

# DUNDEEDISPATCH

SEPTEMBER 2019



## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Thursday, September 5**  
Dundee Direct Kick-Off!
- Tuesday, September 10**  
9:15am 1st Grade - Field Trip
- Sunday, September 15**  
1:00pm PTO Welcome Picnic at Elmwood Park
- Monday, September 16**  
6:00pm All Grades Open House
- Thursday, September 19**  
2:00pm Dundee Direct Neighborhood Walk - for students and teachers
- Friday, September 20**  
No School - Curriculum Day
- Monday, September 23**  
No School - Teacher Plan Day
- Friday, September 27**  
9:00am 3rd Grade - Field Trip  
9:45am 1st Grade - Field Trip
- Monday, September 30**  
Dundee Direct Campaign Ends - Donations Due
- Tuesday, October 1**  
Individual Student School Pictures  
6:30pm PTO Meeting at the Dundee Dell-
- Wednesday, October 2**  
8:30am National Walk to School Day
- Thursday, October 17**  
Parent Teacher Conferences
- Friday, October 18**  
First Quarter Ends  
Lunch with a Loved One

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## Dundee Direct is about to kick off!

Dundee Direct will kick off on September 3rd! If you're new to Dundee Elementary, Dundee Direct is the PTO's only fundraiser. 100% of money raised goes to the PTO and is used to fund teacher grants, projects around the school, and more! Every child and teacher receive benefits from the money raised. Last year the PTO replaced computers throughout the school!

### You can help by:

- Check your blue folders for information on how to contribute! You can send cash or check in your blue folder or donate online at <https://www.dundeepto.org/dundee-direct.html> or scan the code below.
- Start saving your change! The grade level who collects the most change, by weight, by September 26 will win an amazing prize!
- Find out if your company matches donations! Many companies will match donations to non-profits, including the Dundee Elementary PTO. Ask your HR rep!
- Do you know a friend/neighbor/college/stranger at the grocery store that RAVES about Dundee? Ask them to consider making a donation!



We have so many fun surprises in store for the kids this year.

Thank you for all your support and help making Dundee amazing! Keep an eye out for more information in those blue folders!



## Get your WILDCAT gear!

Kids shirts, sweatshirts and water bottles are available at Open House on **September 16th** or through the PTO store website. Get your gear before its gone!



## PTO Event Volunteer Opportunities

Keep an eye on your inbox, for volunteer signup sheets for upcoming events, such as National Walk to School Day, Bookfair, and conference dinners, to name a few.



### September Greetings,

Welcome to the 2019-2020 School Year! Due to the new Gifford Park Elementary School opening, we have about 450 wonderful students in attendance and eager to learn. We have welcomed many new students to Dundee this year and have added the following new staff members since the opening letter went home: Ms. Sydney Iseminger, instructional para, and Ms. Mora Joseph, BSP para. We are excited to have these folks join our fantastic staff!

Once again, we had a great turn out for our Back to School Night. It was wonderful to see so many students and families reconnecting after the summer break. If you didn't get a chance to stop by, please don't hesitate to come and visit us at any time,

we look forward to seeing you! Hope you can visit us often!

Sincerely,

Ms. Kaye Kennedy

## A few reminders....

### Steps to Become a Volunteer in Omaha Public Schools

1. Contact the school to discuss a volunteer opportunity.
2. Complete volunteer application online.
3. Building principal needs to approve the volunteer activity request.
4. Human Resources will communicate via email to the principal and volunteer applicant of approval or denial of request.
5. *Volunteer activity can begin AFTER approval email is received from Human Resources.*
6. Access the application by going to the Dundee webpage: [Dundee.ops.org](http://Dundee.ops.org) and click on the Quick Links Tab.

Volunteers provide the opportunity for parents and the community to enrich the education of students and are vital to the success of all Omaha Public Schools' students. OPS seeks dedicated volunteers to carry out a variety of duties ranging from chaperoning on field trips to tutoring, mentoring children, assisting with fundraising efforts and coaching our student athletes. Thank you for your application to be a volunteer in our schools! We want this to be a rewarding experience for you and OPS appreciates your willingness and support.

