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ISSUE 46

ROCK RIDGE REPORTER

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF ROCK RIDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Education to
INSPIRE
the next generation

FEATURED THIS MONTH



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5TH GRADERS ATTEND

STARBASE

STEM CAMP IN DULUTH

For five days, from September 14-18, the Laurentian Elementary fifth graders traveled to the 148th Fighter Wing for STARBASE Minnesota. While there, students were immersed in STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Math) lessons and hands-on activities led by the fantastic STARBASE instructors. The students' mission was to help plan a successful colony on Mars.

HANDS-ON LEARNING



Explored solar power and wind turbines as possible energy sources for Mars.



Used coding to navigate a rover and clear rocks from the Mars colony.



Designed a Mars lander using the Engineering Design Process and learned about rovers used in space missions.



Explored chemical reactions to solve an emergency situation and learned how STEM careers are used right here in Minnesota.



The week ended with a "Launch" ceremony featuring a DNR fish biologist, who shared how he uses science, math and problem-solving in his career and what inspired him to work for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

The fifth 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.





CULTURE, MOVEMENT & FUN WITH DR. DAN NINHAM



On September 24th, Laurentian Elementary was thrilled to host Dr. Dan Ninham for a special schoolwide activity day! Dr. Ninham travels all over the United States sharing Indigenous culture and teachings through traditional games and movement.

Our students had a blast in the gym trying new activities while learning about the rich history and values behind each game.

Thank you, Dr. Ninham, for making culture so engaging and fun for our students!



THANK YOU, FIRST NATIONAL BANK

The Laurentian Elementary received a large donation of school supplies from the First National Bank of Gilbert. Thank you so much for helping our students!





TRADITIONAL GAMES, NEW ADVENTURES



Parkview students got a chance to learn about Indigenous culture through movement and play with Dr. Dan Ninham. Dr. Ninham travels across the U.S. sharing his teachings with students and bringing traditional games into school gyms.



STICKBALL

Students tried stickball activities and practiced coordination and teamwork.



MOVING TOGETHER

Students learned traditional games that build movement, listening skills, and cooperation.



RACCOON TAIL GAME

Students put their speed and movement skills to work during a lively game of Raccoon Tail.



Students explored traditional games, practiced teamwork, and experienced a new way of learning through movement and play. The gym was full of energy and smiles! We are grateful to Dr. Ninham for sharing his knowledge and making this a memorable experience for our students. We look forward to welcoming him again to our elementary schools.



MAKING ROOM TO MOVE

Rainy days may change our recess plans, but they don't stop our students from moving and having fun! When outdoor recess isn't possible, our lunch aides get creative—using available gyms or setting up supervised movement activities in the hallways.

We're proud of our students for adjusting to the change in routine and making the most of rainy days. Thank you to our lunch aides for keeping recess safe, active and enjoyable, whatever the weather!



WILLOW TAKES 2ND!

Congratulations to Willow Schroeder, who earned 2nd place in her age group in the VFW State Drawing Competition!

Way to go, Willow!

THE SAFETY CIRCUS

Parkview students learned about electricity and electrical safety through *The Safety Circus*, an interactive performance that made important safety lessons fun and memorable.

Students can continue learning through games and activities that reinforce the concepts from the show.

Thank you to Minnesota Power for this wonderful opportunity!

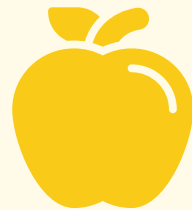




FALL IS IN THE AIR



Mrs. Pond's students did a unit on Autumn and apples and incorporated that into their reading, writing and math activities for the week.



The students ended the week by making bird feeders and hanging them up outside the school.



