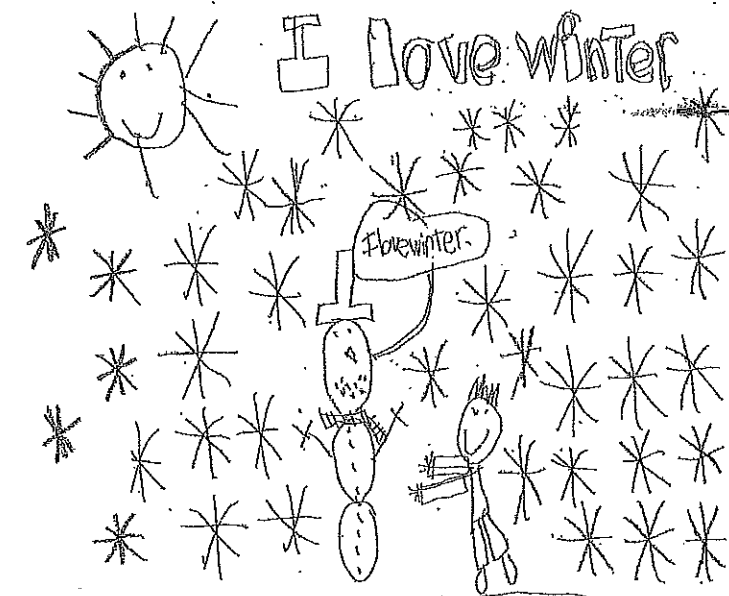


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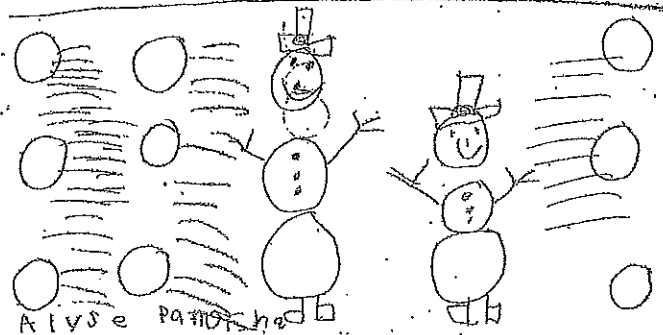
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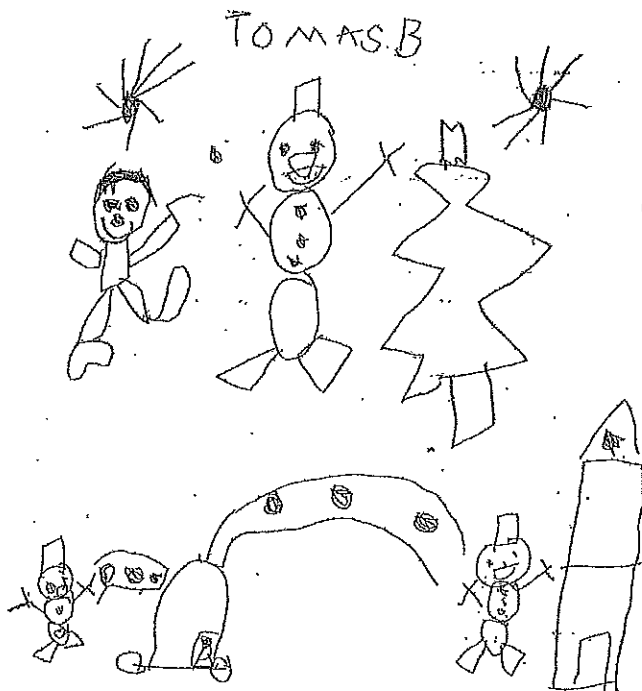
Jacqueline

Happy New Year!!!

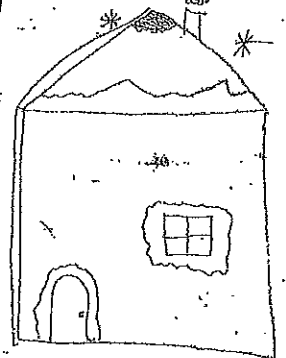
It's winter!



Alvise Patton



2015 Winter



Victoria Milani

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL:

Greetings,

The faculty and staff of Union Ridge School would like to wish all our students, parents, and community members a Happy New Year! Because of the support from our community, our students receive the well-rounded education that has become the expectation in this community. Now in my tenth year, I am reminded on a daily basis of the importance this community places on education. Our parents are involved in the process of educating, not just spectators. We are successful only because we are united in the mission to support all our children.

Let's welcome 2015 with enthusiasm, let's embrace the challenges ahead, and let's continue to set high standards for all our children. Union Ridge School has a strong reputation for preparing leaders in this community. I am often complemented on the successes of our children long after they have left Union Ridge School. The proud feeling of knowing that our former students are using their talents to make a difference in high school and beyond is reassuring. We celebrate the many accomplishments of our current and former Union Ridge students.

Please continue to be an active member of our school community. The PTA and parent volunteers of Union Ridge School collaboratively work with teachers and staff members to enhance the learning environment for our students. Volunteerism is the untapped resource that makes the difference between a good and a great school. Union Ridge School acknowledges our unbelievable volunteers and we welcome the partnership of future volunteers. If you would like to become an active member in our school community, please let me know.

I would like to conclude my 2014 newsletter by recognizing the efforts of the staff of Union Ridge School. Schools across our state and country are inundated with new assessments, changing standards, and unfunded mandates. It requires a resilient staff to maintain the mission of the district during these changes. I have been impressed with the staff of Union Ridge School and their ability to adapt and thrive during these difficult transitions. I know the field of education has been scrutinized recently, but I assure you that Union Ridge School has not sacrificed teaching the whole child solely for increasing standardized test scores. Union Ridge School believes that our students are future leaders who are not defined only by the scores collected from standardized test scores. We pride ourselves on the quality of character represented by our collective student body.

Have a wonderful 2015 and I hope to see you soon.

Mr. Michael G. Maguire
Principal

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL:

Happy New Year! I look forward to 2015 and the happiness it will bring both at school and at home. I hope everyone enjoyed the holidays and time off with loved ones.

Congratulations on the efforts of our students and families to be at school on time each and every day. We continue to celebrate homerooms with the best monthly attendance and are happy to report that our tardiness as a school continues to decline. Keep up the great work!

