

As you are reading this, we will be in the last two months of our 2020-2021 school year and what a year it has been!! We have accomplished much along with our students and parents. It has been a learning experience for everyone!

Our administration is diligently discussing end of the year events along with NMDOH and NMPED. With our awards assemblies, class field trips etc.. It is hard to plan when things can change every two weeks depending upon the “color” of Otero county in regard to COVID cases. Just know, we want to “celebrate” as we can, but these “celebrations” might look different from years past. Our schools will keep you informed through robo calls, emails, our website and our Facebook page as plans unfold.

While we plan these events that we want so badly, we need parents to please cooperate with the schools. If your student is displaying ANY symptoms related to COVID-19 please, please, please keep them at home until they are tested and you receive the test results. We want to finish this school year as normal as possible, but that is going to take cooperation between our parents and our schools. Thank you for being our partner in education and helping us keep the schools open!

What has been exciting is Bear sports! Varsity Volleyball has had a full schedule and are looking good going into district and state. Cross Country Boys Team won district with Max Preslar being the District Champion for the second year in a row and our Girls Team placed second!! They went to state on March 26th so, check out our Facebook page to see how they placed. Our Football team almost had a full schedule, but will be able to squeeze in a few more games with the “Football Bowl” that will take the place of State this year. Basketball has already started practicing and Track & Field start their practices on April 5. Whew! All sports condensed into 4-5 months is amazing, but the NMAA promised “We will play again,” and they fulfilled their promise to our athletes!

Another important thing happening this month is State Mandated Testing. Please visit our website under “latest news” to see the NMPED testing schedule. The testing is more important now than ever. We have always used the test data to drive our curriculum and instruction, but now it is critical for all our students to test so that we can determine where our focus needs to be due to any learning loss that has occurred during the pandemic. I would like to encourage you to look at the testing schedule and make sure your student is prepared to do the best they can, as always!

The New Mexico 2021 Legislative Session ended on March 20. We are currently waiting for the Governor to sign those bills passed by both Houses on or before April 8th. Some of those items that affect education are: the Public Education Budget is up 5.5% from fiscal year 2021. Early Childhood Education Funding will finally go out to the voters in the 2022 general election. Extended Learning Time would be an option for schools to extend the academic year to make up for lost instructional time lost due to the pandemic. Lastly, Opportunity Scholarships will continue to be funded which provides tuition assistance to thousands of NM students.

I would like to wish everyone a Happy Spring. The end of the 2020-2021 school year will be here soon. Our students, staff and parents have been a true “Cloudcroft Bear Team” working together for success!!

Go Bears!!

(picture of Elem. And the XC plaques)