



2016 - 2017 Publicity / Public Relations Report

Prepared by:

The Stasko Agency

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Summer 2016

Carnation Festival Picnic Bench Campaign

Welcome to the Carnation Festival Picnic Table Art Auction! These colorful tables are the result of a community partnership between The City of Wheat Ridge, Wheat Ridge Education Alliance, Jefferson County Schools, Colorado Construction Institute, Wheat Ridge High School, 15 Wheat Ridge schools and Jordan's Building Center.

The Picnic Table project is designed to better integrate local schools into the Carnation Festival. The idea was to give area schools a blank picnic table to decorate and display at the festival. The project also provided Wheat Ridge High School students with the opportunity to develop real-world construction skills.

As part of these efforts, the [Colorado Construction Institute](#) provided instructors to teach students to build the tables. [Jordan's Building Center on Ward Road](#) graciously donated the lumber for all the tables, keeping the project moving forward.

After the tables were built, they were delivered to local schools, which painted the tables you see here today. All tables will be sold in a silent auction to the highest bidder, with the proceeds benefitting that school's art department. You may bid on a table at the Wheat Ridge Education Alliance tent west of the tables.

Thank you to all of our partners for supporting this project!

Wheat Ridge Schools Picnic Tables



2016 - WREA School Representative Kick Off

Welcome back to a new school year. Hope your first day back was great! We would like to schedule our first School Representative meeting for the WREA on Tuesday, August 30th at 6 p.m., at Everitt Middle School. Everitt is located at 3900 Kipling Street across from the Recreation Center. We will be meeting in the library, which is upstairs and across from the main office. This email is going to all principals and the representatives that I had names for during the last school year. Items for discussion will be: how to promote/assist your school during this year, picnic tables review and ideas for next year, art and music showcase?, and directories of schools.

Please call me with any questions, 303-204-9504.

Thank you,

Genevieve Wooden

Wheat Ridge City Council

District IV

303-204-9504



National PTA School of Excellence

The City of Wheat Ridge Honors
Pennington Elementary School
for receiving the
National PTA School of Excellence Award
September 12, 2016

NEWS RELEASE

October 11, 2016

"Pennington Elementary Wins National PTA School of Excellence Award"



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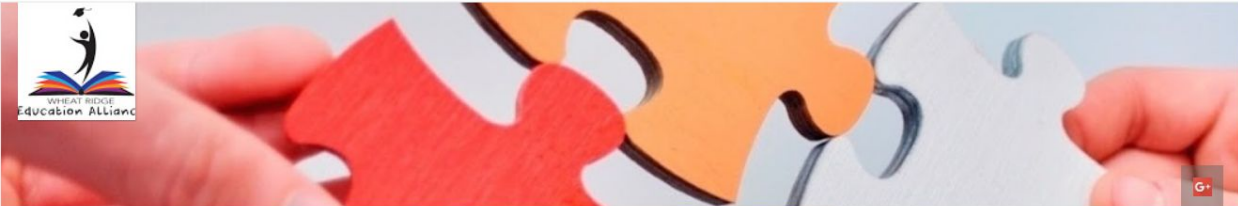
 Jaclyn Hill

 Fun

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 Carli Bybel





Wheat Ridge Education Alliance   2

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What to watch next



2016 08 Sobesky's New Beginning
by Wheat Ridge Education Alliance 18 views 1 year ago



Pennington Elementary and Student Feedback
by Wheat Ridge Education Alliance 33 views 1 year ago



Pennington Elementary Extended Learning Day
by Wheat Ridge Education Alliance 38 views 1 year ago

Popular channels

 **RiceGum** 

 **WORLDSTARHIPHOP...** 

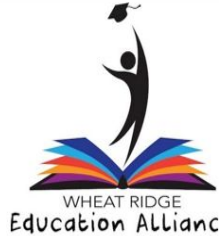
 **Erika Costell** 

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 **shane** 

 **The Voice** 

Created Publicity Questionnaire



PUBLICITY QUESTIONNAIRE

NAME: Kristin Woodbury (working with Jeff Gomez)

EMAIL: kwoodbur@jeffco.k12.co.us

SCHOOL REPRESENTING: Everitt Middle School

What are your school's top three qualities?

1 **At Everitt Middle School, the staff excels at providing innovative learning opportunities for all types of kids and all kinds of learners.** This ranges from specialized team learning in the CREW program, to hands on project-based learning both in the classrooms and extra-curricular clubs and opportunities. CREW, STEM club, GT Center school, Deaf Hard of Hearing Center, Theatre/Drama class and productions, Tech-Ed, computer class, Music programming, Battle of the Books, Night of the Notables, Sea Camp, Career Talk lecture series, are just some of Everitt's

A Publicity Questionnaire was sent to all the Wheat Ridge Schools to explore article / story opportunities. The survey was sent to each Principal and was sent back to the Wheat Ridge Education Alliance for information and future media generation.

