



## Mt. Evans BOCES

Clear Creek RE1 - Gilpin RE1- Platte Canyon #1 Clear Creek RE1 - Gilpin RE1- Platte Canyon #1

### ***Strong Partnerships Ensuring Success for Exceptional Students*** **Quarter 2 2018 Gifted and Talented Newsletter**

#### **Gifted and Talented Staff**

The gifted and talented staff for the Mt. Evans BOCES and its member districts are:

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#### **Gifted and Talented Field Trip**

On December 5, 2018 students from the Gilpin County and Platte Canyon School Districts, grades 9-11, participated in a college visit to Colorado University-Boulder. This was an Information Session & Campus Tour that provided a great overview of CU Boulder and the Buffalo community. The program included a 45-minute information session led by an admissions representative designed to help answer questions about the undergraduate experience at CU Boulder. Following the information session a 90-minute, students went on the student-led walking tour of campus.



#### **Upcoming Field Trip**

May 1, 2019, Middle School Games Competition at Clear Creek High School, grades 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>



#### **Early Access**

To meet the needs of highly advanced children ages 4 or 5, early access to educational services may be considered as a special provision (Colorado Department of Education). Children for early access are exceptionally precocious and ready for school earlier than their same-age peers. Academic achievement, reasoning ability, performance and motivation are keen compared to other gifted children.  
<https://www.cde.state.co.us/gt/earlyaccess2016>

Mount Evans BOCES has a process for considering early access to Kindergarten for a child with an age of 4 or to first grade for a child with an age of 5. Information describing Early Access is on the Mt. Evans BOCES website at

[\(https://mtevansboces.com/gifted-education/\)](https://mtevansboces.com/gifted-education/) and includes the Mount Evans BOCES' Early Access Policy, Timeline of Early Access Dates, and the Parent/Guardian Request Form for Early Access consideration.

- Application opens January 15th and closes March 15th
- Parent(s)/Guardian(s) submits the Early Access form requesting consideration for Early Access to K or 1st grade by March 15
- All inquiries forwarded to Mt. Evans BOCES Gifted Education office for processing and tracking.
- Parent/guardian information packet provided to parent that includes all documents and guidelines

## Colorado Association for Gifted and Talented Children (CAGT)

The gifted coordinators and assistant director of gifted education attended the 41<sup>st</sup> annual CAGT conference on October 21-23<sup>rd</sup>. The theme of the conference was *Putting the Pieces Together: Understanding Giftedness*. This was an informative conference.

The keynote speaker on October 11<sup>nd</sup> was Temple Grandin, a professor of Animal Science at Colorado State University. She is a prominent author and speaker on both autism and animal behavior. Her talk focused on the need for gifted students to foster their creativity through classes that speak to their passions and the need to experience practical problem solving through the use of trial and error. Also emphasized was the need to give students time to respond, the need for mentors, and to limit video games.



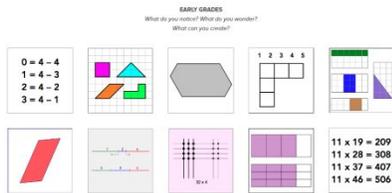
## Creative Math Prompts

**Math Adventurers want to know!**

- Why (or why not)?
- What if...?
- Is that always true?
- Is that ever true?
- How do I know?
- Is there another answer?
- Is there another way to think about it?
- Can I find a pattern?
- Does that make sense?

Jerry Burkhart presented on creative math prompts. His mission is to provide gifted kids a deep, rich, engaging, and challenging focus on math content. As a result, he

developed the creative prompts resources. A creative math prompt is an image that contains the seeds of a deep math conversation or investigation. These prompts have no directions as the learners ask the questions. Students spend time noticing, wondering, and creating. The prompts are open-ended but can be targeted to learning goals and standards. Teachers and students are co-learners in the math prompt process.

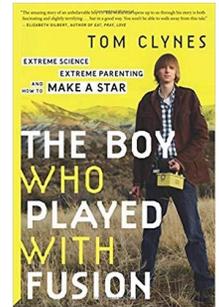


Use of creative math prompts also allow students to experience math as a creative activity and provides challenge and practice for a new way of thinking about math. For more information on creative math prompts, here is a link to his website: <http://www.5280math.com/noticing-and-wondering/>

