



Contact:

Allison Scott, Communications Specialist
719.359.2319 | ascott@mssd14.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Elementary Students Cook Thanksgiving Feast in Classrooms

Cascade, CO - A family-style feast prepared in the classrooms by elementary students - that's how staff and students at Ute Pass Elementary School celebrated Thanksgiving this year.

It was called "Thankful Thursday Literacy Luncheon." It was a day of gratitude, literacy, family and food. It was also an opportunity for students to make connections between food and literature while also practicing math skills and learning all about recipes and food preparation. How it worked is each teacher chose a book for their classroom and picked a recipe that related to the book. Students then prepared the food right in their classrooms. Each grade level prepared a different side dish for lunch.

"For me, education is about connections and food is a really awesome way to connect to the world. It's a great way to connect to culture," said Ute Pass Elementary School teacher Terrence Batson. "You see a lot of math connections made when making food in terms of recipes and quantities that have to be worked out."

All staff and students got to sit side-by-side to eat a family-style meal.

"It means so much as a principal. This is the exact kind of culture and feel that you want, that our students and staff are at a place where they feel like they belong to something, that they have a community just within the walls of our building and that each student knows that their voice is valued and they are important here at Ute Pass," said Ute Pass Elementary School principal Jackie Powell.

Principal Powell hopes this will be the start of a new tradition at Ute Pass Elementary.

ABOUT MANITOU SPRINGS SCHOOL DISTRICT 14

Established in 1872, Manitou Springs School District 14 (MSSD14) serves approximately 1,200 students from Preschool to 12th Grade who reside in the communities of Manitou Springs, Cascade, Green Mountain Falls, Chipita Park, Crystal Park, and Cedar Heights. The district also serves about 48 percent "choice" students who come from other locations in El Paso and Teller Counties.

MSSD14 offers a "small town" educational environment driven by the core values of relationships, deep learning and opportunity. The district and its staff are dedicated to providing a safe and caring learning environment, encouraging all students to reach their potential and preparing responsible citizens.

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