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ROCK RIDGE REPORTER

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF ROCK RIDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS



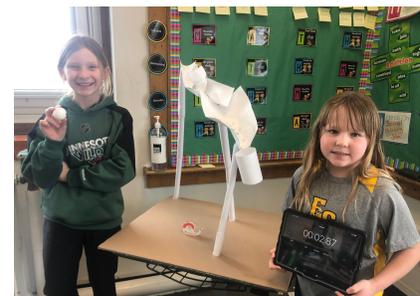
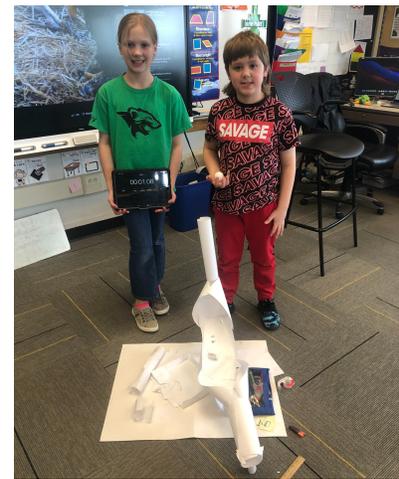
EDUCATION TO INSPIRE THE NEXT GENERATION

FRANKLIN GRADES K-4

FUN FRIDAYS IN 4TH GRADE

For the month of March, Ms. Hill's 4th grade Fun Day Friday Engineers had a challenge to make the ball run with the longest path time using only paper and tape. The first place winners, Douglas and Ben, built a ramp that held their ping pong ball for over 5 seconds.

Even though the challenge is over, the rest of the engineers are eager to continue to design their runs to beat the winning time!



EVELETH-GILBERT PTA 2021-22

What a fun school year we have had so far! With less restrictions, the Eveleth-Gilbert PTA has been able to do a lot more for our students & teachers and we are so grateful! Here is what we have done so far:

- Scholastic Newsletter & Time for Kids
- Scholastic book fairs
- Barber Graphics fundraisers with Rock Ridge apparel
- Multiple movie nights with more to come!
- Created "Wishful Trees" made up handprints written with each students wish for the year
- Popcorn for afternoon snack with more to come!
- St. Patrick's Day cookies for all students
- Stocked teacher break rooms a few times with goodies
- Contributed towards field trips & prizes during I Love to Read Month
- Covered the cost of the Matt Wilhelm, professional BMX rider, virtual school assembly
- Santa visited classrooms and handed out candy canes with some of his elves
- Sucker fundraiser to raise money towards the cost of track & field shirts for all students

We still have more in the works, too!

- Possible Snickers Pizza fundraiser
- Money challenge to raise funds towards next year field trips (sliming principals & staff included!)
- Track & field treat
- End of the year sweet treat for students
- Staff appreciation, including Teacher Appreciation Week
- Planning a fun open house at the new school

Please contact Emily Rask, PTA President, at egbearspta@rrps.org with any questions.



EVELETH-GILBERT BEARS PTA

THANKYOU

OUR CLASS SHAM ROCKS

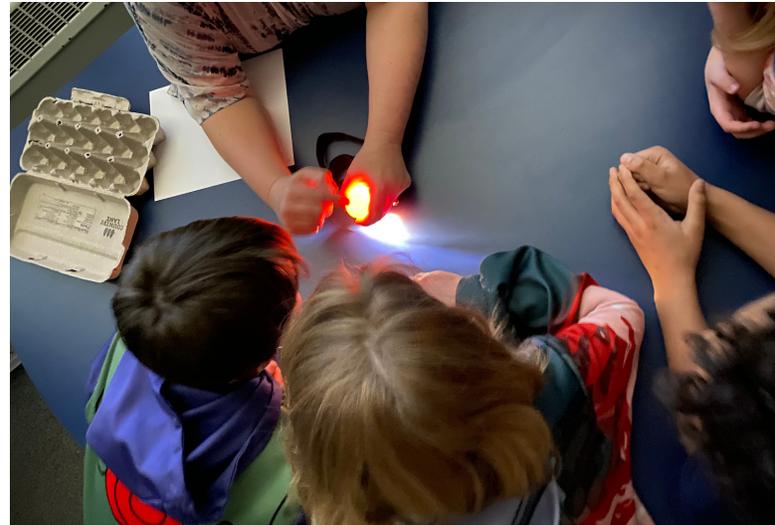


PARKVIEW GRADES PREK-2 WHAT'S IN THE EGG?

Our 2nd graders in Mrs. Nichols class are chirping about their EGGciting news!

They are in the process of hatching eggs in an incubator!

