

MARCH 2024 | ISSUE 24

ROCK RIDGE REPORTER

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF ROCK RIDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS



EDUCATION TO INSPIRE THE NEXT GENERATION

LAURENTIAN GRADES PREK-6 HITTIN' THE SLOPES IN 6TH GRADE

On Thursday, February 22, the 6th grade students from Laurentian Elementary went on a ski trip to Giants Ridge.



LET ME READ YOU A STORY

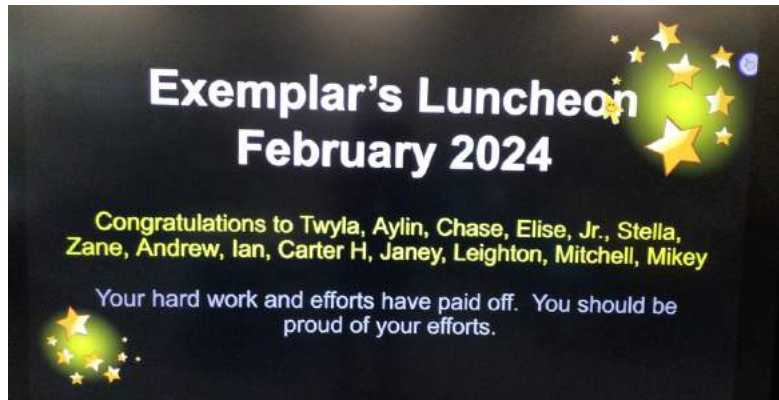
Ms. Young's 4th grade class spent time buddy reading with younger students this past month.



E-XCEPTIONAL STUDENTS

February 26 was Laurentian's first ever E-Ticket event in recognizing our exceptional 5th grade Social Studies students. The First Exemplar's Luncheon was a success, allowing students to celebrate their hard work in a fun and relaxed setting. They truly deserve this special recognition for going above and beyond in their assignments. Students had a fantastic time socializing, playing games, and even dancing!

Moving forward, this will be a monthly celebration for students who put forth that extra effort in their work. The goal is to bring pride and a sense of accomplishment to our Wolverines by creating a positive and inspiring learning environment with an incentive for excellence.



PAUSING DUE TO NICE WEATHER?!

Yes, students are still snowshoeing at Laurentian! Classes were able to get a few weeks of snowshoeing in during the month of January before the rains came, which then depleted the snow. It stopped snowshoers in their tracks... literally! They are now at a stand still until the weather turns and gives us a surprise snowstorm in April. (You know it's going to happen!) Until then, the snowshoes will get hung up for this year and long for next year, when Mother Nature blesses us with more snow!

Laurentian Elementary students would like to thank the Eveleth Community Foundation for their generous grant to purchase the snowshoes. Students will forever remember their first time on snowshoes because of you! Maybe this will become a forever sport for some!



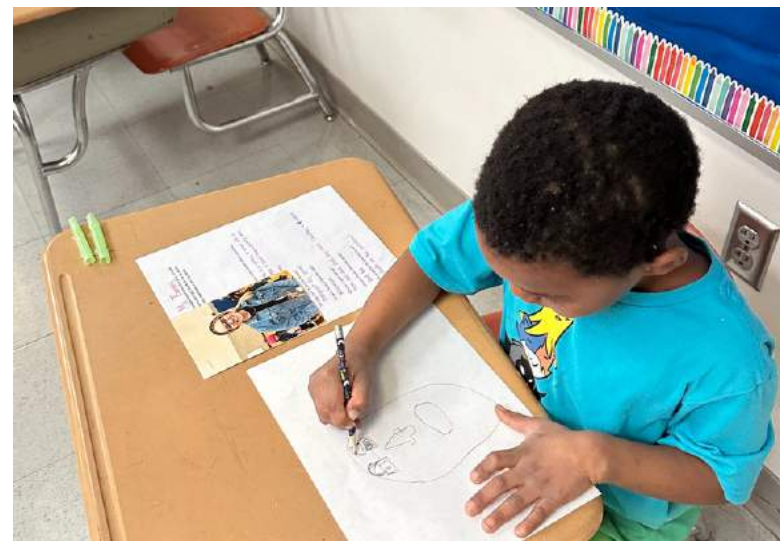
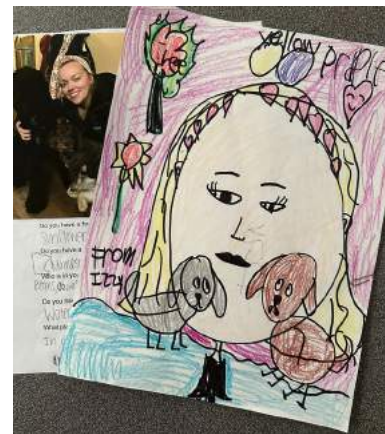
WAITING TO HATCH

Third graders at Laurentian Elementary began their second PBL (project-based learning) on Wednesday, February 28.

