

District 49 Dispatch

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Falcon High School Homecoming

Once a Falcon, Always a Falcon

Samantha Dosen
Digital Communications Manager

Friday night-lights in Falcon were bright for Falcon High School's homecoming activities on Sept. 14. The festivities included fireworks, football game, homecoming court crowning, and special alumni cheer presentation.

Students, staff, alumni and parents filled the stands for the special white out alumni homecoming game against Cheyenne Mountain High School.

Falcon High scored their first touchdown within

the first five minutes of the game. At halftime, Falcon led 12-3.

The halftime show was fueled by a dance routine from the FHS cheer team and then followed by and a special alumni cheer presentation made up of previous cheer members from the class of 85' and on.

Homecoming court then arrived in style riding in convertible Corvettes from the Colorado Corvette Club.

Kegan Hoang, 17, senior, was crowned homecoming king. Sierra Kulbacki, 17, senior, was crowned homecoming queen.

See More: Homecoming 2018

For much more on Homecoming 2018, turn to page 4.

Drake Antoon, senior, takes a break during the Sept. 14 homecoming game vs. Cheyenne Mountain after making the first touchdown of the game.
(District 49/Sam Dosen)



School District 49 Earns National Recognition for Military Family Outreach

David Nancarrow
Director of Communications

School District 49, in conjunction with its esteemed partners at Peterson Air Force Base are recipients of the 2018 Pete Taylor Partnership of Excellence Award™.

The award spotlights the work taking place at D49 through its BRIGHT (Building Restorative Interventions Growing Honorable Traditions) initiative, paired with the district's collaboration with Peterson Air Force Base.

The alliance established The Restorative Practices Coalition, which was presented with the 2018 Outstanding Partnership Award

by the Military Child Education Coalition® (MCEC®) at its 20th National Training Seminar in Washington, DC. The Coalition ensures students from military families successfully find a place in the D49 school environment when servicemen and women settle into new assignments in southern Colorado.

"It was an honor to watch as national leaders celebrated the great work District 49 and our military partners are doing to support military-connected children," said Peter Hilts, D49 Chief Education Officer. "As a district serving more than 6,000 military connected students, our leadership in restorative practices is a role model for schools and systems around the world."

The coalition has a keen understanding of the challenges which come with the frequent changes of scenery experienced by military families. A key element to the coalition's success is the Falcon High School S2S (Student to Student) program. S2S creates a volunteer group of military-connected and civilian students to serve as a committee to welcome military-connected students into their new school environment throughout the course of the entire school year. The Falcon High S2S has a long-standing tradition of excellence and has been awarded local and national recognition in its own right, adding a vital student aspect to the Restorative Practices Coalition's

efforts. Military-connected students also receive community building experiences like a ropes-course challenge made possible by the coalition which also supports the district's annual Military Appreciation Day.

"As a retired Air Force officer it is gratifying to see the partnership that District 49 has built with the military community to support military-connected children," said Dr. Lou Fletcher, director of culture and services.

The partnership is symbolic of District 49's close connection with the southern Colorado's rich military heritage and a commitment to ensure a positive learning experience for students with a connection to the armed forces.



Members of the D49 Restorative Practices Coalition accept the 2018 Outstanding Partnership Award in Washington D.C. on July 25 (MCEC/Shellie Campos)

AT A GLANCE: Pete Taylor Partnership of Excellence Award™

The Pete Taylor Partnership of Excellence Award™ was created in 2004 to recognize the work of former MCEC Chairman Lieutenant General (Ret.) Pete Taylor in assisting military children. The award is designed to foster the sharing of lessons learned and to recognize the long-held belief of General Taylor that "goodness starts at the local level."

The annual award encourages and applauds the outstanding partnerships formed between military installations and school districts that serve military children. Award winners are selected from schools and military installations around the world by MCEC, a non-profit organization dedicated to ensuring quality educational opportunities for all military and veteran-connected children affected by mobility, transition, and family separation.

Ribbon-Cutting Ceremonies Ring in School Year 2018-2019

David Nancarrow
Director of Communications

Project managers and construction crews completed major projects at School District 49 for the start of school year 2018-2019. To mark these milestones, D49 hosted three ribbon-cutting ceremonies on three different days a week ahead of the first day of school.