9NEWS STEM Superstar

[HOME](#)[WEATHER 28°](#)[LOCAL](#)[NATION NOW](#)[TRAFFIC](#)[SPORTS](#)[FEATURES](#)[ABOUT](#)[VIDEO](#)[BRONCOS](#)[NEXT](#)[COLORADO](#)

Wheat Ridge teens design and build hydrogen fuel cell vehicle



9NEWS STEM SUPERSTARTS
WHEAT RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL STEM PROGRAM

VIRAL VIDEO

START OF SKI SEASON

55°

8:46



CLICK here for article:

<http://www.9news.com/news/education/wheat-ridge-teens-design-and-build-hydrogen-fuel-cell-vehicle/336083474>

Maple Grove Hosts Veterans Day Program

Maple Grove Elementary School Hosts Veterans Day Program

WHAT: Maple Grove Elementary will mark Veterans Day with a special program, featuring: a flag ceremony, poetry, a discussion of the significance of the American flag, veterans and patriotism and a performance of the Star Spangled Banner and America the Beautiful. Local veterans will attend the ceremony and visit classrooms after the program to share their stories.

WHEN: Friday, November 11, 2016

TIME: 8:15 a.m.

WHERE: 3085 Alkire Street, Golden, CO

BACKGROUND:

Maple Grove's Veterans Day celebration is an annual tradition and is expecting up to 20 veterans this year – double the amount that attended the event last year.

About The City of Wheat Ridge

The City of Wheat Ridge, located west of Denver with a population of 33,000 residents, is home to a mix of retail/commercial businesses and unique residential neighborhoods. The City was ranked as one of the "Ten Best Places to Retire" by the website Livability.com. Wheat Ridge is a vibrant community in a prime location, providing easy access to the Denver metropolitan area.

Wheat Ridge Transcript Covers the Veterans Day Program

GREETED WITH GREAT HONOR



Maple Grove Elementary Principal Ian Stone stands and listens as retired U.S. Army veteran Dave Zaharias shares his story during the school's annual Veterans Day presentation on Nov. 11.

GLENN WALLACE

Maple Grove Elementary School Principal Ian Stone helped preside over a school gymnasium that was filled to the gills for the school's annual Veterans Day presentation on Nov. 11. About 20 current and former service men and women attended the event, sitting in places of honor near the stage, where they could share their stories, and wave to the children, nieces, nephews, or grandchildren who invited them to attend.

The presentation included a flag ceremony, poetry, a discussion of the significance of the American flag, and performances by the school choir of the Star Spangled Banner and America the Beautiful.

From the local Boy Scout Troop that helped assist with the presentation, to the intricate and colorful decorations that lined the halls and school library, it was clear that the entire school had been hard at work for the big day.

**Maple Grove
Elementary School
Hosts Veterans
Day Program**

WHRS Students Speak with NASA Astronauts



Building Bright Futures

Media Advisory

FOR PLANNING PURPOSES

Contact:

Diana Wilson

Chief Communications Officer

dianwilso@jeffco.k12.co.us

303-982-6810

MEDIA ADVISORY

Wheat Ridge High School Students to Speak with NASA Astronauts on Space Station

When: Friday, November 18, 2016 at 10:40 a.m.

Where: Wheat Ridge High School
9505 W 32nd Avenue
Wheat Ridge, CO 80033

What: Jeffco students will have the opportunity to speak with NASA astronauts currently living and working aboard the International Space Station.

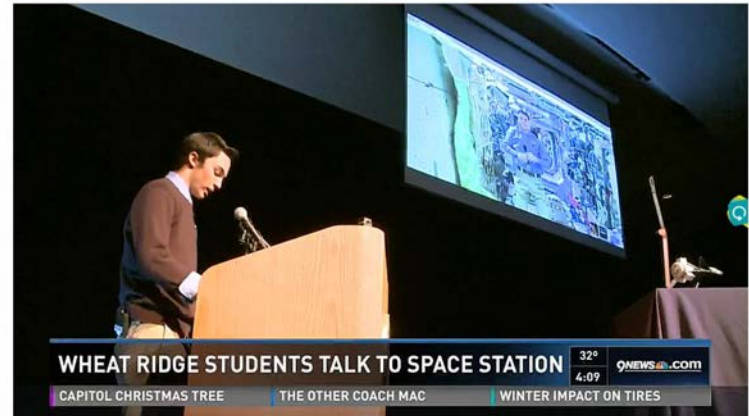
Additional special guests include Congressman Ed Perlmutter.

Background:

The 20-minute, Earth-to-space call will air live on NASA Television and the agency's website.

The event will be hosted by Wheat Ridge High School. Students in the ninth through twelfth

Wheat Ridge students talk to astronaut in space



9NEWS at 4 p.m. 11/18/16

Television Media Cover the NASA Uplink Story



INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION:

Channel 4:

<http://denver.cbslocal.com/2016/11/18/earth-to-space-call-connects-astronaut-to-students/>

Channel 9:

<http://www.9news.com/news/wheat-ridge-students-talk-to-astronaut-in-space/353938582>

FOX31/CW2:

<http://kdvr.com/2016/11/18/astronaut-on-international-space-station-chats-with-wheat-ridge-hs-students/>

<https://www.yahoo.com/news/colorado-students-speak-nasa-astronaut-space-station-165100722.html>

Wheat Ridge Transcript Covers the NASA Uplink Event

Wheat Ridge students talk to NASA astronaut in space

Shane Kimbrough
calls from International
Space Station

BY CLARKE READER
CREADER@COLORADOCOMMUNITYMEDIA.COM

Instead of calling Houston to check in with Earth, Cmdr. Shane Kimbrough, a NASA astronaut on the International Space Station, called Wheat Ridge High School.

