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ROCK RIDGE REPORTER

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF ROCK RIDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS



EDUCATION TO INSPIRE THE NEXT GENERATION

LAURENTIAN GRADES PREK-6

I LOVE TO READ WRAP-UP

WRITTEN BY BRIDGET LACOURSIERE, LAURENTIAN MEDIA AIDE AND I LOVE TO READ COORDINATOR

I Love To Read Month has, once again, come and gone, but oh, how amazing it was!

February 1st every year is World Read Aloud Day and several Laurentian Elementary teachers and their students started the month by utilizing ZOOM to read in English to English Language Learners at a preschool and an elementary school south of the border in Mexico!

After being 'guest readers', we received guest readers into our classrooms! There is nothing more fun than listening to guest readers! We never knew what they were going to read to us or teach us, demonstrate for us, or even what might happen during their visit...like an emergency call out to help a community member in danger! Heroes in action inspiring the next generation, and, boy, can they run fast!

Twenty-nine community members, from those in the judicial system to health professionals, emergency service members to other friendly faces we see in area businesses and establishments each day, all read to us about their role in our neighborhood and how they make our lives better each day.



Our 2nd through 6th graders earned more than 2,100+ AR points and our younger Laurentian readers read more than 3,740+ books! So prizes galore were awarded to our highest readers. They were awarded t-shirts, certificates to play mini-golf and go bowling, pizza parties and ice cream sundae parties, and to every participant in I Love To Read - a personal mini pizza kit to play the role of chef and make their own pizza at home!



I LOVE TO READ WRAP-UP, CONT.

The greatest prizes of all were the amazing adventures we had - the high seas pirates we fought off, the powerful kings we bamboozled, the hungry dinosaurs whose clutches we escaped, the warplanes we flew as fighter pilots on a mission, or my personal favorite - the Betty Crocker Cookbook with the recipe for cream pie of which Mrs. Miller and Mr. John Stanaway got several thrown in their faces during our Grand Finale for I Love To Read Month!

We leave February with this thought by Sharon Creech - "I love the way that each book - any book - is its own journey. You open it and off you go."



UP, UP, & AWAY TO PRE-K

Pilot Mike Beard visited Miss Ebben's Pre-K class and helped the kids learn more about airplanes. He brought video of his last flight from London, gave the kids an airplane card, and read stories about being a pilot.



PARKVIEW GRADES PREK-2

GOOD CHOICES AND GOOD SHOTS

Twenty-nine students in Mr. Casareto's and Mr. Skoglund's Physical Education classes have made the *Impossible Shot*.

Students earn a chance at the *Impossible Shot* by demonstrating teamwork, sportsmanship, and respect during their Physical Education class.

If chosen, the student gets two attempts to make a tennis ball into a four-inch pipe. One attempt is a bounce and the other is an underhand toss. If a student makes one attempt throughout the year, they get their picture on the *Impossible Shot Wall of Fame*. If a student is lucky enough to make a second shot, that student gets to sign the *Impossible Shot* pipe!



KINDERGARTEN ROUND UP



Join Us for

ROCK RIDGE'S KINDERGARTEN ROUND UP

Thursday, April 13th

**LAURENTIAN
ELEMENTARY**
4:30-6:00

**PARKVIEW
ELEMENTARY**
5:30-7:00

1409 PROGRESS PARKWAY
EVELETH, MN 55792

506 9TH AVENUE NORTH
VIRGINIA, MN 55792



NORTH STAR

GRADES 3-6

SHOW-STOPPING STUDENTS

On Wednesday, March 15, Little Opera of the North brought *The Pirates of Penzance* to the students of North Star Elementary. Little Opera of the North brings live professional opera to young audiences in elementary schools throughout the North. They are sponsored by Lyric Opera of the North's (LOON) professional cast.

Under the direction of Ms. Collins, fifth-grade students from Ms. Kemen's and Ms. Collins' classes learned songs to sing alongside the professional opera singers in a production of *The Pirates of Penzance*. *The Pirates of Penzance* is adapted from Gilbert & Sullivan's brilliant score by Opera for the Young. Two productions of the opera were performed for North Star students. This is the third year students have been able to perform with Little Opera of the North. Previous productions brought to Roosevelt Elementary were *Cinderella* and *Elixir of Love*.

These students were excited to continue the tradition of performing in an opera with "real opera singers". Some of the student responses to being in the opera included, "It was sooo cool! It told a good story. I would do it again!"; "I personally thought the opera was going to be hard, but it was so fun! The people were very nice and made it very easy. If I had to rate my experience, I would rate it a 10/10."; "It was fun and exciting!!"; "It was funny when we chased the orphans."; "My favorite part was when we tried capturing the general's kids.," and "The opera was very fun. I loved it. Most of all, I liked fainting."

Stay tuned to see what opera the fifth graders will bring next year!



4TH GR. PROJECT BASED LEARNING

The 4th grade students at North Star created some pretty cool projects! These 4th graders have been working hard on inspiring their creativity.

They learned about each region of the United States and some created their own version of their favorite piece of a state. They made dioramas designed to replicate the real life landmarks and monuments!

