



March 2024

ELP Newsletter

Supervisor's Note

It is hard to believe that we are already in the 4th quarter this school year. Spring is a time of renewal and a time for fresh optimism and opportunity.

Look through this newsletter for stakeholder opportunities to both share and receive perspective and information.

-Dr. Alex Parsons

Upcoming Events



June 14 - 15

UAGC Summer Conference

uagc.org for details

Both teachers and parents are invited to attend



May 5th

Magnet

Appeals Due

Form on ELP

Website



Parent Focus Groups

Dates, TBD

Look for dates and
Express interest on the ELP
Website, under Forms

Testing

Testing that will happen during the 2023-24 school year has concluded. It is exciting to have testing done, so we can communicate options and eligibility before school is out.



What is Best for Gifted Students?

Spring is the time of year when the ELP Department notifies parents of eligibility for Magnet placement and assigns students to classrooms, which means we regularly receive the question: What is best for gifted students? If only there was one “correct” answer...

The goal of gifted education is to create eminent, transformative adults. A hallmark characteristic of transformative adults is commitment and tenacity within their specialty area, which means that what is best for a gifted student is whatever environment sparks the interest and commitment that helps them enjoy their individual path towards eminence.

That spark can be found in all programming options available in SLCSO, including, but not limited to, our Magnet classrooms, AAMP enrichments, neighborhood core classrooms, or special programs or enrichments like Computer, Art, P.E., etc.

The top advice we give parents who reach out? Happiness at home and at school is the best thing we can offer a gifted student. If you are worried about the stress of disrupting a family schedule to get to Magnet, then we suggest trying neighborhood enrichment options first. That may be what your student needs to thrive. If not, we offer rolling Magnet enrollment year-round. Reach out. We are here to help find that optimal spot for your student.



The Power of Visual Notetaking

By Caralyn Bingham, Backman & Wasatch AAMP Teacher

Did you know that when students are asked to draw about what they have learned, they are more than twice as likely to remember the information than students who wrote the same information down?

Whether you call it Visual Notetaking, Sketch Noting, or Mind Mapping, the processes are the same. Students are asked to make simple drawings of concepts that they are learning. This allows students to use multiple parts of their brains simultaneously to deepen learning. Edutopia's research editor, Youki Terada, explained it this way, “When we draw, we encode the memory in a very rich way, layering together the visual memory of the image, the kinesthetic memory of our hand drawing the image, and the semantic memory that is invoked when we engage in meaning-making.”

ELP Excellence in Action

Intellectual

Academic



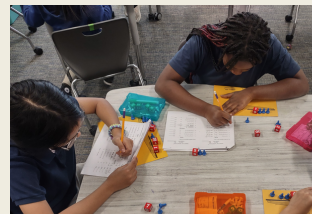
Hawthorne 1st graders in Sharley Bradley's class programmed Sphero Indi cars to perform different tasks and maneuvered them through a mini-city using mapping and coding skills. The students will be introduced to more advanced Sphero robots in the following months.



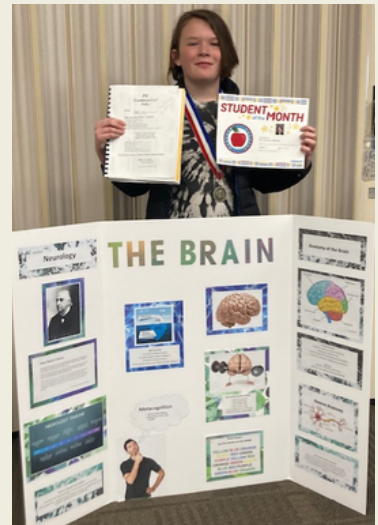
Emerson's IP 5th and 6th grade students from Tina Jensen's class participated in the school science fair. First place winner at the district science fair was Caleb Fu. They also participated in the district Math Counts competition. Tina is President of the Utah Association for Gifted Children.



In Becky Fox's AAMP classroom at Bennion Elementary, students study the Maillard reaction, proteins, starches, and their relationship to cooking.



Sarah Kelly's 5th grade AAMP students at Edison use Hands on Equations to learn algebra.



Nibley Park and Highland Park AAMP students recently completed PX Projects.

3rd grade Discovery Group at Washington Elementary finished up Quadropolis, a city based on Quadrilaterals. Sarah Kelly's students identified what kinds of businesses would be needed for a city to thrive and categorized the buildings into 4 categories: Basic Needs, Health and Safety, Entertainment, and Education. Each group was given 1/6 of a "map" and assigned to build a portion of the buildings. They built the city to scale with each square on the graph paper being equal to 5 feet. Each building was labeled with a diagram of its measurements, perimeter, and area as well as the type of building it is and what need it fills in the city.



Parkview AAMP students in Cher Sten's class have lots of STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) fun! 5th graders built structures of wooden dowels and rubber bands to stand at least 12 inches tall and withstand at least 30 shakes from an earthquake shake table. (The pictured structure was 17 inches and withstood over 100 shakes!) 3rd graders learned about potential and kinetic energy as well as physics to complete a chain reaction challenge. Kindergarten students read 3 fairy tales: 3 Billy Goats Gruff, The 3 Little Pigs, and Goldilocks and the 3 Bears. Students then acted out each story with puppets and then completed corresponding STEAM challenges: building chairs that could support each character of the 3 bears, houses that could withstand the hungry wolf's huffs and puffs, and a bridge that could hold all 3 Billy Goat Gruffs. 4th graders at Parkview collaborated as teams to build robotic arms that could reach 12 inches and pick up various sized, textured and weighted balls.