For 20 minutes on Nov. 18, about 400 students, parents and community members sat in the school auditorium and listened as Kimbrough answered student questions in zero gravity, more than 200 miles above earth.

"It's a pleasure to be here with you," Kimbrough told the students.

He launched to the station on Oct. 19 and will return home in February.

The call was part of the NASA Office of Education's efforts to improve science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) teaching and learning in school.

"This is one of the most exciting

educational opportunities to be a part of," Principal Griff Wirth said. "We try to provide different things to our students than most schools do."

Wheat Ridge, which has been developing its STEM program over the past three years, has a Shades of Blue program that provides information on careers in the STEM field. When Wirth heard about the opportunity to connect students with an astronaut, he thought it would be a perfect fit. Teachers at the school have been preparing students by incorporating space into lessons in each of their core classes.

Students in the school's STEM classes were invited to watch and submit a question for selection.

"I heard about the opportunity to ask a question, and thought it was one of the coolest things," junior Casey Kramer said. "It was really exciting to be able to step up and ask Cmdr. Kimbrough a question."

About 19 students asked questions during the call, and the subjects were wide ranging. Kramer asked Kimbrough which potential dangers of space travel scared him the most. Freshman Max Harris asked about the



Wheat Ridge High School students had the opportunity to ask astronaut Shane Kimbrough questions during a 20-minute call with the International Space Station on Nov. 18.

CLARKE READER

biggest challenges of space travel, and junior Jacqueline Pedlow asked Kimbrough to share some of the funniest moments.

"We always have a lot of fun during meal time," Kimbrough said. "We toss the food around and catch it in our mouths."

The conversation ended with mutual wishes for a happy and safe Thanks-

giving, before Kimbrough treated the audience to a zero gravity somersault.

"I don't know if you all got the same chills I did during that," Congressman Ed Perlmutter, a Democrat from Colorado's 7th District, which includes Wheat Ridge, Arvada, Lakewood and Westminster, said after the call. "To all the students, thank you — you did your school proud."

STEAM - A Call for Artists



NEWS RELEASE

Contact:

Sara Spaulding, APR,
Public Information Officer
303-324-1711

Sspaulding@ci.wheatridge.co.us

For Immediate Release

Wheat Ridge High School Announces Call for Artists

STEAM program seeks submissions from residents for public art project by March 1

WHEAT RIDGE, Colo. January 6, 2017 – Wheat Ridge High School's STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) class is seeking art submissions from Wheat Ridge residents for a community beautification project. The class plans to wrap local traffic signal boxes with vinyl and cover them with original artwork. The deadline is March 1, 2017.

The STEAM students are working with Clean Slate Group in Bozeman, MT, which has



Westword - Call for Artist



Wheat Ridge High School students are recruiting artists to decorate traffic signal boxes.

Clean Slate Group

Artists Can Honor the "Spirit of Wheat Ridge" — If They'll Do It for Free

KYLE HARRIS | JANUARY 11, 2017 | 7:39AM

Westword

<http://www.westword.com/arts/artists-can-honor-the-spirit-of-wheat-ridge-if-theyll-do-it-for-free-8675097>

“The Hub” Wheat Ridge Community Center



January 23, 2017

3:30p.m.-5:00p.m.

Stevens Elementary School

7101 West 38th Avenue, Wheat
Ridge 80003

303-982-2198

The Hub Community Center Grand Opening



MEDIA ADVISORY

January 20, 2017

Contacts: Sara Spaulding, APR

sspaulding@ci.wheatridge.co.us/303-324-1711

Lu Stasko

lu@thetaskoagency.com/303-477-9902

The Hub Community Center Celebrates Grand Opening with Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

-Based at Stevens Elementary, new center will offer a variety of resources to Wheat Ridge families -

WHO: Jeffco Public Schools, Stevens Elementary

WHAT: The Hub, a community resource center housed at Stevens Elementary, will celebrate its grand opening with a ribbon cutting ceremony on January 23, 2017. The Hub will provide "community access to resources for empowerment" for Wheat Ridge families with school-age children (ages 3 to 21 years of age). The new center will offer a food bank, a clothing distribution center, a literacy library, computers, and hygiene supplies on a walk-in basis. In addition, on Mondays, Metropolitan State University of Denver will provide support services such as assistance with the application and financial aid process for families interested in continuing their education at the university. On Fridays, the Hub will be staffed by community partners offering an even broader range of services, including employment support, housing assistance, legal services, public benefits and insurance enrollment, and health care services.

WHEN: Monday, January 23, 2016



<http://www.9news.com/news/education/jeffco-schools-opens-the-hub-for-families/402502034>

Creating a new hub for a community in need

**WHEAT RIDGE
TRANSCRIPT**

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JEFFCO SCHOOLS

Creating a new hub for a community in need

Stevens Elementary offers assistance to students, families



Volunteers from The Hub community resource center sign a celebratory card at the opening on Jan. 31.

