

District Accountability (DAC) Newsletter



March 2024

UPCOMING DATES:

- **Full DAC Meeting—**
March 21, 2024
6:00—8:00pm
Tesla, room
112/113 and via
WebEx
- **SAC Training—**
April 4, 2024
6:00—8:00pm
Tesla, room
116/129

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

News & Notes 2

SAC News 7

Good Things 8

Welcome

Welcome to the March newsletter,

I hope this newsletter finds you well and focused as we approach spring break. There are many items School Accountability Committees (SAC) need to focus on mentioned later in this newsletter. I would like to start by directing your attention to your school's website. Take a look at the information your school is putting out for families, parents and community. Do you find your SAC in that list? Should it be there? The answer is yes, it is important for parents and community members to be able to find SAC information.

A few weeks ago I took the CDE SAC training our very own Velvet Stepanek has developed for the CDE, and I realized that I wasn't really doing all the good practices a SAC chair should be doing. This included making sure the agenda is posted at least 72 hours prior to the meeting. While checking up on this I noticed that all our SAC information from the current school year had disappeared from the school website. This is a bug resulting from the change in Website provider. Working with my school's amazing library tech, I found out that the old website still exists but only until April 1st!

Being curious if others have had similar issues, I found only 4 schools that have their SAC listed under the a family/parent/community tab with a welcome page, meeting dates, times, agendas, and minutes. We can and must do better! Please get this updated as soon as you can.

CMAS and other test dates mentioned later in this newsletter are coming and need your support. Participation is crucial. This is a great way for students to give back to their school and their teacher by showing up and giving it their best effort. This data is super important for the strategic planning of schools and the allocation of resources to better help their students.

The school board has also approved the calendar for the new school year so you can plan your vacations, long weekends, and figure out your schedule.

On April 4th make sure to participate in the last SAC training of the 23/24 school year!

Thank you for spending your time and energy doing what is best for students in D11 and enjoy Spring break.

Marion Cawson

D11 -District Accountability Committee (DAC) chair

News & Notes



Judges Needed for District 11 Elementary Science Fairs & Regional Science Fair

Elementary students are preparing their hypotheses and beginning their research to bring the best science fair project to their science fair.

All that is needed are volunteers who wish to support their efforts by serving as science fair judges.

Please click on the link below to raise your hand and volunteer for one or more upcoming science fairs. A confirmation will be sent to you with details.

Thank you on behalf of our budding scientists!

<https://forms.gle/C5EUTFyz1QuW7JE87>

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

H. Jackson Brown Jr.

Security Updates at Schools

- All schools will be having updates to their front entrances based on feedback from the district wide security audit.
- The changes are different at every school.
- Jennifer Hotaling, Capital Program Manager, and her team have agreed to attend SAC meetings at any school interested in learning about their updates.
- Please reach out to Jennifer.hotaling@d11.org to schedule a time at your school. Invite your entire school community to learn about the updates being done.



News & Notes Continued

2024/2025 Kindergarten Registration

- Kindergarten Registration for the 2024/2025 school year has begun
- Tuition-free kindergarten offers more of a great thing! Full-day kindergartners benefit from more time to begin learning to read and write, to explore learning activities of all kinds, and to develop all-important academic and social skills.
- For enrollment information and to find specific enrollment dates and times for your school go to:

<https://www.d11.org/academics/early-education/kindergarten/kindergarten-enrollment>



DAC follow up on Student-led conferences (SLC) and Portfolio presentations

- At the February DAC meeting a panel of teachers, school leaders and a parent spoke about their practice of student-led conferences and how this practice increases parent engagement. This concept is still new to many in our district. Here are some additional resources. This first article explains what student-led conferences are, their benefits and how to implement them.

<https://www.studentcenteredworld.com/student-led-conference/>

- This link takes you to a video/ audio version where students talk about student-led conferences.

