

# District 49 Dispatch

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## BOE Thanks Community for Passing Ballot Measure 4C

Amy Matissek

Internal Communications Manager

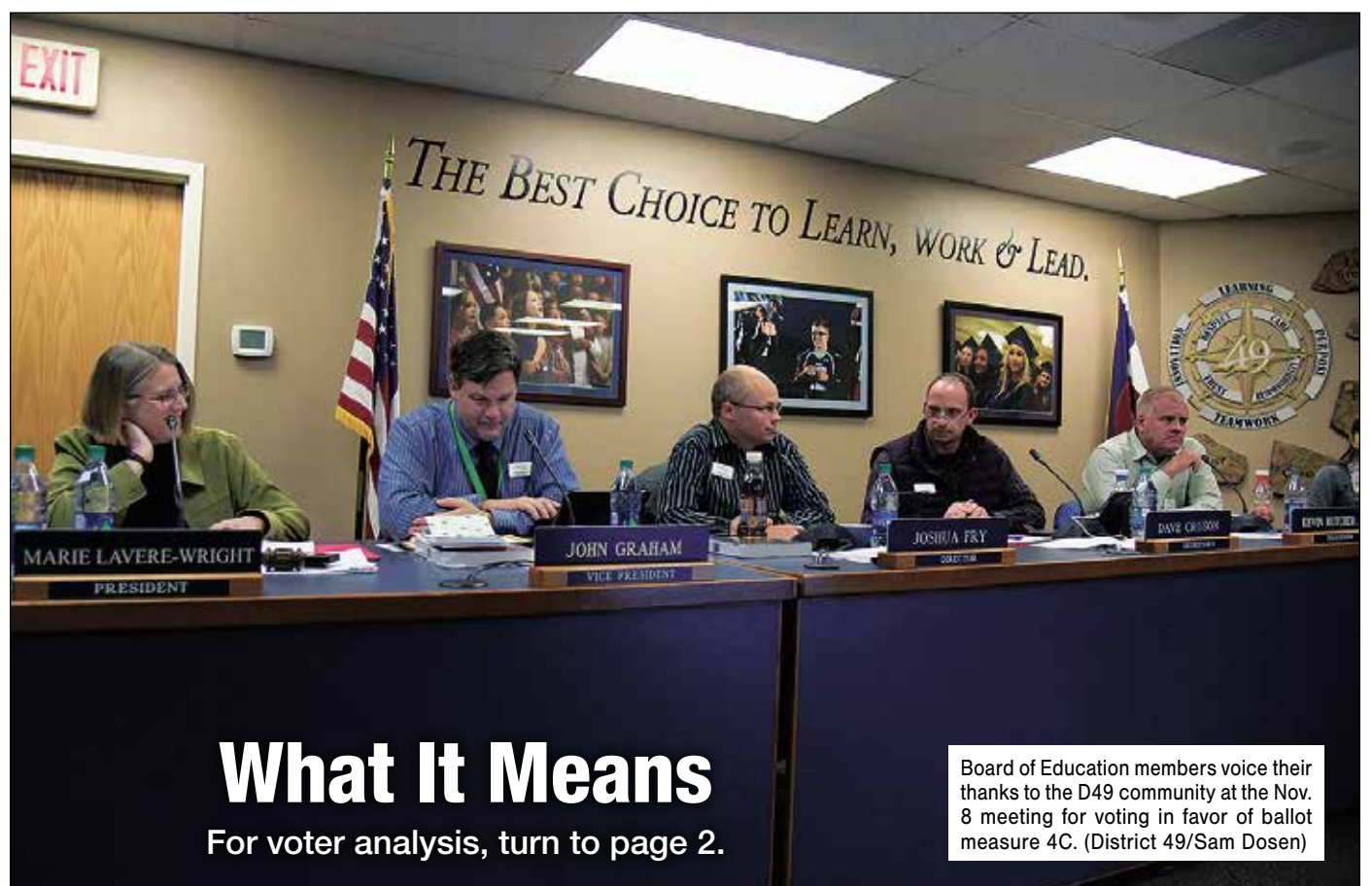
Board members all voiced sincere gratitude at the Nov. 8 Board of Education meeting. Each had words of thanks to the D49 community for voting in favor of ballot measure 4C. The initiative passed in the Nov. 6 election with 56% of voters in favor of the measure.