Eggs from the Bittmann Farm were incubated and are due to hatch on March 13th. On Day 7 of the incubation period, students used a bright light called a “candling light” to peer into the eggs. Inside some eggs, they were able to see the embryo move and witnessed the red, spider-like veins growing.

They will candle one more time before the hatch date. Students with a signed contract will be able to adopt the chicks! We will keep you updated on the success of the hatch!

The students decided to choose a staff member to honor by creating a portrait of them. Each child chose a bus driver, para, teacher, custodian, office worker, nurse, noon aid, or lunch worker. They then came up with a list of questions they wanted to ask the individual to learn more about them. Once they got the interview questions back, they were ready to create! They looked closely at a photograph of their subject and drew what they observed, and added details from the interview questions in the background. The students learned so much about our staff community and they worked so hard to create a portrait that would make their subject smile!



PARKVIEW GRADES PREK-2 DRAWINGS OF APPRECIATION

Parkview students from Ms. Kure’s art class have been working on Project Based Learning. Students in Mr. Davidson’s first grade explored portraiture. As a class, they looked at Grant Wood’s very well known painting, *American Gothic*. The students wondered and brainstormed why Grant Wood chose to create that portrait. The kids found out the woman in the portrait was Grant Wood’s sister and the man was his dentist! They concluded that he must have wanted to show the people in his portrait his appreciation for them!



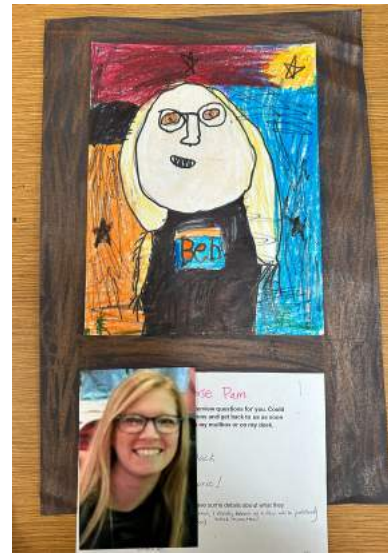
A BUSY MONTH IN THE BOOKS

Parkview Elementary has been busy celebrating "I Love To Read" Month! The theme this year was "Camp Read S'more".

Parkview's "I Love To Read" Month was so generously funded by The North Star Credit Union this year, and students were able to enjoy having the Yeti come visit!

Students were also very fortunate to have community members from our Virginia Police Department, Virginia Fire Department, and the St. Louis County Sheriff's Office come read to them!

Some of our very own high school students also came over to read. Everyone has been very busy reading and will celebrate all of the hard work at the end of the month.



BE MY GUEST

Mrs. Sporich's 2nd grade class enjoyed a fun-filled February with many special guests coming to Parkview to get them excited about "I Love To Read" Month.

During Week 1, they enjoyed listening to a fantastic story about a lemonade stand in the winter read aloud by a Yeti! Our big group of 2nd graders were wonderful listeners and shared some great questions and stories with the Yeti.

During Week 2, we had some high school students partner up to read aloud a book about the night before Valentine's Day. These two high schoolers had a great time touring Parkview, sharing their favorite things about the new high school, and answering some interesting questions from the 2nd graders.

A very special, extra guest, Winnie, came in once each week NOT to read to the class, but to listen to students read to her! Winnie is a 1-1/2 year old yellow lab/collie mix. She is hoping to someday become a service dog and seems to be on the right path. Winnie's owner, Julie, mentioned that Winnie would get just excited as the students did on the morning of her visits. If you ask anyone in this 2nd grade class, they will tell you Winnie is a very kind, gentle friend, and a very patient listener. Everyone had extra big smiles of anticipation on their faces when Winnie was coming. The class decided to call her special day "Winnie Wednesday"! Can you imagine the students' feelings of excitement and joy on those days? They are all hoping Winnie will come back to visit again sometime soon.



During Week 3, a parent volunteer came in to read a Jan Brett book about a mitten. This was a great opportunity for a small group of readers to take a special break from the classroom to read in the hallway. The students are excited for her to come again when she can.



During Week 4, we enjoyed listening to a community helper read aloud a well-known Dr. Seuss book, The Cat in the Hat. We had fun practicing our active listening skills and recognizing the rhyming patterns on each page. He was so gracious to share with us about his educational path to achieve an exciting career in law enforcement.

