



Dear D51 Families and Colleagues:

As we reach the end of April, I want to express my gratitude to all of our staff, students, and families for their unwavering efforts and perseverance throughout the year. You're one Friday closer to summer break, and I know you made this week a great one!

Yesterday, we got the chance to celebrate our Superintendent Scholars, honor our retirees, and recognize employees earning their years of service awards. You can read more about the events below, but having the privilege to be a part of each event reminded me of why we do what we do. Seeing the impact y'all have had on your schools, students, colleagues, and our D51 Family is why we do what we do. As the school year ends, I am reassured by our collective commitment to providing our students with the best possible educational experience. Everyone in the District works hard to ensure our students feel prepared and supported, and as graduations quickly approach, I am confident that we are sending our seniors off with the knowledge and skills they need to be successful and make their mark on the world.

I also had fun reading to students at Scenic Elementary this week for their Reading Day! Getting to share a silly story with first graders about not losing your joy as you grow older led to some fun conversations with the students about their futures and continuing to do the things they love to do. Thanks to Ms. Mabrey and the entire Scenic staff for the invite and for creating fun events like this to inspire a love of reading for our students.

Every day I hear about the positive, inspiring things happening in our buildings, and it continues to make me proud to serve our district as the Superintendent. So, whether you are a teacher in our schools, a school administrator in one of our buildings, a central office staff member, a student, or a supportive family member, thank you for all you do for our D51 community. Despite our challenges, our students continue to thrive... and that is because collectively, #WeAreD51.

SUPERINTENDENT SCHOLARS

Yesterday, we had the privilege of recognizing and honoring our 2023 Superintendent Scholars (high school graduates with a cumulative GPA of 4.0 or higher). This is an event that I always look forward to because it allows us the opportunity to acknowledge and celebrate the remarkable achievements of our students who have worked incredibly hard and demonstrated exceptional dedication. The excitement and joy that accompanies this event as we celebrate the students' successes is truly exhilarating. Read more [here](#).

SALUTE TO STAFF

Yesterday, we held our annual Salute to Staff event to celebrate over 60 retirees and hundreds of employees marking years of service milestones with District 51. Read more [here](#).

SURVIVAL CLUB

On Monday I was able to join Taylor Elementary teacher Chris Philliou, parent volunteer Marcus Sanchez, and many of their students for their Survival Club graduation. The club aims to teach students to appreciate nature and feel more confident and connected to our world by providing the knowledge and skills of how to utilize tools to survive in the outdoors. Read more [here](#).

SEAL OF BILITERACY

This week, we celebrated our 8th and 12th graders who earned their Seal of Biliteracy! District 51 awards a Seal of Biliteracy in recognition of a student who has attained proficiency in English and one or more other world languages (Spanish, French, or German). Read more [here](#).

PALISADE HIGH SCHOOL CAS PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

Recently, students at Palisade High School who are part of the International Baccalaureate (IB) program successfully completed their CAS (Creativity, Activity, Service) project. I had the opportunity to tour the projects and hear from students about the process. Learn more [here](#).

MESA CLUB SOLAR EVENT

This week, Mount Garfield Middle School hosted D51 STEM's M.E.S.A Solar Car Competition in partnership with The Department of Energy. Read more about the event [here](#).

ROTARY CLUBS OF THE GRAND VALLEY LITERACY PROJECT

We want to give a big shoutout to the Rotary Clubs of the Grand Valley for donating books to 1st-grade students at all of our D51 elementary schools. Rotary clubs throughout the world believe very strongly in supporting the educational development of young people, and they believe and hope these books will aid our students in accomplishing their educational goals. Read more [here](#).

BIKE AND ROLL TO SCHOOL DAY

District 51 is participating in Bike and Roll to School Day, also known as Bike to School Day on May 3rd. Our students always look forward to this enjoyable day that helps promote active, healthy, and safe transportation. Read more [here](#).

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION VISIT

I had the opportunity to accompany Principal McCall and Assistant Principal Wilson during a visit to Chatfield Elementary by newly elected At-Large State Board of Education Member Kathy Plomer today. Read more [here](#).

2023 MILITARY BOUND GRADUATE RECOGNITION AND PICNIC

A few weeks ago, we recognized some District 51 students at Central High School who have chosen to enlist in our armed forces following graduation. We were excited to recognize our CHS students, and we know there are many others across our district who are making that important choice, and the Western Slope Blue Star Moms and their partners in the Western Slope military community want to invite all families of new recruits to join them tomorrow as they honor graduating seniors who have chosen to serve our country. Read more [here](#).

D51 UPCOMING EVENTS

- **LATINO ANGLO ALLIANCE FOUNDATION CINCO DE MAYO CELEBRATION**

May 6, 10 a.m. - 10 p.m. at Las Colonias

The funds raised from this event will support scholarships for Latino students in District 51. The event is hosted by the Latino Anglo Alliance Foundation and will feature food trucks, crafts, vendors, resources, and exciting activities for children. Throughout the day, attendees can enjoy live performances and participate in a watermelon eating contest for kids and a jalapeno eating contest for adults. Come and join us for a fun-filled day that supports a great cause!

- **D51 ATHLETICS**

Spring sports continue. Click [here](#) for the D51 athletic calendar.

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