"I am both grateful to our community and humbled by the trust our taxpayers have placed in us as they endorsed continued local investment in our district and our children through the passage of 4C," shared President Marie LaVere-Wright. "On behalf of our district and our children, thank you."

Director Josh Fry shared his appreciation for voter approval. "It's amazing to see our community come together to support the direction of the district and trust our recommendation as we continue to grow," Fry commented.

In 2016 D49 launched the Building our Future Community plan, which increased pay for D49 teachers, helped improve campuses and allowed District 49 to build two new schools. The passing of 4C allows the district to maintain these priorities and grow with the community.

"The passage of 4C will allow for consistent override revenue for the foreseeable future," stated Brett Ridgway, Chief Business Officer. "Priorities such as teacher compensation, technology, security and educational programs will have increasing opportunities for positive impact."



### What It Means

For voter analysis, turn to page 2.

Board of Education members voice their thanks to the D49 community at the Nov. 8 meeting for voting in favor of ballot measure 4C. (District 49/Sam Dosen)

## School District 49 is Granted the Opportunity to Create S.T.E.A.M.

*"I found it mind boggling ... You can actually see what you are learning."*

By Mary Velasquez

IGNITE Project Manager

School District 49 is working with funds awarded by the DoDEA Military-Connected Student Academic and Support Programs (MCSAP) grant for 2018. D49 is among 36 recipient districts from around the nation announced last fall by the DoDEA program. This marks the district's third consecutive year to receive this award, to date, totaling \$3.5M in DoDEA grant funding.

Since 2009, DoDEA Education Partnership Grants have provided more than \$450 million in resources to over 2,900 public schools nationwide to support research-based strategies that enhance student achievement and increase college and career readiness. This year's grant award of \$1M will allow School District 49 the opportunity to purchase, and implement zSpace technology across the district. These immersive virtual learning labs are designed to increase both exposure and interest for students in the science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics

(S.T.E.A.M.) fields.

The 2018 grant, dubbed Expeditions, will build on the efforts of Illuminating Goals and Nurturing Interests Towards Engagement (IGNITE), the district's 2017 grant. The funding supports programs for all students, especially military-connected students in D49, focused on S.T.E.A.M. based fields. The Expeditions grant will build three static labs and one zSpace lab on wheels for which the district will re-purpose retired bus 37 to create the mobile learning space. Together these classrooms will provide endless learning opportunities for our students. When the zSpace mobile unit visited School District 49 on a learning tour, teachers, administrators, and students were amazed at the technology and the pathways it presents for all learners. "I found it mind boggling," one student marvelled at the zSpace 3D technology. "You can actually see what you are learning."

The virtual learning classrooms are scheduled to go online and hit the road by the start of the 2019-20 school year.

