



DIVEN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL'S WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

# DOLPHIN DISPATCH

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## OCTOBER 9, 2019 UPCOMING EVENTS

### 10/11 Early Release

School lets out at 2:30pm.

### 10/14 NO SCHOOL

Columbus Day

### 10/22 Early Release

School lets out at 11:00am.

### 10/24 5pm - 6:30pm

#### Night of the Wild Things

FREE, FUN FAMILY NIGHT at Diven! Tanglewood Nature Center will be bringing in some creepy and cute critters! Sign up to volunteer or donate at [tinyurl.com/DivenVolunteer](http://tinyurl.com/DivenVolunteer).

### 10/25 Picture Day

Guarantee a great picture day for your little one—volunteer on picture day! Contact Diven FCOC, Liz Zilinski, at [ezilinski@gstcontractors.com](mailto:ezilinski@gstcontractors.com) or 735-3700 x4510.

### 10/30 Hendy-Diven

#### Halloween Mixer 6-7:30pm

Costume party time!! Pizza, cupcakes, water for \$1 each. Cake wheel, \$2.00 a chance. Cost: donation of canned food. To volunteer or donate, contact Hendy FCOC, Jenn Isaacs, 735-3756 or [jisaacs@gstcontractors.com](mailto:jisaacs@gstcontractors.com)



## YOU'RE INVITED TO OUR FUN DIVEN FAMILY EVENT NIGHT OF THE WILD THINGS

Tanglewood Nature Center will have creepy and cuddly creatures from 5:30pm - 6:30pm. Free crafts & granola bar starts at 5pm. Bring home a healthy pumpkin-shaped treat!

October 24, 2019 | 5:00 pm - 6:30pm

Free admission • Volunteers appreciated  
Sign-up to volunteer or donate at [tinyurl.com/DivenVolunteer](http://tinyurl.com/DivenVolunteer)

## SUPER POWER WORD: STAMINA

Our Super Power Word for October is Stamina. We'll be teaching the little ones that stamina is when you have the strength to focus and keep working even when things are hard. You can help your children develop stamina at home by encouraging them to keep trying, training your child to be more focused, and by not showing frustration when things get tough.

At our town meetings, Mr. Werfelman is bringing out his old trumpet to show the kids that with practice and determination, you do get better! Lots of laughs and lots of encouragement from our scholars. Check out a video clip of the Town Meeting by joining our Diven School Organization group on Facebook. 😊

## **LET'S LEARN ABOUT: RESTORATIVE PRACTICES**

Before I talk about restorative practices, I want to talk about traditional school discipline policies and practices. In the past, students who were disrupting the classroom were removed from the classroom. Continued disruptions might result in removing a student from the school—a suspension. Studies done on these forms of discipline found two important things: they don't improve student behavior and they disproportionately target students of color.

Our district now engages in *restorative practices* as a classroom management strategy, a positive approach to discipline that reduces or eliminates the need to remove a child from the classroom for disruptive behavior and has been shown to greatly reduce suspensions, especially for students of color. Our staff meets regularly to learn about restorative practices and how to respond to discipline incidents.

Diven Elementary has three restorative practices we use in every classroom: Treatment Agreements, SPARKS, and Pulse Meters.

A treatment agreement is literally an agreement between the students and teachers on how we will treat each other in the classrooms. During the first week of school, your children worked in class to make their own treatment agreements. Each student talked about how they should treat one another, how they should treat the teacher, how the teacher should treat the students, and what they can do to make things right when they are having a problem sticking to their treatment agreement. You can find the treatment agreement in your child's classroom or ask your child about the treatment agreement.

SPARKS are little sparks of joy throughout the day! They provide emotional support and engagement for each student. You'll see us using SPARKS when our children come to class in the morning, after lunch, and anytime we need a little pick-me-up. Some of our teachers have special handshakes they use with each student, others have a special greeting. Whether it's a hug, a wave, a high-five, a fist bump, or a silly dance, these fun routines create trust between students and teachers and set a happy tone that gets things going on the right foot.

Pulse Meters are how we gauge students' moods. We use them to teach our little ones three important lessons: (1) moods can change quickly; (2) our emotions affect how we learn and act; (3) we can change others' moods depending on how we treat them.

## **DEPUTY DAVE PRESENTS: HALLOWEEN SAFETY TIPS**



- Try to select a costume with reflective or bright colors.
- Take a flashlight if possible
- Stay with an adult while trick-or-treating.
- Use the crosswalks when crossing streets.
- Don't trick-or-treat at houses with no lights on.
- Don't approach dogs or other animals that you don't know.
- Have an adult check your bags before you start eating the candy.
- **And the most important tip - HAVE FUN!**

Do you have a question for Deputy Dave? E-mail [ezilinski@gstcontractors.com](mailto:ezilinski@gstcontractors.com).

## **MRS. SORENSEN SAYS: LET'S TALK ABOUT BULLYING**

Check out StopBullying.gov for these and other tips! Bullying is unwanted, aggressive behavior that is repeated over time. Both kids who are bullied and who bully others may have serious, lasting problems. Sometimes children will say or do something mean to each other (which is certainly not acceptable either!), but a one-time statement or event does not constitute bullying. It's something that happens over time.