CLARKE READER



Posted Tuesday, January 31, 2017 2:54 pm

THE HUB DETAILS
WHERE: Stevens Elementary
7001 W. 38th Ave., Wheat Ridge

Clarke Reader
For students and their families in the Wheat Ridge area going through tough times, Stevens Elementary is the new hub for getting the help they need.



Shades of Blue Returns to Wheat Ridge High School



NEWS RELEASE

Contact:

Sara Spaulding, APR,
Public Information Officer
303-324-1711

Sspaulding@ci.wheatridge.co.us

For Immediate Release

Shades of Blue Returns to Wheat Ridge High School

-STEM-focused program trains students for careers in aviation and aerospace-

WHEAT RIDGE, Colo. February 3, 2017 – Wheat Ridge High School and the Wheat Ridge Community Foundation have partnered again to provide students with educational programming from Shades of Blue, a non-profit committed to offering training and mentoring to young people interested in STEM (Science, Technology, Math and Engineering) careers.

This is the third year Wheat Ridge High School students have participated in Shades of Blue, which offers Saturday educational sessions from February through April focused on aviation and aerospace engineering. Students will meet with representatives from Lockheed Martin, the United States Air Force, the National Center for Atmospheric Research and take trips to Front Range Airport to learn about helicopter flight training and Redstone College, which has aviation electronics and aircraft repair programs.

About 30 students are expected to participate in Shades of Blue, free of charge, thanks to

<http://wheatridgetranscript.com/stories/shades-of-blue-gives-stem-students-scoop-on-careers,243483>



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JEFFCO SCHOOLS

Shades of Blue gives STEM students scoop on careers

Wheat Ridge chapter highlights future possibilities

Clarke Reader

Posted 2/28/17

Even before coming to Wheat Ridge High School this year, Collin Warren knew that he wanted to be a pilot, but the road to the sky was a little foggy.

Thanks to the contacts and information he's received as part of the high school's Shades of ...

This item is available in full to subscribers.



WHEAT RIDGE TRANSCRIPT

NEIGHBORHOOD Gazette

Wheat Ridge High School Fires Up Shades of Blue Flight Program

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By Cyndy Beal

Pretty much everyone dreams of flying, but some of us make it a reality.

Through a new program Wheat Ridge High School (WRIHS) students are getting their chance to explore their own dreams of flight.

Every Saturday morning from 10 a.m. to noon for nine weeks, 18 WRIHS students are attending an aviation ground school through Shades of Blue.

Shades of Blue, started 15 years ago, is a non-profit educational organization that mentors, tutors, counsels, and arranges internship and employment referrals for young people who want to pursue Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) careers, per their website.

The aviation ground school, which runs through April, provides students with a foundation and support system for STEM-related pursuits. The course is an introduction and general overview of aviation. Some of the highlights include the educational and skill sets required, as well as hands-on experiences. In addition, discussion about personality and character traits needed for careers in aviation, aerospace and engineering are explored.

As part of the general overview, the class visited the Wings Over the Rockies Air and Space Museum in Denver (at the former [ex.php](#) Jwry Air Force Base). Shades of Blue has an ongoing relationship with the museum.

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<http://ngazette.com/index.php/latest-issue/1069-wheat-ridge-high-school-fires-up-shades-of-blue-flight-program>

Shades of Blue Returns to Wheat Ridge HS

STAFF REPORT

Wheat Ridge High School and the Wheat Ridge Community Foundation have partnered again to provide students with educational programming from Shades of Blue, a nonprofit organization committed to offering training and mentoring to young people interested in STEM (Science, Technology, Math and Engineering) careers.

This is the third year Wheat Ridge High School students have participated in Shades of Blue, which offers Saturday educational sessions from February through April focused on aviation and aerospace engineering. Students will meet with representatives from Lockheed Martin, the United States Air Force, and the National Center for Atmospheric Research. Plans also include trips to Front Range Airport to learn about helicopter flight training, and Redstone College to learn about aviation electronics and aircraft repair programs.

About 30 students are expected to participate in Shades of Blue free of charge, thanks to funding from the Wheat Ridge Community Foundation.

"We're extremely grateful to

the Foundation for supporting this program and allowing us to offer opportunities for our students to learn about careers in fields where talented young people are in high demand," said Wheat Ridge High School Principal Griff Wirth. "For example, the Bureau of Labor Statistics expects an 11 percent increase in airline and commercial pilot jobs over the next decade."

Wheat Ridge High School has had 30 students each year since the program began in 2015, and a number of those students have continued to pursue greater learning in aviation or STEM pathways. This year, three commercial pilots will be working with students interested in pursuing their initial pilot's license.

The alliance with Shades of Blue is part of Wheat Ridge High School's larger effort to fulfill Jeffco Schools' 2020 Vision plan, which is focused on connecting students to college as well as career and life aspirations. In addition to Shades of Blue, Wheat Ridge High School students can also participate in STEM, STEAM (Science, Technology, Math, Arts and Engineering), and construction programs designed to equip them with real world skills.

