



Grand Ridge Grade School



NEWSLETTER

Week of Dec. 18-Jan. 7, 2012

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

JOAN STUDNICKI RETIRES

Our head cook, Joan Studnicki, retired on December 7, 2011. Joan was loved by all, and we feel blessed to have had her for 13 years. She was always willing to help others and took pride in her work. She also had a contagious laugh. You couldn't stay in a bad mood long when you were around her. She was always upbeat and an optimist. Nothing seems to get her down. Even when her leg was broken last January, she persevered and made the best of it.

She made the best bread and rolls. Children and staff always looked forward to them, too. Homemade bread for Italian Dunkers was always a big hit. She loved the children, and the children loved her. When she was out with the broken leg, the students made and sent her get well cards. Once a year she allowed each class to pick a lunch, even though some of those lunches had some strange combinations. We will miss her and wish her the best in her retirement. I know if we ever need help, or have a question answered, she will be there to help.

STAFF HIRED FOR CAFETERIA

Doreen Danko will be our new cafeteria manager. She has worked with Joan for years and is going to do a fine job in providing the wonderful lunches we all look forward to. Congratulations, Doreen, on your new position.

We have also hired Becky Zytnowski as a cook, to work along side Pauline Melgoza and Robert Fararre. Kelly Darrow was hired as a sub/lunch supervisor. Rachel O'Connor, Ashley Allen and Jessica Blakemore round out the crew as lunch supervisors. They are do a great job.

HOLIDAY PROGRAMS



I want to thank our Melisa Rutkelis, our music/band teacher, on two **great** holiday programs. The administration has gotten a lot of wonderful comments. I would like to also thank the students for doing a great job on their performances. A number of students had to memorize a lot of lines. We appreciate the time and effort that went into the practices.

I can't believe we are at the holiday break already. The school year is flying by. I hope you will have time to spend with your family and friends. This is what the holidays are all about.



I share with you a quote from Oren Arnold of Christmas gifts we sometimes forget: "Christmas gift suggestions: To your enemy, forgiveness. To an opponent, tolerance. To a friend, your heart. To a customer, service. To all, charity. To every child, a good example. To yourself, respect."

So on the behalf of the school board, administration, teachers and staff at Grand Ridge we wish you,

"Happy Holidays to all of you and see you next year."

THOUGHTS FROM MR. SANDERS . . .

“I will honor Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year.”

~Charles Dickens

It is Christmas time once again. All the children are stirring and restless, and the parents are rushing to get all the holiday plans accomplished. Though it is the darkest time of year, you would never know it by looking at all the activity, the lights, the carolers, the busy lines. Whew!!!! You could get worn out just thinking about it. It is my hope that you and your family have a chance to rest, enjoy each other, be with your friends and loved ones, and share this special time.

It occurred to me recently that people, in some strange way, are like mirrors. We tend to reflect what we see and feel in the world to other people. After watching “A Christmas Carol” on television, I noticed that Scrooge was actually doing just that. His outlook on life was a reflection of how he was raised as a child, the company he kept with his friend Jacob Marley, and the quiet loneliness he experienced each evening when he made his way home to his little corner of the world. This was his life, and this was the reflection he projected back to those around him.

Mirrors, however, are useless in the dark. Mirrors are made to reflect the light. When you light a candle in the darkness, that light is small; but when you use a mirror, that light is magnified many times over. To look at Scrooge again, he was in darkness, unable to reflect any warmth or light to those around him. When his focus changed, and was no longer on the dark, coldness or the world, and instead was placed on the good things of life, his mirror reflected a much different picture. His heart was lifted. His focus changed, he was able to live again in a new way.

Children are naturally inclined to be little mirrors. In fact, there are such things in the brain as “mirror neurons” that are very active in a child’s brain up to the age of 5-7. These neurons are what give children the ability to learn to walk and speak and do so many other things in such a short time. As we age, those neurons shrink, but they are not gone. They are triggered when we begin to learn new things, dance, sing, draw or paint. In other words, when we express ourselves our mirror neurons begin to fire. They do not work at the speed they did when we were younger, but they can still be used! How interesting that self-expression is tied to mirroring our environment. So for those who need to have a bit of science in understanding the world, there you go. Neurophysiology is filled with those quirky little conundrums. For those of you who would understand the world through the emotions, Charles Dickens is saying the same thing, just without the evidence of empirical science to support his claim.