Our entire school continues to embrace our theme, "Be Here, Be Ready." Teachers and other staff members have been awarding "I am a URS HUSKY" bracelets to deserving students since August 22nd. We look forward to selecting more 6 students each month through our "Be Here, Be Ready" lotto to receive an extra "Husky" celebration pizza party. Be sure to check out our chain link in the hallway...it will get even longer as we catch more stars throughout the rest of the year!

We continue to incorporate the best instructional opportunities for all our students at Union Ridge School. Our students took the MAP test, or Measures of Academic Progress, this fall. This computerized assessment adapts to student ability and responds by increasing or decreasing in difficulty, providing each student with a rewarding experience. It is a great tool to show what students have learned and what students are ready to learn. This assessment also provides teachers with the information they need to improve teaching and learning and make student-focused, data-driven decisions. Students in grades three through eight will again be assessed in the spring and a report will be sent home.

We always work to celebrate the success and hard work of our students here at Union Ridge. We encourage you to visit our homepage on the Union Ridge website (<http://www.urs86.org>) regularly to check out what our students have been up to!

Best in 2015!

Julie Mensik
Assistant Principal

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT:

January marks the official half-way point to the school year. The period following Winter Break is one of the most active seasons at Union Ridge. With students participating in band, basketball, cheerleading and poms, and many other activities, it seems as if our school operates at full capacity from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm every day!

I encourage you to make sure your child is involved in our extensive extracurricular program. My experience tells me that more involved children are more successful academically. The boys' basketball and cheerleading seasons are now winding down. The conference tournament is the week of January 19th. Tryouts for girls' basketball will begin the first full week of February. Boys' volleyball season starts after we return from spring break.

I was impressed by our recent Winter Band and Choral Concerts. With the support of our dedicated staff, the students performed wonderfully! The PTA sponsored bake sales were a big hit, and I know they are very grateful for the support received from our community. It was a great way to celebrate the season and get into the holiday spirit.

Winter weather also brings the possibility of school closures. Historically, school closures at Union Ridge are extremely rare events. We realize that most parents have to work, and closing school can result in difficult supervision issues. Of course, parents make the final decision regarding school attendance. Parents may excuse their children from school any time they feel the conditions are unsafe. In the event that school will be closed, we will notify students and staff with our automated calling system. In addition, we will post the closing information on our school web site. Please update emergency information with the office on an annual basis and whenever personal information is outdated.

Finally, the holiday season is a good time to remind every one of our school wellness policies. Our mission at Union Ridge is to prepare our students for success in high school and beyond, and this includes being physically fit and eating healthy foods. We work closely with our food service provider to serve lunches that meet strong nutritional standards. As the prevalence of students with food allergies dramatically increased, we developed strict guidelines for classroom food consumption. You can review our wellness policy on the school web site, under the "Parent" then "Nurse Office" tabs.

Happy New Year to you and your families.

John Kosirog, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Early Childhood

Happy New Year! We hope you had a wonderful holiday. Early Childhood students enjoyed making gifts and cards for their families! Students are beginning to be more independent in putting on jackets, mittens and hats. We are learning more about changes with the winter season and enjoy taking walks around our neighborhood!

The afternoon classes have listened to La Tortuga and The Elves and the Shoemaker from a reading readiness program - Rowland Reading. Students look forward to completing activity pages and following along with their own storybooks. It is a great preparation for kindergarten in the fall!

Our students and families will also prepare for a field trip to the Kohl Children's Museum in Glenview. The museum is a wonderful hands-on learning experience for our students. It is also a great opportunity to spend time with your child and their friends in school!

The EC Team
Ms. Dirks
Ms. Puksza
Mr. Jorgensen
Mrs. Bohman

Kindergarten

We hope everyone had a wonderful and safe holiday break! We have been busy these past few winter months! Our kindergarten students have become super readers and mathematicians! We are concluding the first section of the Superkids reading program, Meet The Superkids. We have learned the letters Cc, Oo, Gg, Aa, Dd, Ss, Ll, Ii, Tt, Ff, Ee, Hh, and Uu and their sounds. Our students are also reading short books and using their decoding skills to blend words! We soon will be beginning the second part of the Superkids reading program, Superkids Club.

Please continue to support your kindergartener as he or she practices their letter/sound identification skills and reading skills at home. Please visit www.superkidsreading.org and your child's classroom website to further your child's learning!

One of the best things you can do for your child is read with them every night! Remember to record all the books you are reading in your child's Jungle Book It Folder J.

We are working on number, letter, and sentence formation with our students. Please use the Superkids Letter formation guide to assist your child with his/her writing. Practice makes great writers!

Our students are able to use position words, as well as count, compare, and measure objects. We also have learned basic addition and subtraction! Our students will continue to count by ones, tens, fives, and twos to 100; Zero The Hero visits our classroom every 10 days to help us learn to count by tens!

Our classroom websites have a wealth of information, updates, pictures, and homework information. You can find our websites on the URS

website (www.urs86.org) under 'Contacts' and 'Teacher Pages'. Please take the time to explore and visit these sights on a regular basis.

Thank you for sharing your children with us! Please be sure to keep your child healthy this winter so they can be at school every day! We have developed a great partnership with our families this year and we are excited to further develop these relationships as we watch our students grow in 2015! We are just wild about kindergarten!

The Kindergarten Team
Mrs. Duffy, Mrs. Kelly
Mrs. Jenkinson-Cope, Mrs. Mueller
Ms. Gillespie & Ms. Wyda

First Grade

November was a special month in first grade. Our focus was on Thanksgiving. We learned all about the very first Thanksgiving celebration given by the Pilgrims and Native Americans. We reenacted that first long journey and investigated the concept of CROWDED. Each class prepared a sampling of food to share. We concluded our lesson with a mini Thanksgiving feast. We are very thankful for many things and our wonderful families are on the top of that list!

Now, could this possibly be December already? The excitement of the holidays is all around us and especially in first grade!

