



Dear D51 Families and Colleagues:

It was fun watching the snow fall outside of our house last night and waking up to snow-covered views of the beautiful Western Colorado landscape this morning. As a Native Texan, I don't think I'll ever get tired of seeing snow falling from the sky. Y'all just might want to avoid me on the roads, because Texans driving in winter weather is a scary thing to see! ;-)

With November upon us, we have a lot to celebrate in D51. It is hard to believe that the first semester is over halfway finished, and we have tried to highlight some of the great things our students have accomplished so far this year in the letter below.

November is also when we celebrate American Indian Heritage Month. Last month we celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month, and this month we lift up and recognize American Indian heritage. Our Board of Education read a resolution at the last Board Work Session recognizing November as American Indian Heritage Month, and you can read the proclamation linked in the recap of the board meeting below. These nationally recognized months of celebration are good reminders that while we are one school district, we are a district made up of individuals from different backgrounds and cultures. Together, we bring different assets to the table that strengthen our district.

In D51, we are working to find ways to better celebrate our students, staff, and families, and we are working towards providing support for all members of our D51 Family. One department dedicated to supporting students and families whose native language is something other than English is our Culturally & Linguistically Diverse Education (CLDE) department. Their department, under the guidance and direction of Dr. Linnea Hulshof, is working hard to ensure that our emerging bilingual students are supported academically, socially, and emotionally. For more information on the CLDE department, check out the spotlight at the end of this week's letter, and click [here](#) for a short video about the work they do. Thank you to Dr. Hulshof and her team for helping us work towards our Strategic Plan Focus Area of having Prepared and Supported Students.

PALISADE HS TAKES 2ND PLACE AT STATE BAND COMPETITION

I want to give a shoutout to our Palisade Marching Band who placed 2nd at the Colorado Bandmasters Association State Championships in their Division 3 Class. Their performance was absolutely outstanding, and I know many of our staff and faculty members were in the stands cheering them on. For those of you who may not know, Palisade has placed in the top three at their State Performance for the last 10 years. Congratulations, and well deserved!

I also want to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of our other three high schools who all earned a spot at the State Competition. Band members, directors, staff, and families have all put in the time and effort to excel, and we are so proud of the work you've accomplished this year. We look forward to seeing your continued success and growth in the years to come.

ALL STATE ATHLETES RECOGNITION

As many of our fall sports are coming to an end, we get the chance to celebrate and recognize some of the outstanding accomplishments our student athletes have made. All of our athletes worked hard this season, and we want to shout out the following students who were named All Conference. [Click here](#) to see the list of individual athletes and teams.

SCIENCE BOWL

District 51 has two teams from Grand Junction High School that are gearing up to compete at the Dino Ridge Science Quiz Bowl tomorrow, Saturday, November 5th at the Colorado School of Mines. The Quiz Bowl, which has been on a hiatus for two years because of the COVID 19 Pandemic, will showcase three things: youth achievement, an emphasis on science learning, and spirited competition! For more information on the event and competing teams, [click here](#) to read an awesome article published by the Daily Sentinel. Our students and coaches are excited to take their knowledge and competitive spirit to the next level. Shoutout to Coady Shawcroft for all your extraordinary work with these students! We will be cheering them all on from home...Go get 'em!

SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY WEEK

Within our 47 amazing schools/programs in D51, there are 26 hard working School Psychologists who serve our schools by providing support and resources to our students, families, and staff. The week of November 7 is National School Psychology Awareness Week. During this week, we will not only highlight the invaluable work our school psychologists do to help our students thrive, but we will recognize and celebrate these members of our team. It has been a challenging few years for all of us, and we have faced many difficult situations as a community. Our school psychologists work hard to provide the services necessary to help our students excel academically, socially, and emotionally. We hope you will join us in celebrating the dedication they have put into providing care, compassion, and support to all of our students, families, and staff.

ASTRONAUT VISIT

Students at the Dual Immersion Academy had an exciting visit this week. DIA students and staff had the pleasure of hearing from former NASA Astronaut, Lieutenant Colonel Duane Carry, otherwise known as "Digger." Lieutenant Colonel Carry spoke about his background in both the military and as an astronaut, about the importance of staying focused in school, and he shared some secrets about what it takes to be an astronaut with the students, teachers, and special guests. I was able to attend, and it was inspiring to hear his message and see the excitement and awe in the eyes of our students. A huge shout out to Principal McLaughlin, Señora S., and the DIA staff & PTA for providing your students with this phenomenal opportunity! They will remember this for years to come.

