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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 HONORING OUR VETERANS

The students of Laurentian Elementary, with the help of Rock Ridge High School students, observed Veterans Day on Friday, November 10.

Laurentian Ambassadors opened the program with a procession of flags and the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance. Rock Ridge High School choir members led the singing of the National Anthem. Music throughout the program was provided by members of Rock Ridge High School orchestra.

Guests at the event also heard the songs of each of the military branches and learned the meaning behind "America's White Table".

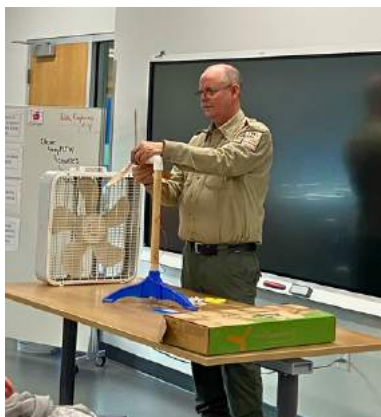


RANGER JIM COMES TO STEAM

Ranger Jim from Lake Vermilion Soudan Underground Mine State Park visited STEAM classes at Laurentian recently. He showed first graders some of the special adaptations that help beavers survive in their habitat. Jaxon was a good sport about modeling the large teeth, flat tail, and thick oily fur!



Fourth graders had a chance to interview Ranger Jim about his job as a Park Ranger/Administrator. He also shared some tips that helped the students as they designed and built a prototype windmill.



Third graders learned about bat life cycles, the decline in bat populations due to "white-nose syndrome," and got to view bat skeletons.

Want to learn more about "white-nose syndrome"? Check out this article - ["White-nose Syndrome and Minnesota's Bats"](#).



#KATISTRONG AT LES

The Laurentian Elementary Ambassadors held fundraisers on Wednesday, November 22 to raise money to help Rock Ridge student, Katie Johnson, and her family with medical expenses due to injuries Katie sustained during a car accident. Students were able to wear a hat in school for the day if they donated \$1. They also had a Schwan's ice cream truck parked out front for students to purchase an ice cream treat during lunch.

Following the two fundraisers, Laurentian donated \$1,047.37 into an account for the Johnson family at the First National Bank of Gilbert.



PARKVIEW

GRADES PREK-2

F.I.E.R.C.E. FINALE

Use this QR code to watch the “Parkview Kindergarten: Safe and Welcoming Recess” video.



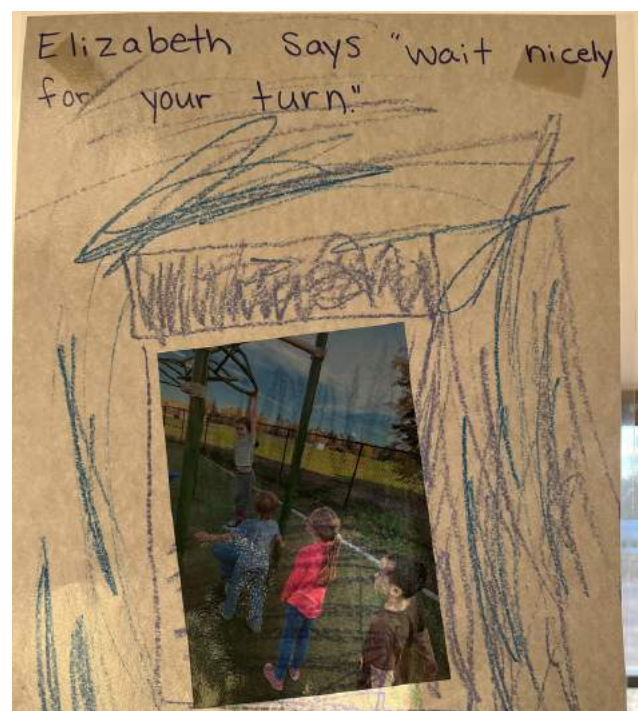
First Graders at Parkview completed their first Project-Based Learning unit in November. They have spent the past two months exploring the inquiry question, "What does it mean to be a F.I.E.R.C.E citizen in our school community?"

