



THE WEEKLY

District Updates from
Elizabeth Domangue

Relationships. Deep Learning. Opportunity.

November 14, 2022

Dear Manitou Springs School District Community,

I hope that everyone had a great weekend.

Based on feedback from the Communication subcommittee of the District Accountability Committee (DAC), it was recommended that I include links to each school's weekly newsletter in these district-wide updates. Schools will still send their weekly newsletters on Fridays, so you can access as needed/desired. Even if you do not have a child at a school or you do not work directly in a school, I encourage everyone to take a look at what is going on across all schools...truly remarkable.

[Links to each school's weekly newsletter:](#)

[Ute Pass Elementary School](#)
[Manitou Springs Elementary School](#)
[Manitou Springs Middle School](#)
[Manitou Springs High School](#)

Substitute Appreciation Day is Friday, November 18

Please join me in celebrating all of our substitutes this week. I want to thank each and every substitute (in every role) for always being willing to step in to support our schools and departments. We appreciate their willingness to take last minute positions, long-term positions, and positions that might change throughout the day. Our school district is better because of their dedication.

Recognizing our Veterans

Friday was a beautiful day across the district...celebrating Veterans from all branches of the United States military. We have many current staff who served in various branches...to each of them, we are grateful. I was able to attend the programs at UPES and MSES...both were really special events that honored veterans through musical performances and powerful words provided by veterans and students. Thank you to all of our staff who contributed to recognizing our veterans.

Congratulations to the MSHS Volleyball Team

The team made it to the state tournament after becoming the 2022 regional champions. They competed on Thursday and Friday. We are so proud of this accomplishment. This is the first time the team has made it to the state tournament since 2015. One of my favorite MSHS traditions is the school-wide sendoff that happens when teams or individuals make it to state level final competitions. Take a look at [this news story](#).

6-12 PAC Fundraiser

The Parent Action Committees (PAC) at all schools are so active. In fact, MSES' PAC raised \$10,000 at the recent Maniboo event! Here is the link to the [6-12 PAC's Silent Auction](#). Thank you to all of our parents and families who are involved in the PACs.

Some Upcoming End-of-Year Performances

- MSHS Band Concert--Nov 30

- MSHS Orchestra Concert--Dec 1
- UPES Music Concert (K, 2nd, 4th)--Dec 6
- UPES Music Concert (1st, 3rd, 5th)--Dec 7
- MSMS Orchestra Concert--Dec 7
- UPES Music Concert (6th)--Dec 8
- MSMS Band Concert--Dec 8
- MSMS/MSHS Choir Concert--Dec 9

Also In the News...

- Take a look at this [news story about the amazing Home Build experience at MSHS](#). Thank you to Brad Borkowski (CTE Teacher) and Kolleen Johnson (Director of Student Success) for all that you do to make this opportunity possible for students.
- We are working with community partners to develop in-home child care opportunities in Manitou Springs for children ages birth to 3 years old. Please see the letter to the editor that was recently published in the Pikes Peak Bulletin and a flier with additional information posted below.

UPES's Silent Auction

Here is the [link to their silent auction](#).

Thanksgiving Break–November 21-25

As we look to the time away from school, I hope that everyone has a wonderful Thanksgiving break. I love this holiday because the focus is on expressing gratitude. I have so much to be thankful for in my own life–family, friends, health, and a career in education that I believe is the great equalizer (especially when it is exceptional for all students). I am thankful for the opportunity to work alongside such dedicated staff. They teach me so much. I am thankful to know our students and families. I look forward to the week leading up to the Thanksgiving break.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Domangue
Superintendent of Schools

Hosted by UPES Student Council

Thanksgiving FOOD DRIVE

Week of Nov 14-18th

Our local food pantry is in need for items. Let's work together to help them stock up before Thanksgiving!

Food Needed:
Instant potatoes / Rice A Roni /
Pasta Roni / Mac & Cheese/
Canned meats / Canned broth /
Cereal / Canned veggies