All volunteer records are inactivated the last day of each school year. **All volunteers must reapply school each year to be considered for volunteer opportunities.**

### Breakfast Program

Dundee provides a free, nutritious breakfast each morning to any student who would like one. The breakfast program begins at 8:25 a.m. Students should not arrive at school before this time if they plan on eating breakfast. If your child does not eat breakfast, we would like them to **arrive at Dundee no earlier than 8:40 a.m.** There is not adequate supervision before 8:40 a.m. and we would appreciate your help in this matter.

### Parking

There is no parking on the right side of Chicago Street from 52nd to 51st street, **AND** new this year, the City of Omaha also posted "No Parking" signs on the east side of 51st St. Please follow posted signs to keep the traffic moving safely at arrival and dismissal times. Please be courteous to our neighbors by not parking in front of their driveways or on the edge of their lawns.

### 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 us 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.**

## 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:

### *Lockdown Drill – Wednesday, September 4*

- 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 Drill – Wednesday, September 11*

- Students take refuge in designated areas to protect from severe weather.

### *Fire Drill – Wednesday, September 18*

- Building is quickly evacuated when fire alarm sounds.

### *Evacuation Drill – Wednesday, September 25*

- 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

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” mean 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 over night and returned to them the next day. If the problem continues, the phone will be kept until a parent can come to the office and pick it up. We appreciate your help.

## September Counselor's Corner



So, here we are again. If you’re like me, the summer whizzed by. Seems like I was just cleaning out my desk when I was suddenly back to filling it up again. I hope that you create some great memories and built in a little relaxation time.

My lessons for the first few weeks are all about how to be a successful student and about the nature of my job: what I do, how to see me, etc.

If you are interested in talking to me about any concerns, please feel free to phone me at 402-554-8424 to chat or set up an appointment. Or, if you are in school, stop by my office to see if I am available. I enjoy meeting the parents of our students.

Getting back into the routine of school can sometimes be difficult – especially after a summer of fewer demands. Setting a regular bedtime and morning routine can help along with laying out clothes and backpacks the night before and getting a packed lunch into the fridge. Getting here on time every day is the best thing you can do to ensure your child’s success here at school. Please watch for any changes in behavior when it comes to your child’s attitude toward school. If they suddenly claim they are sick or develop a negative attitude, please let me know. There might be something going on like a problem with another student or falling behind in a class. I’d like to be able to address the problem earlier and work together to help your child feel better.

If you have a student in grades 3 – 6, you may have noticed the “business card” they brought home. This is for the Safe Schools Hotline – a collaboration between OPS and the Boys Town National Hotline. It is available for students, staff, and families. Trained counselors will answer your call and can help with concerns about drugs, alcohol, mental health, friendship issues, etc. The services are free, anonymous, and offered 24/7. The phone number is 531-299-7233. (I will be distributing these to students in grades K-2 once I receive more cards.)

If you have a student in the fourth grade, then they will be eligible to run for Student Council this year. I will be sharing info with them and with the fifth and sixth graders in the next few weeks. I am hoping to be able to publish the names of our representatives in the next Dispatch.

**This month's funnies:**

1) Question from a third grader to his teacher: "So, is this the class where we get the massages and naps?" 2) Received an e-mail this summer from a former parent who shared this story. Their daughter had had her wisdom teeth removed and was still under the influence of the strong medications she had been given. She was very happy when, all of a sudden, she began crying. Her mother asked her what was wrong. The daughter replied, "I lied to Mrs. Colasacco. I told her I would never do drugs." Guess those Red Ribbon Week lessons have stuck!

**Final thought:**

Here at Dundee, we focus on teaching and education. And, along with reading and writing and math and social studies and science and art and library and music and gym, we try to teach kindness and compassion. The following are not my words but they are good thoughts: "Don't become preoccupied with your child's academic ability, but instead teach them to sit with those sitting alone. Teach them to be kind. Teach them to offer help. Teach them to be a friend to the lonely. Teach them to encourage others. Teach them to think about other people. Teach them to share. Teach them to look for the good. This is how they will change the world."

