

# DRAGON TALES

DUFIEF ELEMENTARY'S MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

## DUFIEF CELEBRATES ABILITIES AWARENESS WEEK

We are thrilled to be hosting our annual Ability Awareness Week at DuFief!

This week-long program is designed to teach our students to focus on what people with disabilities can do, rather than what they cannot. Our hope is that we spread awareness that everyone is special, despite our differences, and that we should see the whole person, not just the disability. During this week, each student will listen to a 30 minute presentation by a speaker who has a different (dis)ability.

Our week-long celebration begins Monday with a student assembly by *Open Circle Theater by Story Tapestries*. DC's first professional theater that promotes careers in the arts for people with disabilities. Story Tapestries' mission is to use the arts as a powerful tool to create accessible, open spaces and opportunities for individuals to reach their highest potential and to work together for a more inclusive community. One way in which Story Tapestries accomplishes this is by providing innovative, custom-designed performances, workshops and hands-on community and educational experiences. Arianna Ross, Founder of Story Tapestries, believes in the power of stories to change communities. Her mantra that guides the mission: "It is through the laughter and tears of our tales that the lessons of life are learned."



Thank you to our Abilities Awareness Week Planning Committee and DuFief PTA for their support in providing this opportunity for our students.

## SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR IS COMING SOON

The Scholastic Book Fair will be held in the Media Center December 11-15, and we are looking for volunteers to help support the event. We can't make this a success without your help. Please click on the link to sign up & volunteer.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0A4DA8AF2BA4FD0-scholastic>

Set up an eWallet by Friday, Dec 15 so your child can shop the fair without cash.

Visit the link for online shopping and E-Wallet information:

<https://www.scholastic.com/bf/dufief>

### DECEMBER 2023

#### DECEMBER 4

Professional Day/No School for Students

#### DECEMBER 4-8

DuFief Celebrates Abilities Awareness Week

#### DECEMBER 5

PTA Meeting/7:00-8:00pm/Zoom

#### DECEMBER 11-15

Scholastic Book Fair

#### DECEMBER 13

DuFief PTA LEGO Night/5:30-7:30pm

#### DECEMBER 18

DuFief Winter Concert/7:00-8:00pm

#### DECEMBER 25-JANUARY 2

Winter Break/Schools and Offices Closed

## Scholastic Book Fair

12/11/23-12/15/23

Visit the book fair and shop for the holidays!

#### Book Fair Hours:

Monday 12/11: 8:45 am-4:00 pm

Tuesday 12/12: 8:45 am-4:00 pm

Wednesday 12/13: 8:45 am-4:00 pm

\*Lego Night 5:30-7:30 pm

Thursday 12/14: 8:45 am-4:00 pm

Friday 12/15: 8:45 am-11:30 am

## SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN GOALS

This year's School Improvement Plan includes a number of priorities we are addressing this year with our staff and students. Through a collaborative process with students, staff and parents, we began our annual school improvement plan work by asking the question:

What can we do this year to better *stimulate and challenge all students to develop their academic and social-emotional potential by inspiring them to become self-motivated lifelong learners and leaders?*

### Differentiated Professional Learning

Our staff engages in regular professional learning to continue to evolve in our teaching and learning practices. Our professional learning this year will address needs identified based on our student achievement data, the recent MCPS Anti-racist audit data and our staff voice data.

### Communicating Belief in Students

Capturing student perception an important data point used in our school improvement efforts. It is critical that our students know that the teachers and staff at DuFief Elementary believe in them. We were excited to see that over 80% of our students shared that they know their teachers believed in them. To ensure that all students know the teachers and staff believe in them, we will be learning about different ways we can evoke belief to our students.

### Increasing Family Engagement

To best achieve our mission, we rely on the partnership of our families. We will be collecting regular family engagement data this year to assess our current engagement strategies and determine opportunities to further engage our most critical partners, our families.

### Collaborative Team Planning

The everyday magic that occurs in a classroom begins during our weekly collaborative team planning meetings where our educators work together to plan and deliver lessons that are rigorous, engaging and aligned with our students' needs. We will be further evolving our collaborative team planning meetings to identify opportunities to enhance the district curricular tools to better meet the needs of our diverse learners.



## MCPS CONNECTIONS

### Reminder: Stay Connected with MCPS During Inclement Weather

With winter weather just around the corner, a reminder MCPS offers numerous ways to learn about your student's school closures, delayed openings and early dismissals when there is inclement weather. Learn more about [how weather decisions are made](#) and [how to receive information](#) about any changes.

### Tune in Live Dec. 14 to the Superintendent's Recommended Budget Presentation

MCPS Superintendent Dr. Monifa B. McKnight will present her recommended Fiscal Year 25 Operating Budget on Dec. 14 at 6 p.m. to the Board at Odessa Shannon Middle School. The public is invited to watch the presentation live on the [MCPS website](#), on the [MCPS-TV YouTube channel](#), and on the MCPS-TV channels in English and Spanish.

