

# *D51 Gifted Education Newsletter*

October 2022

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## *News from our D51 GT Director*

Every 4-5 years the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) conducts a review of gifted education in every district. Our review, titled Gifted Education Monitoring (GEM), was last April. The main purpose of this review is to determine how well the district is implementing the elements of the Exceptional Children's Educational Act (ECEA). The whole review process works to:

- Design a monitoring visit using input, scheduling, and sites that involve Gifted Education stakeholders
- Utilize monitoring to celebrate victories in Colorado's gifted education programming
- Utilize monitoring to diagnose areas for growth and provide guidance and learning opportunities
- Close excellence gaps in the state of Colorado through improved gifted programming
- Provide an intentional, hands-on, and transparent monitoring experience
- Help to create equality of opportunity for every student, every step of the way



In August, the finalized report was sent to superintendents and the gifted education office. This report includes strengths and next steps for improvement. Here is a summary of both for D51:

- Strengths
  - Robust procedures for parent, family, and student engagement
  - Powerful practice of identification and steps to ensure all student demographics are represented
  - Collaboratively developed goals and transition meetings as students move from elementary to middle and middle to high school
  - Quarterly progress monitoring for K-8 GT students
  - A tiered-support approach for students in high school (and Fruita 8/9)
  - A district framework for programming support at all levels
  - Collaboration, data practices, continuous growth mindset, forward-thinking professional learning, and servant leadership
- Next steps for improvement
  - Consistency in identification practices across the district
  - All schools use the programming framework with variations due to student need, not adult preference
  - Timelines and guidelines for Advanced Learning Plans (ALPs) utilized consistently across the district
  - Inclusion on gifted and twice exceptional learners within district unified improvement plans

If you have any questions or would like a more complete review of the GEM report, please contact the D51 GT office.

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## *Student Book Reviews*



**Reviewed by Alice Fink, 4th grade, Chipeta Elementary**

Harry Potter and the Half Blood Prince

By J.K Rowling

Reviewed by Alice Fink, 4th grade, Chipeta Elementary

Do you like to read fantasy with twists and turns? Maybe this book is for you. The main character Harry and his friends, Ron Weasley and Hermione Granger start getting more knowledge about horcruxs and magic. A horcrux is where someone stores their soul so when they die they go back to a piece of their soul and the soul pieces are stored inside objects. Harry trys to destroy the horcruxs and defeat Voldemort. In the beginning they struggle to

find and destroy the horcruxs. But they get closer and closer to their goal. It really is not easy but magic and miracles help them get through it. Harry Potter and the Half Blood Prince is an awesome book! a fantasy and magical book. There is no other book I would rather just sit down and read than this!

## Note

Read the other books in this series before this one or else it will be confusing 🤔.

### Reviewed by Jedi Carey 4th grade Chipeta Elementary

#### BREAKING NEWS

The Boxcar Children

By Gurtrude Chandler Warner

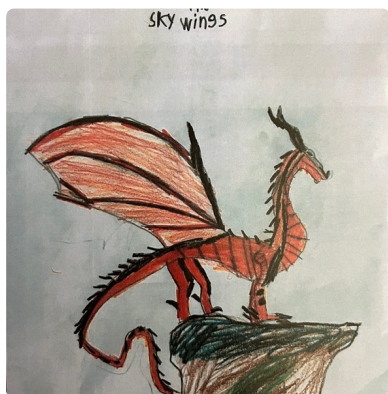
Reviewed by Jedi Carey 4th grade Chipeta Elementary



Do you like to read a relatable book for fun? If so, read The Boxcar Children: Surprise Island. This book is about three kids named Henry, Jessie, Violet, and Benny who spend their summer at an island with their grandpa. The children live in a barn and have to tell their grandpa what food they will need to survive. The children say they will live off bread and water and make their bedrooms out of hay, barrels, and a sheet. Will the children have a good or bad summer vacation? Read to find out...

One thing I liked about this book is how I can relate to this book. For example, when the children are shocked because they realize they have their own island and well, don't we all wish we had our own island. Another thing thing I like about this book

is how it is so funny. One example of this is when they ask if they will fit in the little house on the island, the grandpa says that they'll sleep in the barn. For some reason the children are happy about that. I also like how I can make a picture in my head. For example, when their grandpa says that they have an island, it shocked me that the children never knew that their family has had an island for years.