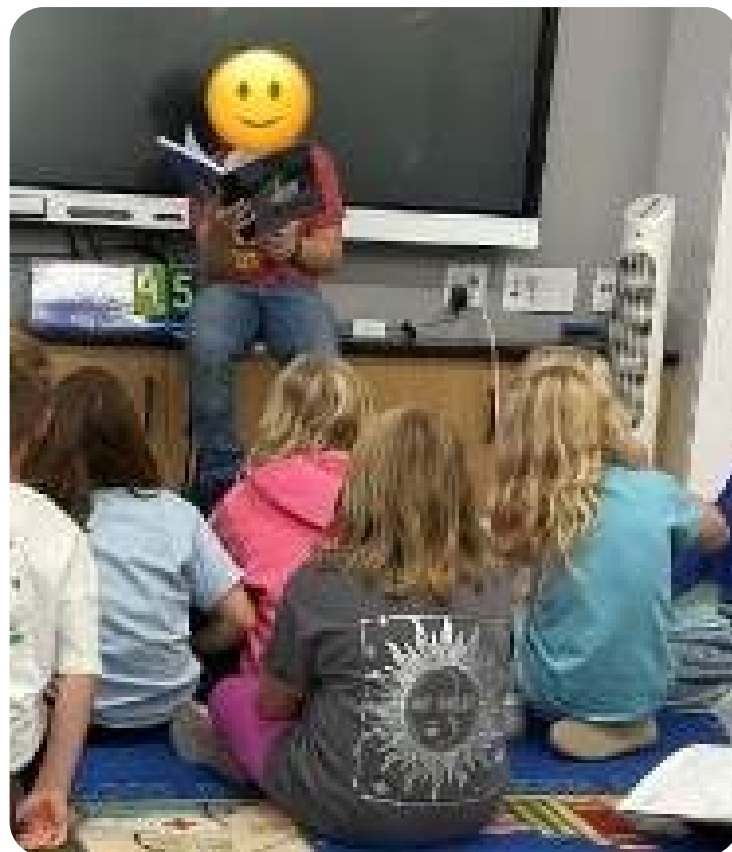
YOUNG WRITERS, BIG IDEAS

Our third graders are building their writing skills—and their confidence!

Mrs. Lalonde's third graders were eager to share their first creative writing pieces with classmates!

Students created mind maps to brainstorm ideas about an animal they know a lot about, then used those ideas to guide their writing.

They practiced building their writing stamina by writing for 20 continuous minutes before proudly sharing their work.



Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE)

Parents Know Their Children Best!

If you have concerns about your child's development—including physical, cognitive, social-emotional, language, or adaptive development—Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) may be able to help.

- Who can make a referral? Anyone may refer a child, including parents, guardians, physicians, child care providers, preschool staff, family members, or other professionals.
- How do I make a referral? Complete an online referral at [HelpMeGrowMN.org](https://www.HelpMeGrowMN.org). Call Help Me Grow Minnesota at 1-866-693-GROW (4769).

Questions? Contact:

Laura Bakhtiari

Early Childhood Special Education Teacher / Screener

Laura.Bakhtiari@rrps.org



Scan to Make an Online Referral
Visit [HelpMeGrowMN.org](https://www.HelpMeGrowMN.org) to submit a secure referral.



Volunteers Needed at the Rock Ridge Elementary Schools!

VOLUNTEERS IN EDUCATION (VinE)
is looking for Volunteer Tutors

- Support Student Learning
- Experience the fulfillment of helping others
- Make a positive difference in your school and community

- Choose the grade level of students you wish to tutor
- Choose the content area(s) you wish to tutor
- Set your own tutoring schedule

Scan the QR code below to complete the online Volunteer Information Form, or find it at [VinE-mn.org](https://www.VinE-mn.org).



Scan Code for
Volunteer Form

Contact:

Teresa de Venecia
teresad@VinE-mn.org
715-817-1565



ROCK RIDGE CULINARY ARTS

CHILI CHAMPIONS

AT THE IRON RANGE ROTARY CHILI COOK-OFF

Rock Ridge High School Culinary Arts students recently put their skills to the test at the Iron Range Rotary Chili Cook-Off—and came home with first place!

Students Rocky Triestman, Jace Schmitz, Joey Stickney, Finn Pluskwik, and Chauker Hoover represented Rock Ridge at the competition. Marlee Callen, Lilli Riutta, Colton Johnson, and Bobby Niemi also played an important role in preparing the award-winning chili.

Under the guidance of Culinary Arts teacher Jade Andrie, students are gaining hands-on experience that connects classroom learning with real-world skills—an important part of Rock Ridge High School's Career Academy approach.

Congratulations to our students and Ms. Andrie on bringing home the first-place hardware!





READY FOR WHAT'S NEXT

Rock Ridge High School is adding a new graduation requirement focused on an essential life skill: personal finance.

Beginning with the Class of 2028, all students will complete a Personal Finance course before graduating. Students will learn practical skills like budgeting, saving, credit and debt, loans, taxes, and planning for their financial future.

As a Career Academy, Rock Ridge is committed to preparing students for whatever comes next—whether that's college, technical school, the military, or the workforce.

Preparing students not just for graduation, but for what comes next.



Being college and career ready is about more than academics. It's about being ready for life.
– Principal Scott Manni

CITIZENSHIP IN ACTION



Rock Ridge 9th grade social studies students in Ms. Ellefson and Mrs. Krebs' explored citizenship and the naturalization process through a hands-on simulation. Students worked through the steps required to become U.S. citizens, gaining a better understanding of the process and the responsibilities of citizenship.