The Past Meets the Future

“It has been exciting to see our teachers getting their classrooms set up and the level of enthusiasm for the start of this new school year,” said Bennett Ranch Elementary School Principal Mandy Maranville, during the first ceremony at BRES Monday, July 23.

BRES welcomed about 100 people to the ceremony ahead of opening the doors for tours of the first brand new D49 neighborhood school built in a decade. The new school is a product of funds generated by the 3B mill levy override approved by voters in fall 2016.

“We hope you see in this facility and the others we continue to improve and to build with those funds that we are truly standing by what we promised to give to our students,” said D49 Board of Education President Marie La Vere-Wright. “[Building] the best facilities we can for them to do the learning they need, because they are truly our future.”

BRES stands on land originally part of the Hugh Bennett Ranch purchased by the Bennett family in the late 1930s. The Bennetts sold parts of their ranch over the years making way for three D49 schools in the Falcon Zone - Falcon High School, Falcon Middle School, and now BRES.

“Josie and Hugh Bennett were advocates of kids getting a good education,” explained Missy Meitro, one of the Bennett family members who attended the ceremony.

“Hugh and Josie would be proud to know that the land he purchased in the 1930s is being used to help educate future generations,” she added. “We are all happy to see their legacy continue.”

The new school welcomed just under 500 students on the first day of class August 2. Executive Principal Brian Smith described BRES as cutting-edge. “We will provide students with real world, modern, learning experiences where teachers will facilitate authentic and creative learning leveraged by technology,” Smith said. The school will also feature artifacts gathered through the decades from the Bennett Ranch to give students a sense of what the land held before BRES.

“We are proud today to honor the Hugh Bennett Ranch as we open this brand new elementary school and help preserve the legacy in this part of Falcon,” Smith said.

A New Space for Learners

Two days after the official ribbon-cutting at BRES, another group met to welcome the new ALLIES learning center to the D49 portfolio of schools. The Academy for Literacy, Learning & Innovation Excellence is a tuition-free school for students grades 2 - 5 who need to overcome language-based learning difficulties like dyslexia.

“We are going to do things a little differently,” said Rebecca Thompson, director of academic services for ALLIES as she recalled conversations she had with parents who were interested in the school. “Their students came to us, and their students have flourished. We are so proud they came and found us here at ALLIES.”

The new addition shares space with Odyssey Elementary



FHS staff and guests slice through green ribbon during the FHS ribbon cutting ceremony July 27. (District 49/Aaron Villescas)

School featuring a dedicated ALLIES entrance and office, six small group therapy rooms for Take Flight intervention instruction, in addition to seven larger classrooms for ALLIES learners.

“I’m truly proud, as board president, to make sure we are truly serving every student including the 20% in our community that fit the dyslexia profile,” said La Vere-Wright. The BOE president pointed out despite the challenges associated with learners who attend ALLIES, many are gifted innovators and creators. “I’m proud of our other elementary schools that are helping to identify those kids and have a conversation with their families, so they can see the strengths in those children as well.”

“I look forward to supporting hundreds of students to come in the future. Students that will come and find us in our little corner of the world,” Thompson said.

Expanding the Vision

When students began the school year at Falcon High School, their school had grown a new wing. FHS hosted the third and final ribbon-cutting ceremony Friday, July 27 to celebrate the opening of a brand new, permanent addition to the north end of the school.

The ceremony took place inside the new academic wing as rain fell steadily outside Friday afternoon.

“Our ROTC was very excited because the color guard [would have] to practice in the rain on a day like today,” said FHS Principal Cheryl Goodyear-DeGeorge. “We’re very excited their flags do not hit the ceiling,” she chuckled, commenting on the vaulted ceiling in the room where the ceremony took place.

The academic wing, built by contractor GE Johnson and designed by DLR Architects, includes space for career and technical education, computer labs, multipurpose classrooms and a student gathering area.

Goodyear-DeGeorge pointed out one of the classrooms in particular where students will get hands-on experience learning EMT skills in a simulated ambulance. “It looks like a really small space in there,” she said. “It’s intentionally small, so they get used to using that space.”

Guest speaker, and FHS senior Noah Gray, noted the ribbon-cutting fell exactly nine months from the day District 49 broke ground on the project. “This new building is a prime example of what I like to call ‘goalings,’ not dreaming,” Gray said.