Our busy little first grade elves continue to work hard in reading, math, science, and social studies. At the same time, many special holiday projects are in the making. Our challenge is to keep them a secret from those who will be receiving the gifts! We are writing letters to Santa with the help of our wonderful middle school students and hope to receive answers from him. The children are asking questions as, "How do you get in my house if I don't have a chimney?" and "How do you get to everyone's house in one night?" We are anxious to hear his answers! We are also practicing daily for our holiday concert. Our classrooms are filled with music, lights, and the spirit of giving this holiday season!

We are wishing everyone a joyful holiday and a very happy, healthy, New Year!

The First Grade team,
Ms. Grazioso
Mrs. Maciuba
Mrs. Rudel

Second Grade

Second Grade is so excited to start the New Year! We are here and we are ready to learn. We hope that you had a very relaxing winter break. The second half of the school year will bring many learning opportunities. We will continue to learn how

to read fiction and non-fiction text. In addition we will learn how to respond to literature - making sure that we cite text evidence. In math, we will begin learning how to multiply and divide, answer complex number stories and strengthen our problem solving skills. In Science we will be exploring the world around us. We will be conducting experiments with everyday materials as well as deepen our understanding of plants. In Social Studies we will be learning about our government and how it works. We hope everyone continues to practice their math facts daily as well as read for 20 minutes a day.

The Second Grade Team
Mrs. Kubiniec
Mrs. Musial
Mrs. Skidmore

Third Grade

The third graders are really showing their descriptive potential through several writing pieces. They are using a variety of figurative language to give information or tell a story in unique and personal ways! Have your third grader share their fantastic work by asking them, "What is your monster story?" and, "To whom did you write a friendly letter?"

We are a few cursive letters away from learning all the lower-case cursive letters! Once we have learned all of the lower-case cursive letters, we will be writing in cursive for the remainder of the school year. Encourage your child to practice the art of cursive at home through greeting cards, grocery lists, and friendly letters.

In addition to cursive, keyboarding is an important life skill for students to develop. Give your child more opportunities to practice typing by asking them to type e-mails to a family members or a penpal, or they can even write a story using a word processing program! Let the creativity flow through the tips of their fingers!

In reading, the students are celebrating our cultures and understanding the importance of landmarks. Discuss with your child the traditions that make up your culture. We are so lucky to live in a community that is so culturally diverse. Talk about how the different cultures contribute to your community. Think about some historical landmarks that you have visited or want to visit and how does that help us learn more about our country's history. Take a moment to visit the wonderful museums in the Chicago area to learn and experience more!

During math, multiplication and division will be a big topic for the remainder of the school year, and the third grade team expects the third graders to practice their flash cards at home each night. Help your kids become fact masters by giving them quizzes at home or testing them with the

multiplication and division flash cards, or even ask them to tell you the tricks to knowing a certain number of different facts.

Continuing in science, the third graders have worked and learned about solid systems and subsystems. They have created and can identify parts of solid systems and subsystems. They then continued the unit by working with liquid systems and subsystems. They are now able to identify if a liquid is a solution or nonsolution. They will end the unit by experimenting with evaporation, and creating schlieren.

Finally in social studies, the students are investigating the history of the Native Americans and how they used natural resources to make shelter, weapons, and clothing. Ask them about the False Face Society of the Eastern Woodland Indians and how the Native Americans used buffalo.

Stay warm and get comfortable with a good book. We hope you have a wonderful winter break with your loved ones! See you in 2015!

Team 3rd Grade
Miss Milner
Mr. Santana
Mrs. Schoenfuhs

Fourth Grade

December, as some say, "is the most wonderful time of the year," for the holiday season is in full swing and families gather to spend time together. It is also a time of reflection and setting new goals for the upcoming New Year. The 4th grade students have been very busy this school year.

In Language Arts, they continue to practice reading skills as they explore a variety of genres through a number of stories. Their recent focus was on expository text as they learned about natural disasters. The students were taught how the authors used the text structure "compare and contrast," and the students were able to compare and contrast two natural disasters themselves. In the next lesson, we will continue with non-fiction and focus on how science can help solve problems.

In Math we completed our unit on multiplication and division and algebraic concepts. The kids have not only been introduced to timed tests with mixed facts, graphing them to see progress for both 1 minute and 3 minute intervals, but they have been using nightly logs to make sure they practice these extremely important facts. We have seen several scores sky-rocket since beginning the logs! Additionally, we worked on algebraic concepts such as open sentences and inserting parentheses to make an expression true. We will now move on to working with and reading numbers with decimals.

In Social Studies, students took the time to really explore how to read maps, graphs, and read globes. Students really enjoyed learning how to read maps and answer questions. As we look forward to 2015 we will be studying the U.S. regions and completing a project based on all regions.

In Science, students took the time to explore properties of matter. They observed the changes matter goes through, the physical properties by which it can be described, and the physical and chemical changes it can undergo. Students set afloat the clay boats they built to discover how much cargo each can carry. They also celebrated the coming of Winter by growing their own uniquely shaped crystal snowflakes.

In addition to the regular curriculum, the students are offered exciting opportunities using the World Wide Web and available technology. We are proud to say that all our 4th grade students have access to sites like XtraMath, Education Galaxy, Mavis Beacon, and Wonders.

As we are looking to the future and all the New Year - 2015 has to bring, we want to wish you and your Families a Happy and Prosperous New Year. Our students started the school year with a Be Here! Be Ready! motto. May it guide them throughout the year as they continue to work hard and improve their skills and talents.

The 4th grade team,
Ms. Paar
Mrs. Price
Mrs. Zgardzinski

Fifth Grade

We hope that all families had fun, safe, and healthy breaks, and are ready to make progress in a New Year with a clean slate.

By design, in science we have been studying heat transfer, and how to slow down the transfer of energy with the use of insulators. First, students participated in a friendly competition to see who could melt the most ice given the same amount of time. Then they worked together to engineer an insulator to determine who could preserve an ice cube the longest. We also studied how thermometers work, conducted several experiments that demonstrated heat transfer, and explored how traditional houses in different climates have been engineered to be energy efficient. It was an engaging study, and a perfect time of year to learn about this. (Hopefully you will see the benefits of this study in your utility bills!)

Social Studies took us into the world of research and writing. We completed two chapters in the "World's Meets" unit. During that unit, students learned much more than just the historical facts. They learned how to read and identify types

of complicated text structures such as cause and effect and sequencing. They also worked very hard on taking notes independently and writing summaries based on their notes. With a partner, students co-authored a compare-contrast essay on specific Spanish explorers they researched (using reputable sites), demonstrating the knowledge they gained through their research. These essays were written using Google Drive, allowing the students to work collaboratively even outside of the classroom. Once this was complete, they presented them to the whole class.

