Cybersecurity is a word we hear everywhere we go. Whether we are talking about consumer privacy or election security, cyber is on everyone’s mind. The National Cybersecurity Center is located here in Colorado Springs, and with multiple military bases and contractors, the job market is booming. At Manitou Springs High School, our computer science program is preparing students to enter post-high school education and training in a variety of computer science occupations, cybersecurity is one of those. Mr. Blocher and his students recently visited the Drake Power Plant’s Cyber Security team and had a tour of how they keep energy secure for hundreds of thousands of residents in the Pikes Peak region. They talked about threats to our utilities and how they protect those assets daily. They spoke about the jobs and the need for people like them. Mr. Blocher also had a visit from the Cybersecurity Program at Pikes Peak Community College. Ms. Johnson spoke about all the pathways in this field, from a certificate program at PPCC to a doctorate. These opportunities of work-based learning, along with daily instruction, help to bridge the conceptual with the real, and are critical for students to see the relevance of their classroom.

Manitou Springs Elementary hosts ‘Planet Manitou’

More than 330 "Manitoids" (as opposed to asteroids) attended the MSES Third Grade’s annual Planet Manitou learning event on Thursday, Feb. 20, at the NASA Space Foundation Discovery Center. Students and their families from all grade levels toured the third graders’ well-developed space projects, as well as the interactive NASA programs and historic space-suit and space capsule displays at this incredible local museum. Students developed multiple elective projects at school to demonstrate their knowledge of our solar system and other space themes. MSES then rented out the entire museum and provided free transportation to celebrate the third grade’s super-massive space unit and to celebrate science learning and exploration! MSES believes that when students have authentic, meaningful academic opportunities — as exemplified in their "UP! Initiative" — students learning connects much more powerfully and their curiosity is fueled for the future. Planet Manitou is a perfect example of the district’s whole-child vision for our students’ learning!

MSES teachers go ‘Old School’

Manitou Springs Elementary School first grade teachers Paige Carley, Jon Pletsch and Sarah Carter celebrate the 100th day of school in style!