5 million dollars to complete the project. The district will pursue the next wave of grants in the coming months to further strengthen our building to provide the safest space possible for each member of the Dufur School Family.
- The **replacement of the lower gym floor** was recently completed. Although the project took longer than expected, the final product is amazing. This upgrade will serve the district for decades to come. We hosted a standing-room only crowd on December 11th for the annual Christmas program, "**Christmas in the Country**". Thanks to Karen Slusher and her team for once again directing the holiday program!
- The **superintendent search continues**, and the board of directors recently appointed the screening committee. This group will take part in a training on how to assess applicants in early January, and will screen applicants later in the month. The timeline calls for the new superintendent to be hired by the board of directors in early March and begin in their new role on July 1, 2025.
- As we've entered the **season of occasional inclement weather**, the district will closely evaluate weather challenges as they arise and make decisions on school operating status. Many people are involved in determining when a delay or closure is warranted to ensure the best decision possible. We will provide information via Thrillshare, including texts, social media, voice messages, and information provided on local and Portland media outlets. All decisions will be made with the safety of all students, staff, and families in mind. We are very aware that delays or closures impact each family and appreciate your support in decisions made.
- A major emphasis this year is **student attendance**. The district has formed a group that meets each week to review attendance patterns, develop plans to increase attendance, and recognize good attendance throughout our school. Dufur School's attendance rates are up this year as a result of this work, and we look forward to continuing to trend in a positive direction in regards to attendance.
- Congratulations to our recent **Employees of the Month**. November Employees of the Month were Judy Urness and Jennifer Meanus. Judy works in the district's transportation department. Jennifer works in transportation as well as an education assistant. Finally, Ken Tally has been named as the December Employee of the Month. Ken serves as a fifth grade teacher. Thanks to Judy, Jennifer, and Ken for their dedication to the students and families of the Dufur School District.

Please reach out with any questions or concerns that you may have.

Have a great holiday season!

GO RANGERS!!