In math, the students completed two units of study: Geometry and Division. Within the Geometry unit, not only did they explore angle measurements, angle types, and polygons, they also learned how to incorporate problem solving skills with each new idea. They focused on not only finding solutions to problems, but on explaining how they found those answers and why they worked. An emphasis on making predictions before solving problems has been reinforced. Students are constantly encouraged to look at problems and ask themselves, "Does this make sense?" Students made estimates based on their knowledge and used mathematical tools for accuracy and precision. In the Division unit, students reinforced their skills with dividing whole numbers, decimals, and interpreting what to do with remainders in word problems. Again, students are encouraged to make estimates before solving for precision and decide if the answer makes sense. Continuing to work on the fluidity of basic multiplication facts will assist in the ease of this type of problem solving, and help them in their next unit of study, fractions.

In Language Arts, we continue to work with our new Wonders program. With each "lesson" we focus on "close reading," teaching and implementing strategies and skills that will help strengthen all students' reading abilities. Each lesson exposes students to multiple texts, providing them with guided practice of the strategies and skills at first, followed by independent practice. We can tell this program is working because students' results and confidence have increased with each test they have taken! Because these tests are difficult, we would like to encourage each family to focus on the improvement seen from test to test rather than the final score. We anticipate that this growth will continue, and that students will develop solid reading strategies that they will utilize for a lifetime.

Much has been accomplished. In the New Year, we hope to see students building on the progress they have already made, now with a fresh new perspective and a genuine excitement for learning.

Mr. Brown & Mrs. Magnelli

Sixth Grade

The 6th grade teachers would like to share some Free Verse Poems that the students wrote.

We are all connected through what we call
social media
But this is widely influenced by society
Society takes us and molds us into a different
person
I don't know about you, but I don't want to
be clay
Society nurses you and teaches you your first
words, pretend an be normal
I, on the other hand, do not agree with this
I believe you a present of silver lining
Floating in the clouds to be alarmed by a
thunder boing and a lightning strike
Yet, you stand back up with a smile because
standards don't define who you are
Our society whispers in your ear that grades
are dropping
Don't get any sleep
You're too clingy
YOU'RE DOING EVERYTHING WRONG
Sometimes you just don't listen
I don't care if you have a rainbow for hair or
a disability that takes advantage
You are you, and that's all that matters
I mean, your smile that makes the world a
better place
Or that your laugh is so funny
It's a song.
Someday, you will sit with your head between
your knees, curled up in a ball,
You will be.
You will realize you are a one of a kind
treasure
But you remember society
Your creativity is a compass that leads you to
a happy place
Where no one can find you
Your imagination
Sometimes you can't
If you can, stand up with that smile and
laughing song
And make this life a remembered one
Written by: Anita Borawski

The World

A bright, complicated place
A world of technology
A semi-violent place in which we live
A world of freedom
A world of rights
A world of few and many rules
Written by: Allison Shuttleworth

Rain!

Splash goes the rain when it hits the ground,
Rain restfully runs round
It runs down sidewalks and streets
Soaking everything in its way
Evaporating only to fall again
Written by: Claudia Grodzki

Wind Blows Hard

Trees move left and right
Birds are not flying
White cotton fills the air
Leaves fight with cotton
Must be December
Winter is here
Written by: Billy Tsagaris

The Basketball

I come to the free throw line, swoosh,
My heart is pounding like a drum,
My hands are sweating like I am in a volcano.
My knees are shaking like a tornado just hit.
I go for the shot.
I can see the ball going and going and going 'till
the basket comes
The ball is bouncing on the hoop, and it goes in.
Written by: Dominic Colletti

Art

Art is art.
Art explains your feeling.
Art can also tell you a story with one picture
Art is not only pictures and paint.
Art is drama, music and more.
Art is everything.
Written by: Yasmeen Alqaissi

Friendship

Friendship, Friendship is like a flower It blossoms and closes.
But friendship is more than just hanging out with someone. Its
laughing, crying, playing.
Its sharing secrets and jokes that no-one understands, but
you and that one person who you call best friend
Written by: Caitlyn Adams

FEAR

*Fear is like a large black blanket,
It covers your mind and puts you into a panic.
Fear is like a forest in the night,
The shadows of the trees waving like hands
waving at you in the wind.
Fear is a nightmare in your sleep,
It slips in and wakes you at night.
Fear is like a parking lot at night; with only
one street light,
It wraps you in fear with the exit that is
near the street light.
Written by: Richard Chen*

Night

*The night seeps in
Through the windows
And haunts the house
For hours
The night leaves when
Dawn comes back
To start another day
Written by: Maddi Polley*

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The Sight

The sight
The amazing light
The wind howling in the air
Yet, quiet and fair
I sat there watching
Then it hit me
I would draw the sight
The beautiful skyline
All the buildings
The water
The people
The trees
I paused
Added some blue, black, and pink
That made it all come alive
It was roaring with colors
The sky on my paper
The buildings on my paper
It was amazing
I walked around to see the sights
I saw my family
We went home
I put the art on the dresser
Then I slept silently with no peep
All I dreamt about was the sky line
And all its beautiful roaring colors
Written by: Milani Vera

WATER

Water is an amazing creation
Who do you think created it
Either God
Mother Nature
Or did it just appear
I love water because we can do so many things
with it
We can drink it
Take a bath
We can have a pool
Or even a balloon fight
Without water, I don't think anyone could survive
So, when you're brushing your teeth and laving the
water on
Think about the people in Africa
They don't even have a small, tiny drip of water
So, think about what you are doing with water
Because you don't want to waste it
Written by: Angel Castillo

Nightmares

Nightmares, a long slithering snake
It comes near you
Wraps you up

Ready to catch you, choke you
It wraps you up
In its cold endless blanket
Like you're stuck forever
Until you wake up
To the warm colorful sun
Where the nightmare can't bite.
Written by: Konrad Kruczek

Wolves

Silently prowling the night
Looking for its next prey
Fur as dark as ash
Eyes as blue as the sky
Its howl will send chills down your spine
If you ever come across
Run fast as light
Written by: Anna Gubas

Christmas

I impatiently wait to rip open the wrapping paper
My mind is full of excitement
I see my present
My expectation was wrong
I wonder what is inside the rest of them
Written by: Valentino Armanov

Just get me out of line
I just want to learn the rhyme
But no one really knew
It was only you
Dance come on dance
You always had the chance
To stand above all
To never stop and fall
Remember they gave up
And walked away
You raise your bid
You're going to go far kid
Written by: Sarah Bedwell

We hope you enjoyed reading some of our students
work.

