



Heather Baskin, Coordinator of Gifted and Talented Programming at D51

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Important Dates

GT Enrichment Scholarship Due

May 4, Before 4 pm
GT Office, Emerson Bldg.
East Modular

Letter from the Coordinator:

In 2002 the District 51 School Board created the GT Advisory Committee to assist in the improvement of gifted education in our district: The GT Advisory Committee (GTAC) shall provide advice and counsel to the Board of Education concerning ongoing and emergent needs and issues relating to the education of gifted and talented students in District 51. Last year the BOE requested that the committee research how gifted education and the new D51 Learning Model fit together, how to support identification of underrepresented populations, and how to include student representation on GTAC. At the March 20, 2018 board meeting, GTAC gave an update on their work.

If you would like to see this presentation please visit the Mesa County Valley School District 51 Facebook page, or you can get a copy of the presentation by emailing our office.

GT Scholarships Available for Summer Enrichment Opportunities

The Gifted and Talented Department has funds available for scholarships for students to participate in activities or camps that will enrich their areas of strength. Applications are available online at <https://www.d51schools.org/cms/One.aspx?portalId=81872&pageId=1582108> or they can be picked up from any GT teacher or Liaison. Applications are due May 4, 2018 and decisions will be made by May 8, 2018.

Scholarship and amount awarded are based on a complete application and a combination of financial need, amount available, connection to developing gifts and talents, and/or previous GT scholarship award. If you have questions, please contact Bev Jebe, Administrative Assistant at 254-6903 or bev.jebe@d51schools.org.

Many Faces of Gifted— Megan Branson & Adrianna Trujillo—Fruitvale Elem

Megan



How our school supports our learning is that they give us many challenges and they always help us by getting us into many different things like Super School News and nominating us for The Junior National Young Leaders Conference in Washington D.C.

We feel that GT classes are important but not something to brag about. Some of our goals are to be in the Challenge Program at East Middle school. Also, to get good grades and score higher on tests.

Adrianna



We can improve our learning by always practicing, having high goals, and believing in ourselves. One wish we would want for the students at our school is for everyone to have their exact level class so no one falls behind or gets confused.

Middle School Students Travel to State Legislature

Middle School Students Travel to Legislative Day in Denver Legislative Day Reflections from East Middle School

**“If you do one thing, sit down with someone you don’t agree with.
If we don’t, democracy crumbles.” GT Lobbyist.**

Jayz:

I learned that the charm of the city is great, but it has some downside. There are tall buildings, fun metro trains, and some good food. However, we started to see the homeless and the overall smog of the city. It shows me to be grateful and not take what I have for granted.

Ashtyn:

I’m super thankful for this opportunity! I’m also excited to share with you a couple of things I learned. Firstly, I learned about the capitol building itself. I was unendingly amazed by the



beautiful architecture and design. I would like to know who did these things from the mural around the grand staircase to the double-set sink on the lower levels; it was ravishing. But to be completely 100%, this honestly kind of insulted me. This leads to the next point I have, which is that I learned about our educational funding. It is shameful we have this rich capitol which requires maintenance, safety inspections, paintings, and art, and is all around expensive to maintain. Our cost per pupil is nearly \$1,000 less than the state average. Shameful I tell you! We need to put into motion the bill the speaker told us about. 171 superintendents agreed on it. That should say something to all of us.

Another thing I learned, frankly the most impactful, was in the Q & A segment. Wow! I’m beyond impressed. That was amazing. When I thought of diversity within the legislator, I pictured people red-faced and yelling at each other, coldly disagreeing about things like abortion, gun control, and LGBTQA. What I got was entirely different. People disagreed, yeah, of course. But there was dignity and respect. No one got called in anger, even if they both had strong opposing viewpoints. It really, really seemed like people who spoke were buddies, even if one was blue and one was red. It was encouraging in light of this past election.