He described the new learning space as adaptive to meet the needs of a new generation of learners. La Vere-Wright echoed Noah’s remarks explaining the planners took feedback from community members who desired more career-preparation based coursework for their students.

“All of our students can follow their dreams and follow their path [to success]” La Vere-Wright said. “This [space] is going to give them the career opportunities and choices that may, or may not, include a post secondary education.”

With a third, and final cut of a Falcon-green ribbon, a new season of learning began at D49.



D49 Board of Education President, Marie La Vere-Wright speaks during the ALLIES ribbon cutting ceremony July 25. (District 49/Aaron Villescas)



BRES staff and guests at ribbon cutting ceremony July 23. (District 49/Aaron Villescas)



Missy Meitro, one of the Bennett family, speaks during the BRES ribbon cutting ceremony July 23. (District 49/Aaron Villescas)



Adrielle Baker, left, and Kayla Voth, both seniors, show their Wolf Spirit during the VRHS homecoming game Sept. 14. (District 49/Amy Matisek)



VRHS quarterback, Payton Kaiser, shows his elusive moves during the homecoming game Sept. 14 against Dakota Ridge High School. (District 49/Amy Matisek)



Austin Mee, senior, shows his Wolf Pride before the VRHS homecoming football game Sept. 14. (District 49/Amy Matisek)



Cambria Carpenter, senior, receives her crown as Homecoming Queen during halftime at the VRHS football game Sept. 14. (District 49/Amy Matisek)

HOMECOMING 2018



Falcon High School's football team running onto the field during the Sept. 14 homecoming game. (District 49/Sam Dosen)



Senior Homecoming Queen, Sierra Kulbacki, 17, entering the field seated on a Corvette, Sept. 14, for Falcon High's homecoming game. (District 49/Sam Dosen)



Falcon High cheerleaders during Sept. 14 homecoming game. (District 49/Sam Dosen)



SCHS students cheer on their favorite players during the annual homecoming Powderpuff Football Game at SCHS. (District 49/Aaron Villegas)



SCHS cheerleaders Emma Simpson and Kirsten Evans prepare the run-through posters ahead of kickoff to the Homecoming matchup against Hinkley High School. (District 49/David Nancarrow)



Senior varsity football players, Robert Long (#82), and Christian Pramberg (#1), prepare to charge the field in their last homecoming game at Sand Creek High School. (District 49/David Nancarrow)



SCHS junior and senior girls go head-to-head in the annual Powderpuff Football Game as their "coaches" from the varsity football team look on. (District 49/Aaron Villegas)



SCHS Homecoming Queen and King 2018 Ky'Ajia Love and Logan Blantz pose for photos in their homecoming finery. (District 49/David Nancarrow)

School an Ally for Students with Learning Challenges

By Amy Matisek

Internal Communications Manager

The dyslexia advantage. To staff at ALLIES (Academy for Literacy, Learning and Innovation Excellence), their job is to make sure students know their true gifts. “We’re here to support learning struggles, but also to help students know they are so much more as a child,” shared Rebecca Thompson, principal.

Chase Vaughn is one of those students. The fifth-grader returned to ALLIES for the new school year Aug. 3. Two years ago, when Chase was a third-grader at Odyssey Elementary School, staff recognized his challenges and recommended he transfer to ALLIES. “We weighed the pros and cons, and decided it was the best choice for Chase to move to ALLIES,” stated Heather Vaughn, his mother. Today, the Vaughn family wouldn’t trade that decision for anything. “We couldn’t ask for better teachers,” she shared.

