



Grand Ridge Grade School

NEWSLETTER



Week of Dec. 4-10, 2011

400 W. Main Street
Grand Ridge, IL 61325

David Mathis, Supt. — Ted Sanders, Principal
"Large enough to educate you, small enough to know you."

Phone: 815-249-6225
Fax: 815-249-5049

A Few Words from the Superintendent

STUDENT COUNCIL

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS FOOD DRIVE



As we share love and enjoy the traditions of this holiday, it is easy to remember family, but we need to extend ourselves to think of others in need. The true spirit of Christmas reflects a commitment to helping those in need and to give hope to those in hopelessness. We are holding a food drive until December 15th. Last year we were able to bring in 700 lbs. of food.

We would appreciate if you can have your child bring in non-perishable items such as canned or boxed goods. Please help us make Christmas a little brighter for those who are less fortunate.



At the junior high basketball game on Thursday, December 15th the Grand Ridge Booster Club will be collecting 2 food items for admission to the games. The Grand Ridge Booster Club is also helping by donating the admission proceeds on this date to the Grand Ridge Emergency Fund (GREF). Way to go Boosters!



The Christmas programs will be held on
Monday, Dec. 12 (3rd—5th Holiday Program) at 6:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 13 (Band & Choir Holiday Program) at 6:30 p.m.

Baskets will be passed for donations and the money collected will also be donated to the Emergency Fund. This money goes to purchase gifts, clothes and food for the needy families in our school district.



Please help out in any way you can.

Thoughts from Mr. Sanders . . .

'The final forming of a person's character lies in their own hands.'

--Anne Frank

There have been a few incidents lately that deserve some time and clarification so parents and the school are on the same page and working together for the betterment of our children. ***Cell Phones and Other Electronic Devices at School:*** We have had several issues with students bringing cell phones to school and using them at recess time or trying to sneak them into their classrooms. We have seen this all the way down to the 1st grade level. In one particular instance, a 1st grader reportedly “lent” his phone to another student overnight, subsequently leading to an administrative investigation to determine whether the phone was stolen. On the offset, this seems innocent and a non-issue; however, with the current expense of cell phones, Nintendo DS’s, or other games, and the fact that stealing a phone can be an issue involving law-enforcement, we would ask that parents and students follow the handbook for use of these devices (pg. 31-32 Parent Student Handbook). Failure to abide by these rules may result in confiscation of the item and/or further discipline. **We do not allow students to play with electronic devices during recess because we want to encourage interpersonal relationships during these scholastic breaks.** We understand many students use their games or phones on the bus ride to and from school. Most everyone follows the rules and does a great job, but we would appreciate your cooperation in teaching the proper use of electronic devices.

The next issue revolves around ***Athletic Eligibility:*** The Illinois Elementary School Association by-laws state:

2.021 The Principal of a member school shall be responsible to this Association for matters pertaining to all athletic as well as non-athletic activities of his/her school. In addition, he/she shall be responsible to ensure that his/her school is properly represented at all interscholastic events and be responsible for the conduct of the contestants and other persons from his/her school.

2.042 A student shall be doing passing work as determined by the local school district in all school subjects and the school shall certify compliance with this By-Law. Use of a player, contestant, or participant shall be deemed such certification.

2.043 For all IESA activities, athletic as well as non-athletic, passing work shall be checked weekly to govern eligibility for the following Monday through Saturday. Students must be passing each subject each week to be eligible. For fall sports, the first eligibility check shall be made following the first full week of attendance at the beginning of the school year. During the succeeding weeks of the school year, the eligibility check shall begin the week prior to the first contest in an activity.

2.044 The eligibility check shall be the same day each week unless school is not in session; then it must be taken on the last day of student attendance that week.