### Reviewed by Aiden Warner 4th grade Chipeta Elementary

The Dragonet Prophecy

By Tui t Sutherland

Reviewed by Aiden Warner 4th grade Chipeta Elementary

I recommend this book to any dragon fan.

The dragonets under the mountain are a Mudwing, a Seawing, a Rainwing, a Nightwing and a Sandwing. Their names are Clay

Tsunami, Glory, Starflight and Sunny. They find Clay's siblings in the mud kingdom. Their names are Reed, Umber, Marsh, Sora and Pheasant. Reed is the bigwings, that means he's the biggest, also he was the first to hatch.

In the beginning the dragonets get captured by Skywings and they have to survive gladiator fights. A Skywing named Peril who lights everything she touches on fire!!! The mission the dragonets have to complete is to stop the war of Sandwing succession. Will they survive? Read to find out!

Any dragon fan will love this!

### Reviewed by Easton Ayers, 5th Grade - Chipeta Elementary

Diary of a Wimpy Kid

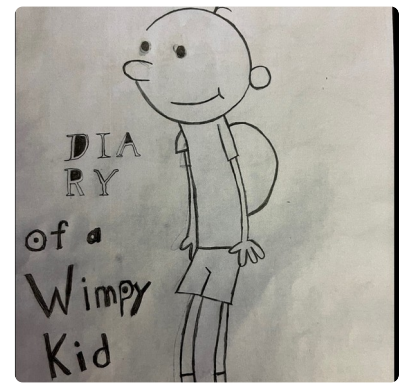


Written And Illustrated By: Jeff Kenny

Reviewed by Easton Ayers, 5th grade, Chipeta Elementary School

Do you wish you knew a really good series? Well this book is for you.

In Diary of a Wimpy Kid there's a main character named Greg Heffley. The reason why I like this character is because he's very funny, Plus he always talks about how the life of a human being is. There are simple things such as how he thinks baby wipes are a million times better than regular toilet paper, to huge things, such as how he plans to be rich and designs his underground mansion. Plus, he talks about his personal life a lot. For example, there was this one part where he was talking about how easy it was to take out the trash. He says this because the Heffley family was getting an addition to their house. So, they had a big dumpster right outside of Greg's window so every time he had to take out the trash he would take it up to his room and throw it out the window. Another funny part that I read was about Manny Heffley, the youngest of the family, was working on his miniature house and once he finished he added in a sprinkler system! So if you like enthusiasm and a funny series this book would be for you.



### Reviewed by Juniper Hamilton 4th grade Chipeta Elementary

Harry Potter And the Sorcerer's Stone

By J.k Rowling

Reviewed by Juniper Hamilton 4th grade Chipeta Elementary

I recommend this book to anyone who likes to read big books that take lots of time or to anyone who likes magical things and fantasy. It is about a boy named Harry who lives with non-magic people (his aunt and uncle) who are mean to him. He learns he's a wizard and goes to a school for magic, Hogwarts, where he meets some friends (Ron and Hemione). He gets an owl named Headwig who can send him letters. He also got a broom and he plays a sport called Quidditch. Harry has classes and his least favorite class is potions because of the teacher, Prof. Snape. Later, he learns about Nicolas Flamel who made the Sorcerer's Stone and learns what it can do. He goes into the chamber that contains the Sorcerer's Stone to stop lord voldemort from using it so he can live forever. Does he survive against Lord Voldemort? Read to find out.

### Reviewed by N.C., 3rd grade, Chipeta Elementary

Dog Man

By.Dav Pilkey

Reviewed by N.C., 3rd grade, Chipeta Elementary



I like dog man because there are a lot of characters. It is funny how they sewed the dog head on the cops body. I like how it teaches you how to be equal. I like how they always save the day. My favorite part is how dog man jumps on the chief. Dog man is a cop. He has a sidekick named Little Petey. These two characters are always fighting crime. The bad guys are Petey, the fleas, Flippy, and Flat Petey. Dog man is not that smart and gets distracted a lot. The chief is bossy and tells

Dog Man what to do. There are a lot of Dog Man books. If you like books about fighting crime you should read Dog Man.



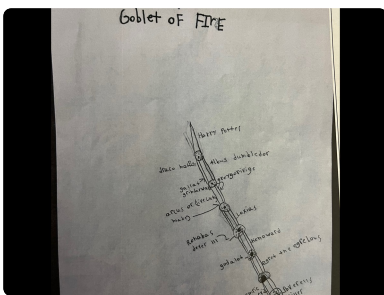
### Reviewed by M.L., 3rd grade, Chipeta Elementary

Puppy Place  
MUTTLEY  
By Ellen Miles

Reviewed by M.L., 3rd grade, Chipeta Elementary

Do you like dogs ? If so, this is a good book for you!