## Extreme Science, Extreme Parenting and How to

## Build a Star

Another keynote speaker was Tom Clynes, author of *The Boy who Played with Fusion*. His book describes how Taylor Wilson, as a 14 year-old in 2008, achieved nuclear fusion through a device he invented. Tom, through Taylor's



story, described the challenges and obstacles gifted children, their parents and educators encounter and how to best

guide children, whether gifted or not, to reach their potential. Here is a link to Taylor's T.E.D. talk on the development of his device: [https://www.ted.com/talks/taylor\\_wilson\\_yup\\_i\\_built\\_a\\_nuclear\\_fusion\\_reactor?language=en](https://www.ted.com/talks/taylor_wilson_yup_i_built_a_nuclear_fusion_reactor?language=en)

## Active Engagement

Sunny Vincent, Heidi Lupinacci, and Rebecca Odegard-Siegele presented a session on Active Engagement to over 80 participants. According to The Center for Educational Innovation (<https://cei.umn.edu/active-learning>), active learning is



any approach to instruction in which all students are asked to engage in the learning process. Classes with successful active learning activities provide an opportunity **for all students in a class to think and engage** with course material. The presentation focused on four main active



engagement categories of conceptual knowledge and cognitive strategies; interactions; motivation and social skills. Instructors can utilize a significantly large collection of engagement strategies for each

of these categories. Participants actively engaged in



various strategies modeled and were given access to an

online resource bank of over 55 engagement strategies.

## **District Gifted Programming**

### **Platte Canyon School District:**

At DCES we have been meeting for both Enrichment and Affective Needs lessons. We will be starting a Math pull out this month as well. Students continue to work on Exact Path as well as individualized projects.

At FMS we have nearly completed in setting up the missions for our Robotics. Our next step is to assemble the robot and then learn how the Mindstorms software works so that students can start to program the robot in completing the missions. We are also continuing our Affective Needs Curriculum as well. There is also an upcoming field trip to the Denver Museum of Nature & Science that we are looking forward to.

At PCHS students recently attended at field trip to CU Boulder. Students will soon be accessing the SEAD program, Social and Emotional Adolescent Development program, to help them build a foundation of understanding regarding social and emotional topics that are relevant to them.

### **Gilpin County School District:**

The Gilpin gifted program and students had a great first semester. The implementation of virtual high school ALP meetings went smoothly with teachers, parents, and student providing input for their ALP this year. All ALPs are viewable on Infinite Campus. Teachers reported on the students progress towards their goals for the first semester. The elementary students had a great time on their field trip to The Mindbenders exhibit at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science. The students enjoyed a logic puzzle challenge where they competed in groups to solve a logical problem about a baseball team. They competed against all grades in the gifted program and even some staff teams joined in the fun. One of the high school teams solved the puzzle first, but each team was able to solve the puzzle. The elementary students worked to create personal shields that represented them and shared with our group their symbols and what they represent. The high school students enjoyed the tour of CU's beautiful campus. We had a great day with cool but sunny weather. The middle school students are getting excited for their field trip to experience Mystery and the Museum at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science next week.

### **Clear Creek School District:**

The gifted students in Clear Creek have had a very productive end of the first semester and beginning of the second. Elementary, Middle, and High School students alike have had an opportunity to review their advanced learning plan goals and reflect on their progress so far this year. The students' reflections were very thoughtful and impassioned; firm evidence of their motivated and ambitious individual spirits. The students have made tremendous progress so far this year academically and affectively. Teachers have also contributed to the ALP reflection and progress monitoring process. ALP Progress Reports will be mailed home in the near future.

Before the holiday break, the elementary afterschool enrichment students wrapped up the Architect Academy theme by designing and creating their own personalized gingerbread houses! The students' creative, productive thinking, design, and problem-solving skills were put to the test. The Royal icing "glue" was a sticky and tricky situation when it came to adding the second and third stories, but a sweet time was had by all.

### **★Clear Creek School District Upcoming Events & Reminders:**

- Advanced Learning Plans can be viewed on the IC parent portal in the reports section
- MS TAG Field Trip to Denver Museum of Nature and Science 1/16/19
- MS Enrichment Fun Friday 3:30-5:45 1/18/19- additional dates forthcoming
- Elementary Enrichment Tuesday/Thursday sessions resume 1/15 and 1/17- Theme: Scientist Academy
- [Early Access Application](#) window opens 1/14/19 and closes 3/15/19
- [Gifted Education Referral](#) Window opens 1/7/19 and closes 2/4/19
- Carlson Elementary School Science Fair 1/30-2/1/19
- King-Murphy Elementary School Science Fair 2/6-2/8/19
- Mountain Area Science Fair at Evergreen Country Day School 2/9/19 9am-noon
- [CAGT Legislative Day at the Capitol 2/21/19](#)- Application Window for Shadowing closes 1/25/19  
General Attendance Registration Closes 2/1/19

