



## Thoughts from the Head Learner



In recent issues, you might have been reading about Manitou Springs School District's new initiative called Connect14. Currently, this is an after-school program that provides children with opportunities to take classes in the fine arts (orchestra, dance, voice, drama, painting, etc.), sports (soccer, basketball, volleyball, archery, etc.) and in science/mathematics/engineering (drones, Traxis cars and robotics). We want to connect children to authentic, creative and wildly engaging activities so they build relationships with their peers, the adult instructors, and volunteers; and they just might find something really exciting to learn and accomplish.

We are now on our way towards "phase two" of our plan. Developing a "Connect14 Center," or C14C, to begin delivering early childhood programs and services to families with young ones from newborns to 5 years old.

Additionally, the C14C will provide instructional programs for families to complete at home — this will be called our Mustang Pack program. Children will receive educational, theme-based materials like books, puzzles, arts and crafts activities and much more to do with their parents. Building vocabulary and motor skills is critical for our littlest learners.

The C14C will also be working with community volunteers and paid staff to provide additional services like financial planning, parenting

support, counseling, and crisis services to those in need.

It is our hope that our community's senior citizens will also be part of the new C14C — to receive the services they need and to come and work with younger generations to share wisdom, to establish connections, and to love and be loved by the Mustang family.

In order to confront depression, isolation, loneliness, and disconnection (something all ages are experiencing today), we need to create a strong, vibrant, loving and supporting "village." An African proverb states that it "takes a village to raise a child." I couldn't agree more. Sadly, however, the "village" is disappearing in our communities today. We are losing connection, losing valuable relationships and support — isolation and loneliness are running rampant. Many folks do not know their neighbors as well as they should and extended families are spreading out more and more across the nation.

As we develop the C14C, I'd love to hear from you. We want to make it a place for all people in the Manitou Springs community and school district. It will be crazy cool!

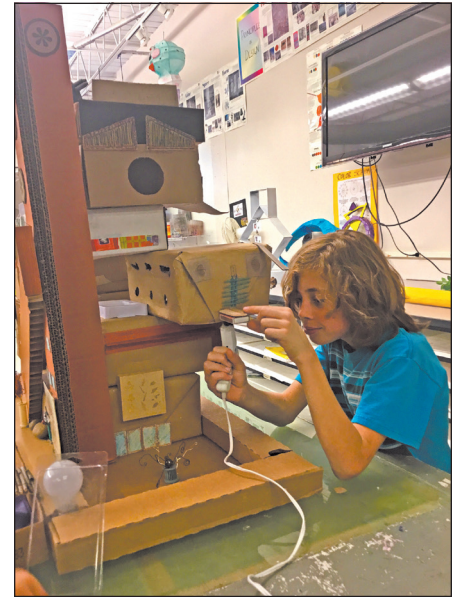
I hope that you will support the idea to stomp out hatred, loneliness and boredom by coming together to be part of our "Mustang Village!" C14C is coming ... stay tuned!

**Ed Longfield**  
The Head Learner

## Connect14 spring classes COMING SOON!

[www.connect14.org](http://www.connect14.org)

Connect14 Spring Term classes will be posted on the website and registration will open soon — keep watching for registration dates! Connect14 winter term classes started the week of Jan. 14 and go through March 15, 2019. Students and adults alike are having a great time this term! They are creating ceramics, learning to sew, racing slot cars, playing ukulele, building robots, dancing, singing and acting! In addition to our student offerings, there are five classes at the MAC open to high school-age children through adult — we'd love to see these classes become intergenerational. A lot of age-friendly rapport will grow from creative relationships between the generations in these classes!



- Mondays:** Rock Band and Advanced Guitar
- Tuesdays:** Creative Writing
- Wednesdays:** FAB LAB with Concrete Couch and Ceramics
- Thursdays:** Dye Weave Sew with Textiles West
- Fridays:** Acrylic Painting with Erin Gillespie from Bemis FAC

Please visit our website or contact Arts14 Director Joye Levy at [jlevy@mssd14.org](mailto:jlevy@mssd14.org), Sports14 Coordinator Danny Gieck at [dgieck@mssd14.org](mailto:dgieck@mssd14.org) or STEM14 Supervisor Chris Picinich at [cpicinich@mssd14.org](mailto:cpicinich@mssd14.org) with any questions!

## Artist of the Week



**Artist:** Maggie Kowal, 3rd Grade, UPES

## Employment Opportunities

You can become a part of the Manitou Springs School District Staff! See our job postings at [http://www.mssd14.org/district\\_information/employment\\_opportunities](http://www.mssd14.org/district_information/employment_opportunities)

The district is looking for bus drivers,

MSMS Harmony/para-professionals, MSMS lunch room support, a high school English teacher, substitute teachers, para-professionals and a MSMS evening custodian! Come be a part of our Manitou Herd!

# NO SCHOOL MONDAY, FEB. 18, FOR PRESIDENT'S DAY