Middle School Students Travel to State Legislature (con't)

Trustyn:

I learned about how underfunded the Colorado school system is. I also learned how long things in the Legislature take to process and make. I feel I now can have much more educated conversations about legislature.

Shaine:

Today I learned most how badly funded Colorado schools are. We are not properly providing for beings with special learning due to the small amount of money. One possible solution is HB18-1232.



Micah:



Legislative Day was a fun opportunity! I got to shadow a legislator which was exciting. I really enjoyed seeing how a senate meeting actually runs. It was interesting to me how the senators actually didn't really pay attention to the president. They would talk while he was talking! Overall, I learned a lot.

Lauren:

My Legislative Day experience was a great opportunity for me. I learned a lot. I didn't get to shadow who I wanted, but shadowing was an amazing experience. We started in the House of Rep., where they were doing a second-reading of bills. I learned a lot about how bills are passed. The thing that stuck out to me was how chaotic it was. I've always thought of the House of Rep. as a quiet place, but when the representatives were talking and debating, many of the reps weren't paying attention. In the afternoon, I took an unofficial tour with my reps aide, and I learned about the history of the building. It was really amazing; the architecture was incredible. I had an amazing time.



Jessica:

Legislative Day was one of the best experiences I've ever had, especially since history interests me the most. I shadowed a representative from our county and we got to sit in on the House session. It was great to watch the debate between these lawmakers as they approved bills. I learned a lot about the lawmaking process, and I can't wait to apply that knowledge to our social studies class.

Grace:



Legislative Day was really informative in many different ways. I learned a lot about the legislative process and how the Senators/Legislators present bills and vote. I also learned new things about my peers and became better friends with them. Overall, Legislative Day was an amazing experience and I hope to do it again.

Ethan:

Today I felt like I grew a lot in my political views on the Colorado school budget. I think I connected a lot and grew a great opinion on it. I also grew closer with my teachers and understand more. Overall great experience. But friendships grew as well. It makes me feel closer and happier. Hotels are great!



Middle School Students Travel to State Legislature (con't)

Maddie:

This was a very incredible experience. The two things I learned are that I always need to see other people's perspectives, and I learned how bills get to the House Floor. The things I learned about the House was that first the bills have to be passed through committees, then it goes to the House, then the Senate, and if it makes it that far, it can be signed into law. The last thing I learned, I learned to see from another's point of view. Although I have known to be empathetic, I have really realized that if you don't listen to other people's viewpoints, that's when democracy crumbles. You have to look at all angles, even if you disagree. Overall, this trip was amazing. I learned so much, and I'm very grateful for this opportunity. I will always remember it.

Ashleigh:

Legislative Day was a great opportunity to learn about the laws being passed in Colorado and to connect with my peers. The highlight of my trip was lunch (not only because of the food) because I got to hear how the senators are helping us students. It was also very empowering to see how they were all from very different backgrounds. One was even a farmer! Overall, Legislative day was a great learning experience and I think next year's students will love it!



Macy:

I really enjoyed when we listened to the speech about finances and when the petition was mentioned. I have done a petition before, and I know how to network a lot. I also liked when we got to watch the committee time. I do think they should add more interactive activities but overall it was super fun and enjoyable.

Chaperone:

There were a few things about Legislative Day that will stick with me. First, I got to experience one student's first time in a hotel. Sometimes I forget that not all students have the same depth of experiences to bring to the table. Second, I watched a student stand up in a room of hundreds of people (most much older than her) and advocate to shadow a representative. Some students that were chosen to shadow did not show up because of the flu, so they were looking for seniors to fill the empty spots. This student walked up to the person coordinating the event and asked to shadow. Her risk taking paid off and she got to shadow for the day. Third, I got to watch another student stand up in front of a crowd and ask a question about

mental health and suicide in our schools and what the government is doing to help. That took an enormous amount of confidence. Finally, I was reminded how amazing teachers are and how much they care. The other two chaperones purchased business clothes for students that didn't have any, took their own paid time off to attend the event, paid for meals for students, and one carried a Whole Foods bag around so one student could have the opportunity to shadow a representative. This is why I teach; I love watching students learn and get excited, and I appreciate being around others that enjoy watching and helping students learn. Thank you for this experience. I grew as much as the students .



