

D51 Gifted Education Newsletter

November 2022

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Thanksgiving Break

November 21-25, 2022

No School



News from our GT Director Heather Baskin

Colorado Association for Gifted and Talented (CAGT) puts on an annual conference every year for teachers and families. The theme for the October 16th-18th event was "Unconventionally, Unconditionally Gifted." The team from Mesa County that attended the conference (funded through a GT grant) were:

- Brandy Headlee, D51 GT Coach
- Kim Smith, D51 6-12 Math Specialist
- Melissa DeLong, Elementary Counselor
- Brittany Metz, Secondary Instructional Coach
- Abigail Mangum, Community Member and Parent of D51 students
- Rochelle Morrison, Elementary GT Teacher
- Coal Espesito, Middle School Social Studies Teacher
- Christena Nelson, Elementary GT Teacher
- Audry Neumiller, High School Art Teacher

And this month, November, we will have a group go to the National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC) annual conference (also funded through a GT grant). These attendees are:

- Tawnya Bangert, MS GT Teacher
- Meredith Thornhill, Elementary GT Teacher
- Susan Dailey, Elementary GT Teacher

As you can see, we had a lot of different students represented by this group. It was amazing to experience the learning and incredible conversations that take place during this event. Some of these attendees are also presenters at the conference, sharing their expertise with others around the state and country. Each of our attendees is required to bring back learning to share with other educators, the community, and/or families. This helps stretch our grant dollars to get the most learning back to our system and supporting our students. If you are interested in what was learned, feel free to reach out to any of these attendees or contact our office.

Teacher Book Review

by Mrs. Hayes at Orchard Avenue Elementary

We all hear a podcast that makes us stop and think. This podcast did that for me as a Gifted Education teacher: [Hidden Brain Podcast: Why You're Smarter Than You Think](#).

The podcast made me want to read *Ungifted, Intelligence Redefined, The Truth About Talent, Practice, Creativity and the Many Paths to Greatness* by Scott Barry Kaufman. I could give a summary, but you could get that just by googling the book. What makes this book insightful is that it is written by a person who is twice exceptional and gives you first hand knowledge of that experience. He takes you on an intellectual journey through a research lens of psychology. How would you describe intelligence? What would you look for in a human being to say they were gifted or not? How can

UNGIFTED

Intelligence Redefined

*The Truth About Talent,
Practice, Creativity, and the
Many Paths to Greatness*



SCOTT BARRY KAUFMAN

we make sure we are “seeing” learners with new eyes that go beyond specific assessments or our idea of intelligence?

As educators we never want learners to fall through the cracks, and this book gave me a lot to think about as a Gifted Education educator. Scott Barry Kaufman gave me insight on:

- the history of giftedness and IQ assessments,
- the consequences of labels; “labels imply a fixed ability,”
- self-efficacy impacting a child’s mindset at an early age because of labeling,
- how self-regulation is a critical skill that needs to be taught to all learners and the [Project Bright IDEA](#) was developed with that focus in mind by teaching “gifted behaviors” to all primary children (and is now a Gifted and Talented program with excellent results),
- how to purposefully connect mindset, deliberate practice, and passion for learners,
- how deliberate practice is related to hope and hope is related to academic achievement above and beyond IQ, divergent thinking, and conscientiousness,
- how working memory is connected to creativity and prodigies,
- how “every single brain on this planet wants to make meaning and will do so by any means (or unique cortical structure) necessary. Instead of treating talent as an ‘innate ability,’ with all the knowledge and skills fully present at birth, think of talent as defined as a predisposition and passion to master the rules of a domain.” and
- how I am now rethinking intelligence.

“People with all different kinds of minds are capable of accomplishing extraordinary things in their own way and in their own time.” Scott Barry Kaufman

His idea shared at a local TEDx event:

[TED Talk: A New Theory of Human Intelligence](#) by Scott Barry Kaufman

“In order for us to see the true possibilities in all students we need to have a theory of intelligence that is holistic and takes into account and appreciates the whole person.”

Scott Barry Kaufman also has his own podcast: [The Psychology Podcast](#) (He recently interviewed Colin Seale.)