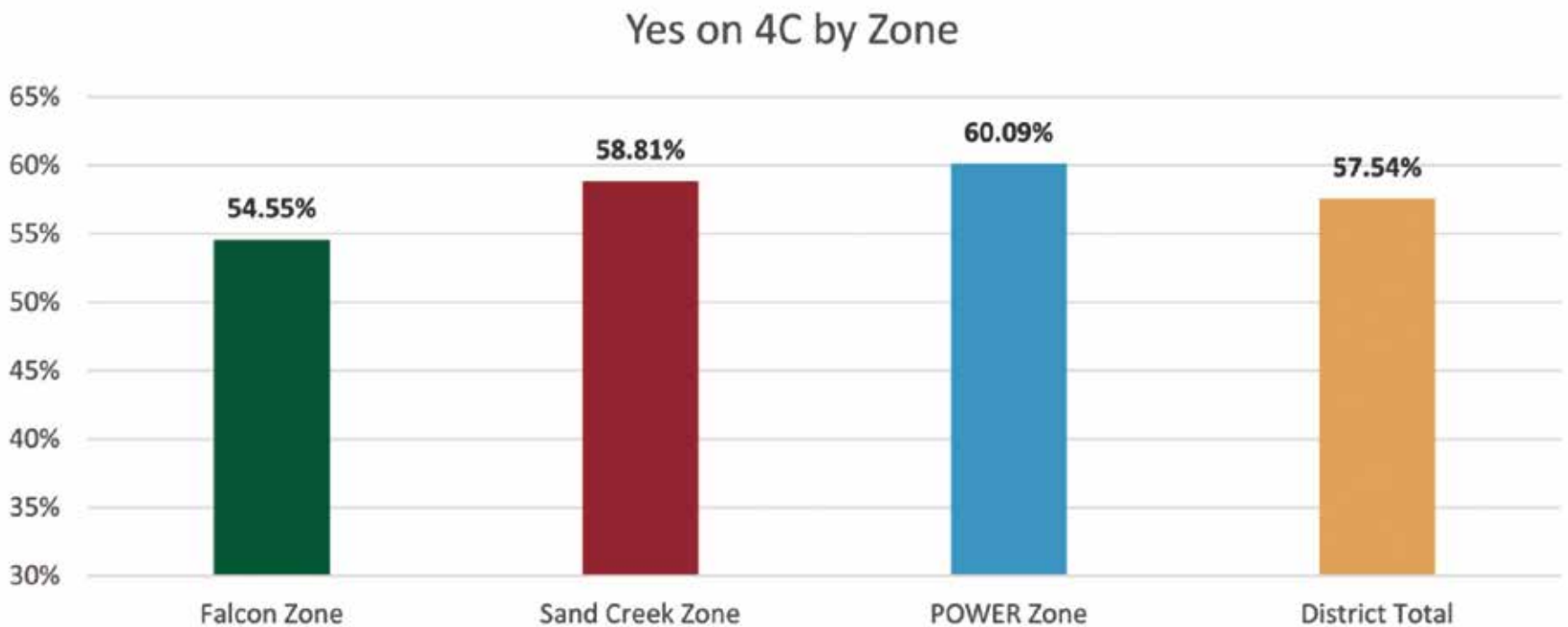


Vista Ridge High School students get instructions about interactive zSpace classrooms. (District 49/Sam Dosen)



The zSpace classroom offers a 3D, immersive, learning experience for students. (District 49/Sam Dosen)





# 4C Voter Analysis: At A Glance

Overall, voters throughout the district supported Ballot Issue 4C. The passing of measure 4C eliminated a fixed revenue cap, converting it to a fixed rate of 18.500 mills which will allow the district to continue to achieve its goals of attracting and retaining effective teachers as well as investing in capital projects. 4C is projected to allow the district to grow as property values increase.

Ballot Issue 4C passed with 57.5% voting in support of the measure. The measure was successful in all three zones, elementary school boundary areas, and representative Director Districts. Of the 41 voting precincts, 38 supported Ballot Issue 4C. Support for 4C was highest in the POWER Zone at more than 60%, with the Sand Creek Zone less than two percentage points behind at 58.9%.

Ballot Issue 4C by Elementary School Location				
	Yes		No	
				Total Votes
Bennett Ranch	1,938	50.67%	1,887	49.33%
Falcon	2,344	53.31%	2,053	46.69%
Meridian Ranch	1,988	58.23%	1,426	41.77%
Woodmen Hills	1,515	57.50%	1,120	42.50%
Falcon Zone	7,785	54.55%	6,486	45.45%
Evans	1,642	55.55%	1,314	44.45%
Remington	1,994	61.28%	1,260	38.72%
Springs Ranch	1,922	59.32%	1,318	40.68%
Sand Creek Zone	5,558	58.81%	3,892	41.19%
Odyssey	2,171	58.55%	1,537	41.45%
Ridgeview	2,629	60.65%	1,706	39.35%
Stetson	2,423	60.91%	1,555	39.09%
POWER Zone	7,223	60.09%	4,798	39.91%
District Total	20,566	57.54%	15,176	42.46%

\*Note: Some precinct boundaries may be within multiple school boundaries. In these instances the results were assigned to the school with the largest portion of the precinct.



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# Falcon Education Foundation Presents \$26,000 for Learning in District 49



D49 teachers were presented mini grants from the Falcon Education Foundation during Fantastic 49 festivities Nov. 8 before the regular monthly Board of Education meeting. The foundation presented more than \$26,000. (District 49/Amy Matisek)

By Amy Matisek

Internal Communications Manager

The list includes captivating projects from a science escape room to a nature store trading post. Thanks to the Falcon Education Foundation, students in District 49 will be exploring and learning from unique classroom experiences. Thirty-seven teachers received mini grants for innovative classroom projects during Fantastic 49 festivities before the Nov. 8 board meeting. More than \$26,000 was presented to the educators.