The acronym F.I.E.R.C.E stands for focused, inquisitive, effective collaborator, responsible, compassionate, and engaged. These important characteristics will help our Rock Ridge students' success at school and in the world.

First grade students spent time engaging in read-alouds, class discussions, and activities that helped them understand what each word means and how they can demonstrate that characteristic at school. Their public product was a video showing the different letters of F.I.E.R.C.E in all of the different places within the school.

The students worked in groups to brainstorm situations where they could show each characteristic. Then, they practiced their scene, and finally recorded their scene while also explaining what each word of F.I.E.R.C.E means.

Scan the QR code below with your phone to watch the culmination video of the Parkview first grade's PBL project:



Parkview kindergarten has been working on creating a peaceful playground. Each class observed, brainstormed, and created books, posters, and videos on how they can help our school community create a safe and welcoming playground environment. Kindergarten students are practicing their leadership skills by setting good examples on the playground and displaying their posters. The kindergartners had great pride in their work seeing their videos and posters displayed around the school.

NORTH STAR

GRADES 3-6

WORKING ON WELLNESS

The North Star third grade is excited to share their learning with our community. Throughout the last few weeks, third graders have been working on a project called, "Wellness in Our Community."

The project's driving question, which focused their work, was: How can we, as third grader volunteers, support wellness in our community during the holiday season?

The third grade partnered with Essentia Health-Virginia to learn about the different aspects of being well and the role our local hospital plays in keeping members of our community healthy. Staff from Essentia Health volunteered, and are continuing to volunteer their time to come into North Star to work with the third graders and discuss the role Essentia plays in keeping our community healthy.

The North Star third grade wants to thank Essentia staff for giving them a welcoming space to work on their project and for contributing to their learning!



3RD GRADE PRESENTS...

In Ms. Voss's third grade class, third graders read about and completed research on U.S. monuments and landmarks. The aim of this project was for students to answer the following question: How do landmarks help us understand our country's history? Students compiled their learning into eye-catching presentations complete with student-created posters that represented their landmarks.

With partners, students reviewed their information, proof-read their writing, and taught each other about a significant U.S. landmark. Parents then joined the third graders at their "Monument and Landmark Exhibition", where community members were welcomed in to see students' learning and allowed the third graders to share their knowledge.



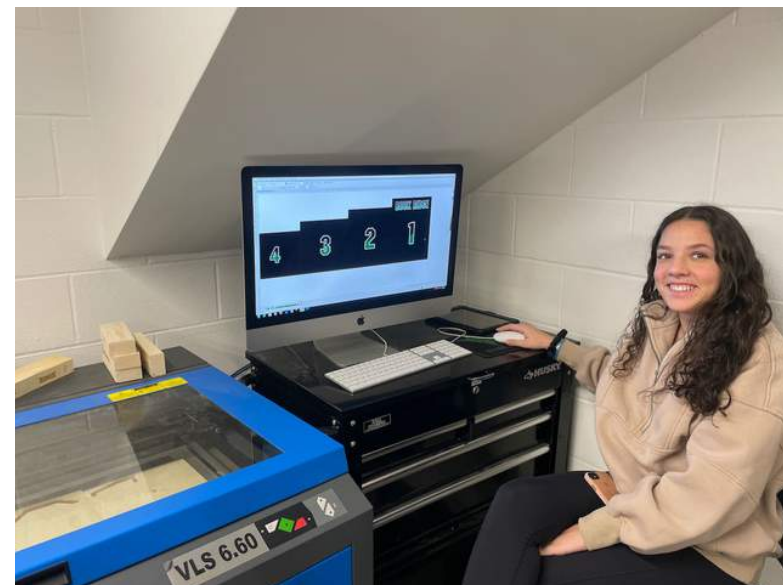
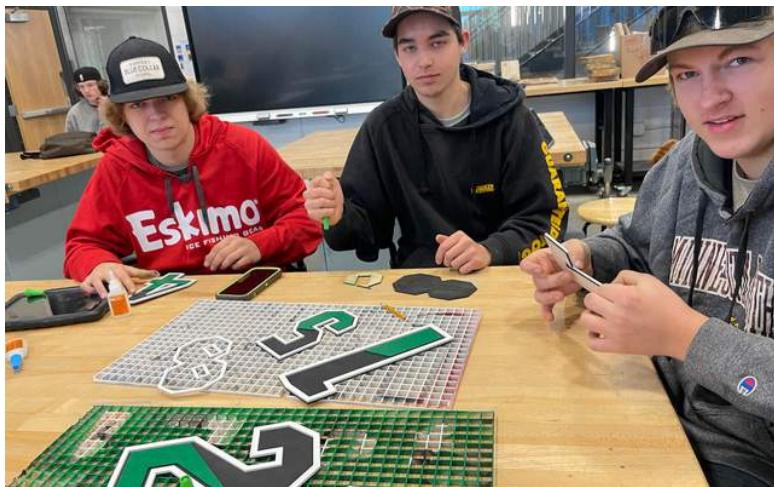
RRHS GRADES 7-12

