



## A journey of a thousand miles

By Chris Briggs-Hale,  
Ute Pass Elementary School Principal

Lao Tzu said, "A journey of a thousand miles begins with one step." Thus, it is with joy that we celebrate the first steps of our new trail to our natural area!

Dedicated last week in a school-wide ceremony, this new nature trail is a doorway to our outdoor classroom and is a link to an important place of learning — our tiny piece of mountain forest.

Our outside spaces are laboratories for learning about this montane ecosystem — it's birds, its plants, its trees and how all these things work together. Our learning about these things is fueled by research and hands-on exploration of what is known and unknown about this complex mountain ecological system. How it maintains life in such harsh mountain environments, creates balance within itself, and evolves into a habitat for so many creatures is a joy to learn. This is a habitat that is deeply depended upon by animals, bacteria, lichen, fungi, mammals and, yes, us. We depend on it.

Our students, particularly sixth-graders, have been working for the past few years to establish a unique outdoor learning space in our mountain environment around the school.

UPES alumnus Landon M., as part of his Eagle Scout project, worked with our community to provide access to this trail from our playground.

As we near our 50th year, it is highly probably that one of the many conversations that people will be talking about on our 100th anniversary is the opening of this space to learning for all children and all community members. Projects like this echo through the years in a school community.

We would like to thank Landon and his family for this incredible effort.

This trail is yet another wonderful doorway to learning in new and exciting ways. We love finding and opening doors like this! Like all doorways, starting on this trail is the first step of on a glorious journey — a journey in which not just the first step, but every step can be filled with joy, fascination, curiosity and understanding



Landon's project will allow access to the nature trail from the playground.

## Meet your District 14 Board of Education!

### Steve Weimer, Director

#### Why am I on the BOE?

I serve on the board of education to lead as a united team with the superintendent to promote positive and responsible educational systems that align with community values. The board of education and each director has a duty to collaborate and provide oversight, transparency, and budget approvals for the benefit of its community and primarily for student growth and achievement.



#### Why do I love MSSD14?

The school district is filled with hard-working, dedicated people who tirelessly bring the best for its students. The district's educational programs are highly recognized throughout the state, and it truly cares for students as exemplified by so many after school programs such as arts, sports, science, engineering, and even new innovative programs being planned for the future. I also love the school district because of the strong community support it receives.

#### What are my goals for the Board of Education?

My goals include advancing a collaborative and thoughtful decision-making governance process that responsibly empowers its superintendent, school and district leaders, teachers and the entire staff to deliver exceptional K12 education through a safe and thriving learning environment. Board objectives must focus on student and staff safety along with nutritional and mental health programs because schools will thrive when students are ready to work and learn. It's all about growth and achievement!

#### Who is Steve Weimer?

My family moved to Manitou Springs nearly 15 years ago from Tampa, Florida, where I was a business owner for over 20 years. All of my children have graduated from Manitou. I'm a guitar builder, and I'm currently working on a new business. I have a bachelor's degree in business and a master certificate in Enterprise Lean Six Sigma. I'm committed to helping children and supporting my community. I've served on the board since 2014, and I absolutely love calling Manitou my home.

## Connect14 spring classes, spring break camp and summer baseball league registration OPEN!

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

Spring is here! Connect14 classes will take place April 1 through May 10! Hurry, registration ends March 22!

Check out the new offerings for spring, including a Spring Break camp and summer baseball leagues for kids age 9 through 15 years old.

Catch a ride home with the Connect14 Club! The Connect14 Club offers return

buses or late pick-up at 5:15 p.m. — only available at time of registration! No exceptions.

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!

## Kindergarten registration now open!

Will your child be 5 years old by Sept. 1, 2019? If so, it's time to register for MSES or UPES's full-day kindergarten! Registration is now available online for students entering kindergarten in August 2019: <https://mssd14.org/cms/One.aspx?portalId=57448&pageId=901068> (Only a parent or legal guardian may register the student.)

To complete registration, the following documents must be presented to MSES or UPES front office:

- **Verification of Residency**, (current property tax bill, mortgage statement, or recurring monthly bill/statement with name and address, e.g., a utility bill);
- **Proof of Age**, (original birth certificate, passport, or other official document indicating age);
- **Immunization Records**. Current records with dates can be obtained from your health care provider; and
- **Proof of Custody**, if applicable. Legal divorce decree or other custody document indicating physical or residential custody.

*Note: If you have any questions about the necessary documentation, please call the office at 685-2195 (MSES) or 685-2227 (UPES).*

If you know someone with a kindergarten-aged child who is not yet connected with the school, let them know that registration for their kinderpumpkin is now open!

## Artists of the Week



Aztec, Inca and Mayan masks — MSES Fifth Grade

Artists: Kenzie K. (gold face), April R. (cheetah), and Weston C. (grey mask).

# SPRING BREAK! NO SCHOOL MARCH 25-29