“The grant applications were so creative and so unique,” shared Kayla Maldonado, Falcon Education Foundation vice president. “It’s nice to know we have educators who are willing to go the extra mile not just with the project itself, but with researching and writing the application, too.” The foundation received a total of 73 applications.

Funds for the grants are raised primarily with an annual awards dinner and auction that takes place each spring. The next event will be April 12, 2019 at Hotel Elegante in Colorado Springs. Learn more about the foundation at [D49.org/FEF](http://D49.org/FEF).

Congratulations to the following teachers and schools on receiving a 2018 Falcon Education Foundation grant: (see table)

Project Name	Amount Awarded	School	Instructor(s)
Model Rocket Ships, Model Cities and More with the Silhouette Cameo	\$1,093	SSAE	Lori Hall, Janell Krump, Brittany Bertolini and Laura De La Garza
Alarm Awakening - Door Safety Design Challenge	\$300	FESoT	Alyssa Rios
Live with Odyssey's News Crew	\$107	OES	Amanda Bower
Barista Training Program for Students with Special Needs	\$768	FMS	Amanda Ogilvy
Signed, Sealed, Delivered!	\$1,290	OES	Amy Willis
Flying Fingers	\$605	OES	Barb Colby
Gateway to Narnia – Human and Physical Environment Makeover	\$874	EIES	Bianca Rimbach
Feeding Tomorrow	\$223	SSAE	Brittany Bertolini
Dynamic Flexible Seating	\$1,000	SCHS	Caitlin Casai
Hands on the Alphabet	\$306	EIES	Caitlyn Roitz
Flexible Seating for Firebird Scholars	\$920	FMS	Carrie Clay
What Do Scientists Do?	\$1,082	SCHS	Christine DaLee
Stop It! Learning With Stop Motion Animation	\$429	SSAE	Laura De La Garza
Every Bobcat A Reader	\$979	SRES	Erin Bedell
Mind your P's and Q's with Qball	\$398	SMS	Jason Newberg and Jennifer Newberg
ESCAPEe	\$1,000	FHS	Justin Tropp
Amp Up the Orchestra!	\$975	HMS	Karen Leonahrdt
Beyond Battle of the Books	\$450	RES	Karen Parks
Nature Store Trading Post	\$690	HMS	Kathleen Reiss
Intervention Extension	\$500	WHES	Katie Kessler
Operation Montserrat e-Mission	\$1,000	SMS	Lura Moore
The Extraordinaires	\$610	MRES	Margaret Stanley
What's the Buzz, Honey?	\$460	SES	Matt Monfre
Hotel Transylvania	\$42	SES	Matt Monfre
Johnny Appleseed	\$942	SES	Matt Monfre
Change Your Mindset, Grow Your Brain	\$573	MRES	Merry Monk
Active Learning with Pear Deck	\$150	OES	Mollie Garrett
Graphic Novels Belong in Classrooms	\$112	OES	Morgan Chapman
Move It, Move It!	\$517	OES	Morgan Chapman
DRONES a.k.a. Unmanned Aerial Vehicles	\$1,000	PHS	Paul Austin
Spectacular Science Shows at Falcon Homeschool Program	\$362	FHSP	Sandra Smith
Let There Be Light	\$786	BRES	Shauna Turner
Let's Go Play with Lego	\$441	BRES	Shauna Turner
LittleBits for Young Inventors	\$590	ALLIES	Stephanie Hazelton
Creative Stop Motion Animation Gives Students A New Voice	\$750	ALLIES	Stephanie Hazelton
Tinkering with Cardboard	\$665	ALLIES	Stephanie Hazelton
Birds of Prey, Come to Play!	\$400	RES	Stephanie Peterson
Second Step Social Emotional Learning	\$1,287	ALLIES	Tammy Kennington
Search & Rescue and Veterinary Medicine	\$1,000	HMS	William Yerger
Science Escape Room	\$1,000	HMS	William Yerger

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# PPEC Student Inspires Life-Saving Learning



Kaine Greathouse, PPEC senior, practices CPR on a training dummy during a group lesson at PPEC. (District 49/Aaron Villescascas)

By David Nancarrow  
Director of Communications

Kaine Greathouse nearly didn't live to tell his story.

