

APRIL 2024 | ISSUE 25

# ROCK RIDGE REPORTER

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF ROCK RIDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS



EDUCATION TO INSPIRE THE NEXT GENERATION

## LAURENTIAN GRADES PREK-6 WHAT A TRIP!

BY BRIDGET LACOURSIERE, I LOVE TO READ COORDINATOR

On February 1, the race was on - first, out of the Laurentian School parking lot on little yellow school buses headed to the Mpls/St. Paul International Airport - then flying to the beautiful California southern coast! There they boarded luxurious cruise ships sailing into the sunset straight to Hawaii! They navigated through storms, rough waters and fought off pirates! The more they read, the faster and further they moved. By February 27, a group of sixth graders were the first to make it to shore! Other classrooms quickly followed suit. Everyone was ready to relax, rejoice in their arrival, and enjoy a luau!

Lots of hard decisions were made when our students participated in their first ever "Book Swap", interchanging puzzles, board games, and books with school friends. So much to choose from and in such little time. The good thing is it won't be the last swap! We'll keep the community posted on the next one!

Ohana Movie Night: The Parent Teacher Association sponsored the airing of *Lilo and Stitch* along with serving hot dogs, popcorn, and candy! Sleeping bags, pillows and stuffies were all in attendance to make the night comfortable and unforgettable.

An "I Love to Read Month" celebration would never be complete without "Dress-up Days"! Our school was full of superheroes one day and book characters the next. We wore exercise apparel because reading JOGS your mind! We demonstrated our respect and admiration by taking our "Hats Off" to books and reading, and oh boy, were there some creative hats!

A trip to Hawaii wouldn't be complete without a luau. Not a neck went unadorned as we passed out Hawaiian leis to every student. Hula dances were performed, air ukuleles played, and Triton's trumpets blared in celebratory congrats to all the students who met their goals!

And, a final drum roll crescendoed as Mrs. Kristine Miller stayed true to her word and let only the hardest working readers color her hair. Only the loveliest tones of pink and purple for the amazing, appreciated, admired, and greatly loved Mrs. Kristine!

Laurentian Elementary "I Love To Read" achievements:

- From Feb 1-29, the students from 2nd to 6th grade read 33.5+ million words.
- They earned a total of 5,969.5 AR points.
- ECE, Kindergarten and 1st grade read 3,900+ books.
- 24 book trivia questions were answered correctly and, prizes were awarded.
- 400+ Super One bags were decorated with book characters and scenes - all for the grocery stores customers enjoyment.
- 50+ entries to our "The Best Book I Ever Read" drawing contest - Top 10 chosen and prizes awarded.
- Every completed Reading Bingo and Book Checklist was awarded with a certificate of a free mini pizza.
- 60+ books were gifted to excited readers.
- 8 classroom pizza/ice cream sundae parties were awarded to the highest readers.
- From kindergarten to 6th grade, 75+ prizes were awarded to the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place readers.

Community is what made our Hawaiian Cruise themed month the amazing success it was. Thank you for being our COMMUNITY: Barber Graphics, BoomTown Brewery & Woodfire Grill, Dairy Queen, Dave's Pizza, Domino's Pizza, Kunnari's Kitchen & Coffee House, Laurentian Elementary PTA, Lundgren Motors, Monster's Ink, Papa Murphy's Pizza Snickers Pizza, Super One Foods, Target Corp., The Rink Restaurant, Village Inn, and Walmart.

# I LOVE READING

## PARKVIEW GRADES PREK-2 READY FOR TAKEOFF

Mrs. Kemen's class read Rosie Revere Engineer. The students drew a flying machine plan, practiced making design models, and created their own flying machine for flight.



### A GAME TO ENJOY FOR A LIFETIME

Due to student interest, Chess Club Thursdays were created this month. There was such a huge demand that students filled the entire classroom. Ten chess games were going simultaneously with all levels of players from those who have never played to those who are well-versed in their skills. Students mentored each other and took turns playing and observing games. This was a huge success and is certainly something to look forward to.



