



North Ridge Review

WINTER 2024 PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

Dear North Ridge Families,

Happy New Year! I hope you all had a wonderful holiday break. As we kick off 2024 there are lots of exciting things taking place. As always, January is a favorite with the children. The gym is transformed into SAFETY CITY!!! Each student will receive a license and learn the rules of the road!

Also for the month, each class will participate in the SOUPer Bowl. We will be collecting cans of soup on behalf of Island Harvest for those in need. The class with the most cans collected will receive an extra gym class!

As the weather continues to be cold, please be sure to have your children dress appropriately as we will go outside for recess on days where the temperatures are above 26 degrees!

Warmest Regards,



"It's a Very a Fine Place"

Mission Statement:

The North Ridge learning community is committed to helping all of our students become lifelong learners by building their social, emotional and academic skills. Together we will encourage them to develop self-confidence and promote respect for themselves and others. Through a growing understanding of their rights and responsibilities, our children will become contributing citizens of the world in which we live!

2023-2024 NORTH RIDGE SITE - BASED MANAGEMENT MEMBERS

2023-2024 NORTH RIDGE PTA EXEC BOARD

Katherine Rihm—Principal
Marisa Bivona & Natalia Metzger— Co-Presidents
Victoria Cardinale, Tara Fore Elaine Rojas— Vice Presidents
Grace Wigdzinski— Recording Secretary
Emily Meyer— Corresponding Secretary
Christine Napolitano— Treasurer
Leana Visalli— Past President

Katherine Rihm—Principal
Jen LombardoLianne Conroy - Support Staff Rep.
Lisa Mariani - Kindergarten Teacher Rep.
Natalie Meyers - 1st Grade Teacher Rep.
Tara Chiaino - 2nd Grade Teacher Rep.
Jody Mazur/Christine Schultz -CTA Rep.
Marissa Bivona, Leana Visalli, Jessica Hayes - Parent Rep.



ATTENTION ALL SCOUT LEADERS: Please be sure to reserve your rooms and file appropriate paperwork with Laura Argila in the main office. Please email her at LArgila@commack.k12.ny.us

Parents, as a reminder, ALL visitors must present a valid ID to enter the building, and MUST sign in to be issued a visitors pass. If a valid ID is not presented, you will not be permitted to be in the building.

Be sure to visit the Commack School District Website at:
www.commack.k12.ny.us

DAILY PROCEDURES:

WALKER PICK UP:

As a reminder, all walker requests should be emailed to NRWalker@commack.k12.ny.us. Please copy the teacher on the email and be sure to include: student name, teacher name and person picking up!
(Anyone picking up should bring valid picture identification)

DISMISSAL PROCEDURES:

Please keep in mind, as the largest primary school in the district, it takes a significant amount of time to dismiss our students safely and efficiently. Below is the afternoon timeline which we follow.

Dismissal Time Frames:

SCOPE: 3:15pm

(and FAST CLUBS when applicable)

WALKERS: 3:20pm

BUS ROW #1: 3:25pm

BUS ROW #2: 3:35pm

FINAL CALL/BUILDING ALL CLEAR :3:45pm



LUNCHROOM REMINDERS:

Please be sure to follow the district policy for ordering lunch.

It is **IMPERATIVE** that every student intending to buy lunch has placed an order the day before. Students who do not have an order will only be offered popcorn chicken and not be eligible for the daily specialty items. Instructions for payment and ordering can be found on the district website.



NO SCHOOL

UPCOMING SCHOOL CLOSURES:

RETURN FROM HOLIDAY RECESS: January 2, 2024

MONDAY, JANUARY 15th: MLK DAY

WINTER RECESS: February 19-23

*** HALF DAYS ON (THURSDAY) MARCH 21st AND (FRIDAY) MARCH 22nd ***

(PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES... DISMISSAL BEGINS AT NOON)



NORTH RIDGE KINDERGARTEN



Kindergartners have been immersed in learning for the past few months. We learned about different holidays and explored traditions from different cultures around the world.