"My heart has extra beats sometimes. It's a mutated gene," the PPEC senior explained. The condition is technically called catecholaminergic polymorphic ventricular tachycardia, or CPVT.

During a wrestling match at Falcon Middle School in 2015, an exact combination of factors including Kaine's blood pressure, as well as adrenaline and oxygen levels, collided with potentially deadly precision, causing Kaine to go into cardiac arrest. "My heart was beating super fast, and then just sat there and fluttered a little bit," he said.

A school administrator raced to find the school's automated external defibrillator while others began CPR on Kaine. He was airlifted to Memorial Hospital where he received more emergency treatment. Kaine credits the initial CPR/AED response for saving his life.

"If they didn't have the AED there I probably wouldn't have survived that."

Kaine now shares his experience to let others know they too can potentially save a life. PPEC principal Rochelle Kolhouse explained Kaine proposed several times to organize a

school-wide CPR training course.

"It's what we want to see in education. We want to empower our students to be that voice and to take those initiatives and have that outreach," Kolhouse said.

It all came together at the start of the 2018-19 school year. Led by Kaine's introduction a team from the American Heart Association trained more than 60 students at PPEC staff in standard CPR techniques. Students spread out to practice on training dummies and later walked away with their CPR certifications.

"It makes me feel kinda safe that more kids know about it," Kaine said.

"It's that grit that will carry forward into college and into life," Kolhouse said about what students also learned from Kaine's example. "They're not going to just let things go. They'll have that tenacity."

As a survivor, Kaine is motivated to keep the cycle of learning going. He is urging building leaders to equip their campuses with AEDs and explain how to use them.

"It's just good to have that knowledge especially with kids this young," Kaine said.

With its potential to give someone else a fighting chance at walking away from an emergency, his story is one worth telling.

## D49 Students Explore Important Choices at "Get a Life" Expo

By David Nancarrow  
Director of Communications

A spark of inspiration can come from a single conversation.

Damien Slama, eighth-grader at Horizon Middle School, listened closely to an expert in the field of cyber-security explain her work routine during the first-ever Get a Life Career Expo Oct. 11, at Sand Creek High School.

"Jobs just seem hard. They don't seem like they'd be fun," he said.

Dr. Mary Graft, director of cyber education at the National Cybersecurity Center, also explained how she and her colleagues work to protect their customers' day-to-day online activity, even if it means trying to hack into systems to find their weaknesses.

Damien agreed the hacking part seemed pretty enjoyable.

"I think it's a lot better, I guess, than I thought it was," Damien remarked. "Not all jobs are in a [cubicle] with computers and paperwork."



D49 Pathbuilders offered advice to visitors of the Get a Life Career Expo at Sand Creek High School Oct. 11. (District 49/David Nancarrow)

Through D49's portfolio of schools and program offerings, D49 students, along with their parents, select the best academic and career plan to reach a student's goals after graduation. School District 49's Pathbuilders team developed the Get a Life Expo to offer an engaging experience of discovery for students in middle school and early high school. Through a series of 20-minute breakout sessions, each featuring a panel of speakers, students and parents learned how industry experts made it to where they are today.

"What we want to do in middle school, or high school, is a great vision to have," said Bob Gemignani, D49 workplace learning manager, referring to students' early career aspirations. "The stories we're hearing from our industry champions are hopefully proving to students that we have to be adaptable, we have to be lifelong learners and just continue to progress in the direction of that vision."

Although the panelists explained the value



The skilled trades panel begins its presentation during the Get a Life Career Expo at Sand Creek High School Oct. 11. (District 49/David Nancarrow)

education has had in their journey through the workforce, the professions represented (IT, skilled trades, culinary/hospitality, nursing/health) also demonstrated how a successful career path does not always require a four-year college degree or higher.

"Kids sometimes feel like they're confused, or pressured, like 'I don't know what I want to do with my future,'" Dr. Graft said. "You don't have to know yet, but you do have to

start getting a foundation of academic knowledge, skills and priorities, so I think it's a good idea to talk to them about this kind of stuff."

The expo planners hoped some students would take away a better understanding of what they'd like to do later in life and how D49 can help get them there. They also anticipated some, like Damien, might find a spark to inspire a new vision of what's possible.