# A SUCCESSFUL TEAM EFFORT

Parkview's 2nd grade classes successfully completed a Project Based Learning assignment on Native American Culture and Seasons.

Each group researched a season and learned about what Native American, specifically Ojibwe, life was like during that time of year. The students learned about what they ate, wore, and lived in, as well as interesting facts such as entertainment and art. Then, they worked together to write and illustrate each section.

Finally, they turned all their hard work into a poster that they will later turn into a video presentation.

The students did a wonderful job collaborating to bring their posters to life.



# NORTH STAR

## GRADES 3-6

### A LOOK INTO VIRGINIA'S PAST

We are thrilled to share with you the success of our recent field trip to the Virginia Historical Society! On March 21, our 5th grade students had the wonderful opportunity to delve into the rich tapestry of Virginia's history and heritage.

The Virginia Historical Society offered our students an engaging and immersive experience, with exhibits that brought history to life. From interactive displays to fascinating artifacts, our students were able to explore key moments in Virginia's past, gaining valuable insights into the people, events, and cultures that have shaped our state.



During the trip, our students demonstrated curiosity, enthusiasm, and a genuine interest in learning. They actively participated in discussions, asked insightful questions, and showed a deep appreciation for the importance of preserving and understanding our history.

We also want to thank our dedicated teachers and chaperones for their hard work and commitment in ensuring the success and safety of the trip. Their guidance and supervision were invaluable in making this experience both educational and enjoyable for our students.

We encourage you to talk to your child about their experiences at the Virginia Historical Society and to continue fostering their curiosity about history and the world around them. Together, we can inspire a lifelong love of learning and appreciation for our shared heritage.

Thank you for your continued support of North Star Elementary and our efforts to provide enriching educational experiences for our students.



# RRHS GRADES 7-12

## DREAM IT. BE IT.

### CAREER SUPPORT FOR GIRLS

Soroptimist International of Virginia invited female students in grades 9-12 to attend a symposium in the Bezek Career Center on March 19 from 10:00-11:30. The program is to help girls grow up to be strong, successful, happy adults.

The program provides girls with access to professional role models, career education and the resources to live out their dreams. By participating in this program, girls learned about career opportunities, setting and achieving goals, overcoming obstacles to success, and moving forward after setbacks. Pizza was provided and prizes were given away.

### SMELLS FISHY IN FORENSICS

Students in Mr. Strasser's CIS Forensic Biology class have been learning about the stages of decomposition.

In one stage, Putrid Dry Remains, there is a possibility of mummification. Students in Forensic Biology conducted research on mummification, developed a hypothesis, and built an experiment around trying to mummify a fish.

These photos are from Day 1 when students were removing the soft tissue and packing the fish with salt and baking soda to remove as much water as possible. There were some horrible smells the next few days, but the mummies are developing nicely.



Kamden Glade, a Fisheries Specialist from the MN DNR, was on hand during the mummification process to help students with their mummies, to discuss the biology of fish, and to talk about careers working with the DNR.

### COMBINING CHEMISTRY WITH COOKING (& EATING)

Sargent Thomas Ostman of the MN National Guard visited Mr. Strasser's Chemistry classes to talk about the chemistry behind Meals Ready to Eat (MRE), life in the Guard, and students' plans after graduation.

Students learned how MREs are made, the chemistry behind the cooking process (iron oxidation and magnesium), and then sampled a variety of meals.

Whether or not the students enjoyed the MREs, they all enjoyed the little bottles of hot sauce included in many of them!



## PRACTICAL PROJECTS

Students in 8th grade STEAM and Computer Science are learning about Basic Home Electricity.

Students in 7th grade STEAM and Computer Science are learning about the Design and Engineering Process using engineering blocks.