Want More Information?

D51 GT Website <https://connect.d51schools.org/sites/shared/gt/Pages/default.aspx>

CDE's Gifted Parent's Corner <https://www.cde.state.co.us/gt/parents>

CAGT Student Awards Program

ACHIEVEMENT MAY BE FOR ACADEMICS, LEADERSHIP OR THE ARTS

CAGT DISTINGUISHED STUDENT AWARDS PROGRAM

Colorado Association for Gifted and Talented (CAGT) is pleased to announce the 2018 CAGT Distinguished Student Awards program. This awards program is designed to recognize distinguished achievement in academics, leadership, or the arts, in children ages 7-18.

Three children from the state of Colorado will be named CAGT Distinguished Students: one student for the Junior Division (ages 7-9), one student for the Senior Division (ages 10-12), and one student for the Masters Division (ages 13-18). All three CAGT Distinguished Students will receive a \$500 cash scholarship and a CAGT Certificate of Excellence. This year's award winners will be presented to the public at the Annual CAGT Conference on October 22 or 23, 2018.

Visit www.ColoradoGifted.org to download an application.

POSTMARK DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION IS JUNE 15, 2018

Thanks for nominating your outstanding students!

What do you want in the Newsletter?

Do you have a topic that you want covered in an upcoming newsletter? Is there a student you know that would like to write an article? Want to share something great happening with gifted students in our district? Want to nominate a student to be featured in our "Many Faces of Gifted" section? Do you know of a student that has written an amazing poem/story or created a fantastic piece of art that we could feature? Have a question about gifted that you would really like answered? Please let us know at bev.jebe@d51schools.org or visit <http://tinyurl.com/D51GTIdeas>.

GT School Spotlight—Seal of Biliteracy at Dual Immersion Academy

At Dual Immersion Academy, students have a special opportunity to receive recognition for attaining the level of bilingual proficiency in English and Spanish. They can receive the “Seal of Biliteracy” award given by District 51. This award may be obtained at 5th, 8th, and/or 12th grade. Many of our GT students go for this award, but it is open to any student who meets the criteria. In order to receive this award, students must submit a letter of intent, as well as documentation of 10 community service hours. The community service must be completed in both English and Spanish. Students must also provide evidence of grade level reading and writing proficiency in English and Spanish. For speaking proficiency, students do an oral presentation in both languages in front of a special panel.