STANDING PROUD PROJECT

Students in Mr. Foster's Home Maintenance class were tasked with making awards stands to be used for Rock Ridge athletic competitions.

Students designed the awards stands, estimated materials, assembled, and painted the stands. Students also used the laser engrave to cut out some real custom numbers that they painted and fastened to the boxes. A cart was also designed and constructed to assist with storing and transporting the awards stands.

This was a great project to start this class because it allowed students to become familiar with project estimation and tool operation. For the rest of this Home Maintenance class, students will be focusing on wall framing, sheetrock installation, residential wiring, and plumbing.



CHICKEN SOUP FOR THE SOUL

Students in 7th grade Family and Consumer Science class enjoyed making chicken noodle soup recently. They are working in the new, state of the art culinary kitchens. They learned new knife skills, quickly adjusted to cooking on commercial gas ranges, and successfully tackled doing dishes in the 3-compartment sinks and dishwasher.

They are getting a great start in cooking for themselves and their families, and at the same time, they are gaining experience to work in the field of food service.



ON THE AIR

The high school Entrepreneurship class has started a video podcast - "Ridgewood Radio: StaffChats". The goal of this podcast is for students and the community to get to know ALL staff in the building. The episodes can be viewed on the Rock Ridge YouTube channel! For Episode One, they interviewed social studies teacher, Susan Ellefson!



CORE LEADERS

CORE students were among 90 youth from across Minnesota that participated in the two day Youth Leadership Academy in Brainerd. Students learned leadership skills, identified their own leadership type, and brainstormed how to share their hopes and concerns to create environmental change. They also took part in a "train the trainer" and are now ready to teach younger students how to be an Upstander, rather than a bystander, to help prevent bullying and other risky situations.



RECOGNIZING DECA

"DECA" is a competitive student organization with more than 225,000 members nationwide. Students are tested on their expertise in marketing career areas and their poise, professionalism, and ability to handle difficult marketing and HR situations. Competitors develop marketing proposals, advertising campaigns, and business plans. This is a great opportunity for students to learn about real life business scenarios and help them prepare for life, even if they don't go down that route it still teaches those vital life skills.

To end November, which is National DECA Month, Rock Ridge DECA members Kendall Collie and Bella Davis wrote a letter to the local city councils requesting a "DECA Day" proclamation to promote community outreach. On Tuesday, November 28, Rock Ridge DECA students spoke at the Virginia and Gilbert city council meetings and received the proclamations.

November 28, 2023 was officially recognized as DECA Day in the cities of Virginia and Gilbert!