Shades of Blue gives STEM Students Scoop on Career



STEM Students Capture Champion Title at Shell Eco-Marathon

By J. Patrick O'Leary

Students from Wheat Ridge High School's STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) program once again took the Champion title at the Shell Eco-Marathon competition, held in late April in Detroit, Michigan.

The event provides a real-world environment for students to test vehicles they design and build themselves.

"The objective of the Shell Eco-Marathon is to complete the course in under 24 minutes, 6 miles, while using the least amount of fuel," said Charles L. Sprague, Wheat Ridge High School's STEM/Engineering Shell Instructor. "We have competed in the Hydrogen category for the past three years."

The competition's other main categories are Internal Combustion Engine and Battery Electric.

"The competition combines both high schools and colleges alike from the America's, North, Central and South," said Sprague. "This year we competed against one other high school and four other colleges, including Georgia Tech, University of Alberta and Queens University out of Canada."

The school's STEM program was developed as a pilot course along side the school's partnership with the University of Colorado Denver, and will enter its fourth year this fall, according to Sprague.

"The STEM program works on hands-on large scale projects to help the students understand the relationship between Design, Manufacturing, Assembly and finally Competition," said Sprague. "The class started with 16 students in the fall of 2014 and we should reach close to a 100 students with the combination of the STEM class next year."

This year the class built two hydrogen fuel cell cars - a prototype and larger "Urban Concept" vehicle - and the prototype went to Detroit to compete.

"The competition was run over four days," said Sprague. "The first two days are what is called tech inspection. Each team must

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STEM team retains top spot at eco-marathon

Program continues to thrive at high school

BY CLARKE READER
CHADDERIDGE@COLORADOCOMMUNITYMEDIACOM

When junior Gabriella Cordova was driving Wheat Ridge High School's prototype hydrogen fuel cell car in the Shell Eco-Marathon, she was only able to focus on her driving.

"I was working with my teammates on the turns," she said. "I knew we did well, but I was shocked to hear we won."

Pitchfork, as the car is named, ended up doing better than anyone could've imagined.

Thanks to the dedication of students and the support of the community, Wheat Ridge's STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) team claimed a first place victory at the annual marathon, held April 27-30 in Detroit. The win marks the second national title won by the Farmers.

"As good as we are, we're still teenagers working on this stuff, so we're never 100 percent sure it's all going to work going into it," said senior Noah Spornable, who was the team manager in Detroit. "We looked at how we did last year and what other teams had done to address issues we were having as we built the car."

The STEM program has grown by leaps and bounds since it was started by instructor Chuck Sprague in 2014. That first class was just 16 students, and this year between STEM and STREAM (the "A" is for art) classes, 80 students are now enrolled.

"We didn't expect quite so much growth so fast," Sprague said. "But it's a good thing, because it means we're getting some great talent."

While the team's award-winning cars are what the program is most known for, it's far from the only project students have in the works.

After successfully building a sculpture in honor of well-known football player and alumni Freddie Steinmark and installing it at Lutheran Medical Center, the STEM class spent the year dreaming and designing its next piece.

Some students built a human-powered rover for a competition at NASA's headquarters in Alabama. The school had the second-highest placing for a rookie high school team, thanks in large part to the welding work by seniors Quinn Ferguson and Jacob Worth.

"It took us about a month and a half to two months to do all the welding required for the design," Worth said. "When we first started, we just had designs and weren't sure where to get started," Ferguson added. "But we were able to figure out what we needed and make it all work."

The STEM program has always been ambitious in its goals, and that ambition requires funding. One of the biggest parts of the program is learning how to speak and present to organizations, businesses and individuals to raise money. In its third year, Sprague

The Wheat Ridge High School STEM team in Detroit, receiving first place for their hydrogen fuel cell car. This was the second time in three years the school claimed the top prize.

GET INVOLVED

Wheat Ridge High School's STEM and STREAM program are seeking sponsors, as well as alumni to participate in the 2017-2018 "Battle of the Classes."

For more information on the battle, or to learn how to become a supporter, contact instructor Chuck Sprague at csprague@jeffco.k12.co.us.

got creative with the fundraising by starting a "Battle of the Classes."

Wheat Ridge alumni from different classes competed to see who could raise the most money for the program. The four classes that brought in the most money were 1961, 1962, 1961 and 1988. They raised about \$6,000.

"The money doesn't just help pay for necessary equipment and materials, but allows students a learning opportunity they won't find anywhere else."

"I'm very grateful I got to be part of this class," Cordova said. "I just want to be a sponge and soak all these different opportunities in."

May 11, 2017

50 CENTS

WHEAT RIDGE
TRANSCRIPT

A publication of Colorado Community Media JEFFERSON COUNTY, COLORADO

Martensen School Becomes First-Responder Training Facility

THE DENVER POST

DP For two years, a Wheat Ridge elementary school...

NEWS · YOURHUB

For two years, a Wheat Ridge elementary school sat empty. Now it trains law enforcement for school shootings.

