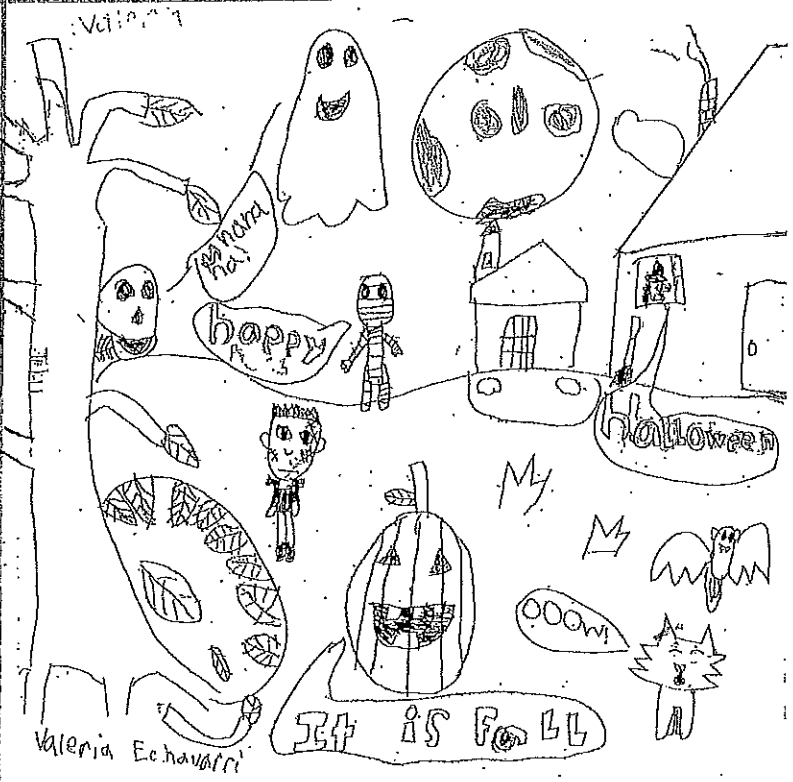
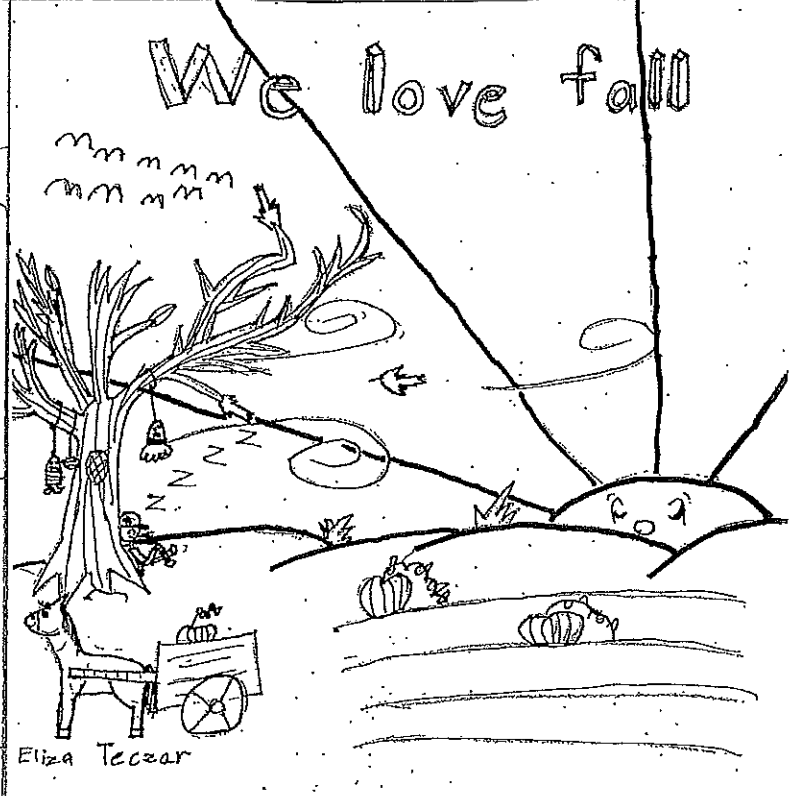
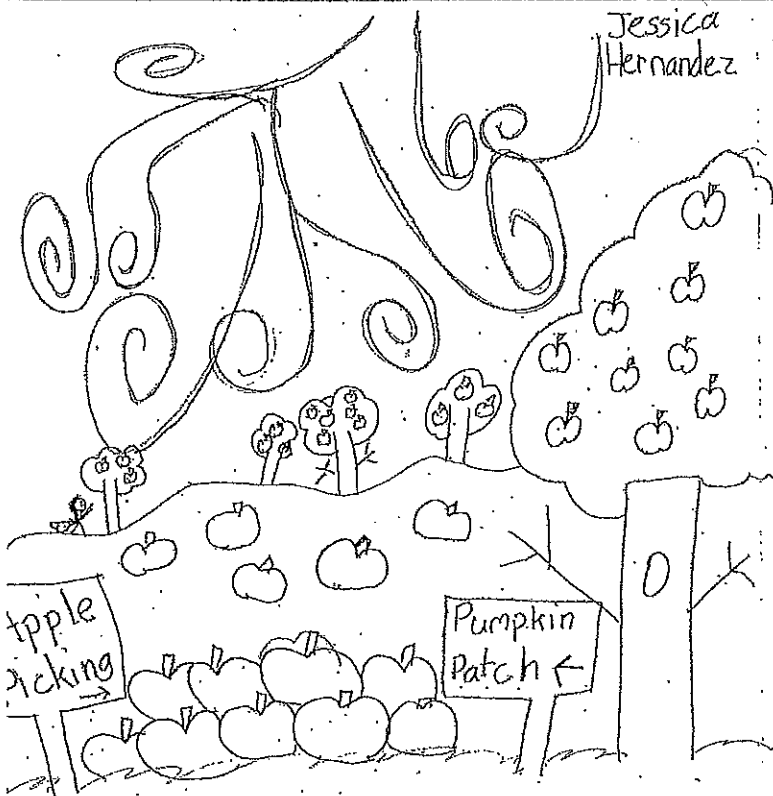


