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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 TAKING A WELL-DESERVED BREAK

At the conclusion of MCA testing, Ms. Young's 4th grade class at Laurentian Elementary took a nature walk - off the beaten path. The kids absolutely loved exploring. They saw cool rocks, a tree with its roots sticking out, and they just really enjoyed some outdoor time together.



COMING TOGETHER FOR EARTH DAY

The fourth grade classes partnered with the Rock Ridge High School LEO Club for a Spring Buddy Project.

In the spirit of Earth Day, the students painted rocks and then embarked on a rigorous nature hike!

Everyone enjoyed the collaboration between the different classes and grade levels.



PARKVIEW GRADES PREK-2 WORM-FRIENDLY PLAYGROUNDS

Mrs. Kemen's preschool class started by reading *The Diary of a Worm* and collecting live worms to investigate.

The students drew pictures of the worms, stretching them out and measuring them with cubes, then recording their findings in their worm journal.

On the final day, students built a playground for the worms to crawl around on. Who knew that worms like teeter totters, climbing poles, and ladders?



A LITTLE LOVE FOR PLANET EARTH

Parkview first graders celebrated Earth Day by learning about the earth and how we can take care of where we live.

They discussed the “3 R’s” - Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle. Then they read a Scholastic News about reducing waste because it can be harmful to our environment.

The first graders also read about how some scientists have discovered that seaweed can be used to make a type of plastic that’s better for the environment. The first graders decided that they would be okay with seaweed plastic water bottles!

Finally, they completed a craft and came up with Earth Day messages to write on it. Happy Earth Day!



NORTH STAR GRADES 3-6 SINGING IN THE SPRING

North Star Elementary School transformed into a hub of musical celebration as the annual "Spring Sing" for grades 3 - 5 brought together students, families, and community members in a harmonious display of unity and camaraderie. Held in the school's gymnasium, the event showcased the power of music to foster connections and bring people together from all walks of life.

The Spring Sing, a beloved tradition at North Star Elementary, not only serves as a platform for students to showcase their musical talents, but also as a catalyst for building stronger ties within the community.

From the moment attendees entered the auditorium, they were enveloped in an atmosphere of warmth and togetherness, fueled by the shared love of music.

Each grade's performances were met with enthusiastic applause and cheers from the audience. Through music, we are bringing parents, students, and the community closer together.



RRHS GRADES 7-12

S.T.E.A.M. PROJECT IN ART

Rock Ridge students enrolled in the General Art Class completed a S.T.E.A.M. art project that combined learning in science, technology, engineering, art, and math.

Students researched betta fish habits, viewed types, and created an art piece depicting two betta fish in a round aquarium.

Working with partners they measured the diameter, radius, and calculated the amount of water they would need for their aquarium using math formulas. They also solved engineering problems such as how to separate two bettas in a tank with only one filter. The art challenge involved using gradations of colors and values on their fish and aquarium environments.



BITE OF REALITY

On April 10, all Rock Ridge seniors participated in a Bite of Reality Fair. This was a personal finance simulation sponsored by Northern Communities Credit Union.

Students were given a family, career, and salary and had to go around to booths to make financial decisions for adult expenses and understand the reality of their financial decisions.

There were 25 volunteers who helped with this from the community. Students and volunteers had a great time!



EXPERIMENTING WITH CHOCOLATE

Thanks to Ethan Pond (pictured with others), Mr. Strasser's CIS Chemistry and HS Chemistry classes were able to perform an experiment on whether the components of chocolate milk would separate upon certification.

Ethan brought in eight different types of milk and students created hypotheses for each, designed an experiment, used micropipettes and micro centrifuges, collected observations and data, and wrote a conclusion about their findings. Students also thought of new experiments they could perform due to their findings. Some students even chose different liquids to test - like Cherry Coke and Bubbl'r.



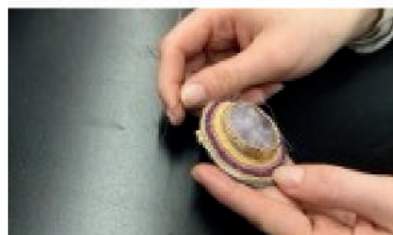
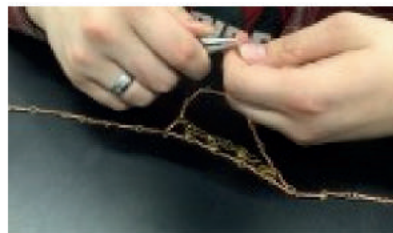
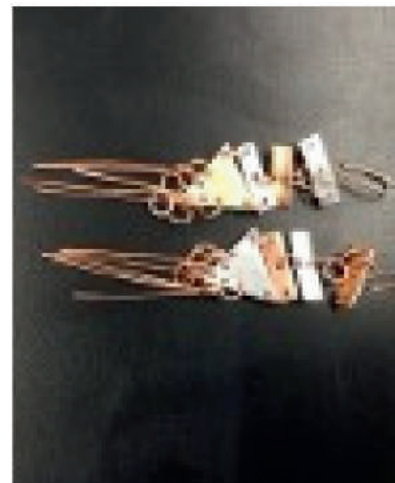
FLAVOR OF THE NORTH

Culinary Arts 2 students participated for the first time in the United Way's Flavor of the North to raise money for the Buddy Backpack program. Students made a Louisiana-style Chicken and Sausage Gumbo with Cajun Shrimp and banana cheesecake with a caramel sauce. Two classes worked together to prepare both dishes while learning about various cooking techniques. This was the students' first time preparing for a crowd of over 500 people. The students' gumbo was voted as #4 in the entree category!