School Spotlight

Nisley Student Clubs

Nisley has two clubs that are stretching students’ minds and hearts. The Chess Club and Helping Hands are gaining momentum at Nisley. They each require that students lengthen their school days and engage in activities beyond typical academics. Both of these clubs engage in the core belief of creating a place where everyone belongs and can develop talents beyond the classroom.



Helping Hands was started last year by two 4th grade students, Kieryn Stone and Arianne Salzaar-Coates, with the help of Cassie Geske-Ross, Administrative Assistant, and [Carolyn Alldredge](#), 4th Grade Teacher. The mission is “to improve the lives of the members of our school and surrounding community.” The vision statement is “create a community of students dedicated to the betterment

of our community.” The pictures show students making hats and scarves for people in need of warm clothing for cold weather. These were donated to Latimer House, a shelter for those in imminent danger of intimate partner violence and/or sexual assault. Additionally, Helping Hands has cleaned up trash from the playground and planted a garden at Nisley. Helping Hands has made quite a splash in the news and community and shows that Nisley Elementary is dedicated to improving the community through service.

Chess Club meets before school and challenges players of all levels to learn and improve their chess skills. This club was started by Regina Black, Teacher for the Gifted and Talented Program at Nisley. Chess is a great way to help students increase their attention span, enhance critical thinking skills, and develop friendships. At Chess Club, we work on lessons, puzzles, and playing against each other. It has created the opportunity for friendly competition, mentoring, and learning to win or lose with grace. Ms. Black hopes that the students will fall in love with the game and see opportunities beyond the school day for ways to become better thinkers and people.

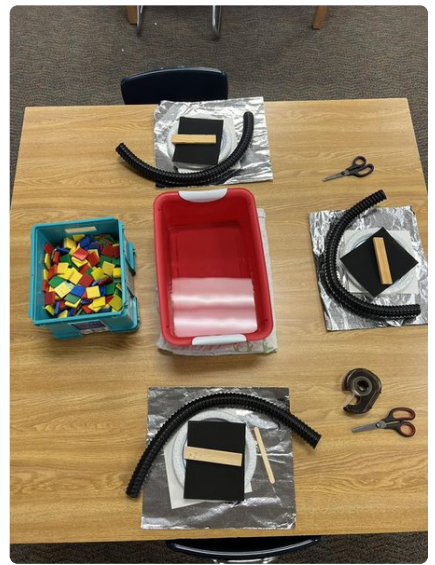


STEAM LAB at Pomona

Pomona's STEAM LAB is up and running! We have been focusing on learning the Engineering Design Process and implementing the 4 C's (Communication, Collaboration, Critical Thinking, Creative Thinking).

In October, our Kinders had to build their own boat with the following Learning Objective: Analyze how the design of a boat can affect how much mass a boat can hold. When Pomona's School Principal "Mr. P" visited and asked one of the Kinders what they were learning, the answer he received (in little's language)... "I'm sinking this boat."





Student Book Review - Chiepta Elementary

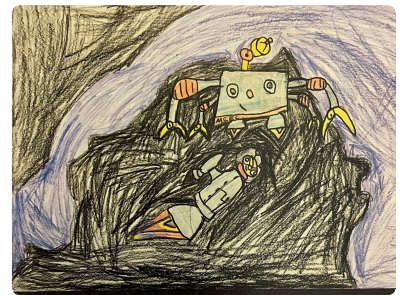
Bugs in Space

Bugs in space

By David A Carter

Reviewed By Zoey Craig, 3rd grade, Chipeta Elementary

Do you wonder what is out in space? In this book bugs get in a spaceship and go to space.



My favorite part is when Robobug and Bug Roger find the bug on the moon. I also Like the end because I saw so many bugs. I Like Robobug because he always looks surprised. I think he's funny. I think the book is funny, cute, and weird. It is a good book.

