



Get to know Ute Pass Elementary!

The alchemy of small: our tiny sUPER school is doing huge things

A long, long time ago, people travelled, hunted, farmed, and built their lives in small, intimate groups. People learned by watching and doing, together. They listened to stories around campfires designed to instruct, inspire and teach.

This tradition of small, cozy, community-lead learning continues each day at our little school in Chipita Park. Building on the belief that strong, close-knit relationships fuel the engines of learning, we leverage our mightiest strengths every day: our tiny size. We also build on the whispers of the people who traveled across our campus for millennia, bringing the great wisdom, stories and knowledge from the western mountains to the plains and back again. Our school exists in a place of traditional human

passage. We use these traditions to be a village school with a global reach.

What's best about being tiny is this: it's possible for sixth-graders to know the names of kindergartners and of preschoolers to know the names of the fifth-graders. With small size comes big visibility — both of the learning that takes place, the progress that's made or the beautiful individuals as they grow across time. The magic that happens in human growth is easier to see when you are a small community. It's an alchemy of small.

So, to celebrate the amazing start to this year, we joyfully share just a few moments from ways we leverage this

size to do big things.

In September, for example, our sixth-grade students lead our kindergartners, our fifth-graders lead our first-graders, and our third-graders lead our preschoolers on a journey to explore the "Musical Swings," an art installation brought to Green Mountain Falls this summer by the Green Box Arts Festival.



Designed by the Montreal firm *Daily tous les jours*, this visit allowed children of both ages to experience engineering and art, mixed in a gorgeous and inspiring way.

Also in September, our Mountain Academy for Arts and Sciences sixth-

grade lead our fourth-graders on an ecological and scientific exploration of the mountain that is, literally, in our back yard — Pikes Peak. Older students taught younger students how to take soil measurements, resting heart rate measurements, air temperature, and many other data points to bring to life the way our mountain affects climate, life zones and adaptation.

When older and younger children share and build their experiences together, the joy around making learning new things becomes less frightening, more engaging and real. Take a few moments to enjoy just a few of the enormous moments we are blessed to experience each and every day in our tiny, little school.

~ Chris Briggs-Hale
Principal, Ute Pass Elementary

Fall highlights so far ...

Sixth-graders chaperone our kindergartners



The sixth-graders taught, lead, inspired and encouraged our kindergartners on a two-mile round trip to the "Musical Swings" in Green Mountain Falls. The little ones hiked the whole way with the encouragement of their buddies. The leadership displayed by sixth-grade students giving up their seats on the swing for their buddies was moving!

What a tiny sixth-grade class can do in the field



In September, our sixth-grade students planned, budgeted and organized their own ecology backpacking trip. Students broke into small groups to plan, budget and shop for a meal that they would cook on backpacking stoves for the whole group of 24. This year, each group was required to incorporate one item from the school garden. So many students showed huge pride in the work and the accomplishments of their gardening classmates across the school, "this is the best dinner I've ever had!"

When older children lead younger ones up a 14,110-foot mountain



Artist of the Week



Artist: Xavier House, fourth-grade, UPES

Employment Opportunities

You can become a part of the Manitou Springs School District staff! We have job postings at www.mssd14.org/district_information/employment_opportunities

Currently, the district is looking to fill High School Chemistry and substitute Para-Professional positions! Come be a part of our Manitou Herd!