NORTH STAR

GRADES 3-6

ANXIOUSLY WAITING FOR FALL

To celebrate the 100th day of school, Ms. Voss's third graders took a bus and walking tour around the site of the new North Star. Students saw where their new playground would be located and had fun guessing which area their future fourth grade classroom would be in. Although it was rainy and very muddy, students enjoyed taking a walk outside and getting excited about their future in the Rock Ridge School district beginning Fall 2024.



LEARNING LIFE-SAVING SKILLS

Under the guidance of Mrs. Spry, the 5th grade students delved into the fundamentals of CPR, a life-saving technique used in emergencies when someone's heartbeat or breathing has stopped. With enthusiasm and eagerness, the young learners embraced the opportunity to acquire these critical skills, recognizing the potential impact they could have in real-life situations.

Throughout the class, students were introduced to the basic concepts of CPR through interactive demonstrations and hands-on practice sessions by school nurses Emma Peterson and Laura Johnson.



The importance of quick action and effective communication during emergencies was emphasized, empowering the students to act decisively and responsibly in potentially life-threatening situations.

Reflecting on the experience, Mrs. Spry remarked, "Teaching CPR to fifth graders goes beyond just imparting a skill - it's about instilling a sense of empowerment and responsibility. These students have proven themselves capable of rising to the occasion, and I have no doubt that they will carry these lessons with them for life."

As they continue their educational journey, one thing is certain - they are well-prepared to make a difference, one heartbeat at a time.



RRHS GRADES 7-12 ESSENTIA HEALTH CARE DAY

Administrator of the Arrowhead Region, Sam Stone and Workforce Development Specialist, Andrea Chartier, both of Essentia, kicked off “Explore Essentia Health Day” with a presentation for 800 RRHS students in the Performing Art Center on Jan. 31.

Students learned about a hypothetical patient with a broken leg moving through various aspects of healthcare for treatment. Throughout the rest of the day, the Essentia Health and Science Wing at Rock Ridge was full of energized and engaged student learners. Dozens of Essentia employees from various departments fielded questions from students seeking to learn more about healthcare careers. Each department had a display table and students participated in hands-on learning. RRHS and Essentia’s partnership will advance the quality of education and strengthen the progressive healthcare industry on the Iron Range for years to come.



Exploring opportunities and making informed decisions is important for individual student success as they enter the workforce or attend college. Rock Ridge High School continues to partner with local stakeholders to support all students.



HOW ABOUT LAKE SUPERIOR COLLEGE?

Rock Ridge High School student spent Feb. 2 with science teacher Mr. Strasser and Mrs. Oja, Career Counselor, at Lake Superior College exploring technical programs leading to healthcare careers. The day was packed with hands-on learning activities.

In the biology lab, college students learn skills to become phlebotomists, medical lab techs, and medical lab assistants. But today, it was Rock Ridge students who identified blood types, determined if a specimen contained staphylococcus or streptococcus bacteria, and used gel electrophoresis to separate DNA.

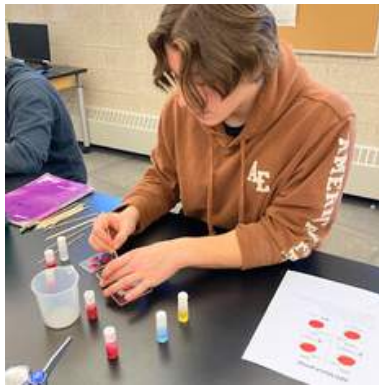
Students toured the physical therapy program as college students practiced therapeutic massage techniques and the instructor gave an overview of the medical equipment used in the college’s clinic. Instructors explained roles of respiratory technicians while students learned about ventilators and chest percussion therapy devices. Time spent in the surgical technician program taught student learners how to don a surgical gown and gloves properly without contamination.

Students returned to the high school with more awareness of different healthcare careers and technical education programs provided in our region. Rock Ridge student learners will be more prepared and better educated as they make their post secondary decisions.



CHECK OUT MN NORTH

RRHS students attended the MN North College - Mesabi Range Open House Feb. 1. Senior, Kyle Beaudette, took advantage of his visit and applied for college with support from the Eveleth Campus's Student Services Department. Other seniors weighed the option of accepting apprenticeships or continuing their education after high school at a local campus.



Support for this CTE project was made available through the Northeast Service Cooperative as part of Minnesota Service Cooperatives Rural CTE Consortium Grants funded through MN Legislature.

