Austin’s Garden at Manitou Springs Elementary School

Austin Durham is a sweet and outgoing fifth-grader at MSES who spends a significant part of his day in a wheelchair.

While at our school, Austin has learned to communicate for the first time ever — and he has used his new skill to announce his love for gardening! His family is so pleased with his progress that they have made a generous donation to support MSES — and we, in turn, are developing “Austin’s Gardens” as places to bring together students who have mobility challenges and students with regular mobility in one big gardening venture.

The indoor Austin’s Garden (pictured) is a sunny, tranquil space that offers sensory experiences for students as they plant, water, and care for a variety of herbs.

We will use the herbs we are growing in recipes during an upcoming “tasting field trip” to Adam’s Mountain Café! We will eventually transplant these herbs and other plants in the wheelchair-accessible outdoor Austin’s Garden when it is constructed in the coming renovation of the MSES playground.

Look for more to come in future issues about the Adam’s Mountain Café field trip and the ever-growing “Austin’s Garden”!

Artist of the Week

Artist: Kyle Blasi, 5th Grade, UPES

Connect14 Winter Session underway!

www.connect14.org

Connect14 Winter Term classes started the week of Jan. 14 and go through March 15. Students and adults alike are having a great time this winter term!

They are creating ceramics, learning to sew, racing slot cars, playing ukulele, creating robots, dancing, singing and acting! In addition to our student offerings, there are five classes at the MAC open to high school-age children through adult … we’d love to see these classes become intergenerational. A lot of age-friendly rapport will grow from creative relationships between the generations in these classes!

Mondays: Rock Band and Advanced Guitar
Tuesdays: Creative Writing
Wednesdays: FAB LAB with Concrete Couch and Ceramics
Thursdays: Dye Weave Sew with Textiles West
Fridays: Acrylic Painting with Erin Gillespie from Bemis FAC

Please visit our website or contact Arts14 Director Joyce Levy at jlevy@mssd14.org, Sports14 Coordinator Danny Gieck at dgieck@mssd14.org or STEM14 Supervisor Chris Picinich at cpicinich@mssd14.org with any questions!