

Ring of Fire

Stevens Elementary School, Jeffco Public Schools

Submitted by Katie Mauro, kmauro@jeffcoschools.us

Stevens Elementary School in Jeffco Public Schools has forged a meaningful relationship with the Kiwanis Club of Wheat Ridge. Together, they champion the development of high-quality work by students, a cornerstone of the three dimensions of student achievement embraced at Stevens Elementary (Mastery of Knowledge and Skills, Character, and High-Quality Work.). Their collaborative spirit culminates in a school-wide event known as the “Ring of Fire,” a special event held three times a year that highlights students’ commitment to producing high-quality work.

The principal collects the High Quality Work from the classroom teachers and the Family Engagement Liaison partners with the Kiwanis to arrange the event details. This special occasion provides a platform for nominated students to proudly showcase their exemplary work, articulate the often-challenging yet crucial process of revisions they undertook, and share the valuable feedback that shaped their creations. The entire student body, along with enthusiastic members of the wider community, gathered to celebrate these dedicated young scholars. The Kiwanis Club of Wheat Ridge has proven to be an exceptional and dedicated partner. Their generous contributions included providing special certificates of achievement, along with exciting goodie bags for each student nominated for the prestigious Ring of Fire. Furthermore, members of the Kiwanis Club were always present at the celebration, offering enthusiastic cheers and unwavering encouragement to the Stevens scholars.

During the “Ring of Fire,” students engaged in thoughtful reflection on the various stages of their academic journey, from initial drafts and the incorporation of constructive feedback to the critical steps of checking for deep understanding and meticulously refining their work. By openly discussing this process in front of the entire school community, the event powerfully underscored the significance and value of the high-quality work process for all students at Stevens Elementary.

The most important recommendation to replicate this practice is to meet with the students prior to the event to discuss their learning and the process they went through to get to high quality work.