What we focus on each day is incredibly important, for we will reflect what is in our mirror. If it is light and life, happiness, joy, love and charity, then so will our mirror shine. If we focus on the darkness, our mirror is useless and our light fades away. It is not gone, though! All that has to happen is to let that light in and change our focus. This is why being a part of a community is so important. When our lights dim, we reflect the lights of those around us.

I am very lucky and blessed to be surrounded by co-workers, children, and families who shine their light through charity to others. This community is very special. This community tries to focus on the positives and not the negatives. We try to help each other every day in some way, and that is reflected in the children of the community and how they treat others. You have much to be proud of and much to be thankful for. So in the spirit of Charles Dickens’ words, may you have a wonderful Christmas, and keep it all year through.

Have a Great Break!!

YEARBOOK COVER CONTEST

In the yearbook cover contest:

Congratulations to Jordan Kanellis on creating the 1st Place poster that will be used as the cover for this year's yearbook. There were other posters that will also be used on the back cover of the yearbook, which were created by:

Emily Hines

Austin Walter

Emily Yacko

Evan Young

Paige Lehr

Chrissy Miller

Samantha Shepard

Emily Despain

Ally Couch

Congratulations to all our winners!

OGLESBY HOOP SHOOT CONTEST WINNER

The Oglesby Elks Hoop Shoot was held last Saturday at IVCC. Our Gary Duffield won the boys 10-11 year old division. He will now advance to the District Competition at Dixon on January 14.



Congratulations Gary and Good Luck in the next round at Dixon.

KATHRYN BEICH FUNDRAISER

THE PTO WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL THE PARENTS AND STUDENTS THAT PARTICIPATED IN THE ALL-SCHOOL FUNDRAISER. WE WERE ABLE TO RAISE OVER \$5,000 TO HELP PROVIDE STUDENTS AND TEACHERS WITH CLASSROOM SUPPLIES, BUSES FOR FIELD TRIPS, END OF THE YEAR PICNIC AND MANY OTHER PROJECTS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.

WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO THANK ALL WHO SUPPORTED SANTA SECRET SHOP, THE EMERGENCY FUND AND OUR FOOD DRIVE.

WE APPRECIATE THE CONTINUING SUPPORT OF THE PARENTS IN ALL OF OUR PROJECTS.



Calendar of Events



- Mon. Dec. 19** **FALL SPORTS BANQUET—6:00 P.M.**
- Tues. Dec. 20** **5th/6th BBB at Earlville—5:30 p.m.**
7th/8th BBB at home vs. Putnam County—6:00 p.m.
- Wed. Dec. 21** **CHRISTMAS BREAK BEGINS AT 11:50 A.M.**
- Tues. Jan. 3** **Students Return**
7th/8th/6th VB at Henry—4:30 p.m.
7/8 BBB at home vs. Parkside—6:00 p.m.
- Wed. Jan. 4** **DISMISS AT 2:15 p.m.**
PTO MEETING CANCELLED THIS MONTH
- Thur. Jan. 5** _____
- Fri. Jan. 6** **END OF 2ND QUARTER**
6th BBB Harcar Tournament here at GR
- Sat. Jan 7** **6th BBB Harcar Tournament**
7/8 BBB at VGSC Tournament at Wallace



NO PTO
MEETING
IS JANUARY.

Special Birthdays



Dec. 18	Dec. 19 Jon Campbell Alyssa King	Dec. 20	Dec. 21 Joe Burke	Dec. 22	Dec. 23	Dec. 24 Morgan Seibert
Dec. 25	Dec. 26 Kaitlyn Killian	Dec. 27	Dec. 28	Dec. 29 Brett Galletti	Dec. 30	Dec. 31

REMINDER:
LUNCH TICKETS:
\$17.50—K-2ND
\$19.00—3-8TH
BREAKFAST: \$10.00

Lunch Menu



	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	Dec. 19	Dec. 20	Dec. 21	Dec. 22	Dec. 23
Lunch Menu	Deli Turkey/Bun Cheetos Carrots/Dip Fruit Mix Milk	Chicken Patty/Bun Corn Peaches Brownie Milk	School Dismisses At 11:50	NO SCHOOL	NO SCHOOL
	Jan. 2	Jan. 3	Jan. 4	Jan. 5	Jan. 6
Lunch Menu	NO SCHOOL	Pizza Corn Fruit Mix Choc Chip Cookie Milk	Mini Corn Dogs Baked Beans Peaches Peanut Butter Cookie Milk	Popcorn Chicken Potatoes & Gravy Apricot Halves Bread Slice Milk	Toasted Cheese Tomato Soup/Crax Applesauce Yogurt Milk