Mrs. Richardson
Mr. Tenglin
Mrs. Walsh

7th Grade Social Studies

In Mr. Chambers' 7th grade Social Studies class, students have been studying the American Revolution. They recently analyzed letters and documents from British soldiers and Colonial Minutemen to establish a position on who fired the first shot at Lexington in 1775, the event that sparked the fighting of the American Revolutionary War. Students were faced with the challenge of not always being able to find an absolute answer to historical events. After studying American independence we will begin to learn about the U.S. Constitution.

Mr. Chambers

8th Grade Social Studies

In Mr. Chambers' 8th grade Social Studies class, we have been focusing on the effects of industrialization on America in the early twentieth century. Recently the classroom was transported back to a factory in Detroit that produced Model-T Ford automobiles in 1922. Students had the opportunity to work on an assembly line following the strict rules Henry Ford imposed on his employees to increase efficiency and productivity. Students continued to look at the effects of industrialization by analyzing letters and statistics focusing on how American lives were changing based on having electricity in their homes. Accessibility to electricity in rural homes was compared with urban homes in the 1920's. By analyzing a variety of primary and secondary sources students were able to see how more access to electricity in urban areas was increasing the use of appliances in urban homes compared to rural homes. Students were able to see how this difference was creating two different Americas based on where people lived.

Mr. Chambers

7th Grade Language Arts

We are finishing up our novel study, "Where the Red Fern Grows." Students are completing a symbolism project using text support from the novel. We will then use this information to write a compare and contrast extended response for the mid-year writing assessment.

Mrs. DeLeonardis

Our 7th grade language arts class just completed the emotionally stirring story "Where the Red Fern Grows" by Wilson Rawls. To complete the novel, we are creating symbolism collages. Each symbol is representative of a characteristic of one of the characters. This project builds the skills needed

to complete a compare and contrast essay that will be the final assessment of student understanding.

Mr. Manning

The 7th graders read "Where the Red Fern Grows" written by Wilson Rawls. This is a heartwarming tale about a boy and his love for his dogs. Students kept summary reaction journals that reflected on each chapter. In addition, students participated in student-directed discussions that carefully analyzed the plot. Each student wrote a character analysis paper about Billy Coleman, the main character. Using specific examples and direct quotes, the students constructed extremely reflective writing pieces. Also, the 7th graders wrote a second paper comparing and contrasting Little Ann and Old Dan (the two dogs). A collage of symbolic images that represented each Coonhound was created as a prewriting activity.

Mrs. Grzeskiewicz

8th Grade Language Arts

My class is starting a study of the Civil Rights Movement, and we are reading the play, "A Raisin in the Sun." Students will continue to use the Summary/Reaction journal format, and are conducting research on given topics and writing a research paper. All students will then present the information in an entertaining, yet informative, speech to share with their peers.

Mrs. De Leonardis

Our 8th grade language arts class just finished the complex play *The Crucible*. This work of historical fiction portrays some of the darkest events in American history. To assess student understanding, we will be constructing a critical analysis essay focused on the dynamic character of the protagonist, John Proctor.

Mr. Manning

The class completed reading *The Crucible* written by Arthur Miller. This compelling play was performed LIVE in class, so the students could truly understand characterization. In addition, the students created a Summary/Reaction log that reflected on each act of the play. Background research was conducted in groups focusing on various related topics such as Salem Life, McCarthyism, Arthur Miller, and Salem Witch Trials and Hunts. Students were required to present the research information in an interesting and creative way, using technology and public speaking skills. As a culminating writing activity, the

students viewed the movie and composed a Compare and Contrast writing piece that looked at the similarities and differences between the film and the actual written play. Then, the 8th graders wrote a second major paper that analyzed John Proctor's character throughout the plot. Students included specific textual examples and direct quotes to show Proctor's character development.

Mrs. Grzeskiewicz



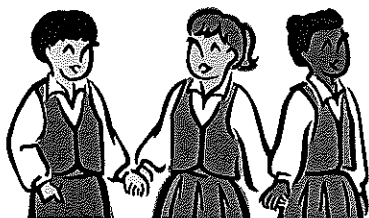
BAND

The Ridgewood Music Fest will take place on Saturday, February 7th. This event is for the Concert Band students only. We are preparing the music and will play with band members from Giles, Leigh, and Ridgewood. The whole concert will be taken on tour to the grade schools on Monday, February 9th.

Beginning Band students will be getting a new book and will now begin to work on full band pieces. This will be in addition to all the new things they have yet to learn in the second half of the year. The songs will be a great supplement to the book we are already using.

Have a question about a rehearsal, a performance, or an event? Please visit Ms. Rooney's teacher page, available through the Union Ridge website, for a link to the calendar of band rehearsals and performances. There is also a section where you can listen and view projects created in the music exploratories.

Ms. Rooney



MUSICAL MOMENTS IN ROOM 55 – Holiday Musical Recap

After many weeks of rehearsals, this year's holiday musical, "Toys! The Night They Come Alive!"

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was a huge success. We had "record breaking" attendance of performing students and of audience members. Students shined on stage and parents were definitely proud of their children. What a wonderful yearly Union Ridge tradition, and a great way to kick off the holiday break! Thank you students, parents and Union Ridge administration and staff for your help in making this year's program another success.



Chorus Update

Chorus rehearsals will resume the week of January 12th. The 4th/5th Grade students in GAP will meet on Tuesday, January 13th at 8:30 am. Middle School Chorus will meet on Thursday, January 15th during advisory. The 4th/5th Grade Chorus will meet after school on Thursday, January 15th.

For the second year in a row, chorus members will participate in Ridgewood High School's Musicfest on Saturday, February 7th, 9:30 am – 1:00 pm. Information about this annual event will be distributed at our first chorus rehearsal.

