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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 ONE-DOG CANOE & LAURENTIAN STUDENTS, TOO!

Laurentian students took the canoe ride of their lives as guest author Mary Casanova shared her experiences in creating lovable story characters, how she discovered what inspired her most, her techniques to overcome 'writer's block' and her encouraging tales of endless revisions of her literary works! Practice really does make the master!

Pizza was on the menu for "Lunch With Mary Casanova". Several of the students had the opportunity to not only share a meal with Mary, but also get to know her, be encouraged by her, and have their inquisitive mind's curiosities calmed by asking her questions about her career, its challenges, and other adventures!

The 'Galleria Casanova'-Art Gallery was a delightful and much appreciated gesture in making Mary and her husband, Charlie, feel welcome to our school. Students from both the preschool and elementary school levels brushed up on their artistic talents by coloring and drawing their impressive interpretations of her many book cover designs. Wow! Laurentian Elementary School houses talent!

Thank you, Mary and Charlie, for visiting - Laurentian students are looking forward to seeing you again!



MARY CASANOVA, CONT.



FUN TIMES WITH A SIDE OF FRIES

Thank you to all the families that came out to support Laurentian Elementary Night at McDonald's on Tuesday, April 18. The school earned 10% of the proceeds between 4:00 and 7:00 PM. After the final burger was flipped, the school was awarded a check for \$600.00 check plus \$37.75 in tips!

To show our appreciation to McDonald's, Ms. Lautigar created a thank you card.



LESSONS IN STEAM

WRITTEN BY KARLENE LESEMAN, STEAM TEACHER

At the Laurentian Elementary School, STEAM students in 1st, 3rd, and 4th grades have been working on the Engineering Design Process: Ask, Explore, Model, Evaluate, Explain. They have also been learning how to work in teams and make decisions on how to successfully solve a problem. They have learned that failure is a good thing and should be used to make their projects better.

1st Grade: In *Animal Adaptations*, each student became a world traveller. They all had a destination of a particular environment. We learned about each environment and the organisms that survive in each environment with their adaptations. The students became very creative with each of their ideas with each of the four categories of adaptations - camouflage, food, locomotion, and protection. At the end of this unit, students were to create shoes for their world traveller that would help them while they travelled to their environment with the four categories of adaptations in mind.



4th Grade: *Clever as a Crow* was a research project on how smart crows really are and the students needed to create a tool representing a beak and/or claw that would reach a hard to reach piece of food. Students first did research on crows. Then, they created robotic hands to learn how to make objects move and pick things up. After this, they created their tool. Overall, they had a lot of fun just testing their projects and seeing how to make them better. When they were done, they created a slide show presentation and presented their findings to the class.



3rd Grade: *AMazing Magnets* was a research project on magnets, magnetic poles, and the attract and retract actions magnets have, along with many other amazing fun facts. Research was done on magnets, then, they started on a bolt levitation project. The teams needed to work together to put a bolt on a string and have it levitate upwards to a magnet. The first successful group was so excited which created lots of excitement in all of the other groups wanting to be successful, too. We also tried to do a pencil levitation project. There was one student and group who were successful. Next, students began working on Game Boards. Each group needed to create a game with playing pieces and instructions. They all came out so great! This 3rd grade group also did a slide show presentation of their findings.

Overall, processing and creating solutions to problems with the three grade levels has been a pretty terrific experience. I am amazed at how talented and detailed these students have become and I am looking forward to witnessing more creativity from our students at Laurentian Elementary.

PARKVIEW

GRADES PREK-2

PROGRAMMED IN AT PARKVIEW

Second graders in Mrs. Engel's STEAM class have been learning the basics of programming! After learning the basic flow control structures of sequence, conditional statements, and loops, students learned about Mars rovers and got to use Legos to build a model of a science rover robot that uses an optical sensor to search for objects. The models will even send an alert to the student's iPad when an object is detected!



SPROUTING LITTLE LESSONS

Project Based Learning is more than just doing a regular project. You probably remember doing a project in school where you created something after the unit was taught. PBL is different! Project Based Learning is engaging and rigorous work. The learning is the project! Four first grade teachers came together with an idea that grew into something amazing!



First graders from Ms. Barnes, Mrs. Cochems, Mrs. Hujanen, and Ms. Voss' classes engaged in an exploration about plants. Students learned how to grow and care for their very own plant while making scientific observations pertaining to the plant life cycle. Students rotated classrooms twice weekly to participate in different student-led, plant-based activities. Students used measurement to gauge plant growth, constructed diagrams of plant parts, sequenced plant cycles and needs, and interacted with nonfiction plant texts.



