

ROCK RIDGE REPORTER

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF ROCK RIDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS



EDUCATION TO INSPIRE THE NEXT GENERATION

LAURENTIAN GRADES PREK-6 FINDING FUN THIS FALL

Miss Ebben's PreK 4/5's class has used the beautiful fall weather to take hikes and get outdoors to study nature almost every day! They have walked to a marsh, picked acorns from the "acorn patch" and have tracked a wooly bear caterpillar. They have also used their science skills to compare and contrast leaves, observe the fall colors as they have been changing, and learned to recognize fall flowers such as the tansy, golden rod, and aster.

Ms. Young's 4th grade class is enjoying this nice fall weather by taking nature hikes throughout the campus. The kids love the hikes and think the adventures are amazing! They have explored rocks, flowers, making their own "less-traveled" trails, and more!



Mrs. Hennen's 1st grade class took a nature walk and collected leaves. We made observations and compared our leaves with one another.



TO STARBASE AND BEYOND

For five days, from September 23-27, the Laurentian Elementary 5th graders traveled to the 148th Fighter Wing for STARBASE Minnesota in Duluth. While there, students were immersed in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) lessons and hands-on activities.

THIS YEAR'S MISSION: HELP PLAN A SUCCESSFUL COLONY ON MARS.

The 5th grade students:

- evaluated how much fuel they would need to get to Mars - they didn't want too little or too much fuel;
- explored some energy sources they could use on Mars (solar powered circuits; wind turbines) and designed a wind turbine to 3D print and then tested to see if its output would be successful on Mars;
- learned several coding languages to navigate several types of rovers to do work on Mars;
- used the Engineering Design Process to develop a Mars lander to safely land on Mars with an "eggstronaut"; and,
- learned about STEM careers and collected trading cards that tell about the job and the person - many of whom live and work in Minnesota.

They finished the week with a "launch" ceremony in which Andrea Mistelske shared about her career in STEM. She is a project manager at ark data centers. She spoke about the gaming world and how people from all over the world can communicate and play in real time.

The 5th graders were sorry to see the week come to an end. Many expressed interest in returning to STARBASE during the summer to attend STARBASE Summer STEM Camp.



PARKVIEW

GRADES PREK-2

A POSITIVE START

At Parkview, the school year is off to a great start! We continue to foster a positive learning environment. We have implemented a program called “Positive Greetings at the Door”. This proactive and friendly approach helps students transition into their school day with a smile and sets the tone for a successful day of learning.

Positive Greetings at the Door is a multi-step strategy where teachers greet each student personally as they arrive. With a simple handshake, high-five, or cheerful “Good Morning!”, teachers not only make students feel welcomed, but also create a sense of belonging in the classroom. This helps build strong relationships between students and teachers, which is crucial for emotional and academic growth.



EVERYONE
is welcome here!

NORTH STAR

GRADES 3-6

ENJOYING THE FRUITS OF HISTORY

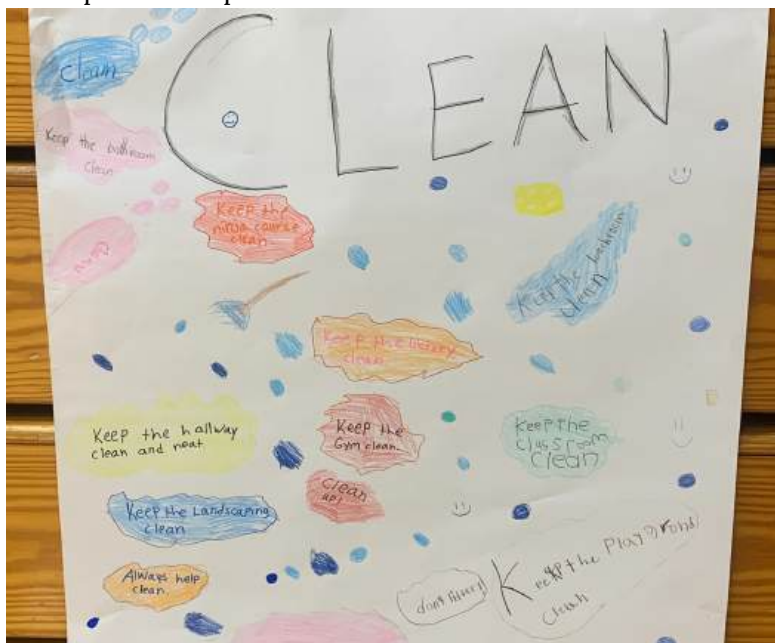
North Star 3rd graders from Mrs. Smith's class enjoyed apple treats while they celebrated Johnny Appleseed's birthday on September 26. They learned why Johnny became a folk hero and read a timeline of the important events in his life. Students discussed what it would be like to live as a pioneer in the 1700's.