## LEARNING FROM A PRO

On Monday, March 6, Jerry Burnes, former editor from The Mesabi Tribune visited Mr. Berry's 7th grade English classes to talk about his career in journalism while also helping the students learn how to write a good lead sentence.

Mr. Berry's English classes are working on a project-based superhero unit. Students, during Mr. Burne's classroom visit, were working on news articles about their created superhero doing something spectacular in the community or fighting crime. Mr. Burnes gave the students professional advice on writing a good, concise lead sentence that gives the reader a good overview of their news articles.

The students really appreciated Jeff's easy-going manner as he walked them through how to grab the audience's attention when writing a news article. Jeff and his wife Leah Ryan own the on-line newspaper, [IronRangeToday.com](http://IronRangeToday.com).



## A TRIP OF A LIFETIME

From March 20 - March 25, the Rock Ridge A Cappella Choir traveled to New York City. This trip of a lifetime was jam-packed with activities and experiences that these students will not soon forget.

Day One was a travel day with some sightseeing squeezed into the evening. Students got a bird's-eye view of the city at the Rockefeller Center "Top of the Rock" and enjoyed authentic New York style pizza at John's Pizzeria.



Day Two was all about Lower Manhattan which included the Statue of Liberty, Ellis Island, Wall Street and the 9/11 Memorial/Museum. The day ended with dinner at the Hard Rock Cafe and an evening performance of the hit musical, *Hamilton*.



Day Three was the choir's Broadway workshop where they were able to learn from two professional Broadway artists. The choir sang, danced, laughed, and learned a lot about the theatre business. Students also had a tour of Madison Square Garden, dinner at Ellen's Stardust Diner, and evening Ice Skating at Rockefeller Center.





Day Four included behind-the-scenes tours of the Broadway musical *Wicked* and Radio City Music Hall as well as an evening Harbor Cruise.



Day Five was spent in Central Park and the Museum of Modern Art. That evening the choir saw the musical *Wicked* and had dinner at Katz Delicatessen. Rock Ridge Public Schools was well represented by our singers. Every place they went, the workers commented on how polite, kind, and respectful our students were. A huge thank you to the parents, families, and the community for supporting these young people and allowing them to go on this amazing trip.



## YOUTH CLIMATE SUMMIT AT RRHS

Starting in September, Honors Science 9 students planned a Youth Climate Summit at Rock Ridge High School for their Project Based Learning project.

Throughout the course of seven months, students learned numerous real-world skills to put on and host this summit. Students started by brainstorming what would be needed for a large event and compared venues, created menus, called and arranged speakers, and organized companies for tables at the event.

Students took a trip to Natural Harvest to learn about sustainability and sustainable products and welcomed speakers into the class to present on grant writing and event planning. Students brought in over \$2,000 in grant money by writing grants for this event.

Students learned graphic design skills in designing t-shirts, flyers, and a banner. Students then contacted local companies to get their items printed. Managing a budget, timelines, and creating a daily agenda were all skills learned.

This event was open to all schools within an hour radius. Thank you to our grant sponsors, our speakers, and our companies that brought tables.

# MUSEUM IN THE MAKING

The 8th grade Honors English class turned the south presentation plaza of the high school into a museum.

Throughout the year, these students have been learning and reading about migration, immigration, and refugees in both their Geography and English classes.

The students met with a museum curator at MN Discovery Center to learn more about immigration to the Iron Range as well as how to create engaging museum exhibits.

They used their knowledge to create exhibits and invited other English and Social Studies classes to visit the museum.



Anna Fierst, an Honors Science 9 student, wrote a summary on the event:

Rock Ridge 9th grade Honors Earth Science students put on a Youth Climate Summit where they invited speakers Will Steger, Chrissy Bartovitch, Julia Lee, and Shaun Hainey to share their knowledge and ways to improve climate change.