PLANTS, CONT.

As the spring progresses, first graders will continue to explore the different kinds of plants that we can observe in nature. When ready, students will take home their very own plants to nurture with their families!



NORTH STAR GRADES 3-6 NORTH STAR NINJAS

The North Star PTSA provided a fun-filled day for our students on April 25 by bringing "Ninja Anywhere" to our school.

"Ninja Anywhere" is a mobile obstacle course whose mission is to "positively impact the health and happiness of both students and adults alike and to educate and inspire them to build their health and confidence, find their inner strength, and improve their own lives as well as their communities."

Thank you, PTSA, for providing this fun opportunity for our students!



MARY CASANOVA STOPS AT NSE

Along with spending time at Laurentian Elementary, Minnesota Author, Mary Casanova also presented to the North Star Elementary students. She talked about the books she has written and told the kids it usually takes her four years to complete one book! Many of her books are about the outdoors and related to real life stories.

Thank you to the Virginia Public Library for bringing her to North Star Elementary.



NORTH STAR - END OF YEAR

- 5/9/2023 5th Gr. School Forest Trip. 11:00-1:00
- 5/8/2023 Orchestra Rehearsals and Concert Goodman Auditorium
- 5/9/2023 5th Gr. School Forest Trip. 11:00-1:00
- 5/9/2023 Parkview 2nd Gr. visit to NSE
- 5/10/2023 4th Gr. Music Programs - Activity Room: 9:00 Thyen, 10:00 Aho, 11:00 Teasck Auditorium: 1:00 Little & Morley
- 5/12/2023 6th Gr. tour Rock Ridge High School
- 5/16/2023 Comm Ed Summer Craft Cafeteria
- 5/17/2023 5th Gr. Music Programs EGHS Auditorium: 10:00 Little & Spry, 1:00 Collins & Kemen
- 5/18/2023 Track & Field Day - Eveleth Fields
- 5/19/2023 Track & Field Day (Rain Day) - Eveleth Fields
- 5/26/2023 3rd Gr. Field Trip - Duluth Zoo
- 5/26/2023 5th Gr. Field Trip - Adventure Zone
- 5/26/23 North Star Helpers/Patrols - Valleyfair
- 5/25/23 4th Gr. Park Day - Olcott Park
- 5/30/2023 4th Gr. Field Trip - Forest History Center
- 5/30/2023 6th Gr. Field Trip - Cinema 6 and Mini Golf
- 6/1/2023 6th Gr. Graduation, Auditorium 12:30 PM
- 6/1/2023 Last Day of School for students

EGHS GRADES 7-12 WINNERS IN PATRIOTISM

The "Young American Patriotic Art Contest" is sponsored by the VFW Auxiliary each year. This year, the winners for the local contest were Haley Kotnik (First Place), Rachel Taylor (Second Place), and Ashley Peterson (Third Place). The first place winner's art will go on to be judged for a chance at another prize at the district level. Then possibly, on to state and finally to the national level for a chance to win a scholarship of \$10,000. Congratulations to all!



(L-R) Ms. Custer, Kim Mattson, Ashley Peterson, Haley Kotnik, and Rachel Taylor.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

The Eveleth-Gilbert National Honor Society inducted 14 new members recently. These students have shown outstanding scholarship, character, leadership, and citizenship. Throughout the year, NHS students work on improving their leadership skills through activities and service projects. NHS students must complete both individual volunteer hours and help with tutoring at all grade levels. Their final service project of the year is the Memorial Day Program, run by student leader Anna Heinonen. NHS has been presenting a Memorial Day program for many years and this will be the last one at EGHS. We invite you to come celebrate our veterans on Thursday, May 25 at 7:00 P.M. in the Eveleth-Gilbert High School Auditorium.



THE FIRST OF MANY

The Rock Ridge Drama Department presented their very first show, *The Odd Couple Female Version*, on the Minnesota Power Stage at Rock Ridge High School on April 20-22. The play was directed by Jeremy Liimatta and Chris Chad. Although the opener was almost derailed by a spring snowstorm, the excitement of the audience members was infectious as they entered the stunning, state of the art auditorium. And from the sounds of it, they enjoyed the show even more!

