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ROCK RIDGE REPORTER

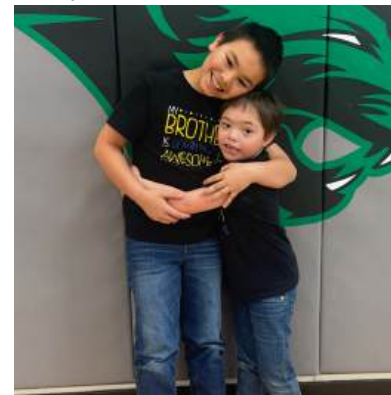
THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF ROCK RIDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS



EDUCATION TO INSPIRE THE NEXT GENERATION

LAURENTIAN GRADES PREK-6 THE JOYS OF DIVERSITY

Staff at Laurentian Elementary celebrated World Down Syndrome Day on Friday, March 21, by wearing t-shirts and crazy socks!



COMPASSION IS KEY

Our Compassionate Students of the Month were chosen based on kindness, apologizing, and listening to others' feelings and opinions. These students encourage and help others and they accept people for who they are. Laurentian is proud of these students to lead with compassion!



SCHOOL READINESS: Athena Peterson, Olivia Meglen, Sophia Pessenda, Jax Perry, Octavia Lauseng, Atlee Wiener.

KINDERGARTEN: Valerie Ceglar, Kyrie Rude, Averie Becker, Cole Nguyen, Ember Bernard, Evelyn Deloria.

FIRST GRADE: Olivia Brick, Lydia Reicher, Elijah Carlson, Layla Moller, Tatum Novak, Everett Lincoln

SECOND GRADE: Aikley Prasnicki, Angellee Ritacco, Zachary Tomassoni, Trinity Anderson, Hank Niemi, Cynthia James.

THIRD GRADE: Jaxtyn Schroeder, Gino Bertucci, Bristol Bernard, Isabella Stevens, Adley Lockhart, Scarlett Miller.

FOURTH GRADE: Parker Smith, Skie Crosby, Airabella Prasnicki, Sophia Blackwood, Malina Thelen, Easten Brown.

FIFTH GRADE: Alex Sturgis, Jake Tome, Mya Berglund, Kael Murphy, Nadine Ebnet, Kole Kauppi.

SIXTH GRADE: Alivia Reynolds, Lexi Thompson, Chase Flannigan, Kolton Ortiz, Ailie Forsman, Austin Drachenfels.

LIVIN' IN MINNESOTA

Third grade students at Laurentian Elementary demonstrated their adaptation knowledge of our very own Minnesota animals by creating these cool habitat dioramas.



PARKVIEW

GRADES PREK-2

NATIONAL AGRICULTURE WEEK

During National Agriculture Week, Miss Barnes' 1st graders had special guest, 4H Extension Educator Nicole Kudrle, come in to talk to students about farming and agriculture!

The students put together a farm web where they identified different animals and crops on farms. Then, they identified various products that come from those animals and crops. They also listened to a story about farming and how farms give us foods that we eat and items that we use everyday.

Their favorite fact was that footballs are made from pigs! They also got to enjoy a snack of clementines and string cheese - more examples of foods we wouldn't have without farming!

Thank you, Nicole Kudrle, for coming to teach us about the importance of agriculture!



UP ON THE ROOFTOP

Parkview staff stayed true to their promise and enjoyed a night on Parkview's roof last month after students achieved their reading goal during "I Love To Read Month"!

The Rock Ridge Student Broadcasting Team made it possible for the teachers to go LIVE during bedtime story time on our YouTube channel!

From the determination of our youngest learners, to our amazing staff and their enthusiasm, to our high school students and their incredible skills, this is what Rock Ridge is all about - coming together UNITED, working together to make things possible, and having a whole lot of fun along the way!



NORTH STAR

GRADES 3-6

At North Star Elementary, spring has brought a wave of energy, learning, and exciting experiences that go beyond the traditional classroom. From strategic chess matches to test prep celebrations and nature exploration, our students are engaging in powerful learning moments every day.

CHECKMATE!

Our after-school chess club has been growing in both numbers and enthusiasm this year. Students from across grade levels have been meeting weekly to practice openings, develop strategies, and challenge themselves to think critically and stay focused.

To celebrate their growth, the club recently hosted an exciting Staff vs. Students Chess Tournament—and it was a showdown to remember. The quiet intensity of the matches was matched only by the thoughtful moves and bold plays on each board. Teachers and support staff brought their best game, but the students held their own with confidence and skill.

"It felt awesome to beat a teacher!" one student laughed. "I never thought I'd be able to do that."

The tournament was a fun and competitive way to showcase the progress our students have made while reinforcing important habits like perseverance, patience, and strategic thinking.



