

FEBRUARY 2023 | ISSUE 14

# RR ROCK RIDGE REPORTER

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF ROCK RIDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS



EDUCATION TO INSPIRE THE NEXT GENERATION

## LAURENTIAN GRADES PREK-6 HAVING A BLAST ALL WINTER LONG

On January 19, the 6th grade students spent the day hitting the slopes at Giants Ridge in Biwabik. With a variety of ski experience, the kids all took to the bunny hill first to show what they could do. If they were able to pass the skills test, they were off to the big hills. It was a great day enjoyed by all! Thank you, Giants Ridge!



And when it's too chilly to play outdoors, the indoor playground at Laurentian Elementary keeps kids active and having fun! Ms. Ellen's PreK class took full advantage!





# PARKVIEW

## GRADES PREK-2

### KINDNESS MADE SIMPLE

BY KINDERGARTEN TEACHER, HANNAH DAVIDSON-TEFF

Each morning in Room 165, the kindergarteners gather in a circle. It is always heartwarming to watch the students take a few minutes to hear their friends, help everyone feel welcome, and have a silly moment before getting into the hard work of the day.

As our morning work time ends, the song "Try Everything" from *Zootopia* begins and students dance their way to the carpet. We start with our classroom pledge, reminding us "Everyday, I will try my best!" After one more dance break, we sit down in our circle. We first greet each of our friends, "Good morning. Good morning. Good morning."

After the chorus of greetings, we normally each take turns answering a question or two, but in this particular week, the kids had been fighting and frustrated with each other, so we tried something different. I grabbed the sticks that I have each of the kid's name on and started passing them out. Each student took a stick from me and attempted to decipher whose name was written on it. When everyone had one, I sat down with them and explained the rules: 1. They had to think of a compliment for the person named on the stick they had, and 2. It couldn't be about how they looked.

The kids were very excited to start. We got through the circle with very sweet comments and I was feeling good about the morale in the room. We continued on with our day when another one of our friends came into the room. A hand shot up, "Mrs. DT! We didn't give him a compliment." I was touched that this student didn't want our late arrival to miss out. "Oh, you are right! Do you have a compliment for him?" "I really like him," he said. I thanked the student for remembering to include everyone and am about to get back to business as hands shot up across the carpet. As I looked around, I commented about how everyone else only had one compliment today, but a student interrupted, "Well, I have a good one, too!" So, I started calling on the kids - "I love how he loves markers so much!" "I like watching how careful he is when he reads the ABC's." "I love how curious he is!" The student, who was completely unaware of my attempt to reset the classroom's negative attitude, was just so excited as the kids continued to fill him up with all the love and compliments.

# KINDNESS

During this time of the school year, it can feel like we are more referee than teacher sometimes, but I am so thankful for all the ways this job reminds me, and hopefully my students, of the goodness and joy they are capable of holding and creating.



## SNOWMEN AND SMILES

Ms. Axelson's 3-year old families spent time together during class and created a snowman after reading the book, *Snowballs*, and finished with an Olaf-designed treat!





# NORTH STAR

## GRADES 3-6

### ...AND THEY'RE OFF!

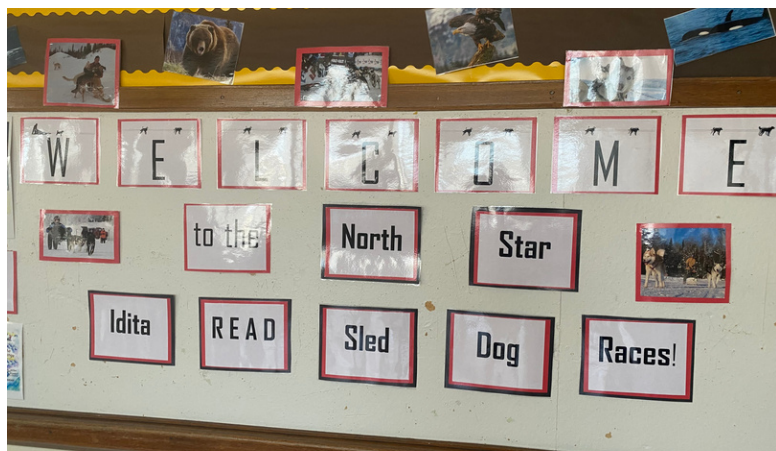
Students at North Star will be participating in an IDITAREAD Challenge during the month of February which is also known as "I Love to Read Month". The IDITAREAD Challenge is based off of the Iditarod Sled Dog Race run annually in Alaska from Anchorage to Nome.