2.045 Grades shall be accumulative for the school's grading period.

Illustrations for 2.040 from the IESA by-laws:

Q: Our teacher's grades are due to the office by 3:00 p.m. each Thursday to determine grade eligibility for the following week. One of my teachers reported a failing grade for a student when he turned in grades. On the following Monday, the teacher reported that the student who was failing turned in an extra credit report over the weekend and was now considered passing. Is this student eligible?

A: No. The student is **ineligible** since he was failing on the day that grades were due to the office. The fact that the extra credit project now makes the student grade eligible will help when the grade check is done the next Thursday, but **the student was failing when the grade check was completed and as a result, the student is ineligible for the following week. The grade check must be done on the same day each week and cannot count grades earned or received after the check has been completed.**

If you have further questions about eligibility, please check the IESA website, or contact the IESA at **309-829-0114**

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If you have questions about your student's grades, parents should direct those questions to the classroom teacher. Please remember that teachers do the very best they can to grade and post work to the Grade System. However, there are often circumstances that may slow the process that parents are unaware of. There are times when our grade system might be down for repair or due to internet connection problems, teacher absences for professional conferences or for illness, or simply a multitude of work that must be entered. Please understand that our teachers do a great job keeping up with the daily requirements for grading. If a student is counting on one grade to keep him/her eligible, there may be other issues than how quickly a teacher can post that grade. It takes diligence on both sides, and a strong commitment to our kids to pass on the message that academics are more important than extra-curricular participation.

I realize that these issues might be difficult, however, like Anne Frank says, **"The final forming of a person's character lies in their own hands."** It is our goal at Grand Ridge to help guide young people in developing their character. Teachers, administration, and parents all work together to educate students to their fullest potential. But in the end, it is up to the child to make the choice to do the right thing. If they fail to do so, he/she must suffer the consequences of his/her actions. Admitting wrong and dealing with the results of one's actions builds character in a person.

Have a Great Week!



FAMILY READING NIGHT

Thank you to all the families who participated in Family Reading Night. Here is a list of the winners of free books:

Ava Paris, Declan O'Connor, Ty Allen, Hannah Galletti, Ethan Christie, Francesca Rodriguez, Henry Alexander, Ana Ahearn, Jaron Black, Allie Snyder, Brittany Dovin, Sofie Offermann, Holly Hladovcak, Lana Krohe, Megan Morel, Riley Cole, Taalor Allen, Bryce Peacher, Trevor Snyder, and Kaitlyn Killian. Thank you for all the participation in Family Reading Night.

The Reading Committee

SNOW DAYS AND EARLY DISMISSALS



When the weather man predicts a pretty good snowstorm, and school is cancelled, you will be contacted by ALERTNOW, our phone notification system. We will be testing it soon, and if you are concerned about us having the correct number, please call the office to see if we have the correct phone number for you.

Also, any school cancellations or altered schedules due to weather conditions will be on the radio by 6:00 a.m. The stations to listen to are WSTQ 1250 AM, WLPO-1220 AM, and WCMY-1430AM.

If it happens during the school day, we will try to keep the kids here, because so many parents work and are not home, but we also had you complete Emergency Forms stating who the child is to go home with, if it becomes necessary to call an early dismissal. You may want to locate and review the early dismissal plan.





SANTA'S SECRET SHOP

We are having our annual Santa's Secret Shop on Monday Dec. 5th & Tuesday Dec. 6th for K-5th grade. The children will have an opportunity to shop for Christmas presents at a reduced price since most of the items were donated. Thanks, for your donations! We would appreciate it if they buy for their immediate family only (grandparents are included) since we are limiting the children to six purchases total. We would like everyone to get a chance to buy something nice for their loved ones this holiday. This is a nonprofit function that is teaching the children the "reason for the season" which is giving is more important than receiving. That is why we ask that the children not buy for themselves. Items run from \$.25 - \$3.00. Please help them budget and make their list using the following:

My Shopping List

Relative:

I can spend:

- | | |
|----|----|
| 1. | \$ |
| 2. | \$ |
| 3. | \$ |
| 4. | \$ |
| 5. | \$ |
| 6. | \$ |

COMMUNITY MOVIE NIGHT

HOSTED BY: GRAND RIDGE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Bring the whole family and enjoy a night out at the movies!

