

District Accountability (DAC) Newsletter



March 2022

UPCOMING DATES:

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- **Training & SAC Support Meeting—**
March 10, 2022
5:30—7:00pm via
WebEx
- **Full DAC Meeting—**
March 17, 2022
6:00—8:00pm
Tesla, room 116 and
via WebEx
- **SAC Training—April**
7, 2022 6:00—8:00pm
Tesla, room 116/129
and via WebEx

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Welcome

Welcome to March and the promise of Spring. The District Accountability Committee (DAC) and School Accountability Committees (SACs) need to continue to stay *focused* on what is best for D11 students. Teachers, staff, and parents still hold the belief that every child should have the opportunity to succeed. Thank you to SAC chairs and members for pressing on to continue this work. Please continue to monitor the One Plan at your school and advocate for the safety and success of all students. Staffing shortages across the district are putting a strain on everyone. Thank you to teachers and staff for all you do every day for students. You are appreciated as we are all in this together for students!

Please take the opportunity to communicate with the district in the Family Engagement listening sessions. The first session in February, at Hillside Community Center, was very successful. Parents, staff, and community members who participated in the restorative circles gave positive feedback on the process. Everyone had an opportunity to be heard. The second session was at the Westside Community Center on March 3. Watch for a family engagement session in your part of District 11 coming in April and May. Common themes from these sessions will be gathered to direct future work.

The DAC and its Subcommittees are continuing to work.

- The DAC enjoyed spotlighting five teachers who renewed their National Board Certification. The DAC listened to feedback from the Gifted Education Monitoring Report. Emily Andrews, the Gifted and Talented (GT) Facilitator, shared the strong positives and the areas for improvement for GT education in D11. Tanya Nash, Director of Educator Effectiveness, provided information and answered questions about the work being done to improve providing feedback and evaluating teachers.
- The DAC Budget Subcommittee reviewed, discussed, and provided recommendations on Incremental Budget Requests (IBR) for Fiscal Year 2022-2023. Members of the Budget Subcommittee invested a considerable amount of time and energy in preparing these recommendations.
- The DAC Accreditation Subcommittee spent time focused on enrollment numbers, the gifted and talented report, and data discussions.
- The SAC Training and Support Subcommittee is starting to plan for the final SAC training scheduled on April 7. Look for more details about this final training for this school year.

As a DAC, we want to continue support our School Accountability Committees. Look at the suggested agenda items for your meeting from the SAC Handbook. If there are areas your SAC needs support on, please let us know, we are here to help. We look forward to a productive March and a great Spring Break.

Regards,

Velvet Stepanek
Chair – District Accountability Committee

News & Notes

Family Engagement Listening Tours

- The 2nd Listening Tour Stop took place on Thursday, March 3, 2022 at the Westside Community Center.
- The purpose of the Listening Tours is to provide an opportunity for D11 families to share their experiences as parents, caregivers, and community members. It's a time for your school district to learn from your lived experiences through a confidential sharing circle.
- There have been 60 –70 people who have now experienced a learning circle.
- There will be some school hosted circles—they will be promoted by the schools.
- Future tours currently planned will be:
 - ◇ April 25, 2022 at East Library from 5:00—7:00pm
 - ◇ May 10, 2022 at Penrose Library from 4:30—6:30pm

“Remember that the happiest people are not those getting more, but those giving more”.

H. Jackson Brown Jr.

Science Fair Judges Needed

Where: Scott Elementary School

When: April 22, 2022



- Judging would start around 8:15am
- There will be 3rd—5th graders all participating. It would be nice to have each student present 3 times to judges
- Looking for twenty (20) judges in total
- A quick training will be at 7:30am, with a light breakfast served

2022 Pikes Peak Elementary Science and Engineering Fair (PPSESEF)

Where: Mitchell HS

When: April 30, 2022

POC: 719-520-2034 or Darian.Founds@d11.org

- Grade level: 4th & 5th grade students
- Each entry will be judged four (4) times
- 50 judges will be needed
- Judges arrive at 8:00am and finish at approximately 12:00pm

Alternate plans for delays and closures as a result of inclement weather:

check: <https://www.d11.org/Page/5377>

News & Notes Continued

Colorado Springs School District 11 and the Youth Documentary Academy (YDA) have joined forces in 2022 to organize the first-ever Youth Media Matters Film Festival to be held in Colorado Springs from February 28-March 5.

A red-carpet closing night screening and celebration will be open to the public and held on Saturday, March 5, at 6:30 pm. This event will feature Oscar-nominated Bing Liu presenting his Sundance award-winning film MINDING THE GAP. Bing will be on stage in

conversation with Ryan Warner, Host of Colorado Matters on Colorado Public Radio (CPR). Q&A with the audience to follow. The event will be held at Palmer High School's main auditorium at 301 North Nevada Ave and will be hosted by Colorado Springs School District 11. (This event is free and first come first served. Doors will open at 6 pm. No tickets required.)