The school held their kick-off on January 31st where they were told about the challenge and what prizes could be earned. The students had a special visit from 5th grade teacher, Mr. Little and his huskies, LeRoy and Gary. North Star students will have a chance to win a ride on Mr. Little's sled with LeRoy and Gary leading the way!



Also, the students were presented with the challenge of reading 40 million words this month as a school. If they achieve this goal, Principal Mr. Manni will have to sleep on top of the school for one night! Mr. Manni says, "Don't see it, bring it!!"





# MIXIN' IT UP

As Part Three of Project Based Learning at North Star Elementary, the sixth grade students were required to identify their roles and responsibilities for the Iron Chef and Top Baker project. Students were instructed to search for a recipe and create a grocery list with a set budget. Part of their research was to identify the location of all needed items and to understand how to use the stove, oven, or other kitchen equipment that was necessary to complete the meal or dessert. They had to demonstrate knowledge in kitchen and cooking hygiene and then were busy with the hands-on experience of cooking and serving the meal or dessert to the staff member judges for voting. The categories for judging were presentation and overall quality of the dish.

The main course dishes included Big Mac Sliders prepared by the "Explosive Chickens" group, Fish and Chips Sandwich by the "Salt Bae" group, Spaghetti and Meatballs by the "Crusty Croissants" group, breakfast (which included pancakes with all the fixings, eggs, and sausage) and Steak Bites by the "Flaming Grill Misers".

The desserts served were Vanilla Soy Cookies by the "Batter Up" group, Volcanic Cakes by the "Masterchefs", Velvet Blast Supreme by the "Red Velvet" group, Oh! Oh! Oreo Delight by the "Goofy Goobers" group, and Cool Blue Drink by the "Ice Cold" group.

The winners will be announced SOON on the Rock Ridge Facebook page.



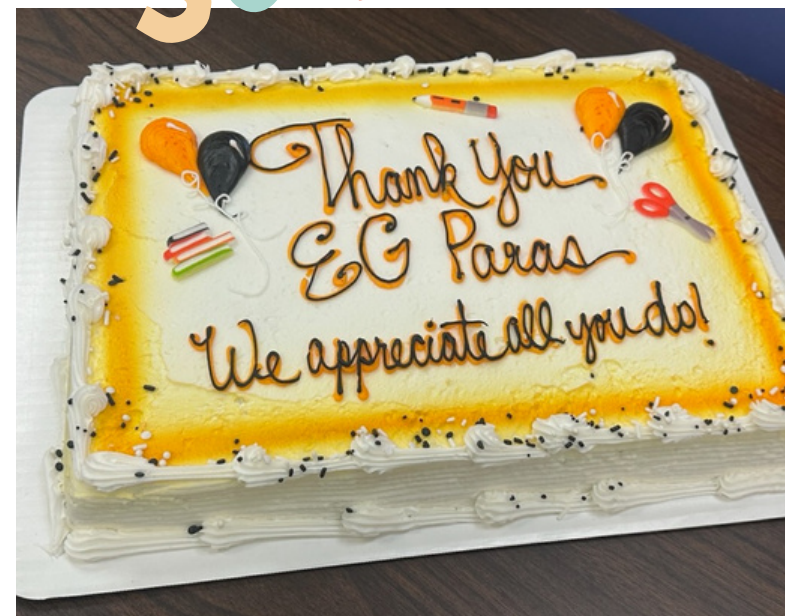


# EGHS GRADES 7-12 STAFF STARS

The week of January 23-29 was Paraprofessional Week. We were able to enjoy some time with our paras and have some cake! Our paras here at EGHS are top notch and they all go above and beyond for their students, teachers, and our school! We are absolutely blessed to have them all in our building!