Also, later this winter, the Union Ridge band and chorus will team up to perform our National Anthem, "The Star-Spangled Banner" at a Chicago Steel Hockey game. More information about this fun event will be available soon.

Drama Club Resumes

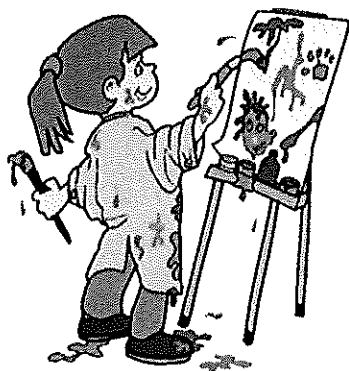
Drama Club will start up again in mid January. Students in Grades 5 – 8 are invited to join this group, which focuses on the production of the spring musical, "Pirates 2!". New members are always welcome to join the group. See Mrs. Swantek for more information.

Spring Musical

Speaking of the spring musical, students in grades 3, 4, and 5 are already becoming familiar with the story and songs of "Pirates 2!", since they will be the performers in the show. Students will spend the month of January getting to know the show, and brainstorming ideas to incorporate into their performance. We will take a break from the musical in February, returning to our regular grade level music curricular lessons for that month.

Rehearsals for the show will begin during music classes in March and April, with our performance scheduled for Wednesday, April 29 at 7pm.

Mrs. Swantek



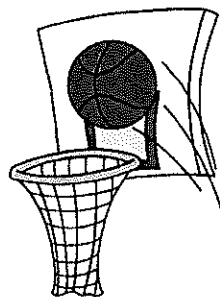
Art

Students in Kindergarten through Eighth grade have been continuing to create great works of two-dimensional and three-dimensional art while learning about various artists and cultures! Much of the art work that the students are creating is on display in the student lunch room through out the school year.

In April, we will host Fine Arts Night! During this event, all of the art work created by the students throughout the school year will be on display for families and friends to view! All student art work will be sent home soon after Fine Arts Night.

Be sure to check out the Union Ridge Art Class website! To access the website, go to: www.urs86.org/sites/smccormick. The art class website has an online gallery, art history resources, free computer art programs to download, and other art related information.

Thank you,
Mr. McCormick
Art Teacher



JUNIOR VARSITY BOYS' BASKETBALL

The Junior Varsity Boys Basketball team has been working hard preparing for the season. We are beginning with three away games, but come out for our home games in January to see some

JANUARY 2015

exciting basketball! The calendar on the school website has all the dates for the remaining games of the season. Come out and support the 6th and 7th grade team!

Mr. Chambers

VARSITY BOYS' BASKETBALL

Congratulations to the following team members: Jimmy DeGrazia, Brajan Hendzel, Brandon Dosch, Derek Bielawski, Hamza Husein, Jeremy Garcia, Johann Cabahug, Jonathan Reyes, Joshua Velada, Justin Varela, Lucas Meier, Nick Mikrut, Nick Scaletta, and Patrick Filipowski. Team managers are Kasia Lechowska, Klaudia Podsada, Taylor McFall and Nicole Woloszyn. The boys are off to a great start with two wins over Giles and Rosemont Schools. Good luck the rest of the season Huskies!!



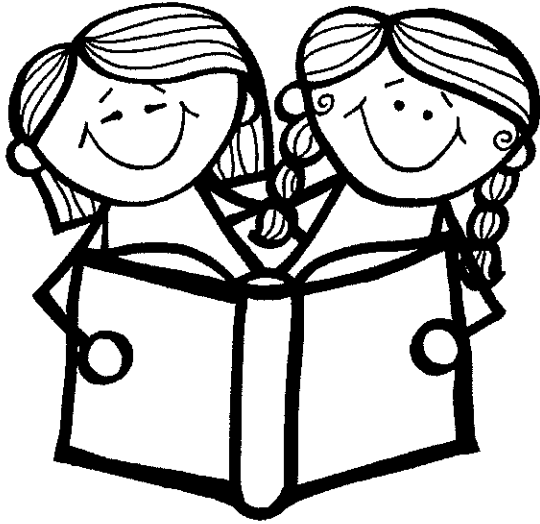
CHEERLEADING

The 2014-2015 Cheerleading season is underway! Our team is composed of 15 girls. Eighth graders include: Victoria Stogowska, Milica Videnovic, Mairead Fagan, Jamie Tran, Stefania Santoro, Olivia Jarosz, and Natalie Fischer. Seventh graders include: Juliza Garcia, Jessica Schoen, Angelina Mata, Destiny Araujo, Aaliyah Samano, Jocelyn Santiago, Jailene Reyes, Sidney Calderon, and Angelina Iaffaldano. Look for us supporting the boy's basketball team at Union Ridge home games! Go Huskies!