UNION RIDGE SCHOOL/PTA NEWSLETTER

www.urs86.org

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL:

I want to begin my newsletter by acknowledging the amazing students of Union Ridge School. They did an exceptional job transitioning from summer break to the start of school. I can't believe how many books our students read over the summer! We had over thirty students recognized by the Eisenhower Public Library and another twenty students who excelled in our school wide summer reading program. Hopefully we will continue to grow those numbers next summer!

The students of Union Ridge School celebrated the unveiling of our theme for the new school year, "**Be here, Be Ready**". On Friday, September 5th we assembled in the gym and kicked off our year on a very positive note. The students of Union Ridge School were loud and excited to celebrate our new theme as a school community. One of our school goals is to build community and promote excellent character.

We are off to a great start here at Union Ridge School. I ask that you please continue to be partners in the process of educating our wonderful students.

Mr. Michael G. Maguire
Principal

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL:

Happy fall and welcome to the new school year! With a new school year also comes a new motto! Our motto for the 2014-2015 school year is, "**Be Here, Be Ready!**" Mr. Maguire and the Character Education Committee introduced the theme and its meaning at our Welcome Bask Assembly. Mr. Maguire also asked the students to reflect on these questions: 1) What does it LOOK like to be here and be ready? 2) What does it SOUND like to be here and be ready? Please feel free to talk with your son or daughter about these questions.

Let's also not forget that in order to "**BE HERE, BE READY**" you must do your best to be at school on time each and every day! Grade-levels will compete with each other to win a traveling trophy for the homeroom with the best monthly attendance. What can you do to help?

- ✓ Set a regular bed time and morning routine.
- ✓ Lay out your clothes and pack your backpack and night before.

If you need more ideas, please see Miss Mensik and she would be glad to help you figure out a plan. We can't wait to celebrate their success with you as we move forward in the school year!

I also want to take time to talk about PAWS-itive behavior at URS. URS wants to strengthen the positive behaviors that already exist in the school, encourage behaviors we want to see again, and provide models to reinforce these positive choices.

We have created a PAWS matrix that allows for school-wide behavioral expectations to be consistent throughout the student community. Students participated in learning stations in August so they could learn what these phrases mean and how to show their understanding throughout the year. Practicing integrity, having an A+ attitude, working together, and showing respect have become key aspects of our Husky language at URS. PAWS-itive behavior leads to PAWS-itive academic performance!

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!

Ms. Julie Mensik
Assistant Principal

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT:

We are off to a fantastic start at Union Ridge! We have many new families, teachers, and support staff, and we especially want to welcome these new members to our wonderful community.

At Union Ridge School, we pride ourselves in offering a comprehensive academic and extracurricular program to ensure the full development of each child. We have a model preschool program that is free of charge and full-day kindergarten. We offer a full range of supports for struggling students and a gifted program for students needing a challenge. Students participate in a wide range of after school sports and clubs. Our caring teachers and support staff are second to none.

We also take great pride in providing this quality education at a reasonable cost. We have not increased our yearly registration fees in many years. Our instructional expenditure per pupil is 15 percent below the state average, and our operating expenditure per pupil (includes bond payments and capital spending) is 18 percent below the state average. Viewed in relation to similar suburban Chicago districts, our spending compares even more favorably.

Numerous measures of student achievement show that our students are making great progress at Union Ridge and finish eighth grade well prepared for High School. Although the ISAT cut scores were changed this year, our students still score well above the state average in all areas, including reading and math.

This past year, the State of Illinois added a student growth indicator to our school report card. The measure reflects the individual progress students are making over multiple exams. I am very happy to report that Union Ridge students scored

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exceptionally well in both reading and math growth. You can access this information on the Union Ridge School report card at: <http://www.illinoisreportcard.com>.

