



Dear D51 Families and Colleagues,

Even though this week was a short week for students, our D51 teachers, staff, and admin were hard at work. Thursday was a Teacher Workday for teachers and staff, and we also held our Leadership Academy for our school principals and administrators. This is a time for school leaders to plan together around curriculum, multi-tiered systems of support for our students to promote wellness and increased students attendance, and a time to share best practices with one another. Today was an in-service day for our middle and high school staff and a parent-teacher conference day for our elementary school staff. A lot of work goes into planning and preparing for a successful year, and having these built in days throughout the year to continue planning, and make adjustments where needed, are important for our staff to feel Prepared & Supported...a Focus Area in our D51 Strategic Plan. Ultimately, a Prepared & Supported Staff leads to more Prepared & Supported Students...our number one Focus Area in our Strategic Plan.

I always enjoy the opportunities to engage in events organized by our schools and the district that support our students, families, and community members, and I love the opportunity to meet and speak to different organizations in town. It serves as a valuable reminder of the essential aspects of our mission and what is truly important.

Tuesday, I had the opportunity to stop by the Western Colorado Construction Career Day at the fairgrounds where high school students got hands-on experience to learn about different pathways to a career in construction. I also was invited to speak with the Grand Junction Lions Club, where I had the opportunity to share some of the things happening in the district.

Wednesday, we visited two of our over twenty schools that received the highest state rating of Performance School to present them with a banner, and R-5 held their Fall Festival, which was open to the community. We also held our final townhall to discuss the Fruita grade reconfiguration and potential boundary changes.

Thursday, we held our first Long-Range Facility Master Planning Committee meeting at Monument Ridge Elementary. The committee brings together diverse voices from staff, teachers, families, and community partners, and they will help provide guidance for the district, and our partners at HCM, as we create a comprehensive vision for our schools and district facilities for the next 25+ years. I was also able to attend the Noche Informativa meeting last night, which is a monthly opportunity for our native Spanish speaking families to learn about different resources the district and community provide, which is organized by our Department of Access, Opportunity, & Family Partnerships. I finished off the evening by catching the second half of the GJHS football game as their team earned a big win!

There is always a lot going on in D51, and we want to make sure that we highlight all of the great work happening throughout our district and community. Thanks to our dedicated staff for all that you do, and thank you to our families and community for being Engaged & Supportive Partners with us...the final Focus Area in our Strategic Plan.

Lastly, I want to wish all our talented student athletes the best of luck as they compete in the state tennis tournament this weekend! We had teams from GJHS, Central, and FMHS qualify, and we're excited to see your incredible performances on the court.

Just a friendly reminder that there will be **no school on Monday** due to our Teacher Compensation Day. This day off is in recognition of the hard work and dedication of our teachers, who are required to stay after their contract hours for parent-teacher conferences each semester.

Annual United Way Airplane Pull

Staff members from both Wingate and Broadway Elementary enthusiastically participated in the annual Grand Junction Airplane Pull, a charitable event dedicated to supporting local non-profit agencies in Mesa County that United Way supports. Read more [here](#).

Western Colorado Construction Career Day

On Tuesday, the fourth annual Western Colorado Construction Career Day took place at the Mesa County fairgrounds, drawing nearly 200 11th-grade students from the local area. Read more [here](#).

GJHS Boys Golf Finishes 2nd at State

The Grand Junction High School's boys golf team secured a remarkable second-place finish in the Class 4A state tournament. Read more [here](#).

Palisade High School "Pink Night"

On Tuesday night, Palisade hosted its annual Pink Night, a heartfelt tradition at the school that raises funds and awareness to support breast cancer fighters. Read more [here](#).

D51 Performance Schools Receive Banners

On Wednesday, I had the privilege to engage with our students and staff in one of my favorite ways: celebrating and recognizing the amazing academic achievements and the work and dedication they give throughout the year by presenting them with well-deserved Performance School Banners. Read more [here](#).

Central High School Soccer Coach Inducted into CCU Hall of Fame

We are thrilled to announce that Central High School's beloved boys soccer coach, Joe Diedrich, has received the honor of being inducted into the Hall of Fame at Colorado Christian University. Read more [here](#).

Family-School Survey Begins Monday

On Monday, we will begin conducting the 2023 Family-School Survey in partnership with Panorama Education. This survey aims to gather your insights into the effectiveness of our schools and district, and it will aid our efforts in continuing to prepare and support your students for college, career, and life.

You can complete the survey online from October 16 to October 27, via a computer, tablet, or smartphone. If you have children in multiple schools, we encourage you to participate at each school connected to your family. Your responses are confidential and will be a valuable resource as we continue working to improve our schools and district. Keep an eye out for the survey link arriving in your inbox this Monday.

Colorado Free Application Days Coming Soon

Colorado Free Application Days is next week, October 17-19. This annual initiative provides high school students across the state with the opportunity to apply to Colorado colleges and universities without incurring any application fees. Read more [here](#).

Noche Informativa

Last night, our Department of Access, Opportunity, and Family Partnerships organized another successful Noche Informativa event for our families whose primary language is something other than English. Read more [here](#).

D51 Benefits Vendor Fair

Join us for our D51 Staff Benefits Vendor Fair on October 13 and October 14. At this event, staff members will have the opportunity to learn more about the comprehensive range of benefits we offer, visit with various vendors to answer questions and provide available options, and receive assistance with open enrollment paperwork. This event is a great opportunity for our staff to make informed decisions about their benefits while connecting with the vendors who provide them. We look forward to seeing you there! Click [here](#) for more information.

Special Board of Education Meeting Recap

On October 10, the Board of Education held a Special Board Meeting in the Harry Butler Board Room. For highlights from this meeting, click [here](#).

Upcoming Events:

- **Board of Education Coffee**
Saturday, October 14, 9:00 a.m., Dos Rios Elementary
- **Colorado Bandmasters Association Western Regional**
Thursday, October 19, 12:00 - 3:30 p.m., Stocker Stadium
- **Central High School Theater - Marian or the True Tale of Robin Hood**
Thursday, October 19 - 21, 7:00 p.m. Central High School
[Get tickets here.](#)
- **Central High School Fall Fair**
Saturday, October 21, 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., Central High School

For more events happening across the district, visit:

- [Fall Athletics Schedule](#)
- [District Upcoming Events](#)

If you have good news to share with us, we'd love to highlight your program, event, story, and more. Please share it with our communications department by emailing communicate@d51schools.org.

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