

WE ARE WELD RE-5J



News from Around the District • Summer 2022
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WE ARE ONE COMMUNITY

SUPERINTENDENT TRUSLER STAYS FOR THE 2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR

In March, the Weld RE-5J Board of Education voted unanimously to extend Superintendent Trusler's contract to the 2022-2023 school year. "We are delighted to have Karen Trusler leading the district for an additional year. Her extensive experience, demeanor, and genuine love for education and the community have helped the district move forward significantly," said Michael Wailes, Board of Education President.

Karen has 29 years of education experience, including nine years as superintendent for Weld RE-4 School District, where her leadership was instrumental in the passing of their bond measures in 2007 and 2016. Her experience in overseeing the construction and upgrading of schools to accommodate the rapid growth in Windsor and Severance has proved extremely beneficial in her current role. Karen retired from Weld RE-4 in 2015 to turn her attention to family matters and nonprofit work, but when she saw the opportunity to make a difference here, she jumped at it, and we are very happy that she did!

"This has been a wonderful opportunity for me to be back with a fabulous community," Trusler said. "It feels right. This community has a focus on youth and education. There is a willingness to do what is best for kids. We may not always agree, but I love the openness to be able to come to work together and do it for the common good of our students."



New Board Member

On May 18, the Weld RE-5J Board of Education voted unanimously to appoint **Amanda Proctor** to fill the board vacancy which arose when Laura Perry resigned due to relocation. Proctor represents District C. Proctor has previously served on the district's accountability committee and as treasurer on Knowledge Quest Academy's board. "Ms. Proctor comes with a lot of experience and that is always welcome," said Board President Michael Wailes.

Thank You, Mayor Lebsack



Johnstown Mayor Gary Lebsack visited the 4th graders of Letford Elementary School and Pioneer Ridge Elementary School to celebrate Arbor Day. He encouraged them to take care of their environment and to plant a tree. He ended his time by giving each student a tree to plant! Thank you, Mayor Lebsack!

SAVE THE DATE!

YOU ARE INVITED TO
UNITE TO IGNITE
ON SATURDAY, AUGUST 27
FROM 10 A.M. TO 12 P.M.

FIND OUT MORE:
[BIT.LY/2022UNITETOIGNITE](https://bit.ly/2022UNITETOIGNITE)

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2022

BOND AND MLO UPDATES - IT'S GOING TO BE A BUSY SUMMER!

New construction projects are moving along well. There have been staff tours at both the new Roosevelt High School (RHS) and Elwell Elementary School. The excitement is palpable! Both schools have lots of natural light and have been designed to enable innovative teaching and learning. There are also major, approximately \$1 million each, renovation projects happening at Milliken Elementary School and Knowledge Quest Academy, which will transform learning spaces, and a new surveillance system going in at Pioneer Ridge Elementary School. All projects are on time and on (or under) budget!

THANK YOU, VOTERS, FOR YOUR CONFIDENCE IN, AND SUPPORT OF, OUR DISTRICT AND THE STUDENTS WE SERVE



Career and Technical Education (CTE) MMS and RHS Construction Connection

In May, a group of Milliken Middle School (MMS) and RHS students enjoyed their last "Construction Connection" of the school year. They toured the new RHS site and had questions answered by the project superintendents and project manager.

Students also gained valuable insights from Anthony Durst, Director of Preconstruction, who provided a virtual tour of the completed school and discussed advances in technology and the varied career opportunities in construction.

To finish, Adolfson & Peterson Construction hosted a delicious BBQ as a celebration.

In addition to ensuring that the new RHS (scheduled to be completed in August 2023) is on budget and on time, Adolfson & Peterson Construction donated time and resources to help establish the Construction Connection Program, which was created to determine, in part, Weld RE-5J student interest in careers in the construction field. For the upcoming school year, in only its second year, the program will be at capacity with more than 120 students enrolled at the high school. Five new concurrent enrollment opportunities will also be offered at RHS in partnership with Aims Community College. In future years, the program will include additional courses and industry certificates.

We are delighted to work with partners Adolfson & Peterson Construction to support the local and regional workforce needs in construction careers and provide hands-on real-world learning experiences aligned to our students' interests.

Thank You, Adolfson & Peterson Construction, for the First-Hand Insights and for a Delicious BBQ!

The expansion of CTE was a major goal of the mill levy override (MLO) in 2020. Since then, we have significantly expanded CTE offerings across the district and will continue to do so — RHS will be offering 15 CTE Pathways and numerous dual and concurrent enrollment options for 2022-2023; see the options at bit.ly/RHS2022-2023CCTE. CTE programming enables students to graduate from high school with work experience, nationally recognized certifications, industry connections, and college credits.

Elwell Parent Meetings

Parents of students who will attend Elwell Elementary School next year recently had the opportunity to examine the design and layout of the new school and find out how innovative learning will occur. Parents also had the chance to meet staff members and ask questions. Seeing the plans come to life generated a lot of excitement. Learn more about Elwell at bit.ly/Elwellbrochure. Parents and other community members were able to say "goodbye" to Letford Elementary School during farewell tours on Johnstown BBQ day.