WEARABLE HANDMADE ART

Students in Ms. Custer's class learned various methods of jewelry making this year. Some of the methods included rivet making, using tabs, and beadwork. Enjoy a sampling of their projects!



EARTH DAY AT RRHS

The Environmental Science classes celebrated Earth Day which is April 22. Students calculated their carbon footprint and researched various topics that relate to Rock Ridge students including food, fashion, and how to up-cycle items often thrown away.

They rounded out the week by picking up trash around our high school campus!





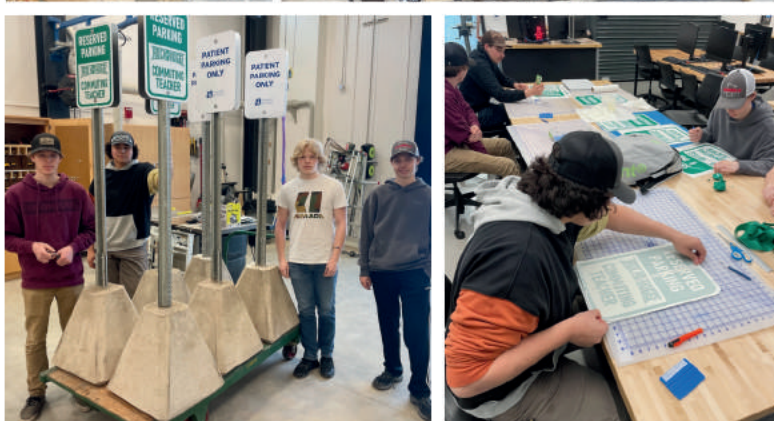
PBL ENGINEERING

What is PBL? This is what Project Based Learning looks like in action in Mr. Foster's Engineering class.

An issue was identified with parking at the new school. The issue was that Rock Ridge teachers with limited time to travel between schools needed a reserved parking spot closer to the entrance. In addition, Orthopaedic Associates staff and customers needed more reserved spots.

Students researched several possible solutions and determined that this design of parking sign would be a cost-effective solution. Students then researched how to make concrete molds, calculated the volumes of these irregular shaped bases, estimated the cost of all the materials, purchased supplies, created the vinyl sign decals, and assembly.

Once approved by the school maintenance director, students got to work building the forms and pouring the cement. These sign bases weigh approximately 225 pounds so the signs will not blow over, yet they can be moved by snow removal equipment and then slid back into position once snow has been removed. Problem solved!

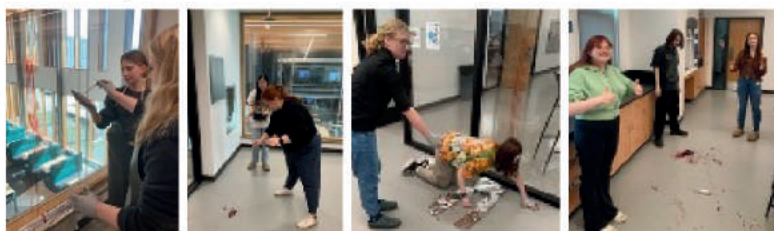


CLUES TO A CRIME

Students in Mr. Strasser's CIS Forensics class planned the perfect crime - or so they hoped.

Students created a crime scene to demonstrate their understanding of blood spatters. After their scene was complete, students went to another group's crime scene and analyzed the spatters to figure out what happened.

Great job cleaning up everyone...or maybe not! Notice all the glowing blue of left-behind blood found with a luminal test. The perfect crime is hard to achieve!



CONSTRUCTION FIELD TRIP 2024

Students in Mr. Foster's Construction class went on a construction themed field trip last week.

Students started their day in Two Harbors touring through the Louisiana Pacific Siding Plant. Students learned about career opportunities at their facility and the manufacturing process of the LP siding that students will be installing later this school year.

The second stop was for lunch at Sammy's Pizza in Hermantown. The third stop was the Tongue and Groove Store in Hermantown where owners Kyle and Ann toured students through the facility and shared their story how they started their business and how it has grown over the years. Students also learned about different equipment they use and all the different products that they make.

The last stop was to visit the Carpenters Training Institute in Hermantown. Students learned about the Carpenter's Union and what a career as a carpenter would look like.

To make this field trip even more fun, some of the Construction Club students reached out to various businesses and asked for donations to be used as prizes while on the trip. The prizes were awarded to the students who could answer the trivia questions about the facility that had just been toured. Travis Bird and Mr. Foster introduced the sponsors and trivia questions over the bus's PA system. Students were very engaged and everyone won at least one prize!

A special thank you to all the sponsors for making this trip possible - Carl Perkins Federal Grant, PCN Grant, Applied Learning Institute, J.M. Auto Service, Parts City Auto Parts, Mesabi Fit, CBS - Conveyor Belt Service Inc., Lake Country Power, and the Rock Ridge Construction Club.

Also, thank you to Louisiana Pacific, The Tongue and Groove Store, and the Carpenters Training Institute for taking the time to let Rock Ridge students visit your facility. This was a great experience for our Rock Ridge Construction students!



UP! UP! AND AWAY!

The 7th grade English students in Mr. Berry's class found out what it is like to be super powered during their exploration into comic books and superheroes. The students dug into the history of heroes, the causes that shaped each character, and then were tasked with creating their own amazing guardians. The class was also treated with a plethora of assorted comic book titles generated through the Heroes North organization by way of Collector's Connection in Duluth and Superior.