CLOSING NIGHT RED CARPET EVENT MARCH 5th - 6 PM DOORS OPEN - Palmer High School - FREE and Open to the Public

Youth Media Matters Film Festival

To celebrate the first Youth Media Matters Film Festival, we invite you to a special red carpet screening event at Palmer High School main auditorium on Saturday, March 5. Festivities begin at 6:30pm. Come watch the Sundance award-winning and Oscar-nominated MINDING THE GAP and meet the filmmaker, Bing Liu, in person.

MINDING THE GAP is a gripping coming of age story: While navigating a complex relationship between his camera and his friends, filmmaker Bing Liu explores the gap between fathers and sons, between discipline and abuse, and ultimately that precarious chasm between childhood and becoming an adult.

A conversation with Liu on stage plus Q&A will follow the screening. Two special guests will be introducing the evening. Come celebrate youth and filmmaking in Colorado Springs and win a prize!

PRESENTING SPONSOR:

The Colorado Health Foundation YDA

MARCH 5TH / 6 PM DOORS OPEN
PALMER HIGH SCHOOL
FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Minding the Gap
A Film by Bing Liu

OSCAR® nominated WINNER sundance

Due to strong language and sensitive subject matter the evening is recommended for ages 14+.

The Youth Media Matters Film Festival is a partnership between School District 11 and the Youth Documentary Academy.

Digital High School Summer Session 2022

- Free of Charge
- Classes run May 31 thru June 22
- 100/% Virtual Learning
- Students may access curriculum 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
- Teacher availability Monday – Friday, 8:00am – 3:00pm
- Priority given to graduating seniors
- **Students Should See Their School Counselor to Register**



D11 GrandFriends

- The goal of our GrandFriends Program, now in its 30th year, is to place senior citizen and retired volunteers in classrooms throughout District 11 and to encourage the exchange of services and experiences between this community and our schools.
- Our GrandFriends help in pre-school all the way through adult education.
- **Our GrandFriend of the 2nd Quarter was Jan Palmer**, who volunteers at Queen Palmer Elementary School.
 - ◇ Jan has been volunteering for 9 years at various schools including Rogers, Audubon, and McAuliffe Elementary Schools.
 - ◇ She currently works with 6 year olds and enjoys being a mentor to them.
 - ◇ Jan's favorite aspect of volunteering is getting to know the students and being accepted by them. The students benefit from the time she gives them, whether it's in the classroom or at lunch and recess. Jan would tell others that volunteering with children, regardless of age, "is the most fulfilling thing she has ever done and she can't imagine not doing it."



For more information about the GrandFriends program, please contact:

Dawn Enger

GrandFriends Project Coordinator

dawn.enger@d11.org

719-520-2311

News & Notes (Continued)

2022 D11 SUMMER BRIDGE

- This year's Summer Bridge Program will consist of two distinct blocks of student learning opportunities to support students in different ways and to serve different groups of students based on need. The Academic Block is tentatively scheduled for Monday, June 6th through Friday, July 1st and the Jump Start Block is tentatively scheduled for Monday, July 25th through Thursday, July 28th with the possibility for a second week beginning on August 1st. General information about the two blocks is below and more details regarding the program will be available soon.

Academic Block

4-week program
June 6th to July 1st
5 days/week
Approximately 5-hours each day
Emphasis in four areas: academics, enrichment, social emotional learning, and a range of subject areas
K-12 students
Targeted student enrollment based on need

Jump Start Block

1-week program
Weeks of July 25th and August 1st (tentative)
4 days/week
Approximately 3-hours each day
Emphasis on *readiness to learn*
Incoming kindergarten, sixth, and ninth grade students
Open student enrollment based on number of spots available and student/family interest

- We are thrilled to announce School District 11 face-to-face summer bridge activities will be offered this summer! Summer bridge programs provide engaging activities to prepare students for maximum success the following school year. Research shows summer bridge programs can help prepare students for the upcoming school year. Due to the pandemic, the D11 summer bridge programs will be offered in an effort to prepare students for future learning.
- The 2022 summer bridge programs will aim to prepare students for the 2022-2023 school year and beyond by providing additional learning opportunities beyond the traditional school year. Using a balanced approach to learning including targeted intervention, enrichment, social emotional learning, and a variety of subject areas taught, students will be taught by licensed D11 teachers in a setting familiar to them.



Chicago 5Essentials Survey Completed for 2021-2022

- The latest Chicago 5Essentials Survey was completed in late February. The Survey included teachers, parents and students across the District.
- It was designed to generate a detailed picture of the inner workings of each school and gave parents the opportunity to share their thoughts on the important elements of school effectiveness.
- 5Essentials reports will be generated for D11 schools if their teachers and/or students met a response rate threshold of 50 percent.
- If at least 20 percent of each school's parents completed the survey, a parent supplement report will also be generated. The reports will be available in late March or early April 2022. Check with your principal to see if your school met the response rate criteria and place this on your SAC agenda for April or May to review the results.

**The Crystal Apple Awards Program**

- ♦ 2021-2022 The Crystal Apple Awards Program wishes to honor all District 11 teachers for their efforts to provide meaningful education to students in District 11 during the global pandemic.
- ♦ Administrators/Parents/Students, share your Teacher's story or video your story (in written form or video) to CrystalApple@d11.org.
- ♦ The District 11 Media Services will create a program featuring some of the stories to air during National Teacher Appreciation Week in May. All stories and videos will be available to the community on a 2022 Crystal Apple Awards website. Please submit your stories by March 18, 2022.