The class helped organize interactive tables for 1854 Treaty, IRPS, UMD, Natural Harvest, Heliene, and our giveaway table so students could learn and win prizes, as well as snack tables where students could eat during intermission and lunch.

The class worked backstage helping with the lights and sound during the presentations. Some students also gave the presenters tours of the campus. During the planning, our students also contacted companies for speakers and sponsors and wrote grants.

# RRHS PROM: FIRE AND ICE

The Rock Ridge High School Junior-Senior Prom is on Saturday, April 27. This year, the senior class voted on the theme, "Fire and Ice". The prom committee has been busy preparing for a night filled with dancing, food, games, entertainment, a photo booth, and memories to last a lifetime. Personal invitations were just hand delivered to all the 11th and 12th graders. Everyone is welcome to watch the Prom Grand March on Saturday, April 27, at 8:00 P.M. in the RRHS gym to see all the classy Rock Ridge students dressed their best!





# Community Education Classes

April / May 2024

## YOUTH CLASSES

### Elementary Swim Club

**\$90/session**

MARCH 11 - MAY 17 RRHS POOL

### Warrior Kid Club

**\$50/month**

FRIDAYS 3:00 - 4:30 PM NSE

## SPRING CRAFTS

3:00 - 4:30 PM

APRIL 11 SPRING CRAFTS - PES

APRIL 17 MAGIC SCHOOL BUS - LES K-4

APRIL 18 SPRING CRAFTS - LES K-6

APRIL 25

RECYCLABLE MATERIAL SCULPTURE - LES K-6

MAY 1 MAGIC SCHOOL BUS - PES

MAY 2 MOTHER'S DAY CRAFT - PES

MAY 9 MOTHER'S DAY CRAFT - LES

MAY 16 SUMMER CRAFTS - PES

MAY 23 SUMMER CRAFTS - LES K-6

## ADULT CLASSES

### Mountain Landscape Painting

**\$32**

**Wednesday, May 1 RRHS**

5:00 - 7:00 PM

### Minnesota Twins Trip

**\$99**

**Saturday, May 4**

Twins vs Boston Red Sox

1:10 PM

### Defensive Driving

**\$15**

**Monday, April 22 RRHS**

**Monday, May 20 RRHS**

4:00 - 8:00 PM

**For more information and to sign up online go to:**

**[rrps.cr3.rschooltoday.com](http://rrps.cr3.rschooltoday.com)**



EARLY CHILDHOOD  
FAMILY EDUCATION

# CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF ECFE

## **Location:**

Laurentian Elementary  
1409 Progress Parkway  
Eveleth, MN. 55734

**Date:** Saturday, April 13

**Time:** 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Join us at Laurentian Elementary for a morning of crafts, games, gym, playland, and early childhood informational booths. We look forward to seeing you there.



## April is Volunteer Appreciation Month!

Volunteers in Education (VinE) expresses its heartfelt gratitude to the dedicated community volunteers who serve as tutors at Laurentian, North Star, and Parkview elementary schools. Your commitment to our mission of supporting public schools by engaging the community in educating students, fostering student growth, and preparing them for productive citizenship is truly commendable.

The impact of VinE tutors extends beyond academics. They serve as mentors and role models, instilling confidence and resilience in their students. Their dedication and passion for education are invaluable assets to VinE and the communities we serve. VinE thanks the following community members for their work as tutors and the positive difference they make for students.

Roxanne Kelson  
Anita Skenzich  
Linda Harvey  
Sandra Hammer  
Laurie Oates  
Beth Chapdelaine  
Melissa Pothen

VinE invites others to consider supporting the work of VinE by becoming a volunteer tutor to support students, teachers, schools, and public education. Please don't hesitate to reach out to Teresa de Venecia or visit [vine-mn.org](http://vine-mn.org).

Once again, thank you to the community members named above for their dedication and commitment to enhancing education in our community. Your efforts truly make a difference.

### VinE Contact Information

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Thank You