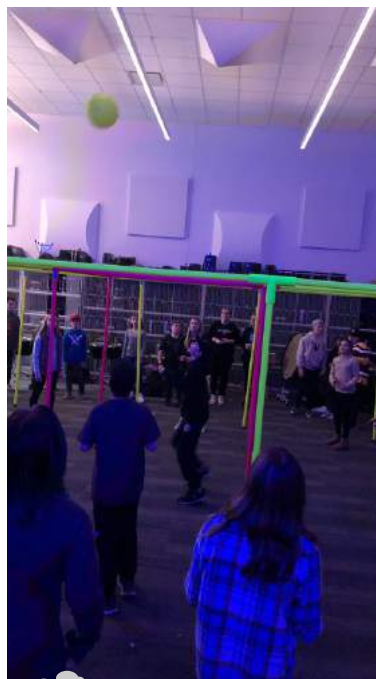
DECA members Bella Davis and Jaydon Peglow with the Virginia City Council.



Jaydon Peglow, Gilbert Mayor Tom Smith, members Bella Davis and Jackson Kendall.

ROCK RIDGE REWARDS DAY

Rock Ridge 7th graders had the opportunity to participate in the first ever Rock Ridge Rewards Day before Thanksgiving! Students were able to play 9-square, watch a movie, play Mario Kart, or play board games and create art! The students earned this day by upholding the Rock Ridge High School Pillars: We are Safe, We are Respectful, We are Responsible, & We are Wolverines!



WOLVERINE SIGHTINGS AROUND THE DISTRICT



BLOOD DRIVE DECEMBER 12

WRITTEN BY NHS MEMBERS

Are you looking for a way to help your community? Donate blood on December 12 at Rock Ridge High School! The Bloodmobile will be on campus from 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM. Donated blood stays in the area and goes to local patients. There is no substitute for blood- save a life and donate. Email Ms. Clennon to sign up: jill.clennon@rrps.org



TOY DRIVE AND TEDDY BEAR TOSS

WRITTEN BY NHS MEMBERS

The National Honor Society is collecting toys for donation to local charities. Toys will be collected at the girls basketball game on December 12, the boys basketball game on December 14, and the boys and girls hockey games on December 19. Everyone who donates a toy will have a chance to win a \$10 gift card.

NHS will also be hosting a "Teddy Bear Toss" during the girls hockey game on December 19. Bring a new or gently used teddy bear to toss out on the ice in between periods. Teddy bears will be given to the local EMT, police, and fire stations.



BECOME A VINE VOLUNTEER

Volunteers in Education (VinE) begins tutoring students in the Laurentian, North Star, and Parkview schools in January 2024! Teachers refer students for VinE's community-based tutoring services, and VinE pairs them with the appropriate tutor. VinE's tutoring program has supported students in the Iron Range area since 2009 with great success.

VinE needs volunteer tutors and hopes you will consider joining the VinE team! You can learn more about VinE's tutoring program by calling or emailing Teresa de Venecia (715-817-1565, teresad@vine-mn.org). You can also access information on the volunteer page of our website (https://www.vine-mn.org/get_involved). Finally, by scanning the QR code below, you can access the Volunteer Form to start the process of becoming a volunteer.



Become a Tutor!





Community Education Classes

December 2023

YOUTH CLASSES

Christmas Crafts

\$15

3:00 - 4:30 PM

Thursday, Dec. 7 Parkview Gr. K-2
Tuesday, Dec. 12 Laurentian Gr. K-2
Thursday, Dec. 14 Laurentian Gr. 3-6

Build Your Own Gingerbread House

\$27

5:30 - 7:30 PM

Thursday, Dec. 7 RRHS Commons

Winter Crafts

\$15

3:00 - 4:30 PM

Thursday, Jan. 11 Parkview Gr. K-2
Thursday, Jan. 18 Laurentian Gr. K-6

For more information and to sign up online go to:

rrps.cr3.rschooltoday.com