During this 21 day process, they will be learning about the life cycle of a baby chick. The students are also learning about the importance of keeping the eggs warm with the correct temperature and humidity. On Day 7, the students were able to candle the eggs and see which ones were growing. We have been reading, discussing, and learning about chickens and their life cycle during our 'Chick Talk Tuesdays' where the students can ask any questions they have.



ROOSEVELT GRADES 3-6

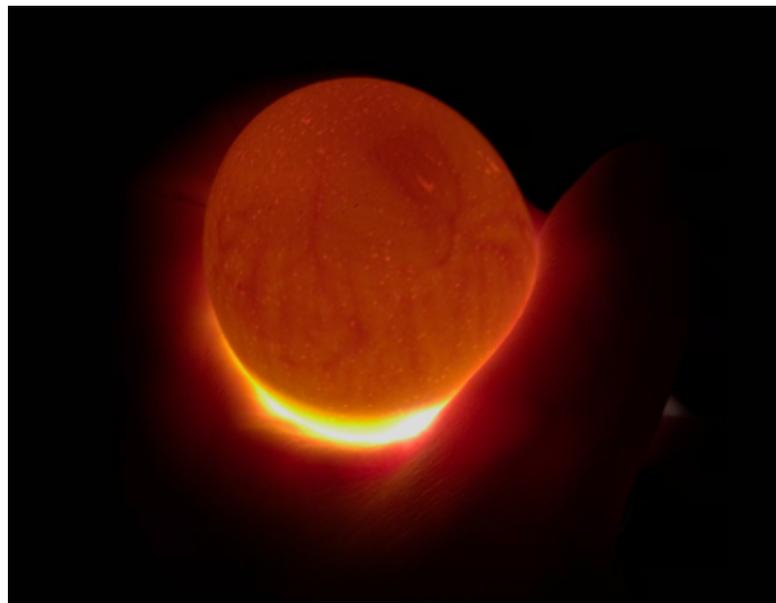
GOO FOR YOU

In celebration of St. Patrick's Day Mrs. LeBeque's sixth grade and Mrs. Thyen's 4th grade class made green oobleck and then they hid gold (chocolate) coins within the oobleck. The sixth graders taught the 4th graders about solids and liquids during this fun activity!



WAITING FOR THE BIG DAY

Mrs. Spry's 5th grade has been growing chickens. So far, they have 56 chickens that will start hatching on April 4th - three eggs are expected to be twins! This photo shows "candling". This is the process of putting a light under each egg to see if it is alive. In the video, the students could 'see' the chickens moving around. Thank you Mrs. Long, for helping give the students this experience!



GILBERT CAMPUS GRADES PREK, 5-8

MAKING THE CUT: CITIZENSHIP

Three students from each grade at the Gilbert Campus were honored for "Making the Cut" by showing what it means to be a great citizen! Congratulations to all!



Here are the 5th graders who showed what citizenship looks like at Nelle Shean - Madison Ferkul, Brianna Larson, and Natalie Mesich.

MAKING THE CUT: CITIZENSHIP



The Citizenship Awards in 6th grade went to Madison Tessmer, Ava Thompson, Payton Wudinich.



EGJH 7th Grade Citizenship Award Winners were Parker Currie, Lahna Gelo, and Hailey Raiter.



Way to go 8th grade Citizenship Award Winners: Liam Thompson, Wyatt Mettler, and Zoe Zelesnikar.



IT'S GREAT TO BE BACK

After a two year hiatus due the pandemic, the Nelle Shean sixth grade resumed their annual ski day at Giant's Ridge on March 17th.

The 6th grade ski trip has been a decades-long, multi-generational program to introduce our students to the sport of skiing. Our students really enjoyed skiing and had a lot of fun

The sixth grade teacher's are already looking forward to next year when they bring our Laurentian Wolverine 6th graders on this trip!

EGHS GRADES 9-12

INAUGURAL SEASON OF DECA

For those unfamiliar with DECA, it is a career and technical student organization with more than 225,000 members in all 50 U.S. states as well as international chapters. Students are tested on their expertise in specific marketing career areas and also on their poise, professionalism, and ability to handle difficult marketing and human relations situations. Competitors develop comprehensive marketing proposals, advertising campaigns, and business plans. In order to join DECA, students have to have taken Mr. Hammer's Marketing Strategies or Advanced Marketing courses which prepare them for competition.

This was the first year that DECA has ever been offered to students in any of the previous Rock Ridge school districts and Mr. Hammer, DECA Advisor, took seven students to St. Cloud for the District 5 Career Development Conference on February 2nd. Of the seven students, six of them qualified to advance to the State Career Development Conference in Minneapolis over March 6th-8th where they competed to advance to the International Career Development Conference hosted in Atlanta in April. While we didn't have any competitors advance this year, Rollie Seppala (VHS Senior) did place in the Top 25 students on his 100 question Business Administration Core Exam.