The building gives first responders an opportunity to train for active-shooter situations in an authentic environment

By PEYTON GARCIA | pgarcia@denverpost.com | YourHub
PUBLISHED: April 24, 2017 at 4:50 pm | UPDATED: April 25, 2017 at 11:02 am



DARREL SMITH
Jefferson Co. Security and Emergency Management

There is a new school in town, but it's not full of children with backpacks and pencils. It's a school for law enforcement officers with guns, learning

Sara Spaulding: APK



<http://www.thedenverchannel.com/news/local-news/wheat-ridge-police-to-conduct-school-shooting-training-at-martensen-elementary>



[http://kdvr.com/2017/04/26/elementary-school-urns-into-law-enforcement-training-facility/](http://kdvr.com/2017/04/26/elementary-school-turns-into-law-enforcement-training-facility/)

<http://www.denverpost.com/2017/04/24/wheat-ridge-elementary-law-enforcement-training/>

9NEWS - Smartest Kids in Colorado

9NEWS HOME WEATHER 37° LOCAL NATION NOW TRAFFIC SPORTS FEATURES ABOUT VIDEO BRONCOS NEXT COLORADO

Smartest Kids in Colorado: Hydrogen car

COURTESY, WHEAT RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL STEM



Next with Kyle Clark

They entered a hydrogen fuel cell car in an "intercontinental" competition in Detroit.

Next with Kyle Clark, KUSA 1:16 PM, MDT May 05, 2017

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9NEWS HOME WEATHER 37° LOCAL NATION NOW TRAFFIC SPORTS FEATURES ABOUT VIDEO BRONCOS NEXT COLORADO

Smartest Kids in Colorado: Hydrogen car

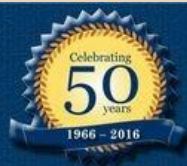


Next with Kyle Clark, KUSA 1:16 PM, MDT May 05, 2017

<http://www.9news.com/news/local/next/smartest-kids-in-colorado-hydrogen-car/436955331>

Everitt Middle School Celebrates 50 Years

Everitt Middle School
We are Everitt!



Spending a half-century shaping Wheat Ridge students

Everitt Middle School celebrates 50 years as 'focal part' of community

BY GLENDA HENSE
GLENDA.HENSE@WHEATRIDGE.CO

When Allison MacDonald was a student at Everitt Middle School, one of the teachers that made the biggest impact on her life was Alice Mathum, who taught language arts at the school for 28 years.

Years later, when MacDonald started working at the school, then principal Cathy Norton helped shape her as an educator.

"Everitt has always been my destiny," MacDonald, now a counselor at Everitt, 600 Kipling St., said at the school's 50th anniversary celebration on May 10. "I appreciate every day here and the history we all share."

The anniversary event drew past teachers and staff, like Mathum, Norton and several others, current directors and alumni, all to celebrate Everitt's role in the community.

"Wheat Ridge is a small town with a lot of traditions," said Jeff Gomez, Everitt's current principal. "Everitt has been a focal part of the city for a very long time, and so we thought it was important to recognize our past."

The school has about 500 students, and although there has been some discussion about the school becoming sixth through eighth grade middle school, nothing has been decided. Even that decision were made, it would not change until 2018.

The event kicked off with an open house, where current and past students and community members could wander through the halls and see how the school has changed. In the library there were yearbooks from Everitt's 50 years, school memorabilia, and even pieces of a personal puzzle created by current students.

"We've always had a lot of community support at Everitt, and a very tight-knit," Mathum said. "It's been a lot of fun for me to help plan this event over the past few months. It's been a big old down memory lane."

The evening capped off with a presentation from notable figures like Gomez, Wheat Ridge Mayor Joyce Jay, alumni and member of the U.S. Congress Michael Hesse, former U.S. Attorney Troy Ed, former principals Norton and Russ Ramsey, and alumni MacDonald and Elizabeth Bassow-Schewe.

"When I was looking through the yearbooks on display I saw a lot of happy, happy people," Jay said. "You never, ever lose your education, and schools like Everitt are where we learn skills, safety and acceptance."

Hesse remembered his time at Everitt as crucial in forming the man he would become, while Ed remembered some of his funny experiences at the school.



Wheat Ridge Mayor Joyce Jay speaks at the 50th anniversary celebration for Everitt Middle School on May 10.

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"My life was changed because of the people who I encountered here," Ed said. "Teachers here gave their lives to students, and that's why there is nothing better or more important than teachers."

Both Norton and Ramsey remembered a staff that was welcoming and supportive of administrators.

"Staff didn't just teach students, they grew principals," Ramsey said. "The remarkable thing is how long staff members have remained here at the school."

Attendees expressed pride of their time at Everitt, and fond memories of their time and the friends they made.

"I never realized how influence being here was for me," Bassow-Schewe said. "The people here made the biggest difference to me, and 40 years later, I still felt like I never left."