Ms. Struhar
Ms. Trowbridge

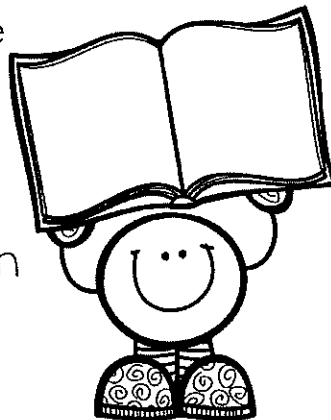
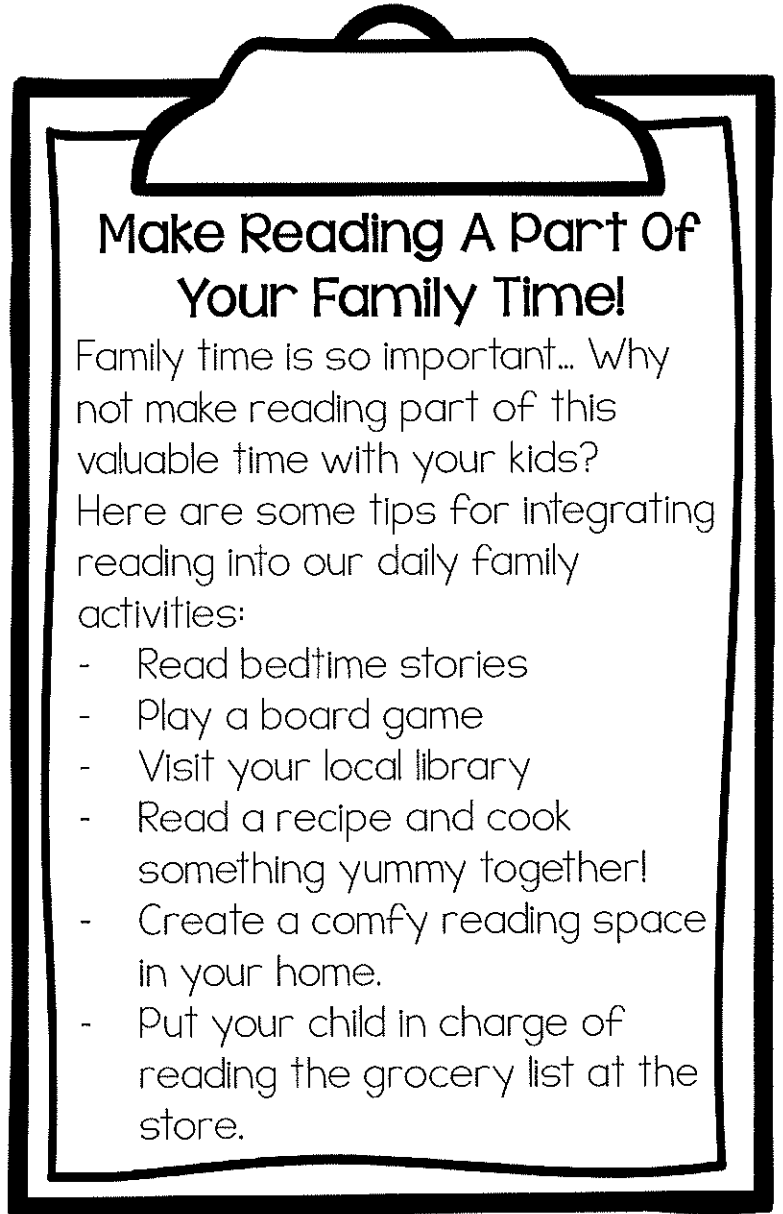
Reading At Home...

Can Make A HUGE Difference!



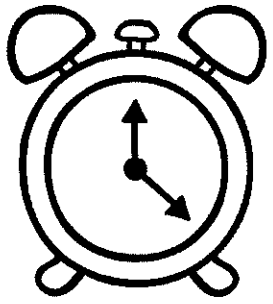
Choose Books That Are At An Appropriate Reading Level For Your Child

- ☐ Use the five finger rule. Open the book to any page and ask your child to read. Put up a finger every time your child does not know a word. If you have put up more than five fingers before the end of the page, this book is too hard for your child.
- ☐ Choose books that match your child's likes and interests.



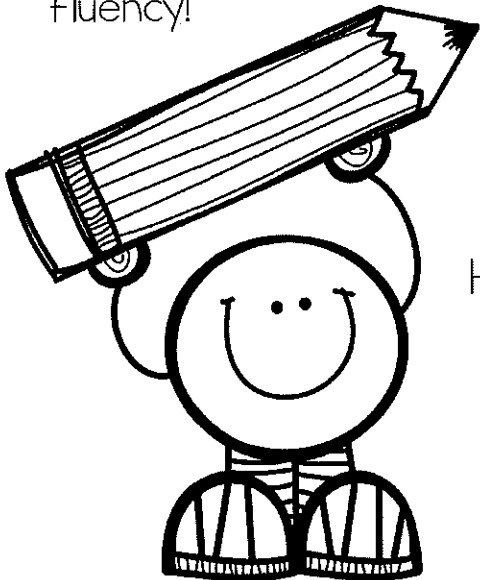
Keep plenty of reading materials in your home: books, magazines, newspapers, and comic books. Children enjoy having a variety of reading materials!

15-20
minutes is
plenty for
a beginning
reader!



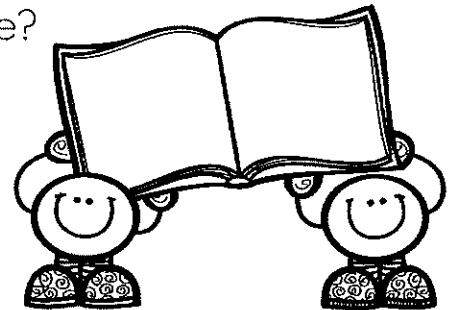
How To Read With A Beginning Reader:

- Encourage your child to use his/her finger to point to each word.
- Read a sentence and have your child repeat it.
- Take turns reading a sentence each or a page each.
- Talk about the story as you read it. What do you think will happen next? What does this story remind you of? How do you think this character feels?
- Don't be afraid to read the same book again! Repeated reading helps build reading fluency!



Check For Understanding

- ✓ Start the book by making predictions. What do you think will happen in this story?
- ✓ Ask questions and make comments during the reading process.
- ✓ After reading a book, have your child tell you the events from the story in the correct order.
- ✓ What was the problem in this story?
- ✓ How did the character feel when...?
- ✓ Encourage your child to make connections. Does this story remind you of another book you read, an event in your life, a movie?



Read Books Online!

There are many fun and interactive websites for literacy.

Here are a few FREE online resources:

www.starfall.com

www.speakaboos.com

www.spellingcity.com

www.wegivebooks.org

<http://interactivesites.weebly.com>

HEALTH OFFICE NEWS



VISION/HEARING SCREENING

DENTAL EXAMS DUE MAY 15TH



Vision and hearing screening will begin when we return from winter break. Vision and hearing screening is mandated by the Illinois Department of Public Health. Vision Screening is required for all students in Early Childhood, Kindergarten, 2nd and 8th grades, as well as, all students in special education classes, students referred by teachers and any student new to Union Ridge. Hearing Screening is required for all Early Childhood through 3rd grade students, as well as, all students in special education classes, students referred by teachers and any student new to Union Ridge. You **will be** notified if your child **does not** pass the screening tests. You **will not** be notified if your child passes their screening tests. **Vision screening is not a substitute for a complete eye and vision evaluation by an eye doctor. Good vision and hearing are crucial to your child's educational progress.**

COLD AND FLU SEASON IS HERE

Please remember to keep your child home from school if he/she:

- Would not feel comfortable participating in classroom activities
- Has excessive nasal discharge
- Has a constant cough which would distract others in the classroom
- Has a temperature of 100.0 degrees (orally) or above – the child should be fever free for at least 24 hours, without a fever reducing medicine, before returning to school.

