



Dear D51 Families and Colleagues:

What an exciting week we have had in D51! I want to send a shoutout to our D51 Snow Team for their work and collaboration over the last few days. From a 2-hour delay to a snow day to another 2-hour delay, there were a lot of moving parts over those 48 hours, and I appreciate the diligent work they put into ensuring our families and staff stayed as safe as possible.

In a world where negative acts can cause a spiraling effect, our D51 students always seek ways to inspire positive change. Years ago, during the same week of Valentine's Day and Random Acts of Kindness Day, District 51 students, in collaboration with D51 counselors, started "Kindness is Contagious" week. A week where we encourage, promote, and actively engage in being kind and spreading positivity. And while, as a District, this is something we strive for every day, this week always brings me great joy when I witness our students, families, and staff unite in truly remarkable ways.

Students created and sold Kindness Is Contagious swag, held cross-school meetups for fun activities like a group hike on the Riverfront Trail and games at Bananas, and held schoolwide activities to promote the motto of "Just Be Nice." One example of a schoolwide activity was at Dual Immersion Academy, where students participated in an art contest by submitting drawings to be featured on school-wide buttons and stickers. The drawings reflected "what kindness means to me." Not only were their drawings amazing, but they were full of valuable lessons for everyone; Kindness is a superpower, kindness is strength, kindness is friendship, and kindness is strong. Shoutout to Ms. Greene (DIA Counselor) and all of our D51 counselors, staff, and admin for promoting KIC events at our schools!

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

In District 51, we believe in giving our families the power of choice. That is why D51 offers a variety of learning options throughout the district. One of those options is our blended learning option through Grand River Academy. GRA provides students K-12th grade the chance to learn in a way that is right for them. This empowered learning community is a blended option that offers both fully online and a hybrid of online and one-day-a-week in-person instruction. Grand River Academy is supported by certified teachers and staff who are committed to serving each student through individualized learning plans that grow with your child. Interested in learning more? Check out this awesome [video](#) highlighting why Grand River Academy might be right for you!

COLORADO TEEN MONTH OF PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBIT

We have awesome students here at D51 who are incredibly talented. I'm happy to share in the excitement of GJHS Art Teacher Sean Henry, who announced that five of his GJHS art students' photos were selected to be displayed at Red Rocks Community College Library Atrium. Read more [here](#).

COLORADO STATE WRESTLING CHAMPIONSHIPS

All four D51 comprehensive high schools have student athletes competing in the CHSAA State Wrestling Championships that started yesterday at Ball Arena in Denver. Read more [here](#).

GJHS SKI/BOARD CLUB

This past week, 65 GJHS students went to Western Colorado University on a two-day ski trip as part of the GJHS Ski/Board Club. While there, several students competed in a rigorous and challenging ski competition on the WCU campus, taking home first place in all categories for the male competition. Read more [here](#).

CMEA SELECTED HONOR CHOIR, PALISADE HIGH SCHOOL CHAMBER SINGERS

Every year, CMEA (Colorado Music Educators Association) Honor Performing Groups are chosen to perform at the annual conference after a rigorous audition process. Our Palisade High School Chamber Singers were among the few selected this year! Read more [here](#).

PALISADE HIGH SCHOOL, ONCE UPON A MATTRESS

Palisade High School is putting on another great theater performance this year called *Once Upon a Mattress*. The show opened Thursday and will continue tonight and Saturday at 7 p.m. at Palisade High School. I encourage y'all to get out and support our Bulldog Performing Arts students. They've worked so hard on this show to bring it to life! Tickets are limited at the door, so purchase tickets [here](#).

WESTERN SLOPE SPEECH AND DEBATE NATIONAL QUALIFYING TOURNAMENT

A few weeks ago, I mentioned our D51 Speech and Debate team hosting the National Qualifying Tournament here in Grand Junction. President Haitz and I enjoyed the opportunity to be judges at the last competition, and event sponsors are looking for help judging the next competition. Students will compete in individual events to qualify for the National Tournament. This is a fantastic opportunity to become involved and an extremely valuable experience that gives you a small glimpse into our D51 Speech and Debate program and the amount of work and effort they put into it. No training is needed, and you can sign up [here](#).

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