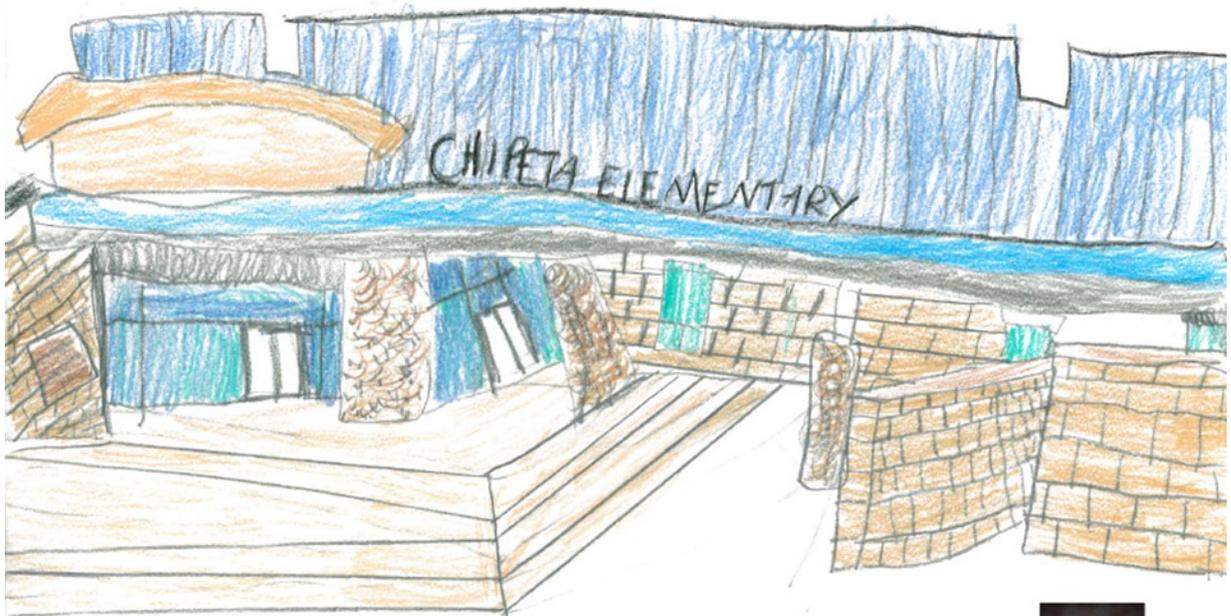
Bilingual and biliterate students gain many academic and social benefits, and the Seal of Biliteracy provides students with an early opportunity to embrace the diversity of our multicultural world. Fifth grader award recipient, Anaiah Guajardo, likes the official recognition of her abilities, and feels it will open more doors for her in the future. Award candidate Sarah Foster finds that after you know two languages so well, it’s almost like the two become one, because they become part of you. Bilingualism gives you more opportunities to help people. According to recipient Mari Burnham, when you become bilingual, you learn about and become part of two different cultures.

“To have another language is to possess a second soul.”

—Charlemagne

By Connie Pyle, GT teacher

GT Student Work—Zoe Plumb



Drawing by Zoe Plumb - 5th grade, Chipeta Elementary





Coding

By: Kaleb Paraday, 5th Grade Chipeta Elementary

What's Coding

Coding is a series of commands that ends up creating a game or website. Is it really that simple though? Coding is like a recipe for cooking, you can't just look at a cookbook recipe and make the food. You have to practice and make adjustments on the way. There are several different ways to make a command like a binary code, a binary code is a series of 1's and 0's that translate to the computer, or perl, a perl code is a family of script programming languages that are similar in syntax to the C language.

How to Code

Coding can be very complex, like the coding for Minecraft made by Mojang, or very simple, just like an app that is just a randomized spinner. As you already know coding a game or a website can range from a single person to an entire company. But what do those people do to create a game or website, or how do they code a game or website.

Careers That Include Coding

What careers include coding? Some careers that include coding are computer programming, Video Game Development, and Business intelligence analyst.

Video Game Development

Video Game Development is the process of creating a video game. The effort is taken by a game developer, which may range from a single person to an entire company of people like Minecraft for instance was made Mojang.