Lizzie is a girl who works at a pet store! But, there's too many pets! So she fostered Muttley the dog! One night Lizzie heard Muttley barking like crazy! She wondered what was wrong! She smelled smoke ! She woke up Bean, Lizzie's baby brother, and Charles, her other brother. Muttley woke up dad. They all ran to the back yard. Then, dad called 911 Later, firefighters came! Then, they found out it was just soup burning in the kitchen! One of the firefighters said he wants a dog for his son, but, Lizzie wants Muttley to go with Jimmy, Lizzie's friend. To find out about Muttley's new family read the book. I like this book because it has a life saving dog!



### Reviewed by Elliot Porter, 5th grade Chipata Elementary school

HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE  
Author J.K Rowling  
Reviewed by Elliot Porter, 5th grade  
Chipata Elementary school

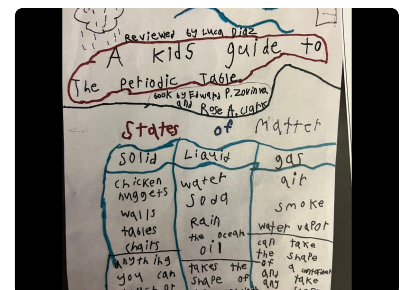
Harry Potter and the GOBLET OF FIRE is a great book for people who like action suspense and plot twists. In this book, the main character, Harry Potter, gets entered in an extremely dangerous magical competition. In this challenge he has to complete three magical tests. For example, in the first test he has to battle a dragon. There is also an extreme plot twist at the end that you might want to see.

I thought that it was a good book because it has action, suspense, and a plot twist. I also thought it was a good book because Harry has to face many hardships including getting a date and everybody thinking he is a cheat for entering the Triwizard Tournament when he was not supposed to. These hardships for the character really make the reader feel some emotions like sadness, anger, joy, suspense, and happiness. This is why I think that Harry Potter and the GOBLET OF FIRE is a great book and I would strongly recommend it. I can also say the same for the rest of the Harry Potter series.

### Reviewed by Luca Diaz, 5th grade, Chipeta Elementary

A Kids Guide To The Periodic Table.  
Book by Edward P. Zovinka and Rose A. Clark

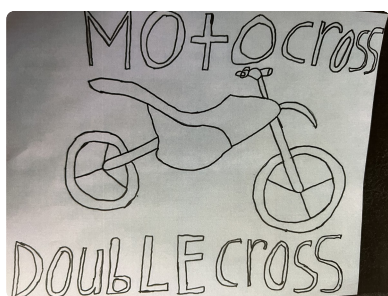
Reviewed by Luca Diaz, 5th grade, Chipeta Elementary  
Have you ever wanted to learn the basics of science but don't know where to start? You should read a book called "A kids guide to the



periodic table". Here are some facts I learned from the book. Some of the elements have a few letters as their name, for example H<sub>2</sub>O is matter because two elements are used to make it.

My second fact is that matter is everything that has weight and takes up space, like the computer you might be seeing this on or even the air that everyone breathes. The three states of matter are gas, liquid and solid. Some examples for these would be water as a liquid but, when it is put in cold temperatures it becomes a solid also known as ice. An example for gas would be the steam that comes from boiling water that evaporates into the air making water vapor which is what we call steam.

There can be multiple other facts you can learn from this book. My second reason I like this book is that it's suitable for various ages, even your parents can read this. My last reason is that it's not too long or too short, so it makes the perfect book for anyone to read. That is why I like this book called "A kids guide to the periodic table".



### **Reviewed by Lucas Little, 5th grade, Chipeta Elementary**

Motocross Double-Cross

By Jake Maddox

Reviewed by Lucas Little, 5th grade, Chipeta Elementary

Carlos and Ricky race each other every day, but are still remaining friends even though there is tension between two competitive racers. Their motocross skills are amazing. It's always a two man race between those two. Then, they have to go to nationals where they could get sponsored by Benson motors. If they get the sponsorship they would go pro.

Three reasons that I like the book:

1. It is interesting to me because it reminds me of riding dirt bikes.
2. It has super good detail.
3. I also like riding dirt bikes.