Where: Grand Ridge United Methodist Church

300 Sylvan Avenue

When: Friday, Dec. 9th at 6:00 p.m.

Donation of \$1 includes movie, popcorn, and a drink

(Other items will be for sale (\$1 and under))



Chairs will be set up and there will be space for pillows/sleeping bags.

(You're free to bring sleeping bags/pillows and wear PJs)



SHOWING WILL BE "ELF" WITH WILL FARRELL

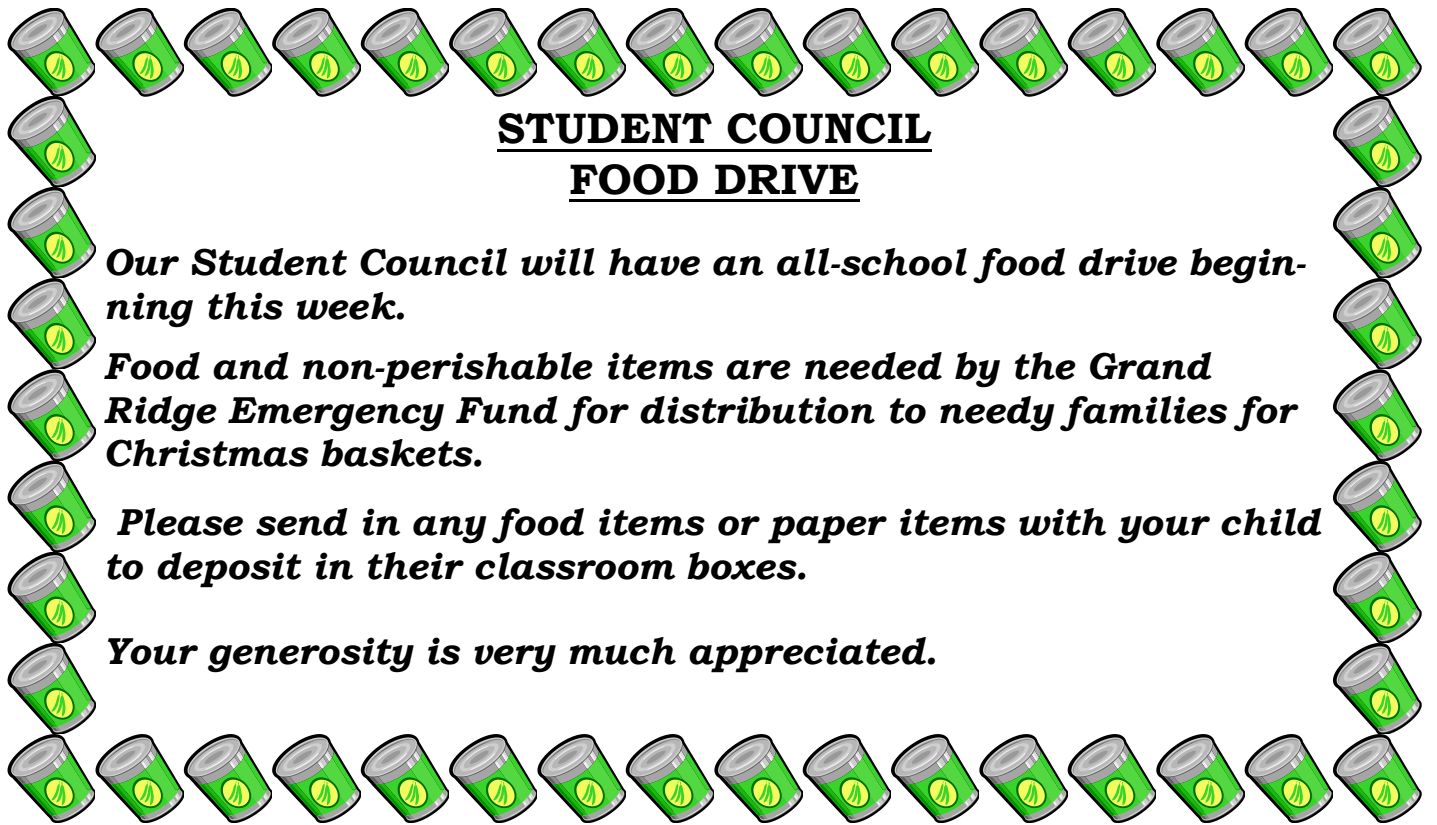
SANTA SECRET SHOP

On December 5th & 6th, the PTO will host the Santa Secret Shop, where students can purchase inexpensive items for their family for Christmas.

Each year we ask for a donation of six identical items to be donated by each family to help stock the shop. We have had a very low number of items donated this year.

Please help if you can.
Contact: Heather Wargo-674-6120

We are limiting the purchases to 6 items per child, and sheet is also here so you can prepare your shopping list.



STUDENT COUNCIL
FOOD DRIVE

Our Student Council will have an all-school food drive beginning this week.

Food and non-perishable items are needed by the Grand Ridge Emergency Fund for distribution to needy families for Christmas baskets.

Please send in any food items or paper items with your child to deposit in their classroom boxes.

Your generosity is very much appreciated.

Grand Ridge Emergency Fund
Annual Porch Food Drive
Sat. Dec. 3, 2011

Please have your donated items in a bag and on your porch by 10:00 a.m.

Sponsored by Grand Ridge Area 4-H and St. Mary' CCD Classes.



SPIRIT BOOTH ITEMS