Business Intelligence Analyst

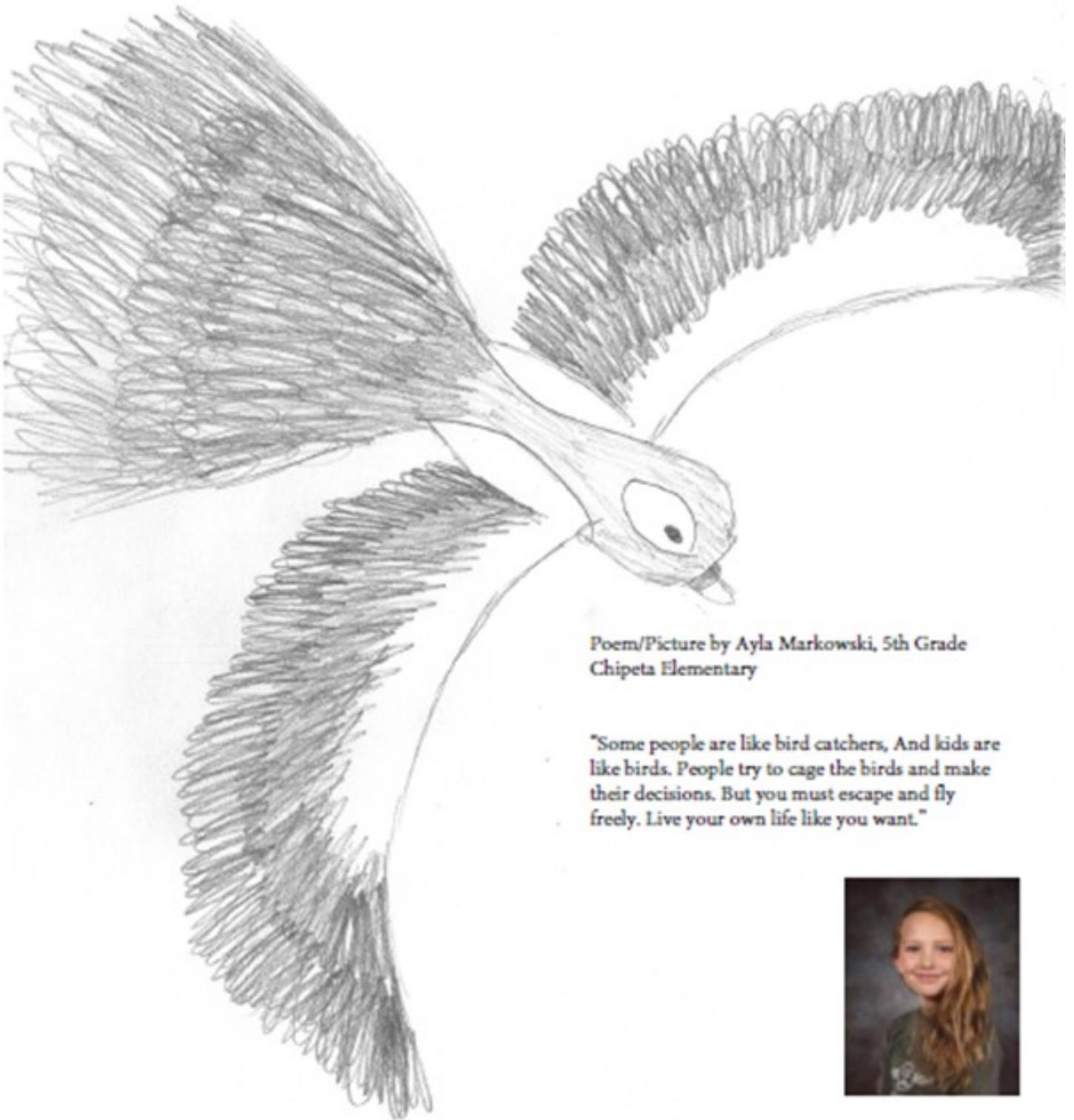
Business intelligence analyst gather data through a number of ways. These ways are taking a company's computer data through software, looking at competitors data and industry trends.

Computer Programing

Computer programing is a process that leads from an original formulation of commands to a complete computer with those commands inside of the computer telling the computer to do a certain thing like show the company's logo.

Basic Coding

Do you want to code but don't even know the basics, well there are several websites to help you out. Some of these websites are <https://code.org/learn>, <https://www.codecademy.com/learn>, and <https://codecombat.com/play/level/dungeons-of-kithgard>. All of these websites will teach what coding is and start to show you some simple commands. Some of these simple commands are simply move forward, backwards, turn, and pick up.



Poem/Picture by Ayla Markowski, 5th Grade
Chipeta Elementary

"Some people are like bird catchers, And kids are
like birds. People try to cage the birds and make
their decisions. But you must escape and fly
freely. Live your own life like you want."