WCCC COLLEGE DAYS

One of the Priority Areas within our D51 Strategic Plan is to have Robust & Aligned Options for Learning Experiences for our students. We've been working hard to build collaborative relationships with community partners, and over the past few years we have seen those relationships begin to flourish. One of the ways in which your student has a choice in their academic pathway is to jumpstart their college education during their high school years. In collaboration with CMU and WCCC, D51 students are encouraged to attend a College Open House Night on November 15 from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Western Colorado Community College. Stop by anytime to learn how to take free college classes, while in high school. You can explore college credit options, meet faculty, and connect with college and career advisors. We are excited to offer these amazing opportunities to our students and look forward to continuing to watch our concurrent enrollment students learn, grow, and thrive!

SNOW DAYS

Snow is beginning to fall, and we're beginning to get a lot of questions regarding weather updates. We have updated the front page of our website with a "Hazardous Weather" icon. Here you can find information regarding delays, early releases, and closures. Also, remember to be sure you have opted into our texting system by texting YES to 67587. For more snow information, [click here](#).

ADDITIONAL D51 HAPPENINGS

- **Football Game, Palisade vs. Glenwood Springs**
Tonight, November 4 @ Stocker Stadium, 6:00 p.m.
- **Board of Education Coffee**
November 5 @ the Lincoln Orchard Mesa Elementary Cafeteria, 9 - 11 a.m.
- **Football Playoffs, Central vs. Fruita**
November 5 @ Stocker Stadium, 1 p.m.

BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMUNITY MEETING - WILDFLOWER MONTESSORI

Last week, I mentioned that we would be hosting a community meeting as part of the Wildflower Montessori Charter School Application process. Two members of our central office team presented to the Board of Education the findings from the DAC (District Accountability Committee) review of the Wildflower Montessori Charter School Application, on Tuesday at the Board Work Session. On Wednesday, a Board of Education Community Meeting was held to allow our community to ask questions, provide feedback, and voice support or concerns over the application of the newest charter school. To watch the community meeting, click [here](#). To watch the Board Work Session presentation, click [here](#).

BOARD NEWS


The Board of Education held a working session on Tuesday in the Harry Butler Board Room. Highlights from the meeting included:

- The Board of Education opened up the meeting with a [resolution](#) to recognize the month of November as American Indian Heritage Month.
- We received an update on the Grand Junction High School construction project. As it stands right now, the construction timeline, budget, and equipment are all on track. The next milestone will come at the end of November when the construction team begins work on vertical construction with steel beams.
- Members of the District 51 leadership gave a presentation to the BOE on the Wildflower Montessori Charter School.
- Our Chief Academic Officer, Curriculum Director, and one of our community partners from Hilltop gave a presentation on the K-5 Literacy Resource Adoption.
- First policy readings for the following policies:
 - 4.a. DIA, Online School
 - 4.b. DAB, Financial Administration
 - 4.c. IC/CA, School Year/School Calendar
 - 4.d. KFA, Public Conduct on School Property or at School Activities
 - Board Open Discussion
 - Executive Session Executive session to discuss the purchase, acquisition, lease, transfer or sale of any real, personal or other property interest under C.R.S. Section 24-6-402(4)(a), specifically to discuss the Orchard Mesa Pool.

As a reminder, you can watch the meeting by clicking on this [link](#). As always, our BOE meeting details can be found on our [website](#).

D51 PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

CLDE Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Education



What is CLDE?
The Department of CLDE serves English language learners/multilingual learners (ELL/MLs) whose native or dominant language is not English. The district offers a K-12 program supporting the development of listening, reading, speaking and writing skills aligned to grade-level content instruction and language proficiency levels as measured by World-Class Instructional Design and Assessment (WIDA) Consortium's assessment system.

What does CLDE do?
CLDE exists to help students learn English while going to school in the United States. CLDE provides English language learners/ multilingual learners access to rigorous academic standards and quality instruction in order to become fluent in English, while incorporating students' language and culture in preparation for success in a global society.

Want more information about CLDE?
If you have a student that is an English language learner or multilingual learner and want more information about the programs D51 has to offer, we encourage you to reach out to Linnea Hulshof, Coordinator of the CLDE Department. linnea.hulshof@d51schools.org

Brian Hill

Dr. Brian Hill
Superintendent of Schools
Mesa Valley School District 51
brian.hill@d51schools.org
970.254.5193



2115 Grand Ave.
Grand Junction, CO 81501
d51schools.org
(970) 254-5100