Visual/Performing Arts

In Sharley Bradley's first grade at Hawthorne, students performed a student-led and created opera. They began writing the libretto in the fall and worked with Opera for Children to have the music/accompaniment created. This year, the opera is called The Talent Show Explosion of Doom. They are now staging, planning costumes, and will end with designing and painting their own scenery, and a performance in March.



Betsy Haslam's 2nd grade class at Whittier Elementary collaborated with Tanner Dance weekly from November - February. On February 29th, students starred in a performance about different habitats and environments.

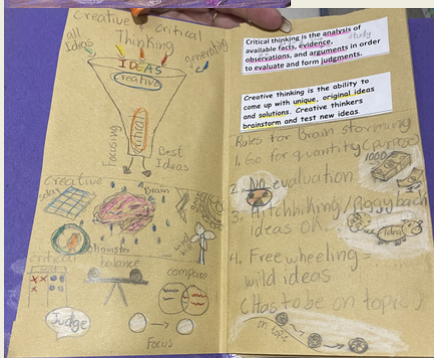
In January, they also participated in Crayola's Annual Creativity Week, for which they created collages representing themselves and their passions as well as learned about space and their own culture's food.



Here Leslie Edward's 3rd graders at Hawthorne are preparing for the annual production of "Good Masters! Sweet Ladies!" The play is based on the 2008 recipient of the Newberry Medal written by Laura Amy Schlitz, which is constructed of a series of 19 monologues and 2 dialogues, each spoken by a young member of a medieval village.



After attending a Visual Notetaking (see the article on page 3 of this newsletter) breakout session at last year's UAGC conference, AAMP teacher Caralyn Bingham decided to try this strategy at both Backman and Wasatch.



Creativity

Joylyne Brown's 4th Grade Whittier AAMP Students strengthen their engineering skills.

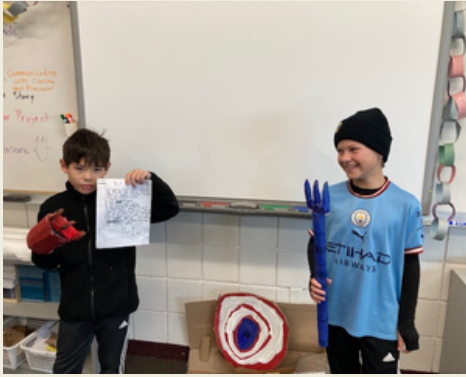


Sarah Kelly's 4th grade AAMP students at Washington Elementary wrote a persuasive essay about how flying would be better than teleporting. Now they are creating a stop motion movie to go along with their essay. Here they are designing and building a stand to stabilize the camera for taking pictures. They will be editing their movie using Canva.

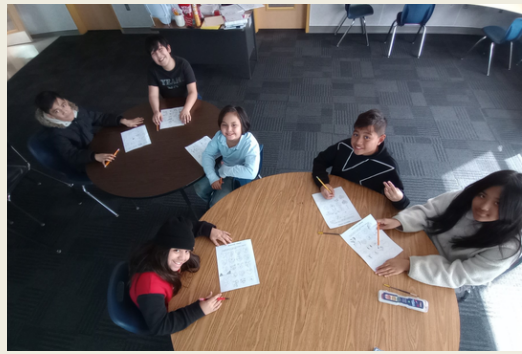


AAMP students at Mary W Jackson and Meadowlark made "heart towers" for Valentine's Day.





Uintah 5th grade AAMP students show their cardboard exploration projects. They wrote a backstory to accompany their team and skill building projects.



AAMP students at Riley used all four aspects of the creative thinking process-- fluency, flexibility, originality and elaboration-- in a seasonal activity.



At Ensign, students who are part of the robotics group are learning coding and the basics of mechanical engineering. They are building cars, electromagnetic arms, and more. One group is using their higher-level problem-solving skills by creating a programmable robotic dog!

Mentorship

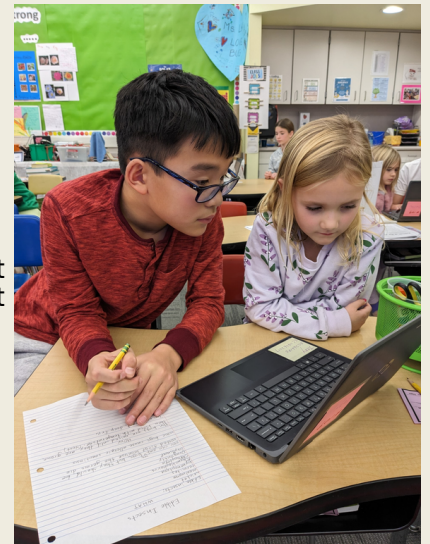


A retired public defender teaches Washington 4th graders about the court system. Mr. Castillo's class will hold a mock trial.

6th grade AAMP students at Newman Elementary with Kathy Gilmour enjoy mentoring from engineering students from U of U at a SLCE high school demonstration.

5th graders in Chyi-Ing Lewis' class mentor 1st graders doing research on edible insects at Whittier Elementary.

During Riego Castillo's class field trip to the Capitol, graciously planned by Board Member Ashley Anderson, Washington Elementary 4th graders visited House Representative Provost, were welcomed to the floor by one of the senators, saw a bill get approved in the Senate, and met with the Utah State Board of Education.



Leadership

Congratulations to Washington's 5th grade magnet students for thinking critically and creatively with the Future Problem Solving 6-step process, addressing global issues including Tourism, Urbanization, and Antarctica. One four-student team and one individual from Mrs. Dotterweich's class qualified for the Utah FPS State Bowl this March!



Betsy Haslam's 2nd grade class at Whittier Elementary hosts a student-created, student-led bi-monthly book club

