



Dear D51 Families and Colleagues:

This week has been full of notable moments, and great things continue to happen across D51. It was also a week where district leaders, teacher educators, parents, and school board members came together to celebrate National Public Schools Week.

During Public Schools Week, we aim to showcase the strength and potential of our nation's public school system and our student's futures, shining a light on local public schools and telling the numerous stories of the amazing and positive things happening in classrooms and school buildings across our district.

I am proud to be part of our public school system and extremely proud of the staff and students in our district who continue to do challenging and amazing work each day. Our district is full of creative, intelligent, and innovative individuals, and as part of my job, I get to collaborate with our students and staff, learn from each other, and work to make our district the best it can be. One of the many ways I do this is through my Superintendent Student Advisory Groups. This week, I had the opportunity to meet with my SSAG at Fruita Monument High School. These students have volunteered to join this group, sharing their time, knowledge, experiences, and ideas with me. I appreciate the time and effort they put into each and every meeting and look forward to ways we can continue to work together to engage, equip, and empower each and every student each and every day. I'll continue to meet with my other Superintendent Student Advisory Groups in the weeks to come.

BOARD UPDATE

On Monday, the Board of Education held a Special Meeting at the Harry Butler Board Room to further discuss the district demographers' recommendations for potential school closures/consolidations. Our Chief Financial Officer, Mel Trujillo, also gave an overview of our D51 staffing model, the impacts enrollment declines have on staffing in schools, and the financial issues we face as enrollment continues to decline. You can review the slides from the presentation [here](#) and view the meeting [here](#). Read more [here](#).

NATIONAL POMS COMPETITION

After a fourth-place finish at the State Competition, the Fruita Monument High School Poms Team - Hip Hop is headed to Orlando, Florida, to compete in the National Dance Alliance National Championships this weekend. We wish you the best of luck and will be cheering you all on from home. You can live stream the event [here](#).

COLORADO LEAGUE OF CHARTER SCHOOLS TEACHER OF THE YEAR

A few weeks ago I mentioned D51 had several Charter School staff members nominated for the Colorado League of Charter School's Hall of Fame. I am incredibly excited to announce that one of our teachers was selected as the *Educator of the Year!* Read more [here](#).

ADAPTED BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

Grand Junction High School hosted the 3rd Annual D51 Adapted Basketball Tournament on Thursday. This amazing event provides D51 students with and without disabilities the opportunity to play a sport on the same team. Read more [here](#).

NATIONAL MUSIC IN OUR SCHOOLS MONTH

Now more than ever, it's essential to recognize the significant impact music education has on our students. This month, we celebrate National Music in Our Schools, which began in New York in 1973 as a statewide advocacy initiative to recognize the importance of music education and celebrate its impact on school-aged children. Schools everywhere are encouraged to participate in events throughout the month that celebrate the impact of the musical landscape in public education. Read more [here](#).

R-5 LOGO

R-5 has a new look! In the fall of 2022, R-5 sought community input for a new mascot. After multiple rounds of submissions, leading to multiple rounds of voting, our R-5 community ultimately selected a Phoenix to represent the school. This was an exciting process for their school community and culminated in a creative, well-thought-out design encompassing the entire school community. We're excited to share it with you! Read more [here](#).

D51 UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **GJHS Musical Performance: *Treasure Island***
March 3, 7 p.m., March 4, 1 p.m. and 7 p.m
The GJHS Theatre program has its spring musical coming up this weekend! Adapted from the novel by Robert Stevenson, *Treasure Island* tells the adventures of Jim Hawkins and his search for buried treasure and an evil pirate. Purchase tickets [here](#).
- **CHS Musical Performance: *Disney's Newsies: the Broadway Musical***
March 9 and 10, 7 p.m., March 11, 1 p.m. and 7 p.m
This musical is a not-to-be-missed high-energy musical based on the 1992 musical film *Newsies*, inspired by the real-life Newsboys Strike of 1899 in New York City. Purchase tickets [here](#).

PANORAMA STUDENT PERCEPTION SURVEY

D51 is gearing up to send out our Panorama Student Perception Survey. This survey is a research-backed process for our D51 students, families, teachers, and staff that assists us in better understanding the experiences and social and learning climate of our students, helping us build a positive culture in our schools and throughout the District. We encourage every student to take the survey to help us better gauge our internal environment, but if you wish for your student to refrain from participating, you may fill out the Opt-Out form instead of the survey. Read more [here](#).

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