Make sure you read the book, Motocross Double-Cross!

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## *Student Spotlight*

### **Clifton North Star Skyla Treuber**

At Clifton Elementary, we are excited to have Skyla with us again this year. Skyla has an Advanced Learning Plan for math and reading. She embodies all the positive qualities that we look for in North Stars and has a keen interest in learning.

Skyla describes herself as "school cool" which she explains " means I like schools better than playing." At home, she likes to read, write, and do math as well as spend time organizing but not



cleaning! She also enjoys art. When she was in 1st Grade, she earned 3rd place in the Bank of Colorado calendar competition. . Her one wish for school is to do more multiplication and division as well as have ice cream parties.

As for being Gifted, Skyla says, " I kind of take it as I am kind of like everyone else but not. I like feeling like everybody else but then again I don't because I don't always fit in." She mentions that excelling academically can cause problems in the classroom with other students but she has a great friend in class to help her through these tough times.



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## *School Clubs*

### **Shelley Elementary - Lego League Robotics Challenge**

Shelley Fifth Graders unbox this year's First Lego League Robotics Challenge materials.

The theme is "***Superpowered***".

Let the building and coding begin!



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## *Student Work*

### **Macie Nelson - Redlands Middle School**

The GT classroom is located just around the corner from the art classroom. Redlands Middle School is fortunate to have an amazing art teacher with an eye for talent. There are many incredible artists who are in the gifted program at RMS. One such student is 8th grader, Macie Nelson. These art pieces were assignments for the art elective class. Macie excels as an artist as she pays attention to detail and takes her assignments beyond grade level.



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## *GT Scholarship Applications*

**22-23 GT Scholarship Application.pdf**

[Download](#)

85.9 KB

**22-23 GT Scholarship Application (Spanish).pdf**

[Download](#)

74.1 KB

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## *CAGT Happenings*

**Conversations with CAGT**

**CAGT 2022 Confernece**

CAGT Conference 2022: Unconventionally, Unconventionally Gifted





It's conference time! Join us live and in-person at the Embassy Suites in Loveland, October 16-18th, 2022. This year's conference theme is "Unconventionally, Unconditionally Gifted" as it is imperative that we find, identify, and support the unconventional gifted learner and to stop placing conditions on their giftedness. Our professional conference offers more than 80 presentations from experts in the field of gifted education and has an annual attendance of more than 800 educators, administrators, parents, and community members.

[Register by clicking here!](#)

### Conference Happenings:

[CLICK HERE FOR A SCHEDULE PREVIEW!](#)

**Creativity Night** - Sun. Oct. 16th at 7:30pm (included with conference registration)

**Family Institute** - Mon. Oct. 17th - check in at 5:30pm / opening session at 6:00pm (included with conference registration OR if you only want to attend the Family Institute, [then click here to register](#))

### Youth Impact Awards

**Scholarships:** Leaders in Action and Mental Health Support

### CAGT Leadership Awards

Exhibitors and Sponsorships – [click here for exhibitor/sponsorship registration information](#)

We'll see you soon!

[Click here for more conference information and conference registration.](#)

### Recorded Media & Misc. Resources

[2022 Colorado Free Colorado Application Days](#) - Oct. 18-20

["The Duality of Giftedness"](#) (The Tech Edvocate)

["Strategies for Teaching the Whole Gifted Child"](#) (The Tech Edvocate)

["How to Know if Your Child is Highly Gifted: Signs to Look For"](#) (El País)

["Educational Consulting for Gifted Students"](#) (Davidson Institute)

["95 Essential Links for the Parents of Gifted Children: Websites & Online Resources"](#) (research.com)

["Grouping Without Fear: Effective Grouping \(and Ungrouping\) of Gifted Students"](#) (video)

["Gifted Support Group - Getting to the Root of 2e: Beyond the Usual Suspects"](#) (video)

["2022 APCG Symposium 2 Terminological Controversies in Gifted Education"](#) (video)

["Please Don't Do This if You're Homeschooling Gifted Learners"](#) (video)

["The Education Hub - Gifted and Talented"](#) (video)

["Teachers of Reddit: When Did You Realize a Student was Gifted?"](#) (video)

Above graphics above courtesy of Pixabay

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[Facebook page - WesternSlope GT & 2E](#)

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## *D51 Gifted & Talented Education*



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**Mandy Budd**

Mandy is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters