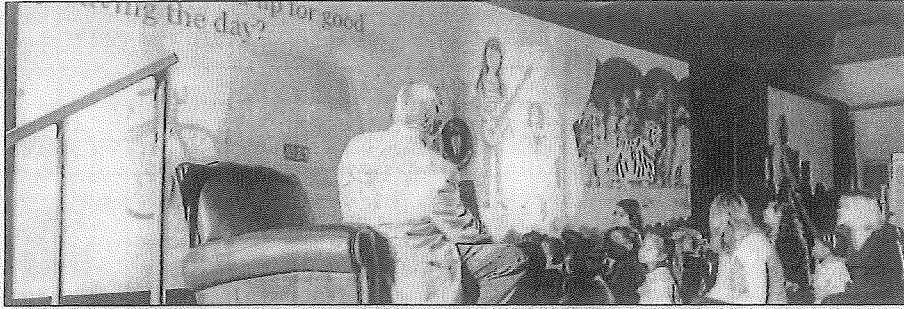
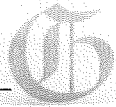


AROUND TOWN

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Radio personality Captain Dan reads "The Wonderful Things You Will Be" to CPCD Meadows Classrooms students and teachers during the "be4" breakfast.



CPCD Meadows Classroom student Christian delivers a crayon-design keyboard stylus to Lorrie Thorson at the Wells Fargo "be4" breakfast table.



The CPCD Ballet Company gets ready to take the stage at the "be4" breakfast.

PHOTOS BY LINDA NAVARRO, THE GAZETTE



Youngsters from CPCD Meadows Classrooms at the "be4" breakfast.



CPCD higher-education table mates Michelle Bender, PPCC, left, and Valerie Martin Conley, UCCS, were armed with their smartphones at the breakfast.

'Today is all about being 4'

AROUND TOWN



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Oh what a lovely early-morning way to welcome the day.

For an hour more than 600 adults were 4 years old again. "Just pretend," they were challenged.

"Today is all about being 4," said CPCD Head Start Director/CEO Noreen Landis-Tyson at the Nov. 4 "be4" breakfast. CPCD, after all, is all

about 4-year-olds and pre-school. All about getting that start in life. All about just dancing and dancing with the CPCD little-folks' ballet company.

How best to be 4 than to be read a story by a parent. Morning radio personality Captain Dan gathered children from CPCD Meadows Classrooms around him on stage at the DoubleTree hotel and shared with them "The Wonderful Things You Will Be."

The future-affirming, I-believe-in-you children's story by Emily Martin had a rapt audience of little ones and brought tears and memories to the grownups. Huge Claire

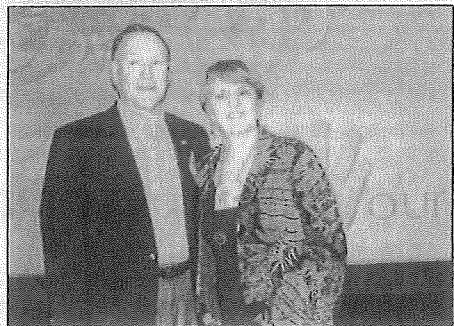
Sanderson visuals floated across the screens covering the front of the room. It was a touching moment for Captain Dan, himself a dad who had read to his own girls.

Why a be4 morning? "Ninety percent of the human brain is developed be4 age 5," reported CPCD, which, said Landis-Tyson, is why CPCD "prepares our most vulnerable for success in life." Today this Head Start program serves 2,000 area children, many living in poverty. There's a parental partnership component as well.

Sharing their own stories were board chair Tyrone Johnson, whose mother was a Head Start teacher who also

believed in early education for her own children. Eula Hampton is more than a CPCD parent or grandparent, she's a CPCD great-grandparent who says proudly the kids think she's "better than chocolate cake." Jessie Contreras, called a "hero," is an innovative CPCD teacher. Brothers Stone and Chase Frankford are former CPCD students who are now AFA cadets. One plans to be a pilot, the other a doctor.

As Captain Dan's words reverberated, oh, the possibilities of all "The Wonderful Things You Will Be" could be seen coming true.



Mike and Anne Torreano, longtime CPCD patrons, were speakers at the breakfast.

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