Pictured L-R: Skylar Lovdahl, Marissa Anderson, Karli Yourczek, Cooper Williams, Josh Johnson, Rollie Seppala, Kyle Hammer (Advisor).



LET'S GO FISHING

Well, with less than two months before the fishing opener, it is time to start thinking about the upcoming fishing season. This will be the inaugural season of the Rock Ridge Fishing Team. With a variety of tournaments to choose from, it gives everyone a chance to get out fishing. If you're going into 9th grade next year, you can fish at the high school level fishing BASS or SATT (Student Angler Tournament Trail). If you are not in high school yet, but still want to try competitive fishing, you can fish in the Lund Virtual League. If you have any questions or like to know more you can contact Rob Hinrichs at robert.hinrichs@rrps.org.



Pictured is Jake Bradach who caught a nice Largemouth Bass during the 2021 State Tournament on Lake Minnetonka.

BE A PART OF THE FUN

C.O.R.E. (Creating Our Range Everyday) is a new student group at Rock Ridge. C.O.R.E. will be hosting events big and small, inviting in amazing speakers, and putting together some pretty cool activities to grow the positive that already exists at Rock Ridge with the goal of preventing substance use. On February 25, C.O.R.E. held its first event, a movie night which was open to all students grades 7-12. Approximately 100 students came to share pizza, treats, and a fun Friday evening. On April 4, C.O.R.E. is bringing all interested 11th and 12th graders to Adventure Zone for an after-school game night! 9th and 10th graders will have their own adventure later this year. Also coming up from C.O.R.E. is a free community meal and speaker Terrence Tally on Tuesday, April 5 in the Goodman Auditorium. All are welcome! Food will be served at 5:30 PM, the speaker and his band will start at 6:15 PM. Funding for events and activities put on by this awesome, inclusive, and engaged group is through the PCN grant through MN DHS BHD.



VHS

GRADES 7-12

A FAMILY AFFAIR

This is an extra special and unique year at Virginia High School for one wrestling family: It's the "Benz Boys". Dennis Benz and his son, Garrett Benz, coach Garrett's three sons (who are Dennis Benz's grandsons, of course): Gavin, Grant, and Gage. Since Gavin will soon graduate and attend the University of Minnesota's Carlson School of Business, and youngest Gage was able to join the team this year as a 7th grader, it is the only year they will all be together. There was a little change to the dream they had always pictured: 9th grader Grant was sidelined due to a medical issue this year and was unable to wrestle. He served in more of a team manager position this year however, and was very involved in all aspects of the team.

The influence that Dad and Grandpa have in Virginia is about much more than family, however. While they have been involved in wrestling for years and years - both wrestled in high school, Grandpa Dennis Benz was a police officer and Chief of Police in Virginia for nearly 30 years, and Garrett owns two successful businesses in the area - both have been very outspoken about their commitment to the community, and the influence they want to have on kids and the community by choosing to remain involved at the high school.

In fact, the sons/grandsons are very clear about why the older Benz men continue to do what they do. "They care about other kids. The other guys on the team are our friends, and our dad and grandpa want other people to succeed," the boys said. "They help with grades, and want everyone to be better. They want us all to be successful by working hard every day. They work hard in their lives and they like to help kids."

Gavin's senior class is the first class that his dad and grandfather have brought all the way up through the program. This group is special - they have worked hard to encourage others to join the team, and together, have built the program from that first year six years ago. "They talk about how wrestling is one of the hardest sports. It is about working hard every day and shows discipline. It demonstrates how hard you can work to be motivated and disciplined throughout life to be successful. Practice

matters. They expect a lot of us when we're wrestling - if you work hard, you can be good. Just like in life. But it is also about what happens in your head. Wrestling is really more mental than physical. If you think you're better, then you will do better." The boys said one of the things they like to think about is to "visualize your opponent being done with practice and walking out the door while you are still working out to get better. Hard work pays off. They also expect us to be good kids, to help out in the community and get good grades." That is true of all the wrestlers.

The Benz coaches remain involved with their wrestlers throughout the year. Garrett often hires students in the summer, and orchestrates many volunteer opportunities for his boys to give back to the community. Clearly, they model what they expect from all students, but especially their family. What a legacy. Below: Rock Ridge VHS Wrestling Team, 2021-22, and the Benz Boys: Gage, Gavin, Garrett, Dennis, and Grant.