THANK YOU  
SO MUCH



## ONE ACT PLAY ADVANCES

Two local one-act plays advanced through competition at the Subsection 7A-1 contest: the Mesabi East one-act play "Have You Heard?" by Krista Boehnert and the Rock Ridge one-act play "The Women of Lockerbie" by Deborah Brevoort. The Section 7A contest will be held in Two Harbors on Friday, February 3.

Seven shows competed in the contest: Cherry, Chisholm, International Falls, Littlefork-Big Falls, Mesabi East, North Woods, and Rock Ridge. This contest is probably the last one to be held in EGHS's Boardman auditorium with the opening of the new Performing Arts Center at Rock Ridge High School later this year.

The Giants and Wolverines will compete against the top two shows from each of the two other subsections: 7A-2 (Northeast Range and Esko) and 7A-3 (East Central and Barnum) at 9:00 AM at Two Harbors HS on Friday, Feb 3. The top show will earn a spot at the MSHSL's State One Act Play Festival in St. Paul at the O'shaughnessy Auditorium at St. Catherine University in St. Paul.



(Front row L>R) Ellie Norvitch, (2nd row) Sophia Peterson, Daisy Borden. (3rd row) Jake Bradach, Rebecca Muster, Ryan Sampson. (Back row) Director Chris Chad, Dylan Celley, Brennan Muhich, Delia Ray. (Not pictured Co-Director Jeremy Liimatta and cast member Anna Fierst)



# VHS

## GRADES 7-12

### RRHS COMING SOON

As we continue to celebrate all of the “LASTS” at Virginia High School, we can not help but to be excited about what the future brings for our Rock Ridge High School students. Over the past several months, the staff has been busy getting trained on the new building equipment and are planning how next year looks. On February 8, all of the secondary level teachers will meet for the first time at Rock Ridge High School. We will tour the space and begin the transition that will take place over the next 8 months. We hope you are able to celebrate with us over the next few months as we finish our “Lasts” of Virginia High School and begin the many “Firsts” of Rock Ridge.

### 2023-24 REGISTRATION

The process for registering for the 2023-24 Rock Ridge HS classes takes place in February. The course description guide will be published by mid-February. We will ask that students sit with their parents/guardians to discuss the course options they have available to them. Near the end of the month, students will be registering online for their next year's classes. All of this year's Rock Ridge students in grades 6-11 will receive more information in the next few weeks.

### SNOW WEEK

The final Virginia Snow Week celebration takes place the week of February 6th - 10th. Dress up days and Indigenous Games are planned during the week with the Coronation happening on Thursday and the Pep Rally on Friday. This will be one of the last Virginia-only events ever planned.

### INDIGENOUS WINTER GAMES

Virginia and Eveleth Secondary schools are hosting Indigenous Winter Games again this year (Eveleth Campus-during Snow Week) This event will include multiple stations of different types of indoor and outdoor Indigenous games being played throughout the day.

This event has been a HUGE hit in the past and we are looking forward to getting staff and students out of the classroom for some WINTER fun!

## TOGETHER WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE

**MSHSL STUDENT CONFERENCE JANUARY 13TH**  
**BY JUNIOR MARIAN LOUKS**

When I was at the student conference, I felt that my experience there was moving. The event brought people together from a wide variety of towns and cities. We worked in groups on how to collaborate better with others and making new connections. The experience was eye-opening seeing other people's viewpoints in comparison to mine. Another big takeaway was the idea of reaching far and beyond your goals. Not to mention that you don't always need to be the loudest one in the room to be heard. Sometimes actions are far more powerful than words can ever say. Finally, just because you are in a really terrible place doesn't mean you will be there forever. We can use what we learned at the conference to create a more diverse community among students and staff to create a space for growth within our school.