MY SCHOOL, MY RESPONSIBILITY

At North Star Elementary, students are taking a proactive role in building a stronger, more welcoming school environment through an exciting new initiative called "My School, My Responsibility." The project is a school-wide, Project-Based Learning (PBL) effort designed to encourage students to take ownership of their new building and make it a safe, welcoming, and clean space for everyone.

The project kicked off with brainstorming sessions in which students identified ways they could contribute to their school community. Their ideas focused on how they could enhance safety, create a more welcoming atmosphere, and maintain cleanliness. In the next phase, students worked together to prioritize the most important tasks by ranking the top three responsibilities in each area.



RRHS GRADES 7-12

EXPLORING OPPORTUNITIES

School has just begun and Rock Ridge High School students are already engaging in exciting career exploration opportunities.

All juniors and seniors wanting to learn more about natural resources, forestry, and the equipment used in the industry were invited on a September field trip to the Itasca County Fairgrounds in Grand Rapids for the Future Forest Stewards North Star Expo. Students and staff learned that forestry in Minnesota is a 17 billion dollar industry and provides more than 68,000 direct and indirect jobs. While learning about the exciting timber and forestry jobs in our area, they met loggers, truckers, and forestry professionals. It was incredible to see an active harvest and hear our students ask a lot of great questions. Our attendance at this event was supported by True North Star Perkins funding and Rock Ridge High School teachers and chaperones, Greg Foster, Emily Jankila, Betty Parker, and Jill Oja.

This hands-on approach aims to foster a sense of responsibility and pride in the school. "It's been incredible to see how seriously our students have taken this project," said a staff member at North Star Elementary. "They're really committed to making a difference and ensuring that our new school building becomes a positive environment for everyone."

The project will culminate later this year with a public event where students will showcase the jobs they have taken on. These roles will demonstrate how their efforts have contributed to improving safety, enhancing the school's atmosphere, and keeping the building in excellent condition.

The entire staff at North Star Elementary has been impressed by the level of engagement from students, noting that their dedication reflects the core values the school is built on. The public is eagerly awaiting the event, which will highlight the tangible impact of student-led initiatives in creating a vibrant, responsible school community.



CHECKING OUT THE NEXT CHAPTER

All 10th-12th graders were invited to the Minnesota Education Fair at MN North College in Virginia. Students who chose to attend the fair visited with representatives from colleges, universities, community colleges, technical colleges, and specialty schools.



Rock Ridge High School teachers and staff August Galloway, Jen Dincau, and Jill Oja chaperoned the students and said the students were very interested and engaged. Students appeared very confident and comfortable asking questions and collecting information from many college representatives.



HEATING UP THE CHILI COOK-OFF

Rock Ridge Culinary Arts students participated in the Rotary Club Chili Cook-Off event last month. Students tested four unique chili recipes before deciding on a Pork Chili Verde. The students along with some additional taste testers agreed that they enjoyed a unique variation as opposed to a more traditional approach. The students then made a second test batch to experiment with some different ingredients and cooking methods before deciding on their final combination for the competition. The class was thrilled to tie for "Most Creative" in the Clubs and Organizations Division.



SINK OR SWIM!

Rock Ridge Engineering students in Mr. Foster's class spent part of the day on September 27 at the Ely Lake Beach.

Students were challenged to build a boat out of tin foil, wood lathe, and duct tape. Research, design, buoyancy, and structural integrity were the key elements of this design challenge. Six boats in total were constructed with three of the six being very competitive.