Please remember the "Golden Rule" of illness: "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." If you would not want your child to be around someone with the symptoms that your child has, please keep your child at home.

All students currently in Kindergarten, 2nd, and 6th grade must turn in a dental form by **May 15th** in order to be complaint with state mandates. If you have not already submitted a dental exam form for your child, please do so as soon as possible. If you do not have a blank form to take with you to the dentist, download one from the URS website, (see information below) or get one from the school or health office.



HEALTH OFFICE ON THE WEB

Need a school or sports physical form? Going to the dentist or eye doctor and have no form? No problem! Go to the Union Ridge School website - www.urs86.org – Click on the "School Nurse Office" tab – then click on "Health requirements and Forms" tab. There you will find information on immunizations required for each grade, physical forms, sports forms, as well as, dental and vision forms and requirements. You can download the forms needed to meet these requirements. Forms are also available in the school office or nurse's office.

HEAD LICE SCREENING



It's the time of year when those head lice sometimes show their ugly heads! **I strongly encourage** that you make head checks for lice a regular part of your child's hygiene routine. I need your help to make sure Union Ridge is lice free! If you want more information about head lice, please contact me, and I will be glad to supply you whatever information you need. If you do discover your child has head lice please notify the School Nurse.



HEALTH OFFICE NEWS



MEDICATION REMINDER



Sending Medication to school with your child is a “no-no”. Every so often it is necessary to remind parents of Union Ridge’s Medication Policy. Occasionally, students will bring in medication for me, Nurse Kelly, to give during the school day. However the proper steps have not been taken for that to occur. Although this policy may seem strict, it has been implemented for the safety of your child and others and compliance with this policy is absolutely necessary. Medicine (both prescription and non-prescription) cannot be given out at school unless a “School Medication Authorization Form” has been filled out and signed by both doctor and parent. Examples of non-prescription or “over-the-counter” medications would be Tylenol, ibuprofen, sore throat spray or cough drops, just to name a few. If your child **MUST** take medicine during the school day, please speak with Nurse Kelly and pick up a medication authorization form from the office, or download it from the URS website. **No student is allowed to carry medication of any kind (including non-prescription medicine).** (EXCEPTION: *those who have a doctor’s consent and parental permission to carry inhalers for asthma.*)



SPORTS REQUIREMENTS

All students who are considering trying out for any sport at Union Ridge must have the following to be eligible for try-outs.

1. An Up-To-Date Physical or Sports Physical. All physicals must be within one year of the start of the sport and are only good for one year. If the physical expires during the sport being played, the athlete will be ineligible until a new

SPORTS REQUIREMENTS – CONT.

sports physical is obtained. If you are in need of references on where to get a sports physical, outside of your regular doctor’s office – Please contact Nurse Kelly for more info.

2. A Consent To Participate form completed and signed by a parent or guardian.
3. An Authorization for Emergency Medical Services form completed and signed by a parent or guardian.

All athletes must have health insurance to participate in any sport. All of the above mentioned sports forms are available on the urs86.org website under the “School Nurse Office” tab.

UPCOMING SPORTS AT URS

- Girls’ Basketball – January thru March
- Boys’ Volleyball – March thru May
- Girls’ Soccer – March thru May

PLEASE DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE TO TURN IN PAPERWORK. NO STUDENT MAY TRY OUT FOR A SPORT WITHOUT ALL THE NECESSARY PAPERWORK BEING COMPLETED AND TURNED IN TO THE SCHOOL NURSE.



DOES YOUR CHILD EAT BREAKFAST?

Does your child eat breakfast EVERY morning before school? Breakfast is one of the most important meals of the day. Making sure your child has a nutritious breakfast every morning is the PERFECT way to help them start their day!

NEWS FLASH



MANY UNION RIDGE SCHOOL STUDENTS ARE NOT EATING BREAKFAST BEFORE COMING TO SCHOOL!

Almost on a daily basis I see children in my office who tell me that they didn't eat breakfast for one reason or another. They have various complaints such as stomachache, tiredness, headache, etc. – all of which could be caused by not eating before coming to school.

Breakfast -- A Healthy Start for You and Your Child

Your kids may be slow to wake up and get ready for the day, yet you are in a rush to start yours. Many parents and kids are tempted to skip breakfast. In fact, as many as one out of six fifth-graders skip breakfast. Older children are much more likely to skip breakfast than younger children.

Breakfast jumpstarts your brain

Hunger, even short-term hunger you may experience if you miss breakfast, decreases attention span and ability to concentrate. Children who eat breakfast are more alert and perform better on school tests than children who do not eat breakfast. They are also more creative and energetic. Children who skip breakfast are more often tardy and absent from school than children who eat breakfast.

Breakfast is a healthy start for growing kids

Without breakfast, it is hard for children to eat enough throughout the day to obtain the nutrients they need to grow, learn, play, and stay healthy. Kids need to consume foods that provide energy, protein, and good sources of zinc, iron, and calcium to build the best bones they can and to help reduce their risk of developing the bone disease osteoporosis later in life.

A nutritious breakfast that includes a variety of foods, such as cereal or toast, milk and a fruit kabob, a slice of pizza, or a taco, provides children with energy and nutrients. These adventuresome breakfast ideas, along with traditional favorites, are fun and good sources of vitamins and minerals. Children who eat breakfast are more likely than children who skip breakfast to consume foods with adequate levels of minerals, such as calcium, phosphorus, magnesium, and vitamins, such as riboflavin, vitamins A, C, and B12. Also, children who skip breakfast do not make up for the missed calories at other meals.

Breakfast is quality time for the family

Breakfast provides an opportunity for family members to talk and interact with each other. Sitting down to enjoy breakfast together for even a few minutes can provide an important time for family members to discuss what is happening in their lives and plan for a successful day. Breakfast also provides time for parents to serve as good role models for healthy eating habits.

Here's how to make breakfast fun and a lifelong habit

To help children become adults who value the importance of eating breakfast each day, teach them the benefits and fun of eating breakfast when they are young.