<http://shareyourlearning.org/slc/>

- At the DAC meeting we briefly touched on alternative grading methods and talked about portfolio presentations as a way for students to show their learning. To get an idea why the traditional grading system is being questioned, check out this article <https://hechingerreport.org/why-do-schools-use-grades-that-teach-nothing/>
- Or listen to this podcast addressing that traditional grades are “broken” and a better approach is possible.

<https://www.teachersgoinggradeless.com/blog/2018/03/18/tg2cast-ep-8>



If we are all committed to do what is best for students and improves student learning, it is time to look into doing things differently. I hope you find some inspiration in these resources. -Marion Clawson

News & Notes (Continued)

Elementary Summer Bridge 2024 Host Sites (as of 2-14-24)


Host Site	Length of Program	Joining Schools	Principals
Taylor ES	6 weeks	Hosting Central Area Schools	Ryan Capp/Robin Moore Split Coordinator
Rogers ES	4 weeks	Hosting Central Area Schools	Christina Butcher/Amy Jones Split Coordinator
Central Area Schools: Adams, Columbia, Edison, Queen Palmer, Rogers, Steele, Stratton, Taylor, Twain			
Keller	6 weeks	Hosting Northeast Area Schools	Stacy Brisben/ Deb K Coordinator-Stacy Brisben
Carver (Title)	4 weeks	Hosting Northeast Area School	Rochelle Williams Coordinator – Liz Fiorillo
Northeast Area Schools: Carver, Freedom, Fremont, Keller, King, Martinez, Rudy, Scott			
Grant (Title)	6 weeks	Hosting Southeast Area Schools	Tara Berry Coordinator – Tara Berry
Henry (Title)	4 weeks	Hosting Southeast Area Schools	Brett Wiltz Coordinator-Tara Berry
Southeast Area Schools: Audubon, Grant, Hendry, Madison, McAuliffe, Monroe, Penrose, Wilson			
Jackson (Title)	6 weeks	Hosting West Area Schools	Ken Pfeil/Jamie Wright Split Coordinator
Bristol	4 weeks	Hosting West Area Schools	Gabe Hammel/ Season Marron Coordinator – Gabe Hammel
West Area Schools: Bristol, Buena Vista, Chipeta, Howbert, Jackson, Midland, Trailblazer			



News & Notes (Continued)

Middle School Summer Bridge Host Sites (as of 2-14-24)

Host Site	Length of Program	Joining Schools	Principals
Doherty	4 weeks	Hosting Jenkins, Russell, Sabin	Vanessa Vatalero/ Christina Deighton Coordinators – Dawn Thompson, Christina Deighton
Mitchell (Title)	4 weeks	Hosting Swigert, Galileo	Dr. Briggs/Anna Stewart Coordinator – Dr. Briggs
Palmer	4 weeks	Hosting Mann, North	Clara Hoellerbauer/Justin Weickum Split Coordinators
Coronado	4 weeks	Hosting Holmes, West MS	Ricky Lobato/Katie Cincoski Split Coordinators
Spark	4 weeks		Emily Ray Coordinator – Michelle Markham
Tesla	4 weeks	Jason Miller	Coordinator – Jason Miller
Digital	4 weeks	John Bailey	Coordinator – Richard Moothart



ENERGIZE YOUR PASSIONS
EMBOLDEN YOUR STUDENTS
ELEVATE YOUR CAREER

Join us for our hiring fair
and expand your horizons
at THE Colorado Springs
School District 11!


DATE
9 MARCH 2024

TIME
9:00 AM

LOCATION
NORTH MIDDLE SCHOOL
612 E YAMPA ST, COLORADO
SPRINGS, CO 80903

ELEVATE THROUGH EXCELLENCE

- \$50K STARTING SALARY
- DIVERSE PORTFOLIO OF SCHOOLS
- FIND YOUR FIT BASED ON YOUR EXPERTISE
- THRIVE IN A SUPPORTIVE MENTORING ENVIRONMENT



News & Notes (Continued)

Scholarship Opportunity

The Urbanites Leading the Pikes Peak Region (ULPPR) and its partnering organizations are pleased to invite you to participate in the ULPPR Scholarship Program.