Career and Technical Education (CTE) Fire Science/EMR Connection

Career and Technical Education (CTE) Fire Science/EMR Connection students from Milliken Middle School and Roosevelt High School, in partnership with UHealth, were able to experience medical equipment first hand while learning directly from professionals in the field.

Faith, a paramedic, and Greg, an Emergency Medical Technician, explained the different aspects of their jobs and what post-high school education and training is needed. Students also got hands-on experience with an ambulance, learned how to use

and interpret blood pressure machines, and heard about interesting calls and statistics (For example, their cardiac success rate is currently 18% vs. a 9% success rate nationally.) before examining other equipment and practicing securing fellow students on a stretcher and loading them into the ambulance.

Weld Re-5J School District's goal through providing connections programs is to support student interests and determine the need for future CTE pathway development.



DID YOU KNOW?

We work hard to stretch every dollar further to create the maximum benefit for students and the community. This spring, we applied for, and received, a \$4.8 Million BEST (Building Excellent Schools Today) grant for improvements to Milliken Elementary School. Weld RE-5J School District has been awarded almost \$34 million in competitive BEST grants since 2019.

BUILDING OUR FUTURE TOGETHER



First Annual RHS CTE Spring Hiring Fair Was a Huge Success!

RHS partnered with Employment Services of Weld County and Thompson Rivers Parks & Recreation District to create the event, which was **made possible by a grant from The Weld Trust**. Free lunch was available to resume workshop participants thanks to sponsorship by Equipment and Trucks, Inc. Lunch was provided by Dominic's Pizza, and prizes were donated by Johnstown Wing Shack, Johnstown Santiago's, Johnstown Senior Center, KHNC 1360 AM, and Rider Chiropractic.

We would like to give a huge THANK YOU to all involved for providing the time, expertise, and resources needed to make this a great event for our students and our community.

In this inaugural year, 60 students engaged in a free resume workshop before visiting the teen hiring fair where 58 business booths provided information about employment, training, and internship opportunities. After dedicated teen-only time, the fair was opened up to teens and adults alike – the event was very well attended and much appreciated by participants. **If you have a business you would like to feature next year, please contact Jennifer Boresen at jborensen@weldre5j.org.**



Free Food This Summer for Children aged 0-18

The Weld Food Bank is providing free meals for children aged 0-18 all summer long with no application or ID required. Grab and go meals can be picked up at Milliken Police Department, 1201 Broad Street, on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10-12 from May 31 through August 4.



CONGRATULATIONS

There are SO many staff and student accomplishments to celebrate. We wish we had room to list them all. Here are a few examples of great things happening across our district.



CTE - MMS's FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America) swept the State Leadership Conference in March. Bringing 50 members to compete, the chapter earned 50 medals and 28 students qualified to compete at the National Leadership Conference in Chicago June 29 - July 2.



2022 RHS graduate **Kevin Smith** has been given the high honor of being appointed to the U.S. Military Academy located in West Point, New York – one of the hardest universities in the country to get into. It's believed that Smith is the first RHS student to be appointed to West Point. Thank you (and the three generations of your family before you) for choosing to serve!



CTE - Five members of the RHS FFA (Future Farmers of America) team attended the District 12 FFA State Degree Review in March – **Brady Hopkins, Payton Eaton, Emily Davis, Lyndsey Pancost, and Campbell Zink**. This is the highest award Colorado FFA can bestow on its members and a huge honor to receive. Earning the state FFA Degree shows dedication and commitment, not only to a work-based learning project, but also to the RHS FFA program.



MMS student **Annabelle Rusco** and RHS teacher **Jennifer Boresen** have been awarded Citizen of the Year and Mentor of the Year respectively by the town of Johnstown as honorees at Johnstown BBQ Day.



The Johnstown Community YMCA and the Johnstown-Milliken Rotary Club celebrated six Weld RE-5J students at their inaugural Annual Teen Character Banquet. The event spotlighted teens for going above and beyond to share character in the community. The teens were judged for acts of service and character. The award winners were: **Marlo Abrahamson, Skylar Anderson, Richard Boresen, Ryne Knutson, and Owen Greathouse** from RHS, and **Annabelle Rusco** from MMS.

Weld RE-5J students have regular opportunities to engage in place-based and experiential learning. This spring, our Weld RE-5J CTE Environmental Science students participated in such an experience in the Poudre River.





HATS OFF TO THE Roosevelt High School Class of 2022

On Friday, May 27, Roosevelt High School graduates walked across the stage to begin a new chapter of their lives.

CONGRATULATIONS! We are so proud of the young men and women you have become, and we feel great optimism knowing that the future is in your capable hands.



We hope the summer brings good health, happiness, and opportunities to resume some of your favorite activities. We so look forward to seeing our students again in the fall!

kindest Regards,

Superintendent Karen Trusler, Your Board of Education, & the Weld RE-5J Team

**WORKING
TOGETHER
FOR THE
FUTURE
OF OUR
CHILDREN**

Learn More,
Get Involved,
Ask Questions:

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