Even though the timed races allowed students to use a kayak paddle, one of the boats was also designed to support a 1.2hp outboard. It was a great day on the beach with temperatures in the lower 80's! Photo credits: Ingrid Welch and Greg Foster.



MN SUPREME COURT VISITS RRHS

The Minnesota Supreme Court heard oral arguments at Rock Ridge High School on Thursday, Oct. 3, as part of a longstanding outreach program that teaches students about Minnesota's judicial system. The Court heard arguments in State of Minnesota v. Hames Triflvan Contreras-Sanchez, after which the justices answered student questions. In the afternoon, justices had lunch with student representatives and visited classrooms for one-on-one education sessions.

The Minnesota Supreme Court Traveling Oral Arguments program began in 1995 to educate students and build public trust, confidence, and understanding of the judiciary. The Court travels to two high schools in Minnesota each year: one in the spring and one in the fall. The Iron Range event marks the 55th traveling oral arguments event for the Court.



★ HOMECOMING ★

FOOTBALL GAME

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4TH

**ROCK
RIDGE**

VS

**TWO
HARBORS**

7:00pm kick off



**Help kids succeed
in school!**

**Volunteer as a tutor with
Volunteers in Education**

- Support learning for K-12 students
- Create positive relationships with students
- Increase student self-confidence
- Make a positive difference in your community

Contact VinE to tutor in these schools:

- North Woods K-12, Cook
- Northeast Range K-12, Babbitt
- Tower-Soudan K-6, Tower
- Cherry K-12, Iron Junction
- South Ridge K-12, Culver
- Mt. Iron-Buhl K-12, Mt. Iron
- Laurentian K-6, Eveleth
- North Star 3-6, Virginia
- Parkview K-2, Virginia

Contact information
 teresad@vine-mn.org
 218-404-5742
 www.vine-mn.org



Volunteers in Education engages the community in educating its students, supporting their growth, and preparing them for productive citizenship.





Community Education Classes

October 2024



YOUTH CLASSES

Safe on My Own \$10

3:00 - 4:30 PM

Monday, Oct. 7 Laurentian Gr. 3-6

Halloween Crafts \$15

3:00 - 4:30 PM

Thursday, Oct. 10 Parkview

Thursday, Oct. 24 Laurentian

Warrior Kid Club \$55

3:00 - 4:15 PM

9/30, 10/7, 10/14, 10/21, & 10/28

North Star Elementary Ninja Gym

Join the Warrior Kid Club at the NEW Ninja Gym! Becoming a warrior kid isn't easy. It involves a lot of exercise, eating right, studying hard and staying disciplined. Do you have what it takes to become a warrior Kid? Each week you will have a set of Warrior tasks to complete and discuss at the next class. (Ages 7-12)

Ninja Warrior Classes \$75

(Ages 5-8) Tuesdays & Thursdays

3:30 - 4:30 PM or 5:30 - 6:30 PM

(Ages 9-15) Tuesdays & Thursdays

4:30 - 5:30 PM

North Star Elementary Ninja Gym

18 hours of Ninja instruction from a licensed Ninja coach!

ADULT CLASSES

Social Security Timing Is Everything* (FREE)

Tuesday, Oct. 8 | RRHS | 6:00 - 7:00 PM

Defensive Driving* \$20

Monday, Oct. 28 | RRHS | 4:00 - 8:00 PM

Monday, Dec. 9 | RRHS | 4:00 - 8:00 PM

Morning Lap Swim

Mon., Wed., Fri. | RRHS | 6:00 - 8:00 AM

\$5/swim or punch cards available.

Ages 12 and up. Certified lifeguard on duty.

Aqua Rock Fitness

Wednesdays | RRHS | 5:30 - 7:00 PM

\$5/class or punch cards available - 6 punches (\$25), 12 punches (\$50)

Yoga \$45 (RRHS)

Wed. Oct, 2, 16, 23, 20 | 5:30 - 6:30 PM

Wed., Nov. 6, 13, 20, 27 5:30 - 6:30 PM

Wed., Dec. 4, 11, 18 (\$35)

For more information and to sign up online go to: rrps.cr3.rschooltoday.com or *call (218) 735-3516.