In the past, the ULPPR has experienced great success with our Scholarship Awards Program, and we hope to build upon that success with deserving students who will commence their collegiate study in the fall of 2024.

The ULPPR is committed to identifying and awarding scholarships to outstanding students who have demonstrated an interest in attending college after high school. We urge you to review the enclosed materials very carefully and to apply to be considered to receive a scholarship in various amounts ranging from \$1000-\$1500 of undergraduate study starting with the 2024 academic year.

Our goal is to recognize and reward academic excellence, community service, and academic promise among minorities and underserved youth in the Pikes Peak Region.

Successful Applicants will:

- _____ Be a 2024 graduating high school senior
- _____ Have a minimum 2.75 GPA on a 4.0 scale
- _____ Demonstrate leadership in school and community
- _____ Demonstrate a need for financial assistance to enter college

Applicants must meet the following requirements:

- _____ Submit a complete application signed by parents
- _____ Write an essay on **"Why I think a non-profit organization such as the Urbanites Leading the Pikes Peak Region (ULPPR) is relevant today?"** *(Please include specific examples of how you have been affected on a local, statewide or national basis by such an organization.)*
- _____ Submit three Letters of Recommendation
- _____ Provide an official transcript that includes the first semester of the 2024 school year

All required documents must be returned to the ULPPR offices located at 506 E. Moreno Avenue, CSC 80903 or via email to: jj.frazier@ulppr.org by **5:00 p.m., Friday, March 15, 2024**. All scholarship award recipients are required to attend the **ULPPR Scholarship Awards Dinner in May 2024**.

Thank you for your interest in the ULPPR Scholarship Awards Program. If you have questions or require additional information, please feel free to call our office at **(719) 634-1525** or contact **JJ Frazier** at **(719) 244-2133**.

The Scholarship Application, Letter to Applicant and the Scholarship Recommendation letter can be found at the link below:

<https://ulppr.org/scholarships>



SAC Information

Upcoming SAC Training

Save the date: The final SAC training of the 23-24 school year is on **Thursday, April 4**, from 6-8 pm. Topics discussed will include vaping, effects of screen time in elementary on mental health, discussion on cell phone usage at school, and group feedback, survey, and discussion on School Accountability Committees this school year.



D11 SAC Resources in one place

Do you want to be able to find ideas to support your SAC quickly? Look at:

<https://padlet.com/vstepanek/D11SACPadlet>



If you have additional ideas that would help you work with your SAC send them to vstepanek@msn.com

SAC Information Sharing Tip

Information Sharing

- Have a designated webpage for SAC.
- Does your SAC have minutes available to the entire school community from the school website? Check out this page from Holmes Middle School as an example:

<https://holmes.d11.org/holmes-families/school-accountability-committee-sac>

Upcoming Deadlines of Interest to SACs:

- Spring STAR District Benchmark (3rd-11th grade) – April 1-12
- DIBELS 8 (K-3) – April 22 – May 10 (schools choose a 2-week window)
- CMAS Tests – April 8-26
- PSAT/SAT Tests – April 15 -26

SAC Agenda Planning – March (Theme: “One Plan”/USIP updates-if needed, catch up on delayed topics)

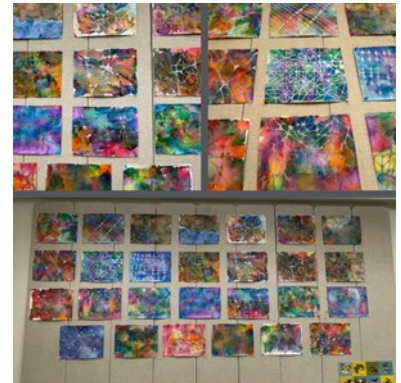
- Every month we intend to provide a reasonable flow of SAC agenda topics that meet the broad responsibilities of School District 11 SACs. This is just a reference tool, and individual SACs should tailor their agendas appropriate to their school needs and emphasis. The following are some of the topics recommended for the March SAC meeting:
- Review results of available performance monitoring data and compare to “One Plan”/USIP goals.
- Review/discuss possible “One Plan”/USIP adjustments (if needed)
- Catch up on delayed topics and/or school unique issues.
- 5 Essentials Survey – ask about participation numbers for students and staff.