CONCORDIA COLLEGE BAND VISIT

BY DAN MELBY, RRHS MUSIC INSTRUCTOR

"I enjoyed making friends with the college students and other bands. They were so nice!"

"I enjoyed taking college students on tours of our school - they were amazed!"

"The college students taught us things about our instruments that made us get better right away."

"They had so many different instruments that we don't have!"

"The bari saxophone solo was incredible, and then their band started singing!"

These represent just a small fraction of the myriad of comments from Rock Ridge Band students, reflecting on the day they got to spend with the Concordia College Band on Thursday, February 8. Rock Ridge was one of eight stops for the Concordia Band on their annual domestic tour. Concordia Band students arrived at 3pm on Wednesday, February 7, and immediately went to work unpacking their belongings in the Performing Arts Center. After a good night's sleep, the band students from Rock Ridge, Hibbing, Mesabi East, and Concordia College convened in the Rock Ridge Performing Arts Center for a day of workshops, masterclasses, and unforgettable memories.

Each high school band had the opportunity to work on their own music with Concordia Band director, Dr. Peter Haberman, and students from the college band sat side-by-side with them. It was impressive to hear the progress and improvement from each group throughout the day.

After lunch, students gathered in areas around the school for instrument-specific masterclasses. These, led by Concordia students and faculty, taught our students how to advance in their abilities on their instruments. Topics included: breath support, playing technique, instrument care and maintenance, practice routines, and sound production.

Taking a break from playing, high school students then listened to the Concordia Band students perform, giving a preview of what was to come that night at the concert.

For the rest of the afternoon, Rock Ridge students spent extended time with the Concordia Band students, working on a combined piece that would be performed at the concert that night as well as getting a chance to receive some feedback on their own music.

At the end of this unforgettable day, Rock Ridge and Concordia College students shared a catered meal together before presenting a wonderful concert for a very receptive audience. All in all, this was an amazing day of laughter and learning, fun and excitement, memories, new experiences, and new friendships too. This day served as an important reminder that sometimes life brings people together in unexpected ways and creates unimaginable experiences that will be remembered for years to come. While not every day of life will be vivid in our memory, there are few days that will shine brighter in our memory, and this was one of those days.



A LOCAL COMIC CREATOR

On January 25, comic book author David Wheeler came to Rock Ridge High School to speak to Mr. Berry's 7th grade English classes about his experiences in the comic book industry.

Dave, a former student from Aurora, MN, created a comic book called, "The Misadventures of Wonderboy." In the Performing Arts Center, Dave talked about his time with Marvel Comics, the WWE, and working as a toy designer for the Boss Fight Studios.

The enthralled students had many questions for Dave, who structured a lot of the presentation around student questions. Dave's important advice to students was, "Network...never be afraid of asking questions to those who have been in a business you desire to know more about. Opportunity, friendship, and a new pathway may ensue."

A special thanks to Adam Nori and Willie Spelts for making the event possible.



Then they toured the Early Learning Center in Hibbing, talked with the principal and several teachers, and interacted with children. Finally, they toured the Laurentian Elementary where soon they will be working in classrooms each week.

The young students seemed to love having the "big kids" there. They listened intently to stories, asked questions, and played games.

The high school students, who are taking these classes for college credit, had a great opportunity to see three different buildings. Students saw how each building is different, but they all serve the children quite well. They talked with a number of different teachers and professionals while there, and will talk more about career opportunities as the course progresses. Thank you to Jill Oja, RRHS Career Counselor, and Rock Ridge Schools for making this opportunity happen.



INTRO TO TEACHING

Students in Mrs. Bauman's *Child Development* and *Introduction To Teaching* classes recently went on a careers and exploration field trip.

They started at Parkview Elementary where they read to classes for "I Love to Read" Month. They also played with students in the classrooms and gyms.