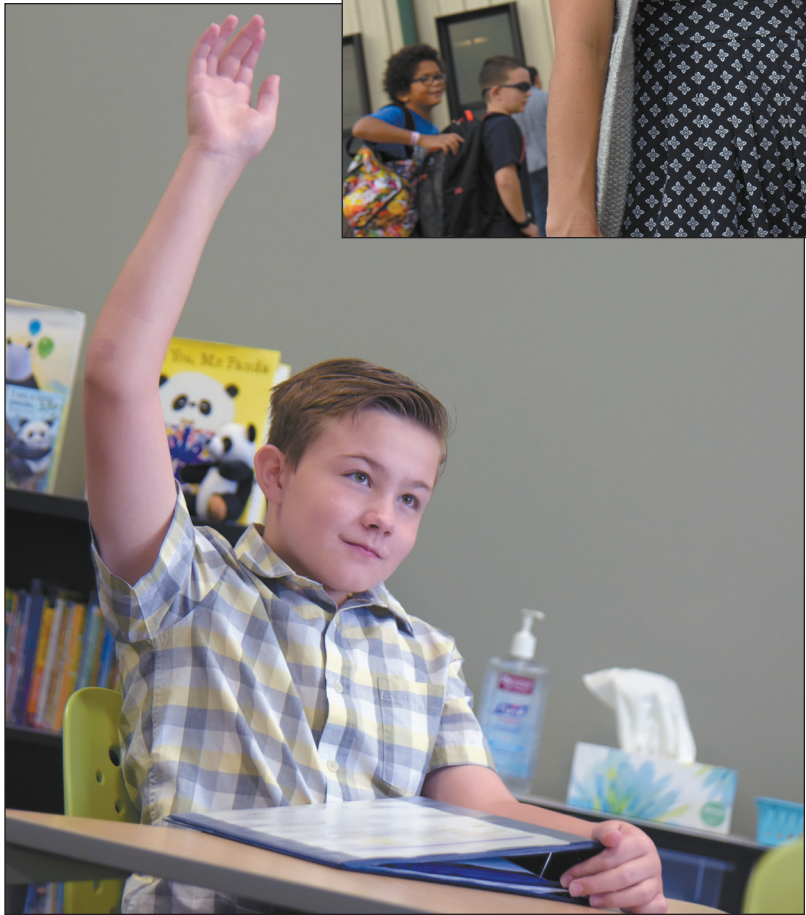
Inspiring scholars with language-based learning difficulties and characteristics of dyslexia, ALLIES is a tuition-free, public school that instructs students in grades 2 – 5 with their Take Flight Program. The program addresses components of reading such as phonemic awareness, fluency and basic comprehension, and is taught alongside core classes. The school has made a tremendous difference for Chase. “The biggest change with our son has been in his confidence,” remarked Chase’s mother.

While some students like Chase were back for another year of learning, others were just starting their journey at ALLIES. Treysten Kunnary, second-grader, is one of the new students. “Our family has a history of dyslexia, and for Treysten, learning hasn’t been fun,” shared his mother, Tamara Kunnary. “I hope my son can start coming home from school happy. A lot of kids who struggle with dyslexia don’t have a school like this. Services are either hard to find or expensive.”

The 2018-19 school year marks a milestone for staff and students of ALLIES as they finally have new brick and mortar. Last year, the school operated in modulares beside OES. “Every year we will learn more and expand what we are doing,” shared Thompson. ALLIES is currently serving 114 students in their new facility.



Treysten Kunnary, second-grader, begins his learning journey at ALLIES Aug. 3. His mom, Tamara, is on hand to help make the transition to a new school. (District 49/Amy Matisek)



Chase Vaughn, fifth-grader, confidently participates in first-day-of-school activities at ALLIES Aug. 3. (District 49/Amy Matisek)



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Crews work on new D49 school on Vista Del Pico Boulevard. (Wember Inc.)

3B At a Glance: New School Update

Construction crews are making the most of the mild weather to maintain a steady pace of work at the site of D49's new elementary school, scheduled to open August 2019. Project management company Wember Inc. provided an update to the D49 BOE in October. Some of the highlights include:

- Construction is in progress and on schedule (anticipated completion July 2019).
- Interior framing is complete on 80% of level one.
- Roofing is starting on Area A (west end).
- Exterior and interior wall framing has started.
- An exterior mock-up is complete and can be seen from the street. Shows the finishes that will be on the building.
- North parking lot is in place with first lift of asphalt. This will allow contractor to keep subs (parking) off the street and 100% on site.

The new school planning committee is gathering community feedback to select a name for the school, which will likely be announced this fall.




Interior framing work underway on the new D49 school on Vista Del Pico Boulevard. (Wember Inc.)



Crews work on the interior of the new D49 school on Vista Del Pico Boulevard. (Wember Inc.)

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