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Planning to have a merry olde time at this year's Renaissance Festival? Share photos of yourself, family, and friends enjoying this year's or any previous Festival for a chance to win prizes!

Upload your photos to ColoradoSprings.com where one lucky entry will be selected as a winner each week. The winner will be announced every Friday, from June 21 - July 26, and each will receive four tickets to attend the Renaissance Festival.

To be eligible for the grand prize, submit your photos by July 28; voting will be open from July 29-August 4. The photo with the most votes will win a trip for two to Las Vegas with a stay at the Excalibur and tickets to the Tournament of Kings. So get snapping, ye lords and ladies of the 2013 Renaissance Festival!

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO ENTER THE CONTEST VISIT

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COURTESY OF KIDS' MUSIC PLAYGROUND

A class at Kids' Music Playground.

Figure out the way each kid learns, teach accordingly

BY **CHERI ROGGOW**
 Special of Fresh*Ink

As a music instructor for over 200 students at Kids' Music Playground, I woke up one summer morning wanting the recipe for how to motivate young children. Not just motivation, mind you, but how to successfully get students to cross the finish line with trophy and diploma in hand, shouting, "I did it! I finished! I don't want it to be over!" Am I dreaming to believe that after my 3½ year program they want to do the music thing for years to come? Wouldn't any instructor in gymnastics, sports, dance, and school, want this recipe? Wouldn't any parent coming off summer vacation, want to prep for that August transition?

I pulled myself off the couch and started reading and writing.

Leo Buscaglia, professor in the Department of Special Education at the University of Southern California, says: "It is paradoxical that many educators and parents differentiate between a time for learning and a time for play without seeing the vital connection between them." How do we get started in this part-

nership of enhancing motivation and performance in each child? How can "work" become "play" and assumed "failure" (the quitting of various activities prematurely) become assured "success"?

First, be the detective and assess your child's love language. Does my child respond to words of affirmation, quality time with me, receiving gifts, acts of service I might do for him, or simply physical touch? A clue is to observe your child. How does he or she express love to others? This will help you "flavor" with precision.

Next, support your child's learning style. Is it auditory, visual or kinesthetic? In creating an encouraging environment for success, does your child like to listen, read, or do? Incidentally, a musical learning experience covers all three.

Regardless of love language and learning style, there are ways to motivate every child. As a teacher, I believe the process is always more important than the final product. Here are some E-ingredients and the motivational meal is served:

1. Encourage resilience over empty praise. Keep an atmo-

sphere of affirmation.

2. Enthusiasm is contagious. Make it a team adventure and do it together.

3. Empathize and provide reasonable choices for consequence and progress.

4. Elevate opportunities for kids to make decisions and choices.

5. Expect obedience by enforcing rules and being consistent.

6. Establish an environment that is structured for successful study.

7. Execute a plan to meet short and long-term goals.

8. Excel at forgiveness, gratitude and humor.

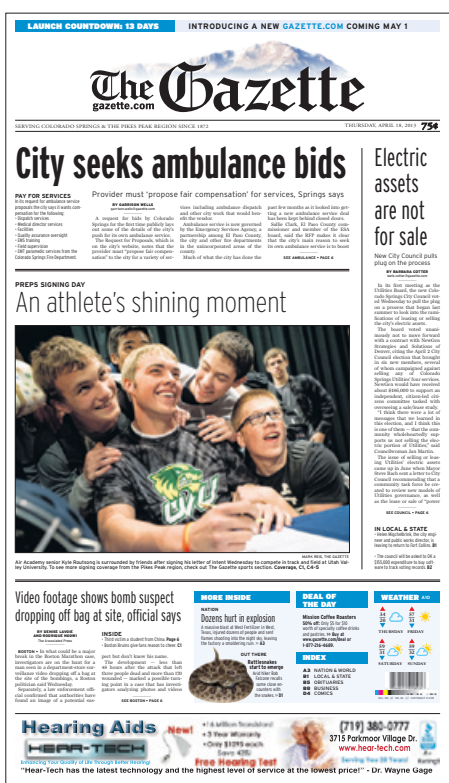
9. Expand through experience in daily life. Visit exhibits, concerts, and the ballet.

10. Eke out a surprise treat and celebrate the success of progress.

There are no set amounts of the above recipe for motivation. If in doubt, give generously. This is what you will find us doing at Kids' Music Playground.

Cheri Roggow is the founder and instructor of Kids' Music Playground. Email kidsmusicplayground@gmail.com for sources and information regarding classes.

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Personalized learning for D-11

BY **JENNIFER KELLY**
 Fresh*Ink Contributor

Colorado Springs School District 11 sent 70 teachers and school leaders to the Technology in Education Conference last month. Many were there to learn more from the Personalized Learning Dudes about how they can embrace the concept of personalized learning in their classrooms.

I interviewed Dudes co-founders Greg Wilborn, the district's personalized learning coordinator, and Scott Fuller, project coordinator for the Do-DEA grant that is facilitating implementation in seven District 11 schools with a population of at least 15 percent military families.

Five additional schools have signed on since the district received a grant from the Colorado Legacy Foundation, which is helping to promote the concept. The grant empowered District 11 to direct money into

classroom innovations including technology, curriculum, and more.

The CLF has developed a personalized learning model that schools can customize to their community needs. It educates stakeholders and facilitates collaboration to enlarge its circle of influence on schools' ability to successfully implement their own models.

According to Fuller and Wilborn, while their job is to manage the implementation of programming, it is also to sell the idea to teachers, school administrators, funders, parents and students. Being able to draw on the research done by the CLF to educate others has made their job easier. Said Fuller, "A lot of people confuse it with more technology."

While iPads help, the real idea is about changing how teachers view their role.

Personalized learning is about teachers giving up power as

the providers of prescribed information and becoming facilitators who empower their students to access information that matters to them.

"If Rumpelstiltskin woke up today and walked into one of our classrooms, would it look any different than it did 50 years ago?" asked Wilborn. "But the world we are preparing our students to enter has changed tremendously."

For each school, a customized adoption of personalized learning requires some, or all, of the following: changing how teachers see their role, re-vamping classroom and school layouts, leveraging what technology they have, expanding learning time, engaging the community, embracing student-directed learning, embedding an ongoing assessments, and more.

To learn more, go to the Colorado Legacy Foundation website: <http://colegacy.org/>.