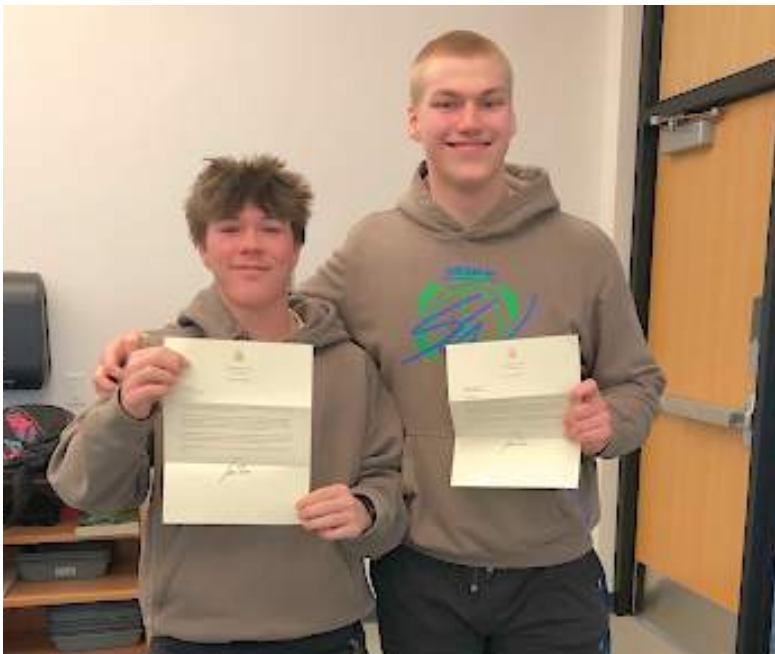


LETTERS FOR A CAUSE

Last semester, environmental science students learned about environmental policy and wrote letters to state and federal legislators.

Most students wrote to Representative Pete Stauber and Senator Amy Klobuchar. Students received their response letters before the end of the semester.

A few students were bold and wrote to President Joe Biden. Students Jake Rice and Charles Ahlstrand received exciting news this week that they received a response to their letters from the Office of the President! This project empowered students to learn how to use their voice when it comes to legislative processes and issues that matter to them.



WOLVERINE OF THE WEEK
 Week of February 5 - 9

IAN LUECKEN
 12th Grade
 Son of Abby Potochnik & Adam Luecken

ACTIVITIES:
 football, wrestling, track, WEB, & STUCO

HOBBIES:
 lifting, sports, hanging out with the fellas

WOLVERINE OF THE WEEK
 Week of February 12 - 16

LOGAN IRISH
 11th Grade
 Son of Michael & Samantha Irish

ACTIVITIES:
 Knowledge Bowl, Adventure Club, Esports, NHS

HOBBIES:
 Dungeons & Dragons, Magic the Gathering, strategy games, writing

FAVORITE SUBJECT:
 History or English

WOLVERINE OF THE WEEK
 Week of February 19 - 23

CARTER POLLAK
 10th Grade
 Son of Ty & Laura Pollak

ACTIVITIES:
 Basketball and Soccer

HOBBIES:
 Gaming

FAVORITE SUBJECT:
 Math

WOLVERINES OF THE WEEK

WOLVERINE OF THE WEEK
 Week of February 19 - 23

ANNA FIERST
 9th Grade
 Daughter of John & Tricia Fierst

ACTIVITIES:
 Speech, theater, LEOs, Student Council

HOBBIES:
 Reading, working out, soccer & hiking

FAVORITE SUBJECT:
 Math

WOLVERINE OF THE WEEK
 Week of February 26 - March 1

COOPER PALMOWSKI
 8th Grade
 Son of Mike & Jenni Palmowski

HOBBIES:
 Reading, video games, space-related things

FAVORITE SUBJECT:
 English

WOLVERINE OF THE WEEK
 Week of February 26 - March 1

MAXIMUS LEE
 7th Grade
 Son of Wayne Anderson & Stephanie Lee

ACTIVITIES:
 Football & Chess

HOBBIES:
 Playing football & basketball

FAVORITE SUBJECT:
 Math

C O N G R A T U L A T I O N S

Community Education Classes

March 2024

YOUTH CLASSES

Easter Crafts \$15

Thursday, March 14

Parkview K-2

3:00 - 4:30 PM

Thursday, March 21

Laurentian K-6

3:00 - 4:30 PM

Babysitting Class \$56

March 18 - 20

North Star

M/T 3:00 - 5:30 PM & W 2:00 - 4:30 PM

Safe Home Alone \$10

Monday, March 25

Laurentian 3-6

3:00 - 4:30 PM

Tuesday, March 26

North Star 3-6

3:00 - 4:30 PM

MN Gun Safety Class

Starts March 19

ADULT CLASSES

Estate Nursing Home Class

FREE

Monday, March 4 RRHS

5:30 - 7:00 PM

CALL 735-3516 TO REGISTER

Retirement Financial

Freedoms

FREE

Tuesday, March 12 RRHS

6:00 - 7:00 PM

CALL 735-3516 TO REGISTER

Abstract Painting

\$30

Thursday, March 14 RRHS

5:00 - 7:00 PM

Make & Take Freezer Class

\$80

Thursday, April 4 RRHS

5:30 - 7:30 PM

For more information and to sign up online go to:

rrps.cr3.schooltoday.com