



Dear D51 Families and Colleagues:

Welcome back from Spring Break, D51 Family! While it wasn't the warmest Spring Break we've had, I hope y'all were still able to spend time enjoying it with friends and family, and I hope y'all found some time to unwind and relax. The weeks that follow Spring Break until the end of the school year always seem to fly by. There isn't much downtime between state testing, wrapping up classwork and finals, and all of the end-of-year events, including the excitement of high school graduations. While the end of the school year is near, we continue to focus on a strong finish, and we are planning for a strong start to the 2023-24 school year.

This week I had the opportunity to swing by another round of Network Improvement Community meetings. NIC weeks provide a designated time for our school admin and teacher leaders to collaborate and use data to plan how to best support our students academically, socially, and emotionally. The conversations within these groups are always inspiring and collaborative, and the focus is on continuous improvement and how to best support our students. This helps accomplish the Strategic Plan goals set out in our Strategic Priority Area of having high quality professional learning for staff that leads to Prepared & Supported Staff. Shoutout to Dr. Medved and the Professional Learning team, along with everyone involved in our academic departments who make this learning experience happen. I also met with my Superintendent Teacher Advisory Group and Superintendent Principal Advisory Group this week. We come together every quarter, and I am grateful for the thoughts they shared with me this time around on some tough topics facing our district. Shoutout to our amazing teachers for all the great work that they do for kids, and shoutout to our school leaders for the efforts they put forth leading their buildings!

D51 STEM, HI FIVES ROBOTICS TEAM

Last weekend our D51 STEM Hi Fives Robotics team competed at the FIRST Robotics Competition in Denver. This team comprises advanced robotics students from Central High School, Palisade High School, Fruita Monument High School, Grand Junction High School, and Grand River Academy. Read more [here](#).

CESAR CHAVEZ CELEBRATION AND CAR SHOW

The 8th Annual Cesar Chavez Celebration and Car Show are happening this weekend at the Las Colonias Amphitheater. As we celebrate the life and legacy of Cesar Chavez, a big part of this event's mission is to give back to the local community, and D51 is excited to have the opportunity to collaborate with various local organizations as an event sponsor. Read more [here](#).

PHS/CHS SPEECH AND DEBATE TEAM

Recently, the Palisade High School/Central High School Speech & Debate team competed at the Congressional Qualifying Tournament and qualified seven students for nationals. Read more [here](#).

D51 UPCOMING EVENTS

- **FIRST Lego League Challenge, Saturday, April 1, OMMS**
The FIRST Lego League Challenge is happening tomorrow, Saturday, April 1, at Orchard Mesa Middle School. Come support our D51 students as they present their learning and model to FLL Reviewers, rotating through 5 STEM events. Click here for [details](#).
- **CHSAA Large Group Choral Festival, Wednesday, April 5**
Our high school choir students will perform at the Colorado High School Activities Association Music Festival on April 5th at Rifle High School. High school music groups will gather at multiple locations across the state to showcase their talents. The festivals are for vocal, instrumental, jazz, and acapella groups. Good luck to all our D51 students!
- **D51 Athletics**
Spring sports are also happening throughout the weekend. Click [here](#) for the D51 athletic calendar.

BOARD UPDATE

On March 28, the Board of Education held a Business Meeting in the Harry Butler Board Room. For highlights from the meeting, click [here](#).

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