



Dear D51 Families and Colleagues,

As we wrap up our sixth week of school, it's a fitting time to reflect on our journey thus far. During these early stages of the academic year, our students, staff, and families have demonstrated adaptability and determination. Just as the leaves change with the seasons, y'all have embraced the transitions that come with new schools, new teachers, and new classrooms, facing both opportunities and challenges with enthusiasm. As we look ahead, let's continue to carry the spirit of this new season with us, staying committed to our educational goals and reaching new heights, both as a district and as individuals.

September always brings a sense of community and inspiration as we get to engage with our students, staff, and families beyond the school walls. This week, we had the privilege of observing their dedication on the football field in the GJHS Homecoming Game, enjoying quality time with families at the Central Homecoming Carnival, and joining in the celebration of student accomplishments during the Fruita Monument High School Awards Ceremony. With just a few short weeks left until the end of the first quarter, I'm excited to see what else we can continue to accomplish together!

**As a reminder, all grade levels will have no school on Monday due to Educator Effectiveness Day.** This day provides our D51 teachers and administrators with a valuable opportunity to work on their individual growth objectives and strategize how to achieve them.

#### Lions Club Constitution Book Delivery

On September 17, the United States commemorated Constitution Day, which marks the historic signing of the United States Constitution on September 17, 1787. Continuing their tradition, in celebration of this significant occasion, the Lion's Club of Grand Junction generously provided every D51 8th grader with copies of the Constitution. Read more [here](#).

#### Clifton Elementary - Adventure Vision

On Wednesday, Clifton Elementary provided an essential need for many of their students: free eye exams through a program called Adventure Vision. Read more [here](#).

#### Central High School Carnival

This year, Central High School took a creative and community-focused approach to its homecoming celebrations by replacing their traditional homecoming parade with an exciting Homecoming Carnival, and it was a blast for everyone involved! Read more [here](#).

#### Fruita Monument High School Awards Ceremony

On Wednesday, Fruita Monument High School held its awards ceremony to honor students for their academic excellence. Read more [here](#).

#### Thunder Mountain Pinwheels for Peace Ceremony

On Thursday, Thunder Mountain Elementary celebrated International Day of Peace with its 6th Annual Pinwheels for Peace Assembly. Peace means embracing diversity and celebrating our differences while working together to create a more inclusive society, and in observance of this day, several of our TME Mountaineers stood before their peers and shared what peace means to them. Read more [here](#).

#### D51 Foundation Awards Professional Learning Grants

I am excited to share with y'all that the District 51 Foundation recently revealed the latest recipients of the 12th round of Professional Learning Grants. In a demonstration of their continued commitment to the growth and development of our District 51 staff, the D51 Foundation will be awarding grants of more than \$15,000 to 53 deserving staff members. Read more [here](#).

#### Second Chance to Apply for DonorsChoose Initiative

A few weeks ago, I shared with you that the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) and DonorsChoose are partnering together to allocate \$11 million to aid pre-K to 12th-grade public school education in combating COVID-19 learning setbacks. This initiative enables teachers who qualify the ability to purchase necessary classroom resources of up to \$1,000 per teacher as long as the funding lasts. This week, we received an update from Education Commissioner Cordova, who announced an additional chance for Colorado teachers to access DonorsChoose Program funding. Read more [here](#).

#### Health Care Innovation Symposium

Grand Junction's inaugural Health Care Innovation Symposium occurred on Tuesday. I had the privilege of serving on a panel during this community-driven event, and participating gave me a sense of hope that our community is collectively headed in the right direction in our pursuit of addressing mental and behavioral health challenges that exist for our students. Read more [here](#).

#### Elementary Declining Enrollment Committee Report

The culmination of the Elementary Declining Enrollment Committee's efforts marked a significant milestone in our ongoing commitment to address the issue of declining enrollment at the elementary school level. The committee's dedicated work and thorough analysis were reflected in a comprehensive report presented to the Board of Education on Tuesday night.

The report of the Elementary Declining Enrollment Committee outlines the current challenges posed by declining enrollment in our district and offers five Pathways to proactively address this issue. A copy of this report can be found [here](#), and you can watch the full Board of Education meeting online [here](#).

As we progress in our efforts to find the most effective and viable solutions for declining enrollment, we will continue to inform our students, staff, families, and community of the direction we are heading and the progress we are making.

#### Upcoming Events

- **Fruita Monument Homecoming Parade**  
*Saturday, September 23, Circle Park, 10 a.m. -12:00 p.m.*
- **Hispanic Heritage Celebration**  
*Saturday, September 23, Las Colonias Park, 4:00 - 9:00 p.m.*  
Celebrate the vibrancy of Hispanic culture at the 1st Annual Festival put on by the Latin-Anglo Alliance and the City of Grand Junction Parks and Recreation Department. This event will feature various vendors, a live muralist creating artwork on-site, captivating live music, lively dancing, delectable food, bounce houses, and much more!
- **Colorado Marching Band Festival**  
*Saturday, September 30th, Stocker Stadium*  
Join us for this unforgettable event as bands from across Colorado come to showcase their first performance before a panel of ten judges, aiming to enhance their show before the regional competition, a crucial state-qualifying event.

Stay in the know and up-to-date on all things happening at D51:

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

#### Board of Education Recap

On September 19, the Board of Education held a Work Session in the Harry Butler Board Room. For highlights from this meeting, click [here](#).

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