MSHS FOOD & CLOTHING DRIVE - NOVEMBER 14TH - 18TH

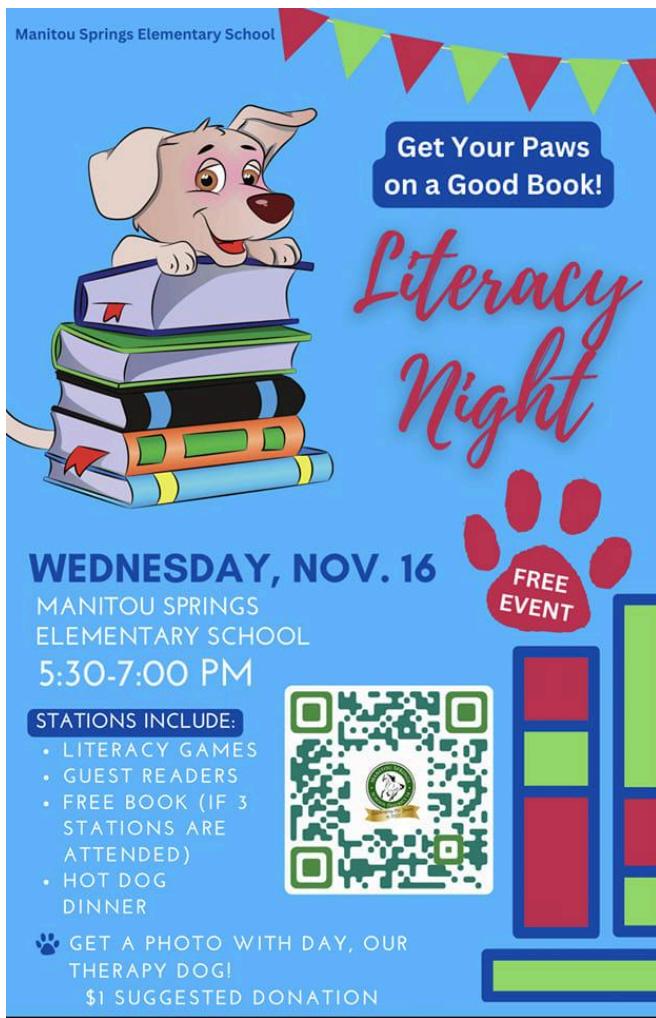
Please help us collect non-perishable foods and gently used clothing for the "Clash of the Classes" Food & Clothing Drive. This food & clothing drive serves many families in need within our community.

DROP-OFF LOCATION:

There are designated boxes for lower classmen and upper classmen in the Commons. If you donate, you will have the chance to win a giftcard! Be sure to put your name/grade on your donated items. The grade level that wins will also

receive a prize.





November 10, 2022

Letter to the Editor

Community addresses child care 'desert' in Manitou Springs

To the editor:

We are writing to share the work recently started to bring in-home child care opportunities to Manitou Springs. Through partnerships with Manitou Springs School District 14, Pikes Peak State College and Early Connections Learning Center, we are presenting new opportunities and financial support (from federal and state funding sources) for community members to become licensed in-home child care providers.

Manitou Springs Elementary School and Ute Pass Elementary School have exceptional half-day preschool programs for 3-year-olds and 4-year-olds. So we share in advance that this communication is related to needs around birth to 3 options, not our current school district preschool programs.

Experts and agencies in the Pikes Peak region consider Manitou Springs and the Ute Pass area to be a "child care desert." At a time when early child care options (birth to 3) are limited in our area, we believe it is important to

share resources that are available for members of our community to have licensed child care in their home.

Our goal is to promote and support three to five new daytime child care homes in Manitou Springs. The hope is to provide these services to D14 staff initially and then expand to city employees and/or Manitou Springs-based employees.

An eventual goal is to understand how our school district employees can have access to affordable and high-quality birth to 3-year-old child care opportunities in our community.

Upcoming meetings will share information about what it means and what is required to become an in-home family child care provider.

Contact Josie Watters at 719-381-4814 or jwatters@earlyconnections.org to RSVP for one of these local meetings:

10 a.m. or 5 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 17;
5 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 30; or
10 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 1.
With enthusiasm for what is possible,
Elizabeth Domangue, D14 superintendent
Ken Jaray, supporting community philanthropy

Ever thought of opening your own child care business?

NOW is the time to start!

Many supports are available for Manitou Springs and surrounding areas for new family child care homes!



GETTING
STARTED IS
EASY!

BENEFITS TO BECOMING A FAMILY CHILD CARE PROVIDER NOW:

- Stay at home with your own children
- Earn a living at home
- Set your own schedule
- Build your own Early Care and Education business
- Receive Professional Development, Coaching and more supports including help getting licensed
- Make a difference in the lives of children and families in your community
- Have access to numerous resources

INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS:

LOCATION: SILC BUILDING
(405 EL MONTE PLACE, MANITOU SPRINGS)

- THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17TH
 - 10:00 A.M. OR 5:00 P.M.
- WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30TH
 - 5:00 P.M.
- THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1ST
 - 10:00 A.M.

Contact Josie Watters to RSVP:

719-381-4814

jwatters@earlyconnections.org