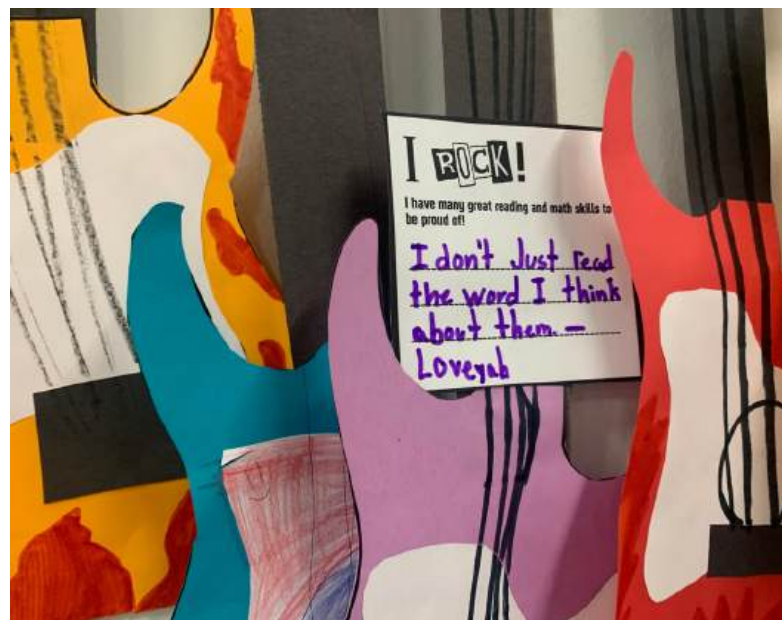
ROCK THE TEST

As we head into testing season, our 3rd graders are showing exactly what it means to be prepared and pumped up. Through our "Rock the Test" initiative, students are diving into review activities, setting goals, and building the mindset needed to shine on the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCA) in reading and math.

Teachers are using interactive games, small group instruction, and daily motivation to keep learning engaging. Classrooms are filled with positive messages, "Rock the Test" posters, and students cheering each other on.

Each student has taken ownership of their learning, tracking progress and celebrating growth—because this isn't just about a test. It's about grit, confidence, and knowing that hard work pays off.

"We want our students to feel proud and powerful walking into that test," said Ms. Voss. "They've worked so hard, and now it's time to show what they can do."



PHENOLOGY IN ACTION: JOHN LATIMER INSPIRES 6TH GRADE SCIENTISTS

North Star's 6th graders have been getting an unforgettable lesson in phenology—the study of seasonal changes in nature—thanks to a few special visits from and an ongoing relationship with naturalist and KAXE radio host John Latimer.

Latimer brings his deep knowledge and infectious enthusiasm to the classroom, guiding students through the science of observing changes in plants, animals, and the weather. He shares his personal nature journals and even takes students outside to identify signs of each season right on our school grounds.

“Phenology helps us understand how everything in nature is connected,” Latimer explained. “And kids can be scientists too—just by paying attention.”

Inspired by his visits, students have been documenting the natural world around them and contributing to Latimer's weekly Phenology Talkbacks Podcast; seeing how their observations can contribute to broader environmental understanding. Click [HERE](#) to listen to the weekly Phenology Podcast.



RRHS GRADES 7-12

A COLLABORATIVE BUILD

Students in Mr. Little's 5th grade class and Mr. Foster's Home Maintenance class recently teamed up to build 12 mini woodsheds. This project fostered strong collaboration between the two teachers, and we're also excited to partner with Pohaki Lumber, a sponsor of both the Junior Construction Lab at Northstar Elementary School and the high school woodshop. Pohaki Lumber supplied the materials for the sheds.

The collaboration began when the high school students proposed a project for the 5th graders: building small woodsheds. The high schoolers started by creating scale models of various shed designs, ultimately selecting one and constructing a full-size prototype. After making some modifications, they finalized the design. The high school students then created a detailed parts list and began mass-producing the components, focusing on reducing waste and maintaining accuracy. Once all parts were cut, the 5th graders were invited to the Pohaki Construction Lab at Rock Ridge High School to begin assembly.

During the build, the 5th graders worked in groups, each guided by a high school student mentor. The 5th graders were responsible for constructing and assembling the woodsheds, while the high schoolers offered guidance and assistance when needed.





Teaching others is one of the best ways to truly grasp a concept, and by having high school students teach the 5th graders about building, we believe this experience will have a lasting impact on all involved. For the 5th graders, being exposed to carpentry and construction will inspire excitement about exploring these types of classes when they reach high school.

This project provided a rewarding experience for everyone. The mentorship between the high school and 5th grade students helped form meaningful relationships and encouraged participation from all, even students who are usually more reserved in other classroom settings. It was a fun and engaging opportunity for everyone.

We would like to express our gratitude to Pohaki for providing sweatshirts and t-shirts, The True North Stars Carl Perkins Career and Technical Education Career and Exploration Grant for covering transportation costs, and the Northeast Service Cooperative Rural CTE Impact Grant for funding the materials.



MINI FIREWOOD SHED

All proceeds fund the High School and North Star Construction Clubs

Treated Lumber
Architectural Shingles - Black
Size approx. 48" wide, 32" Deep, 48" Tall

If interested please contact:
Eli Little: Eli.Little@rrps.org
Greg Foster: Greg.Foster@rrps.org

FOR SALE
\$200

Instructors:
Mr. Little and Mr. Foster