-Mary Ann Colasacco

**Successful Back to School Night**

On a hot and humid evening, the annual "Back to School Night" kicked off the 2019-20 school year at Dundee Elementary School Monday, Aug 12. Several hundred students and their families attended. Ms. Kennedy, Mrs. Tingelhoff and Mrs. Colasacco welcomed all of the visitors. Teachers from each grade level presented their curriculum to eager parents and students. Students checked out their new classrooms and learned about their daily schedules and classroom procedures. Friends reconnected after the not-so-long summer. Many students brought their school supplies to unpack and organize ahead of the first school day.

Booths provided information and sign-ups for Dundee PTO, Tae Kwon Do, Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts. Lots of great new selections were available for sale at the PTO merchandise booth. Brisk business at the booth all evening means many proud Dundee students and parents will be sporting brand new Dundee gear. On top of all that, the PTO served up 90 delicious jumbo size Mama's pizzas to the hungry families of Dundee school. Many thanks to all of the volunteers who made "Back to School Night" a big hit event once again. And, much appreciation to everyone who contributed free-will PTO donations to help offset the cost of the pizza. We are off to another exciting start to the school year, enjoy!!!

- Nate and Katy Dickerson  
PTO Vice Presidents

**Lunch Guests and Cafeteria Reminders**

You are welcome to join your child for lunch in the cafeteria at anytime. Please remember, federally supported programs, such as our lunch program, **prohibit the bringing in of outside food from restaurants or fast food places during the lunch period.** (Panera, McDonald's, Pizza Hut, Burger King, etc. are not allowed in the cafeteria during school lunch time).

Currently, we have several students with severe peanut allergies. We do offer a peanut-free table. Nutrition Services will not serve any peanut butter or food with peanut products. We want to create a safe environment for all students. I understand a 'peanut butter and jelly' sandwich is a quick and easy sandwich to pack for students bringing their lunch from home. If you could find other alternatives to peanut butter, it would make our cafeteria environment even safer for our students.

If your child has a food allergy, please notify the school in writing if you haven't already done so.



Follow us on  
**Instagram @dundee PTO**



# Welcome back Wildcats!

We are so excited to get the new school year started. The PTO Executive Board has already been working hard to provide our community with the activities and events that make Dundee so very special. We are very lucky to have a team of parents and teachers involved to make our committees truly exceptional.

## Join the PTO

We hope that you have already joined the PTO, either through the sign-up form in the packet you received on back-to-school night or our web site, [dundeeppto.org](http://dundeeppto.org). It is absolutely free and only provides benefits to you and your family. We give you up to date information on school events, activities, and even the lunch menu. We can simply text and email these helpful reminders straight to your inbox so you can stay up to date on all of the happenings at school. Speaking of the website, don't forget there is the link to Share Your Photos so we have many to choose from the yearbook.

## PTO Meetings

We are moving the PTO Meetings to the first Tuesday of the month. Our first meeting of the school year will be held in the Library, Tuesday, September 3rd at 6:30. Childcare is provided in the cafeteria. We will provide a snack for the meeting and plan to present an overview of this year's budget and calendar as well as our plans for Dundee Direct.

## Dundee Direct Campaign

None of this is possible without the backbone of our PTO, our one and only fund-raiser, Dundee Direct, where the funds raised go to directly back to the school 100%. The drive kicks-off September 5, 2019 with a goal to raise \$20,000 throughout the month.

We will have various activities throughout the month to raise money. Watch those Wednesday folders for details.

## Events at Dundee

Much of the Dundee Elementary community comes from the activities that allow us to meet and mingle outside of the classroom. Some of these activities include:

- Back to School night where you can reunite with other parents
- Welcome Picnic at Elmwood Park
- The Scholastic Book Fair to incite the love of reading
- Dads & Donuts
- Craft Night, an evening with the Pancake Man and loads of crafts and holiday cheer
- Stinky Feet & Glow Sticks, otherwise known as the Sock Hop dance, where you can kick off your shoes for a night of great music and lots of fun

While these events build a wonderful community at Dundee, we want to emphasize that most of the funds from the PTO go straight back into the classroom and students.

## Volunteers Needed

We could always use your help. No matter how big or small, whether it's your time or gifts, it means the world to us and the school. Please consider joining a committee or just filling in a volunteer slot on one of the Sign-Up Genius requests you will receive throughout the year.

We hope to see you September 3rd!

Julie & Don Stavneak, PTO Presidents