**"You don't have to know yet, but you do have to start getting a foundation of academic knowledge, skills and priorities, so I think it's a good idea to talk to them about this kind of stuff."**





Sand Creek High School cheerleaders and STUCO

# D49 App Launch Day

**O**n January 8, 2019 D49 stepped into the digital marketplace with a free, mobile app. On the morning of the 8th, a volunteer group of staff alongside some D49 students fanned out to greet families and share the news of the app launch. Download the D49 app today in the App Store, or Google Play. Search Colorado School District 49, or go to [d49.org/app](https://d49.org/app) for more info.



Communications team at SRES



Molly the Bulldog and Victoria Clark-Powell, Comm Team Admin Asst., at Meridian Ranch Elementary



ALLIES Principal, Rebecca Thompson



# FESoT Community Commemorates Veterans Day



FESoT principal Dr. Michael Roth (right) and students begin the ceremony with the Pledge of Allegiance and presentation of the colors by the FHS Junior ROTC Color Guard. (District 49/Amy Bremser)



Air Force MSgt. Winnie Thompson and her son Grayson, admire artwork displayed by FESoT fifth grade students. (District 49/Amy Bremser)

**By Amy Bremser**  
D49 Broadcast Specialist

Students, family and community members gathered at Falcon Elementary School of Technology (FESoT) on Tuesday evening, Nov. 13, to celebrate Veterans Day.

Families and veterans came together as FESoT staff members welcomed them and served dinner before the evening festivities.

"This is amazing, it's an honor being honored by the school and the students," said Air Force MSgt. Winnie Thompson who was attending the event with her son Grayson, a fifth grader. "We just moved here after four years stationed in Belgium and this has been a great school and we are happy to be here."

Patriotic student artwork was showcased in the library as well as a Wall of Honor area that displayed photos of veteran family members.

Falcon High School Junior ROTC cadets also welcomed veterans with a sabre arch ceremony as they entered the school gymnasium for music and student presentations.

"I am a proud son of a Navy veteran," said FESoT Principal Dr. Michael Roth. Roth spoke humbly about his father's service and of his recent passing two weeks prior to the event. "I wish he could be here to see this, I know he would be proud of these students and this school."

Students sang patriotic songs and read letters they had written for service members deployed overseas, the school plans to mail those letters during the holidays.

"The school has done a great job supporting veterans, and I really appreciate their efforts," said Air Force Lt. Col. Shuan Pringle. "It's a great thing that they do for us."

## MRES Bulldogs Honor Veterans

**M**eridian Ranch Elementary School celebrated veterans with a patriotic concert November 15, 2018. MRES fourth-graders gathered in red, white and blue for an American celebration thanking Veterans for their service.

After a student led presentation of the colors, the celebration included classic American-themed songs and Armed Forces medley directed by Craig Phipps, music teacher.

"Meridian Ranch had an excellent Veterans Day assembly today," said Sheehan Freeman-Todd, principal. "We have a tradition of our fourth grade classes performing our Veteran's Day assembly and concert. Our

students honor our military families by having them join our Meridian Ranch Clapout."

Families were then asked to join in the "American Clapout" where the entire student body of MRES lines the hallways to clap and cheer veterans as they leave the school. The halls filled quickly with students and staff. Veterans and families were then honored by MRES with high-fives, hugs and cheering as they exited the building.

"Today was amazing," said Diem Villanueva, Air Force veteran. "I was actually just telling my friend it was nice to come inside and see the innocence of our youth; there was no divide, it was beautiful."



David Day walking through the "MRES American Clapout" after the Veterans Day concert Nov. 15, 2018. (District 49/Sam Dosen)



Marcus Hall, second-grader, plays a wizard board game created by Baylor White, third-grader, for the cardboard arcade at WHES Nov. 28. The project was inspired by the worldwide Caine's Arcade initiative. (District 49/Amy Matissek)



Mary Hopper, project-based learning teacher at WHES, helps her students redeem tickets for prizes in her classroom's cardboard arcade Nov. 28. Her students created arcade games with cardboard as inspired by the Caine's Arcade project. (District 49/ Amy Matissek)

# Cardboard Arcade Project Fosters Imagination, Innovation at WHES



June Talain, second-grader, tests her skills on a maze game at the Woodmen Hills Elementary School cardboard arcade. The exercise was inspired by the worldwide Caine's Arcade project in Mary Hopper's project-based learning classroom Nov. 28. (District 49/Amy Matissek)

By Amy Matissek  
Internal Communications Manager

From a movie to a movement ... It began with a boy named Caine and an arcade he made out of cardboard and everyday objects. Caine Monroy spent his summer in 2012 building games and operating his arcade out of his dad's auto parts store in East Los Angeles. Little did he know that his project would blossom when a filmmaker learned about his project, and helped Caine share his love for creativity and innovation with the world.