SAC Training/Information Session Information and Updates

SAVE THE DATE: The next SAC Training/Information Session will be held April 7, 2022, 6:00 – 8:00PM at Tesla and via WebEx. Fliers on presentations and discussion topics will be sent out around mid March 2022. One focus will likely be data availability and District plans to support the One Plan/USIP symposiums scheduled for late May and early June 2022.

Upcoming deadlines of interest to SACs

- Spring District Benchmark test (3rd – 11th grade): Feb 28th – Mar 18th

SAC Agenda Planning – March (Theme: One Plan/USIP updates – if needed)

- Every month we intend to provide a reasonable flow of SAC agenda topics that meet the broad responsibilities of School District 11 SACs. This is just a reference tool and individual SACs should tailor agendas appropriate to their school needs and emphasis. The following are some of the agenda topics that are recommended for March meetings:
- Review/discuss topics from the D11 SAC Handbook, Agenda Planning Guide for previous months which have not yet been addressed.
- Review/discuss relevant 1st semester achievement data including 2nd quarter District Benchmark test results (including growth), middle of the year Acadience Reading test results (for READ Act), ACCESS for ELLs test results, etc. and compare against One Plan/USIP goals for 2021-2022. Discuss possible One Plan/USIP adjustments (if needed)
- What strategies is the school using to assist students who are struggling the most, and are they working? Are PLCs/teams using Common Interim Assessments (CIAs) from Performance Matters? If so, are they helping to guide teaching?
- If not recently addressed, how is your school doing on PowerSchool implementation and use? Do all parents have access and are they using the system? Are all teachers efficiently using the system? Does your SAC monitor usage metrics with the principal monthly? Are they improving?

Good Things Happening in the District

D11 Engage—

- Good news, the district has a new Family Engagement Coordinator, David Flanagan. David is coming to us from the City of Colorado Springs where he served as a Site Program co-director at Meadows Park Community Center.
- He will be working with LouAnn Dekleva, the Community Engagement-Volunteer Administrator.
- He is developing a new project to facilitate collaboration between departments, programs, staff, administrators, and parents to increase family partnerships in education thereby helping to improve the quality of education and raise the level of students' academic achievement.
- He will provide support, supervision and coordination to school-based family/parents, utilizing structures and processes which result in meaningful parent and community involvement and break down the barriers that hinder meaningful parent involvement and parent-school collaboration.

Parent & Family Engagement



Achieve On-line—

- Achieve Online Student Council donated dog toys and treats to All Breed Dog Rescue as a part of their "pay it forward" philanthropy project 1st semester
- Achieve Senior, Aidan Roberts competed on Metropolitan State University's (MSUs) "rogue Kitchen" program. Aidan won the ProStart Bean competition with his recipe for Texas Caviar (Season 2, Episode 6). The competition can be seen at:



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MSYCY2e4-2w&t=1144s>

Chipeta ES—



5th grade students at Chipeta Elementary are "doing" philosophy through a wonderful program in collaboration with Colorado College called "Philosophy for Children".

★ ALWAYS believe
that SOMETHING
WONDERFUL
is about to HAPPEN ★

Good Things Happening in the District (Continued)

Queen Palmer ES—

- Congratulations to the following Queen Palmer Students: Genavieve Bertetto, Bella Espinoza, Summer Gorman Sweetwater, Dominic Limonez, and Jeric Plackett
- These students were selected to participate in the National Youth Leadership Forum: Pathways to STEM, and Envision by WorldStrides program to be held at the University of Denver this summer
- They were selected for demonstrating scholastic merit, critical thinking, collaboration, goal setting and leadership skills!



Monroe ES—

- Monroe Elementary Students contributed their artistic talents to the Panorama Park Tile Art Mural, which is a community led project. The theme is “stepping into our power” and “sharing our light”. The tiles will be a permanent feature in the mural for the renovated park.



Sabin MS—

- Congratulations Ms Forget and the 6th and 7th grade Sabin robotics team as they are headed to state competition! They are currently ranked 10th in the state!



Wilson ES

- In February , a small group of nine 4th and 5th graders from Wilson Elementary School stood outside the Springs Rescue Mission donation site and excitedly put on shirts that say #LoveBigger.
- These shirts were given to the student council students as a gesture of thanks for their humble actions to "love bigger."
- In December, these amazing children worked with their teachers and adult leaders, Ilka Andino, Kelsey Snyder, and Maureen Becker to come up with a way to support those in our community who are most in need. They decided to sell candy canes as a fundraiser and raised a total of \$600!
- On February 9, the children presented the check to representatives of the Springs Rescue Mission. They learned that through their act of kindness, the money raised would provide services like shelter, showers, food, clothing, and necessities for a person in need for a month.
- These amazing students learned that it doesn't take much to make a difference in someone's life and that a school is a place where they not only learn math, science, and literacy but also how to help their fellow citizens. We are proud of these future leaders!