May 18, 2017

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WHEAT RIDGE
TRANSCRIPT

Wheat Ridge High School - Vision 2020

WHEAT RIDGE TRANSCRIPT

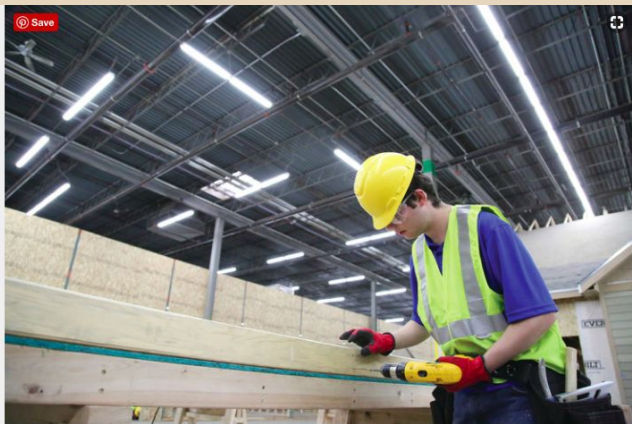
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JEFFERSON COUNTY SCHOOLS

Wheat Ridge High School embraces districts 2020 vision

Jeffco Schools hopes to teach students more about life than textbooks



Grail, 18, says that construction class is a good way for him to learn about and be apart of the workforce.

WHEAT RIDGE TRANSCRIPT

JUNE 1, 2020

2020

FROM PAGE 10

to see if we can re-engage them in school and give them work skills," Wirth said.

Students in the program attend two months of academic boot camp blended with career exploration. In boot camp, they work on soft skills and employability. After that, they work with community partners for skill training. Training is three to eight weeks long followed by a paid internship.

"I think the problem we've had is the way we've looked at education for a long time says all kids need to go to college," Wirth said. "I think a lot of times kids feel like if they don't go to college they're a failure. But the research tells us that 30 percent of our jobs require a four year degree right now. We've been trying to send 100 percent to college, when economy doesn't support that."

Wirth hopes that the skill trade programs offered by Wheat Ridge help change that.

But even before the 2020 Vision was implemented Wheat Ridge and other district schools were already embracing programs like STEM and STEAM.

The high school started a STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) program which would allow students to take on big projects, research them, design, tweak and build them while partnering with community engineers.

Recently that STEM Team claimed a first-place victory at the annual Shell

FOR MORE INFO

Information and videos explaining the goals of the district's 2020 Vision can be found at:

<http://jeffco.sd2.sharpschool.com/about/2020>

Eco-Marathon in which they showed off their prototype hydrogen fuel cell car.

The win marks the second national title won by the Farmers.

The cars are displayed inside the school.

"They continue to use critical thinking and creativity and expand the frame of what might work," said Matt Flores, Chief Academic Officer for Jeffco Schools, of the STEM students. "That to me is a great example of Jeffco 2020."

From the STEM program, grew STEAM with a "A" added for art. Those students have installed a statue at Lutheran Hospital and worked this year on creating a fog wall that utilizes ionized water to create pictures.

Before both of those programs, the Gifted and Talented Center was launched at the school, nine years ago. Wirth says the center filled a void for the GT students who were getting bored in class and dropping out.

"GT kids, I think there's a misperception about who they are," Wirth said. "People look at gifted kids as an easy road, but there's a whole lot of different giftedness. They view the world differently."

The GT program at Wheat Ridge, which pulls high school students from



Gino Romero, 17, and Jesus Hernandez, 18, both Wheat Ridge High School students, cut wood for a picnic table they are building.

PHOTO BY SHARON PORTER

the whole district, allows gifted students to pursue passions and interests in an advanced academic setting.

"It's an opportunity for them to be in that group with like peers," Wirth said, adding that a lot of students in the program are twice gifted — meaning that they fall on the gifted scale academically but also struggle with things like anxiety, depression or autism.

Wirth is retiring this year, but he said he is excited that newly named Superintendent Jason Glass will be coming on board in Jeffco.

"I hope that he embraces the 2020 Vision," Wirth said. "If he embraces that, then schools like Wheat Ridge will become models for what a school could look like."



Students in the construction class are on site at the Colorado Homebuilding Academy in Denver.

Students Explore Careers in Construction

NEIGHBORHOOD Gazette

A Strong Foundation: Local Students Explore Careers in Construction

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By Meghan Godby

There's no denying the magic of a good idea. When that proverbial light bulb goes off, pulses quicken, eyes light up, and the go-getters get to work.

It's a familiar feeling to Chad Meyers of Jeffco Public Schools, who serves as a Program Specialist for the School to Work Alliance Program (SWAP). Last year, through a partnership with the Colorado Home Building Academy (formerly known as the Colorado Construction Institute), he helped execute a hands-on program where students can explore careers in construction and gain experience in the field.

As part of this initiative, students lovingly built and decorated picnic tables, which were up for auction at last year's Carnation Festival. The sale of the 15 tables raised just over \$3,000, which went directly to local schools in our community.

Residential construction is booming in the Denver metro area, and Chad saw the opportunity to take this partnership a step further. During the first semester of the 2016 school year, over 20 students enrolled in what is known as a Construction Career Based Program.

Since the program is in its first year, Chad was thrilled with the level of interest and participation. The early stages of instruction were geared at introducing students to the field of construction and began preparing them for valuable career-specific certifications (OSHA-10 and HBI-Pack) – essentially a pre-apprenticeship program.