We have included an order form for Spirit Booth items for your shopping convenience.

All orders for Christmas gifts must be turned in by December 5th.

There is a great selection of Mohawk sportswear available.



Calendar of Events



- Mon. Dec. 5 *Santa Secret Shop*
- Tues. Dec. 6 *Santa Secret Shop*
- Wed. Dec. 7 *DISMISS AT 2:15 P.M.*
PTO MEETING—7:00 P.M.
7/8 BBB at Marseilles—5:00 p.m.
5/6 BBB at Waltham—6:00 p.m.
- Thur. Dec. 8 *7/8 BBB at home vs. Waltham—6:00 p.m.*
- Fri. Dec. 9 *8th Boys' BB at Harding Tournament*
- Sat. Dec. 10 *Hoop Shoot at IVCC—8:30 Regist, 9:15 Start*
8 Boys' BB at Harding Tournament
5/6 BBB at home vs. Henry—10:00 a.m.



Special Birthdays

Dec. 4	Dec. 5	Dec. 6 Anthony King	Dec. 7	Dec. 8	Dec. 9 Holly Hladovcak	Dec. 10 Maria Burke Jenny Schaumberg
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REMINDER:
LUNCH TICKETS:
\$17.50—K-2ND
\$19.00—3-8TH
BREAKFAST: \$10.00

Lunch & Breakfast Menus



	Monday Dec. 5	Tuesday Dec. 6	Wednesday Dec. 7	Thursday Dec. 8	Friday Dec. 9
Breakfast Menu	Cereal Pop Tart Juice Milk	Omelet Hash Browns Fruit Milk	Cereal Frudel or Cinni Bun Juice Milk	Bagel Cream Cheese Jelly Yogurt & Fruit Milk	Cereal Donut Juice Milk
Lunch Menu	Nacho Supreme Meat & Cheese Corn Pears Churro, Milk	Spaghetti Meat Sauce Peas, Peaches Gilardi Bread Stick Milk	Chicken Nuggets Potatoes & Gravy Mixed Fruit Bread Slice Milk	Chili/Crackers Baked Potato Butter/SCreme/Cheese Apricot Halves Luigi Sherbet Milk	Turkey Fritter/Bun Corn Applesauce Peanut Butter Cookie Milk