Student Spotlight

Fruita Middle School Student Spotlight - Jazel and Jacquelyn



S02 E01: Gifted & Talented Student Spotlight with Hazel and Jacquelyn by Welcome Back, Bonner: Celebrating Middle School

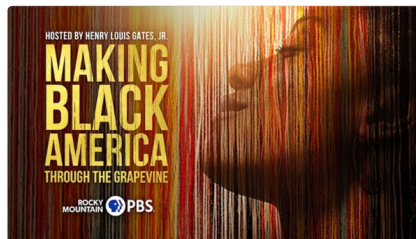
outcomes with GT projects. First page reading of *_The Epic Fail of Arturo Zamora_* by Pablo Cartaya.

anchor.fm

Rocky Mountain PBS Kids



Put on your headphones, and listen to the first episode of The Arthur Podcast, which premiered on Oct. 20th! Available now on Apple, Amazon, Audible, Google, and Spotify.



MAKING BLACK AMERICA: THROUGH THE GRAPEVINE
Educational Resources (Grades 6-12)
MAKING BLACK AMERICA: THROUGH THE GRAPEVINE is a four-part series from Henry Louis Gates, Jr. which chronicles the vast networks and organizations created by and for Black people. The series explores the extraordinary world that showcased Black people's ability to collectively prosper, defy white supremacy and define Blackness in ways that transformed America itself. Educational resources related to this series are available online as well as an engagement survey for educators.

Click picture for more information.



Click the picture for more information.

CAGT Happenings



November CAGT Live events, Recorded Media and News & Articles

Live Events

IN PERSON!! Brick Fest Live!
Nov. 12 - 13
Colorado Springs Event Center
3960 Palmer Park Blvd.

Ticket prices vary

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

IN PERSON!! Southwest Gifted & Talented Community presents “Social, Emotional, and Gifted Challenges of Gifted Children”

Tue. Nov. 15th at 5:30 pm

Durango Public Library

1900 E 3rd Ave. in Durango

[Click here for more information.](#)

IN PERSON!! National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC) Convention 2022

Nov. 17 - 20

Indianapolis, IN

Registration prices vary

[Click here for more information and to register.](#)

IN PERSON!! Denver Association for Gifted & Talented presents “Sesión Informativa Sobre Estudiantes Dotados y Talentos - en Español”

Tue., Nov. 29th at 5:30 pm

Valverde Elementary

2030 W. Alameda Ave. in Denver

Register via email at [this address](#).

Recorded Media

[“How to Communicate Effectively with Your Gifted Child’s Public School”](#) (Davidson Institute)

[“15 Tips for Improving the Identification of Gifted ELs”](#) (NAGC)

[“How to Tell If Your Child Is Gifted \(and What to Do If They Are\)”](#) (LifeHacker)

[“Helping Your Talented and Gifted Students”](#) (The EdVocate)

[“Creative, Inquisitive ... but Dyslexic?”](#) (Amplio Learning)

[“We Tried Normal – 2E Family Stories”](#) (Big Minds)

[ADDitude Magazine presents “The 2e Playbook for Nurturing Gifted Students with ADHD”](#) (podcast)

[“Teaching Gifted Students in the Regular Classroom: Using the Name Card Strategy”](#) (YouTube)

[“Gifted and Talented Students: A Disability?”](#) (YouTube)

News and Articles

[“Why Universal Screening is a More Equitable Identifier of Gifted and Talented Students”](#) (eSchool News)

[“High-Achieving Middle Schoolers Have Suffered Devastating Math Losses, Finds NAEP”](#) (Fordham Institute)

["Does Bias Exist in Online Learning?"](#) (University of Southern California)

["Does Sorting Students by Ability Improve Learning or Increase Disparity?"](#) (EconoFact)

["Look Deeper for Student Potential"](#) (Community College Daily)

["A Gift and a Burden: Students Discuss Creativity"](#) (Whitman Wire)

["Denver Public Schools Recommends Closing 10 Elementary, Middle Schools"](#) (Colorado Public Radio)

D51 GT scholarship Applications



22-23 GT Scholarship Application (English).pdf

Download

85.9 KB

22-23 GT Scholarship Application (Spanish).pdf

Download

74.1 KB

Facebook Page

Click photo for more information

This group is to support Westernslope Parents of Gifted & Talented and 2E kids.

We share hope, empowerment, ideas, opportunities, and overall support each other.



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Mandy Budd

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