

NEWS FROM THE DIRECTOR— HEATHER BASKIN

Happy February and Black History Month! Our GT Department decided to focus on a theme of "power" this year. Part of this is helping students understand how many different ways people use their strengths to improve our communities. Here are some notable Black Americans whose power helped shape our world:

- *Josephine Dickey spent her childhood in Grand Junction and was a Teacher's Aide for School District 51. Since the late 1800's, her family helped build (literally and figuratively) the Handy Chapel on White Avenue and Second Street. In the 1970's a group tried to sell the chapel and land to investors. Josephine and her daughters sued to prove the group had no deed or right to sell the land. They won and the church was placed into a trust with Josephine as administrator. The Chapel still helps anyone who comes through the doors. (info from beconseniornews.com)*
- *"Dr. Patricia Bath became the first female African-American medical doctor to receive a medical patent when she invented a laser cataract treatment device called a Laserphaco Probe in 1986. The co-founder of the American Institute for the Prevention of Blindness patented her invention in 1988." (quoted from biography.com)*
- *Benjamin Banneker, "a mostly self-educated man in mathematics and astrology, is best know for building America's first clock - a wooden device that struck hourly. Using his rich understanding of trigonometry and astronomy, he accurately predicted a solar eclipse in 1789." (quoted from mashupmath.com)*
- *Elbert Frank Cox in 1925 "was the first black man to earn a Ph.D in mathematics not only in the United States, but in the entire world." He became a professor of mathematics at Howard University in Washington D.C. and held the chairman role for the Mathematics Department for 8 years. Since 1975, Howard University has offered a scholarship in his name to encourage young black students to pursue a degree in mathematics. (info and quotes from mashupmath.com)*



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WHAT DO YOU WANT TO SEE 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 mandy.budd@d51schools.org or visit <http://tinyurl.com/D51GTIdeas>.



- *Melba Pattillo, at fourteen years old, volunteered to be a part of integration in Arkansas schools. She dealt with adults chasing her with ropes for hanging, other students spitting on her, and having acid thrown on her face. After enduring one year of attending a previously all-white school, the governor closed all high schools to stop integration. Melba ended up moving to California to finish high school, go to college, and eventually earn her doctoral degree. She is a journalist, writer, and recipient of the Congressional Gold Medal. Even if you have heard of the "Little Rock Nine", it is important to remember that all of this happened in the not so distant past. Melba is still alive at 79 years old. (info from teacher.scholastic.com)*
- *E.C. Regnier and Roger Ewalt were Denver businessmen that in 1922 co-founded Lincoln Hills (near Central City) as a resort for African American families. This renowned mountain resort provided a mountain escape for families not allowed access to white-only resorts, clubs, and camps. Over 600 plots of land were bought by black families located all across Colorado to be used for campsites, rustic cabins, a YMCA camp for African American girls, and even a hotel. Wink's Lodge (the hotel) hosted Lena Horne, Duke Ellington, Langston Hughes, Billy Eckstine, and Zora Neale Hurston. As of 2007, this area is run by Lincoln Hills Cares. This organization strives to make outdoor experiences available to those that experience barriers to accessing outdoor resources and opportunities. (info from lincolnhillscare.org and historycolorado.org)*

This is a great month to learn more about the Black men and women that have helped shape our community, state, and country. Here are some resources to get you started:

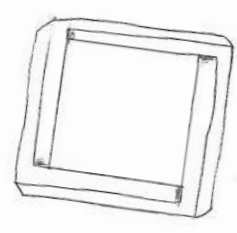
- *Attend free ["A Legacy of Color: A Virtual Reading in Celebration of Black History Month"](#) hosted by Lithic Bookstore & Gallery on February 17th at 6:30pm (virtual link available on FaceBook - even if you do not have an account)*
- *[D51 Celebrates Black History Month www.d51schools.org/news/what_s_new/d51_celebrates_black_history_month](http://www.d51schools.org/news/what_s_new/d51_celebrates_black_history_month)*
- *[African American Coloradans https://www.historycolorado.org/african-american-coloradans](https://www.historycolorado.org/african-american-coloradans)*
- *[Black History Month Lessons & Resources https://www.nea.org/professional-excellence/student-engagement/tools-tips/black-history-month-lessons-resources](https://www.nea.org/professional-excellence/student-engagement/tools-tips/black-history-month-lessons-resources)*
- *[Black History in America http://teacher.scholastic.com/activities/bhistory/](http://teacher.scholastic.com/activities/bhistory/)*
- *[Famous Black Scientists https://www.biography.com/people/groups/black-scientists](https://www.biography.com/people/groups/black-scientists)*
- *[Famous African American Mathematicians https://www.mashupmath.com/blog/famous-african-american-mathematicians](https://www.mashupmath.com/blog/famous-african-american-mathematicians)*

CHATFIELD STUDENT ART—5TH GRADERS



By Spender Holmes

Sharks can be kind,
So can you!
-spencer



"I might not be the
best drawer, but it won't
stop me from trying."
-Ryker R. Tippen

By Ryker Tippen



By Tayla Short



By Lilah Wirth



CAGT

Colorado Association for
Gifted and Talented

What's Happening in February?

2021



Other Live Events

Denver Art Museum's "Drop-In Drawing Online," "Drop-In Writing Online," and "Mindful Looking Online"
Tuesday afternoons (before *Conversations with CAGT*) every month
[Click here for more information.](#)

Colorado Springs School District Gifted & Talented's Virtual Parent Discussion Groups
Multiple dates starting in February
[Click here for more information.](#)

2e at William & Mary: Twice Exceptional Conference
Fri., Feb. 12th - Sat., Feb. 13th
Conference pricing varies
[Click here for more information and to register.](#)

Jefferson County Association for Gifted Children's "A Conversation about GT"
Thu., Feb. 18th at 6:30 pm
[Click here for more information.](#)

Renzulli Center for Creativity, Gifted Education, and Talent Development's "Creativity: The Basics, the Benefits, and Tips"
Sat., Feb. 20th
[Click here for more information and to register.](#)

Kentucky Association for Gifted Education's Virtual Conference 2021
Tue., Feb. 23rd - Wed., Feb. 24th
Conference pricing varies
[Click here for more information and to register.](#)

Denver Museum of Nature & Science's "60 Minutes in Space"
Wed., Feb. 24th at 7:00 pm
[Click here for more information and to register.](#)

Southwest Gifted and Talented Community's "Executive Function: Through Their Eyes"
Thu., Feb. 25th at 5:30 pm
[Click here for more information and to register.](#)

