



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

November 16, 2016

Exceptional Students Services

On November 8, 2016, 23 student athletes from special education classes had the opportunity to partner with Special Olympics to go bowling. This was a was a fun event that promoted social awareness and supported the development of the whole child. This event was held for students with different abilities and was adapted and supervised so as to ensure a wonderful worthwhile experience for each individual athlete. ALL students received an award and even some bowled their first strike!

On Monday night, November 14, 2016, Exceptional Student Services hosted their second parent night for the 2016-17 school year. Parents and students from five of our seven schools gathered at the district office to learn about gifted education in Littleton Elementary School District and have some fun! Topics covered during the formal meeting portion of the evening included the characteristics of gifted children, resources available through the National Association for Gifted Children, and the recommendations of toys and games for advanced learners. The last half of the evening consisted of parents and children learning 5 strategy games and playing as a family.

Human Resources

Dawn Scheidemandel was recently recognized by our substitute staffing company as their substitute teacher of the month. ESI featured Dawn as a Littleton Elementary School District sub in their monthly newsletter. Dawn is currently filling a long term position at the Fine Arts Academy. Here is an excerpt of what she had to say:

Why do you choose to work as a substitute teacher?

I was a para-pro and became a sub because I saw the need for consistency in the students' lives.

What are some of your funniest moments as a substitute teacher?

A kindergarten student who packed her own lunch: a bottle of honey, yogurt, and several coffee creamers; and a 6th grade student insisted on giving me a dollar coin (I did decline) because he "had thousands of them."

Have you taken any lessons from your personal life that have helped with your role as a substitute teacher?

Yes, showing up and being prepared is the most important thing.

Transportation

Transportation would like to welcome two new bus drivers to the team: *Jennifer Walters* and *Sherry Neviles*. Ms. Walters received her school bus certification on November 15th. Ms. Neviles is working on completing her 20 hours behind the wheel and 14 hours in a classroom and then she will be ready to start transporting Littleton students. Transportation is currently hiring for one more bus driver and one monitor.



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Teaching and Learning

LESD Benchmark Review Committee. The Littleton Elementary School District Benchmark Review Committee is hard at work this year ensuring the benchmark assessments administered to our students are of the highest caliber in terms of measuring what our students are learning. The mission of this team is to vet benchmark assessment items so that teachers can use the data to gain an understanding of how students are progressing in their rigorous grade-level standards as well as provide an opportunity to for teachers to use this data to inform instruction. The team is comprised of teachers and deans representing each school site, Exceptional Student Services, and Teaching and Learning. The time and expertise these committee members bring to this team are invaluable in continuing the exceptional quality of education that LESD is committed to bringing our students. Thank you: *Morgan Fulks, Teresita Esquibel, Rebecca Lopez, Bailey Wilson, Stephanie Kelsey, Samantha Armstrong, Lindsay Westberg, Marlene Capristo, Cassandra Garner, Kathryn Londrigan, Roberta Garcia, Lori Bowden, Stefanie Bender, Kristine Marheine, Mia De La Rosa, Johanna Spalding* and *Sandy Miller*.

Deans. This year Littleton Elementary School District has put into practice a new assessment platform, Illuminate. As part of this process, teachers and administrators need to be trained on how to use the platform so they can access assessment data to support learning on their campus. The Deans on each of the campuses have become an integral part in ensuring that their staff has the professional development that they need in order to be successful. They not only present professional development on Illuminate on their site, but they also take time out of their busy days to create the training. Without the insight they hold regarding their staff and their understanding of the assessment process our district would not have had such a successful implementation. Thank you: *Morgan Fulks, Tony Balsama, Rebecca Lopez, Stefani Bender, Marieka Michaud, and Eric Nelson*.