Good Things Happening in the District

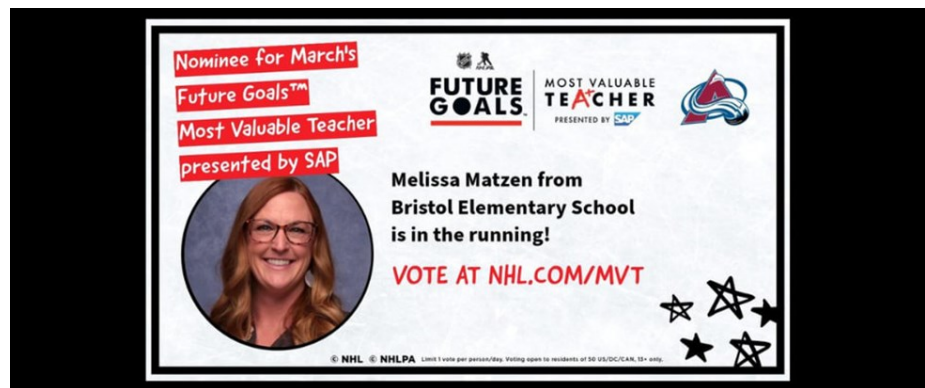
Audubon ES—

- Audubon ES students/artists had the honor of displaying their brilliant art work at the East Branch Library in February. 5th graders skillfully recreated artworks in their unique style, while 3rd graders brought color to life by painting tissue paper on a white canvas, adding a touch of magic with metallic markers. Congratulations to these artists!



Bristol ES—

- Congratulations to Bristol's STEAM teacher, Melissa Matzen, who has been selected as a nominee for the 2024 NHL Most Valuable Teacher presented by SAP.



Coronado HS—

- Congratulations to Realiti Smith, a senior basketball player at Coronado for hitting a career 1,000 points!
- Congratulations to Luke Diehl, a senior wrestler at Coronado for reaching 100 career wins!



Grant ES—

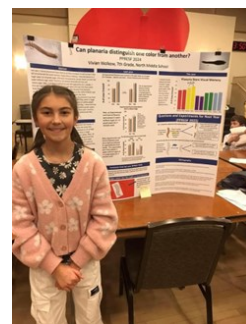
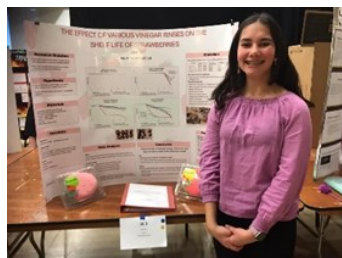
- The Grant ES students and staff had a fun day celebrating Dr. Seuss Day and Read Across America! The staff and students dressed up and the students enjoyed everyone who read to them.



Good Things Happening in the District (Continued)

North MS—

- Congratulations to Julia Muro and Vivian Wolkow, North Students, for competing and winning awards at the Pikes Peak Regional Science Fair. Julia got second place in the Junior Division and Vivian had a third place finish. They will now be moving on to compete at the State level.



Mitchell HS—

- Congratulations to the Mitchell High School Unified basketball team who took 1st place in the Special Olympics Regional Basketball Tournament. This qualified them to go to State! They will take the court on March 15th in Lakewood.
- Mitchell HS has broken ground on their new turf field and all-weather track! It will be very exciting to see the new field and track transformation!



Palmer HS—

- Congratulations to Autumn Largent, a trombonist from Palmer High School for making the All-City Band! Securing a spot in the All-City Band is a huge achievement!



Sabin MS—

- On February 28th the Sabin MS ELL students took the stage at the D11 Board Meeting for their 1st public speaking event. The students proudly shined a light on the Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CLDE) program they have at Sabin. The students shared all the great things they have learned and how they support each other. Congratulations to those students for all their hard work!