Now that we are all talking about the same thing, what can you do to address bullying with your child?

- **Help your child understand bullying.** Talk about what bullying is and how to stand up to it safely. Tell kids bullying is unacceptable. Make sure kids know how to get help.
- **Keep the lines of communication open.** Check in with your kids often. Listen to them. Know their friends, ask about school, and understand their concerns.
- **Encourage your kids to do what they love.** Special activities, interests, and hobbies can boost confidence, help kids make friends, and protect them from bullying behavior.
- **Model how to treat others with kindness and respect.**
- **Encourage kids to speak to a trusted adult** if they are bullied or see others being bullied. The adult can give comfort, support, and advice, even if they cannot solve the problem directly. Encourage the child to report bullying if it happens.
- **Talk about how to stand up to kids who bully.** Give tips, like using humor and saying "stop" directly and confidently. Talk about what to do if those actions do not work, like walking away.
- **Talk about strategies for staying safe,** such as staying near adults or groups of other kids.
- **Urge them to help kids who are bullied by showing kindness or getting help.**

That last point is key. *Teach your child to be an "upstander," not a bystander.* An upstander is, "a person who speaks or acts in support of an individual or cause, particularly someone who intervenes on behalf of a person being attacked or bullied." Letting someone continue bullying behavior sends the message that the behavior is okay, and even that we agree with or support what is happening. Being an upstander can put a stop to bullying behavior, and also lets the child who is being bullied know that they are not alone.

Diven Elementary School is subject to New York State's Dignity for All Students Act (The Dignity Act or DASA) which seeks to provide the State's public elementary and secondary school students with a safe and supportive environment free from discrimination, intimidation, taunting, harassment, and bullying on school property, a school bus and/or at a school function (<http://www.nysed.gov/content/dignity-all-students-act-dasa>). The DASA Coordinator at Diven is Principal Werfelman.

*Do you have a question or concern for Mrs. Sorensen, Diven's caseworker? If it's something you'd like addressed in the newsletter—like bullying, e-mail [ezilinski@gstcontractors.com](mailto:ezilinski@gstcontractors.com). If it's a private concern, please e-mail Mrs. Sorensen directly at [lsorensen@gstcontractors.com](mailto:lsorensen@gstcontractors.com).*

### **Resources:**

<http://www.stopbullying.gov>

[http://www.thebullyproject.com/be\\_an\\_upstander](http://www.thebullyproject.com/be_an_upstander)

### **Some great books on this topic to read with your child:**

*Red* by Jan de Kinder  
*Be Kind* by Pat Zietlow Miller  
*I Walk with Vanessa* by Kerascoet

*My Friend Maggie* by Hannah E. Harrison  
*One* by Kathryn Otoshi  
*Noni Says No* by Heather Hartt-Sussman

## **WANNA THROW A PIE IN MRS. LEGARE'S FACE?**

Mrs. Legare, our Vice Principal, will let your child's class build a whip cream pie and throw it in her face. All you have to do is help your child's class raise \$500 for the Diven School Organization by October 24. We will merrily record the pie throwing and post it to Facebook! All donations received support DSO activities like: PreK swim lessons, free books for our scholars, family events, and so much more. So far, we have:

- **West's Class: \$135!**
- Krause's Class: \$100!
- O'Bireck's Class: \$50
- Ripley's Class: \$50
- Cornacchio's Class: \$50
- Schornstheimer's Class: \$45
- Winsor's Class: \$30
- Patchett's Class: \$1

## **WANNA WIN A \$50 GIFT CARD FOR YOUR CLASS?**

One of our parents has generously donated \$50 for the class with the most DSO members. To participate in this, you commit to volunteering two hours a year or donate to the DSO and fill out and return your DSO membership form. The class with the most DSO members who fulfill these requirements will be awarded \$50 to spend how they wish.

- **West's Class: 9!**
- Noonan-Meck's Class: 5
- Cornacchio's Class: 4
- Scharborough's Class: 4
- Winsor's Class: 3
- O'Bireck's Class: 3
- Schornstheimer's Class: 3
- Burge's Class: 2
- Ripley's Class: 2
- Billbe's Class: 1
- Krause's Class: 1
- Patchett's Class: 1
- Moshier's Class: 1
- DiRisio's Class: 1

## **DIVEN'S VOLUNTEERS ROCK**

I posted a picture of a handy-dandy kitten here. If you enjoyed looking at it, I hope you'll reward me by reading this whole newsletter. :D

When you support the school, especially through volunteering, your child is more likely to be engaged, to want to come to school, and to view school as an important and safe place.

After you drop your child off in the morning—or any time—if you'd like to join me in my office to discuss ideas you have, concerns or questions you have, please reach out and let me know. I look forward to hearing from you and making your experience at Diven a wonderful one!



Liz Zilinski | Family & Community Outreach Coordinator | Diven Elementary School

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Website: <http://www.tinyurl.com/DivenDD>

Social Media: <http://www.facebook.com/DivenSchoolOrganization/>

Volunteer: <http://www.tinyurl.com/DivenVolunteer>