Some 4th graders wrote and illustrated their own book! They took a fairytale of their choice and fractured it to make it their own version! Little Red Gliding Bird and Goldilocks and the Chicago Bears are just a few of the awesome stories created!

PROJECT BASED LEARNING, CONT.

Another Project Based Learning opportunity some of our students got to do was Genius Hour! Students chose a topic of their choice and created their project either on their iPad, created a design of it, or used poster board to give out their information. The students have created some amazing projects on things that interest them!

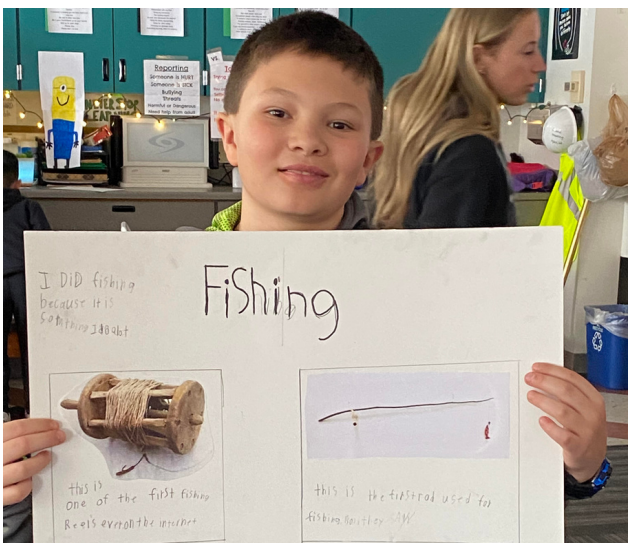


EGHS GRADES 7-12 MAKING SOME NOISE IN MUSIC

Mr. Szumal's General Music Class (7th and 8th grades) put on a short performance for some high students and staff - bucket drumming! Bucket drumming, also called street drumming, is a style of music which involves drumming on plastic buckets and other objects to create melodies. The most common object used by bucket drummers are five-gallon plastic buckets, but other objects can be used, including glass bottles, pots, and pans. The students sounded great!



Bucket Drumming



VHS

GRADES 7-12

HOME MAINTENANCE

Students in Mr. Foster's Home Maintenance class built three mobile wall units to be used to hang and tape drywall. These three trainers will be assembled/disassembled and then re-used for future classes. These trainers will give students the opportunity to measure and cut drywall, cut drywall to fit around electrical boxes, make drywall repairs, tape and mud drywall on flat surfaces, and finish off inside and outside corners. Next year, the students will also be painting these trainers.



TEST SEASON

All district schools are entering the testing season and VHS is no exception. ACT testing for Juniors who selected to take the test completed it on April 4. The week of April 10 is the start of MCA testing with reading for all 7th, 8th, and 10th grade students. The week of April 24 will be the math testing for all students in 7th, 8th, and 11th grades. The final MCA tests will take place the week of May 1 for 8th and 10th grades. Please take note of these dates and encourage your student to get a good night sleep, eat a good breakfast, and to do their best!

2023-24 REGISTRATION

We have completed the student registration process for Rock Ridge High School. All students in the Virginia and Eveleth-Gilbert campuses, along with all current 6th grade students, were able to enter their course requests online through Powerschool. From these registrations, we will be able to create sections and begin to build the master schedule. Unfortunately, not all student requests will be honored as it can never work out perfectly for all students and for some classes that have limited interest, it is just not feasible to run the course. Every attempt will be made to provide students with the courses they selected. Schedule changes after the schedule is created are minimal as staffing is driven by student requests.

LAST OF THE LASTS

There has been lots of talk about the "lasts" of Virginia High School. We are now in the last 40 days, the last quarter, and will soon have the last graduation. The school year has gone by very fast and it will be summer before we know it. Please help our students celebrate and mark your calendars to join in on celebrating Virginia High School. A closing of the building program has been scheduled for May 25 at 5:30 PM. The final event in the building, 2023 VHS Graduation, is scheduled for June 2 at 5:30PM.



ROCK RIDGE ORCHESTRA & VHS BAND HEAD TO FLORIDA

Seventy-one Virginia High School band and Rock Ridge High School orchestra members traveled together to Orlando, FL over spring break. The band performed at Universal Studios and the orchestra performed at Disney Springs. The groups also took part in Disney Imagination Campus Workshops and toured Kennedy Space Center, Cocoa Beach, Epcot, Hollywood Studios, Blizzard Beach, and Universal Studios. The band is conducted by Mr. Daniel Melby and the orchestra is conducted by Mrs. Sheila Wilcox.

Many thanks to our chaperones Dawn Trexell, Sarah Guritz, Aaron Welch, Brandon Nurmi, Wendy Fahey, and Megan Redmond. Thank you to Jason Vincent of JayBee Travel for his tireless work planning the trip and escorting the trip. Thank you to parents and the community for funding the trip with donations and fundraisers. We were proud to so positively represent our community while in Florida.

Check out this fun and extremely well-done video of the trip created by VHS Junior Mason Kroll. <https://youtu.be/PeExcs28hdk>