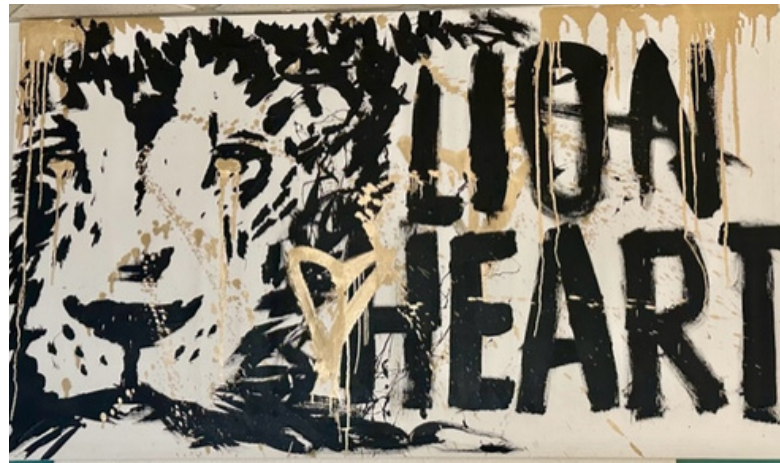
Junior Daisy Borden, who played Olive Madison, said “being able to perform on a brand new stage in a brand new school was amazing, it's not something that you get to experience very often. I think the *Odd Couple* was a good first show to have there, it was one of our more light-hearted, funnier shows, and being able to perform it with my friends made the experience even better. And the new auditorium itself was amazing. Not only was there new technology that you could use to watch the stage from a camera in our dressing room, or be able to communicate with the directors from the dressing room, but the acoustics were very nice as well. Overall the experience was incredible and I had a lot of fun with it.”

“I laughed so hard I cried,” said Principal Todd Griepentrog.

The Rock Ridge Drama Department looks forward to tapping into all of the available resources the new Performing Arts Center has to offer in their future productions. Go Wolverines!

THE LION HEART

Recently, the 9-12 students at EGHS got to hear “The Lion Heart Experience”. The program was all about students living and creating their own identities. The Lion Heart performances have a direct impact on teen anxiety and depression rates and the crew knows first-hand the overwhelming pressures of school and the world. Having spent the last 10 years in the classroom as a teacher in Detroit, Joe Vercellino currently speaks in schools and trains teachers full-time while traveling with a select group of his past students who he has the privilege of creating alongside now. They love to see students & teachers feel alive. The program included a meaningful message, art, and music. Fun was had by all!



VHS

GRADES 7-12

ETHICS & BUSINESS

On April 4, 34 Rock Ridge seniors from both Eveleth-Gilbert and Virginia High Schools got the opportunity to attend an Ethics Workshop at the Range Recreation Civic Center in Eveleth. All students were nominated by teachers of both campuses who have been recognized as leaders in the schools.

This event was sponsored by the Iron Range Rotary Club. The seniors were split up into seven different groups and each group had at least one member from the Iron Range Rotary Club.

These members, throughout the day, gave their opinions on how they deal or have dealt with ethical situations in their businesses.

Most students went into the event not knowing a single thing about ethics. We started the day with the former president of the Iron Range Rotary Club, Joe Uhan, giving a quick introduction about who he is, how ethics play a big role in businesses, and told us about what the Rotary is and how they help the community. He then introduced Dr. Jason Skirry, our keynote speaker.

Dr. Skirry is an ethics professor from the University of St. Thomas. He has done many seminars before and started this event off by asking "what is character?" We then took a moment to write down values for our resume and eulogy to see if our professional and personal values were in sync. From there, we watched TED talks and listened to podcasts that opened our eyes to more complex ethical decisions that business men and women make everyday.

We ended the day with the whole group discussing a case study using the 5 D's method we had just learned. Describe, Discern, Display, Decide, and Defend are what helped us analyze the case. It starts with Describe, which helps us identify the facts and biases of the case. From there, we use Discern and Display, which helps us identify the ethical issue and the options we can consider. After the ethical issue is identified, a person can decide what option is best and Defend or justify the decision.

Ethical decisions are not always decided based on what is legally right, but what is morally right. Many students that attended the workshop may have gone into it without realizing they have been making ethical decisions for years. I know they came out with stronger decision making skills that will help them not only in school, but in life after they graduate.

GOOD-BYE VHS

May is a very busy month for Virginia High School. From testing, to athletics, to preparing for a new building - every day seems to be an event. Two particular ceremonies that draw particular attention are the Closing Ceremony for Virginia High School and the Final VHS Graduation. On May 25 at 5:30 P.M., a program will occur in the Goodman Auditorium to pay our respects to Virginia High School as a building and as a school as we know it. On June 2 at 5:30 P.M., the final Virginia High School Graduation will take place. This will also be the last event to ever be held at VHS. Please join us for the "Last of the Lasts" at Virginia High School.