Teachers around the globe have latched onto the concept of Caine's Arcade, a project-based curriculum that teaches students how to use innovation in creating projects from inception to completion. During November, students in Mary Hopper's project-based learning classes at Woodmen Hills Elementary were given the opportunity to take on the cardboard arcade challenge. "It's all about teaching the design process," Hopper shared. "This teaches a formal process that includes problem solving and critical thinking."

Learners used journals to discover an idea, sketch out their innovation and create a list of materials needed. "The cardboard arcade project teaches students to do things on their own with no direction," remarked Hopper. "It also gives kids a chance to see that things don't always work the first time."

The WHES scholars dreamed up a variety of games including a ball-tossing game called "The Hardest Game on Earth," by Alex Lavelle, third-grader. Other themes included a holiday tic tac toe, a photo booth and marble maze game.

"My mom gave me ideas and helped me with the hot glue," stated Rylee Teaster, third-grader. "But I made it myself," Teaster shared of his maze game.

Once the students finished creating their games, first and second-graders got the chance to play them. Just like at the first cardboard arcade created by Caine, young players received tickets for winning games that could later be redeemed for prizes. "The best part of my day was winning six tickets," commented Ronin Emerson, second-grader. "I got to choose a cool pencil as a prize."



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Santa Claus, portrayed by Jack Pietraallo, director of transportation, listens intently to student Ruby Dunning, second-grader at Meridian Ranch Elementary School Dec. 1 at the Santa's Toy Express event. (District 49/ Aaron Villescas)

**S**anta's Toy Express rolled into D49 for the 17th time on Dec. 1, 2018. This heartwarming yearly tradition started in 2002 when the School District 49 Transportation Department set out to make a difference in the lives of District 49 students over the Christmas holiday break. Under the direction of RJ Berry, dozens of staff, students and community members, crowded into the D49 transportation building to make preparations for the 51 student passengers who arrived by yellow school bus for a fun-filled day. This event was conceived with the simple idea of providing a holiday experience for a select group of students facing a difficult time over the holidays. The event is staffed by volunteers made up of community members, district employees, and older students, many of whom may have been recipients of the Santa Express experience themselves. Every year this project starts months in advance with team members organizing logistical details and holding fundraising

events. The JROTC at Falcon High School pitched in for 2018 raising \$1,500 for the event. Area individuals and businesses also donated time, resources and money to help keep this tradition alive. To fit with tradition this year, children got a pancake breakfast, followed by a visit from Santa Claus arriving by a firetruck. The students then climbed on board the Santa Express, a small caravan of school buses, to go holiday shopping with Santa at Walmart. With the help of sponsors and volunteers, the students shopped for their families, equipped with gift cards provided by the fundraising efforts. Once finished the Santa Express carried the students back to headquarters to let them wrap their purchases and enjoy other activities like face-painting, as well as a magic show. After visiting with Santa Claus, volunteers handed a bundle of gifts to each of the children to open themselves, putting a bow on another successful year of the D49 Santa's Toy Express.



Terry Malone, School Bus Driver waves hello to a bus full of arriving students participating in the District 49 Santa's Toy Express event Dec. 1, 2018 (District 49/Aaron Villescas)



Ruby Dunning, second-grader at Meridian Ranch Elementary School, considers gift options for a family member while shopping Dec. 1, during District 49's Santa's Toy Express event. (District 49/ Aaron Villescas)

District 49

INSPIRATION VIEW  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

\*\*\* ★ \*\*\*

COMMUNITY INFORMATION MEETINGS

Save the date and plan to attend! Learn more about our newest PreK-5 school!

Tuesday, February 5, 2019  
6:00- 7:00 pm

at the

Ridgeview Elementary School Library

Wednesday, February 6, 2019  
6:00- 7:00 pm

at the

Banning Lewis Ranch House Gathering Room