



MANITOU SPRINGS SCHOOL DISTRICT 14

GO MUSTANGS!

MANITOU SPRINGS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL • UTE PASS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL • MANITOU SPRINGS MIDDLE SCHOOL • MANITOU SPRINGS HIGH SCHOOL

Career and Technical Education Corner

At this time of year, we look at the blessings we have and give thanks for those blessings.

As we give thanks, do we think of those blessings and how we obtained them? Do we think of the barriers to those blessings that so many face? Do we think through the skills we have acquired and the experiences, opportunities and people we have encountered that allowed for those skills?

As we think of Career and College Readiness in Manitou Springs School District, we work to enable students to achieve these opportunities.

In October, MSSD14 paid for all of its eighth through 11th grade students to take the PSAT test for their grade level. This allows students to begin practicing for the college entrance exam years before they take the SAT.

Students can then create a Khan Academy account linked to their scores for free. This account takes their strengths and weaknesses and creates a tutorial for them to practice.

These tests and the Khan Academy platform allows for all our students to have equal access to opportunity after high school. It begins to break down barriers to success

for students who may have thought, "college isn't for me."

A student may use these scores at any four or two-year college in Colorado for entrance and placement. This includes classes for an associate's degree, or an industry certificate/credential program at a two-year school like Pikes Peak Community College.

Teachers in the middle school and high school use this data in both individual and whole group data conversations, concerning skills and growth.

People, skills and opportunities — three things to be thankful for this season in Manitou Springs.

MSSD14 Principal, Anne Foster Standley

Dear Manitou Springs Community, It's with a heavy heart I inform you of the passing of a wonderful person and the first principal of our lovely little school, Anne Foster. Mrs. Foster was deeply loved by many in our community as she served both Ute Pass Elementary and Manitou Springs Elementary as a teacher and a principal. She served as UPE's principal for 15 years and served MSES for another 10 years afterward. A pioneering Mustang community leader has left us.

At our 50th Anniversary Gala event last August, which she attended, the community was able to honor Mrs. Foster for her precious years of service. 50 years ago this fall, Mrs. Foster introduced 10 teachers as the school's first faculty of Ute Pass Elementary



School: Miss Gralapp, Mrs. Van Kirk, Miss Johnson, Mr. Vaeth, Mrs. Longenecker, Mrs. Elva Warner, Mrs. Thomson, Mrs. Heltemes, Mrs. Quinn and the school's first secretary, Mrs. Porter; with a cumulative experience of 114 years!

Mrs. Foster represents for us the vision and the shoulders of a whole community upon which all these traditions and 50 amazing years of learning have been

based. The Profundity of "Tiny": During her opening remarks at the Dedication Ceremony in November 1969, Mrs. Foster said, "we are a small school, but we offer many exceptional special services." With those words, and through the work of these founding teachers, Ute Pass Elementary established a priority around the idea that you can do even bigger things for children and families when your school is really, really small.

During the gala celebration, I saw a former student hug Mrs. Foster and

say, "I love you. You will always be my principal." To which she replied, "I love you too." That kind of love, 50 years later, is the legacy and the standard of excellence we all strive to achieve each and every day at this little village school.

We will all miss

Anne. She shared a lot of wisdom about our school with many across the years. As the school's sixth principal, I bonded with Anne during her last few years and will miss her a lot. Anne, Ute Pass Elementary School will always live the legacy you have left us. Thank you for being in so many people's lives.

Chris Briggs-Hale

Ute Pass Elementary School Principal

MSSD14 Lego League Robotics teams thrive

Two of the 11 MSSD14 teams that competed in the FIRST Lego League Robotics Season advanced to State! The State Tournament took place this past Saturday, Dec. 7, at CU Denver.

Our middle school team #7887, "There's an App for That!", advanced during the qualifier and a received a 3rd Place Project award. Their score in Core Values was 100 percent exemplary in every category. While they did not win a trophy this year, out of the 71 teams that participated at State, they represented beautifully. Congratulations to our eighth graders: Emma B., Gage S. and Nicholas S.; who've competed as a team all three of their middle school years. Cheers to seventh grader Liam L. and sixth grader Daniel P., who were invited to join them on their journey. A huge thanks to Michael Linster, who has supported the team this year and all of the teams on which Liam has participated since third grade. He also sponsored another team in full, and even purchased their field mat!

Thank you, Mr. Hamilton, for being our biggest cheerleader! Thank you also to everyone who came out on Friday to send the teams off in style. The band played, the tunnel was made — it was phenomenal!

Kudos also to team #12967, "Graffiti",



who received a Second Place Core Values award at qualifiers! These students are: Kai J., Chyanne M., Logan O., Ezabella W. and Violet W. Thanks to parent volunteer Rolf Jacobson and high school supporter Kaya Olson.

Our elementary Connect14 team #12981, "The Fielders", are fourth graders who held their own all season and earned a ticket to State during the qualifier. They were led by Dillon J. and supported by Jenna Conlin and several other parents. These amazing fourth graders are: Braden C., Ryder C., Cayden J., Luca J., Nick J., Liam L., Phillip L. and JT V! Their official coaches were Brandon Wood, Christi Marquardt and Amy Evans.

A huge thanks to our administrator, Joye Levy, who made so much of this year possible and to our principals, Russ Vogel and Chris Briggs-Hale, who have supported our teams all year. What fantastic support our kids have!

MSHS students selected for All City Band!

MSHS is proud to have been the only school in the Tri-Peaks League with students selected for the All City Band. Devon R. made first chair top band on

trumpet, Hailey M. made second chair top band on clarinet, and Anton A. made last chair bottom band on tuba. Way to go!

Important date

Dec. 18: MSHS Band and Orchestra Concert, 6:30 p.m. at the District Auditorium, 110 Pawnee Ave.

Connect14 for winter and spring ... registration open!

You can register your students at www.connect14.org for the upcoming winter and spring season of Connect14! This season will be 14 weeks long and offers classes as low as \$5.00 per instructional hour! Registration closes Jan. 6, with classes beginning the week of Jan. 27. Make sure to go online and register for your favorites ... they'll fill up fast!

Please reach out to Connect14 Director Joye Levy at jlevy@mssd14.org with any questions!



No school Dec. 23-Jan. 8 for Winter Break!



MANITOU SPRINGS SCHOOL DISTRICT 14 • 405 EL MONTE PLACE, MANITOU SPRINGS, COLORADO 80829
(719) 685-2024 • WWW.MSSD14.ORG • WWW.FLASHALERT.NET (FOR SCHOOL CLOSINGS)