Our Town Meetings each month give us a special togetherness. Each month a character trait is learned and the children become interactive with the presentation. During December we focused on Respect and had a beautiful holiday sing along. In January we will learn about Acceptance and Tolerance. Hopes and dreams are discussed in January, as we become more aware of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and his great contributions.

In Readers Workshop we are learning many strategies to give us the strong foundation we need to begin reading. We enjoy reading "just right books" from our book boxes and hearing books read aloud in our classrooms. We've begun using picture clues, initial consonants and many other reading strategies to help us read words. We love reading our big books for shared reading as we join in chorale reading with our class.

During November Writers Workshop we were writing sentences and listening for sounds in words as we attempted "kindergarten spelling." During December we are writing for many purposes. We are making lists, cards, signs and invitations. In January we are starting pattern books. At the end of each unit of study each kindergartner has the opportunity to publish one piece of writing and become an author.

In math we are enjoying the routines of the morning calendar, which incorporate many different math skills. A few include extending patterns, place value, ordinal numbers, graphing and counting. Our math chapters for December are Counting and comparing numbers 0-10 and classifying data using problem solving. In January we will be adding and subtracting numbers to 10.



Happy New Year! January is filled with new beginnings. In Math, the First Graders are working hard practicing their math strategies and building their skills when approaching math facts. The students continue to read and listen to literature all winter, as they learn and experience the signs of winter.

The First Graders are especially looking forward to the month of February. February is filled with lively and educational discussions of past and present presidents, as well as the ever so popular "100th Day of School." The children love participating in the many wonderful activities that the teachers have planned on this special day. In the month of February the character trait that we focus on is "Compassion." We address this in our classes and at our town meetings where we come together as a community. We will also discuss maintaining a healthy environment during Nutrition Week. In March, we will focus on the trait of "Endurance", which lends itself to the topic of Disabilities Awareness.

In Social Studies, the children are learning about Economics, including all of the different kinds of jobs in their community. They are learning about needs and wants, as well as goods and services. Our Social Studies curriculum allows the students to learn more about the community around them and how they can be good citizens as well. The children are enjoying the related literature and are able to make connections to their own lives.

In Science, the children have begun a unit on light and sound waves. We will be doing experiments with light and sound as we discover characteristics of these waves.

Reading and Writing continues to be the driving force in our classrooms. The children continue to learn new strategies to improve their reading and writing skills. It is important for families to read together. Reading opens up many doors for our children. Reading every night will help your young reader build his/her skills. Please remember to send in the reading calendar for the month. This is a wonderful way to contribute to our school community.

In February and March many of the concepts and skills taught to the children tend to come together and really "click" for the students at this time. It is a wonderful time to see their growth and we hope you are enjoying all of their progress as well.

**Warm Wishes,
The First Grade Teachers**



Second graders are learning about communities of the past and present through the use of big books, authentic literature, and teacher created materials. We traveled back through time on a field trip to Blydenburgh Park where the students participated in wood-working, textiles, blacksmithing, and cooking to experience what daily life was like through the eyes of a colonial child.

Math instruction has been focused on subtracting within 100. Over the next few months students will be solving word problems involving addition and subtraction. They will also be identifying and counting coins and bills, solving word problems about money, telling time to the nearest 5 minutes using a.m. and p.m., and telling time before and after the hour. Please continue to count money and tell time with us at home.

We are fully immersed in our study of the three states of matter. We are using simple logical reasoning to develop conclusions and recognizing patterns and relationships present in the environment. We are asking “why” questions in attempts to seek greater understanding concerning objects and events and making predictions based on prior experiences. Ask us about the experiments we have been conducting!

In reading and writing we have been immersed in the study of realistic fiction. We are learning that fictional characters can respond to events in realistic ways and authors are inspired by real life experiences and observations. We are becoming realistic fiction authors by studying authors’ crafts and incorporating them into our own writing. Our next unit will focus on non-fiction where we will be writing our own research projects.

All second graders continue to work diligently and make connections between what they learn in the classroom and their own personal experiences. Each day continues to be a great learning experience for our students.

Warm winter wishes to our North Ridge community!
Your Second Grade Teachers