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Contribution by Erin Whipple



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OPINION

Managing marijuana's influence on students

Erin Whipple - Special to Colorado Community Media

Posted 7/26/17

The School Health Professional Grant (SHPG) program, through the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) intends to increase the availability of school-based prevention, early intervention and health care services and programs to reduce the risk of ...

This item is available in full to subscribers.

Contribution by Ayrolyn Keady

Written by Ayrolyn Keady

This past fall, our oldest child began kindergarten. She had all the normal jitters associated with transition to a new place - she was nervous about meeting new friends, about being in a new place, about learning a new routine. And I was nervous too. While many of our children attend daycare and preschool in their early years, starting kindergarten somehow still felt like the beginning of something new and uncharted.

I had begun looking at schools the year prior. Colorado's open enrollment policy makes moms like me feel pressure to check out every school, to feel out every situation. And I did (well, I tried). And what I found was that my gut was right, and our neighborhood school, Stevens Elementary, was the best fit for us. And it's still the right school for us four months later. It's the best fit because it has what I needed to make my life work, which included full-day kindergarten, access to before / after school and day-off programming.

It's also still the best fit because of how my daughter has bloomed while being there. Stevens has the most amazing staff; people who make deep, heartfelt connections with kids right away. Teachers who make time to allow their students a practice of centering and connecting with each other each morning before academics begin. Teachers who have high academic expectations and are using data and research-proven methods to meet each kid where they're currently performing and get them where they need to be. People who believe that character development is an essential component of an education for tomorrow's leaders.

If I hadn't taken the time to come and get to know Stevens, I might not have chosen it. And so, I'd like to extend to you an invitation. Consider joining us on December 15th to learn more about how Stevens might be the right fit for you:

2017 Carnation Festival Student Garden Bench Campaign

Welcome to the Carnation Festival Student Garden Bench Art Auction

Welcome to the Student Art Auction for the Carnation Festival. These Garden Benches are the result of a community partnership between The City of Wheat Ridge, Wheat Ridge Education Alliance, Jefferson County Schools, Colorado Construction Institute, Wheat Ridge High School, and 15 Wheat Ridge Schools. The project is designed to better integrate local schools into the Carnation Festival.

The project provided Wheat Ridge High School students with the opportunity to develop real-world construction skills by building these benches with donated lumber. As part of these efforts, the Colorado Construction Institute provided instructors who worked with WRHS staff to teach students to build the benches.

After the benches were built, they were delivered to local schools, and the students painted the benches you see here today. All benches will be sold in a silent auction to the highest bidder, with the proceeds benefitting that school's art department. You may bid on a table at the Wheat Ridge Education Alliance tent west of the benches.

Thank you to all of our partners for supporting this project!



Student Garden Benches



WREA and Carnation Festival Celebrate Successful Bench Auction



Wheat Ridge Education Alliance and Carnation Festival Celebrate Successful Student Bench Auction

Wheat Ridge, Colorado (*September 6, 2017*) – The Wheat Ridge Carnation Festival Student Garden Bench Auction raised more than \$1,000 for local schools. Eleven schools in Wheat Ridge participated in the auction, submitting benches painted by their students. The highest bid – \$400 – went to Everitt Middle for its carefully crafted bench, which highlighted the city of Denver's skyline against a mountain backdrop

Setting a new benchmark for education

**GOLDEN
TRANSCRIPT**

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Setting a new benchmark for education

Wheat Ridge student bench projects raise more than \$1,000



Stevens Elementary School's decorated bench was one of those that helped raise funds at the Carnation Fest.

COURTESY PHOTO



Posted Wednesday, September 13, 2017 10:52 am



Denver Post - YourHUB

Wheat Ridge Student Bench Project Raises Funds at Carnation Festival

Posted by goldensara on September 11, 2017 in Arvada, Edgewater, Golden, Sheridan, Wheat Ridge | 13 Views | [Leave a response](#)

The Wheat Ridge Carnation Festival Student Garden Bench Auction raised more than \$1,000 for local schools. Eleven schools in Wheat Ridge submitted benches to the auction that were painted by their students. The highest bid of \$400 went to Everitt Middle School for its bench that featured Denver's skyline against a mountain backdrop.



Bench painted by Stevens Elementary students

THE DENVER POST

Wheat Ridge High School Re-Branding Project



Suggested Strategy: Evaluate Wheat Ridge High School's current recruitment strategies and gather stats on success rate

Suggested Tactics:

- Improve shadow program. Identify students who can serve as brand ambassadors for each department/program and offer Q and A session during shadow days; Also provide some sort of group activity for shadowing students so they can feel like they are part of a community at the school (this could be a picnic lunch, kickball game, etc.)
- Assess outreach effort to middle schools in the area – both private and public. Is the high school exhibiting during high school fairs at the middle schools? Do they offer a matchmaking program where kids interested in the high school would receive a “buddy” they could communicate with about questions and concerns?
- Outreach to real estate offices to ensure that they understand the high school's key attributes and distinguishing programs.
- Recruit high-profile alumni such as Quark Founder Tim Gill and broadcaster Dave Logan to provide video testimonials that can be featured on the school's website as well as pushed out through social media
- Ask the marketing class to devise a marketing plan for the school as a class project