As a district committed to the principles of continuous improvement, we are working on several exciting initiatives this year. Our teachers and staff are working on differentiated instructional techniques. That is, teachers will incorporate individualized instruction into lessons according to a student's readiness, interests, and learning profile. We are also working on a 21st Century learning plan that provides students access to technology tools that enhance creativity, collaboration, and critical thinking abilities.

As always, the mission of Union Ridge School is to foster excellence in the academic, physical, and social-emotional development of every child. Please feel free to stop-by and ask any questions you may have about our amazing school.

Dr. John Kosirog, Ed.D.
Superintendent



MARKET DAY

Thank you to our Family and Friends who order Market Day and support our children at Union Ridge. All the profits that we make goes directly to our children for fun activities at our school. Please look over an order form that is sent home with your child monthly. The products are easy to cook for a great tasty meal. You can order Market Day on line and pick up your order at a school near your house or at a school near your work. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at 708-867-3501.

Mrs. Gail Santoro
Chairperson

BAKE SALE

A big thank you to all of our family and friends who helped with our bake sale. It was wonderful to see all the baked and donated goodies. We are looking forward to our next bake sale in December at our Band Concert and Holiday Musical.

Mrs. Gail Santoro

Early Childhood

The Early Childhood students have made a wonderful transition into our program this school year. They are getting to know one another and are already beginning to form some friendships with their peers. The students are busy exploring all of our learning centers, which promote academic,

social, language, and physical development. The class has been enjoying the Early Childhood playground and taking neighborhood walks to look for signs of Fall. There is so much to see and lots of energy to expend! Students attend library and music class weekly. They enjoy checking out new books every week to share with their families at home. The older preschoolers have started the Rowland Foundation program, which promotes literacy readiness to help with the transition into kindergarten next school year.

Happy Fall!

The EC Team
Miss Dirks
Miss Paulina
Mr. Jorgensen
Mrs. Bohman

Kindergarten

Our kindergarten students have been busy becoming star students and super readers! We have completed the first six Units of the Superkids reading program, Meet The Superkids. We have learned the letters Cc, Oo, Gg, Aa, Dd, and Ss and their sounds. Our students are also reading wordless books!

Please continue to support your kindergartener as he or she practices their letter and sound identification skills. Please visit www.superkidsreading.org and the other websites featured on your child's classroom website to further your child's learning at home! Our Kindergarten websites also have a wealth of information, updates, pictures, and homework information for parents and students.

One of the best things you can do for your child is read with them every night! Be sure to record these books in the Jungle Book It folders!

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

We are becoming mathematicians! Our students have studied position words, 2-dimensional shapes, and numbers 1-20 in great length. Kindergarten is also learning how to count by tens to 100; Zero The Hero visits our classroom every 10 days to help us learn to count by tens!

Kindergarten had a great time at our field trips to The Norridge Fire Station and The Grove! At the fire station, students were able to interact with their community helpers and learn about fire safety. At the Grove, our students had the opportunity to go on a hayride, play fun fall games, visit the Nature Center, and bring home a pumpkin! Thank you to all of our families who came with and helped the Kindergarten team on these special days!

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Thank you for sharing your children with us! It was a pleasure meeting with our student's families during our Parent-Teacher Conferences. Thank you all for your time and cooperation. We look forward to a great partnership with your families! We are just wild about kindergarten!

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

First Grade

First grade is off to a fabulous start! We had a wonderful time meeting parents at Back-to-School Night and welcoming everyone into our classrooms.

Students are now in a consistent routine with the school day and have achieved so much growth since the first day!

We are well into our Language Arts and Math programs. Students have completed their Welcome Back portion of the Superkids program and are now into the first semester of Adventures of the Superkids. It is enjoyable for students to be learning aside their favorite character from the program. In each unit the students will have a set of Memory Words to learn (usually 6) and several sets of Pattern Words (all the words within the pattern rhyme or go with the unit's phonics rule). We are currently in Unit 2 of our Everyday Math program. Students continue to explore everyday uses of numbers. This includes dominoes, money, clocks, number grids, and number stories. Please practice counting coins and telling time at home with your child.

First graders had a terrific time on their first field trip of first grade to Safety Town! They learned about fire safety, stranger danger, gun safety, how to safely cross the street, and when to call 911. We encourage you to practice your phone number and address with your child as this is important information for them to know!

Reading is a fundamental part of your child's growth and success in first grade. We encourage your child to read fifteen minutes each night. You can read to your child, take turns reading, or have your child read to you. Book-It has recently started and is a great motivator to help your child read. In the Book-It program, your child fills out a monthly reading log to achieve a set goal. After they complete their monthly goal and turn in their reading log to us, they will receive a certificate for a free personal Pizza Hut pizza.

Eisenhower Library is open on the weekends for your reading enjoyment. They also have several programs such as Tumblebooks that reads books of different genres and levels aloud. This program is free for all to use. To get to TumbleBooks: Go to Eisenhower, click on

resources, click on kids, scroll down to T and you will find TumbleBooks there. Happy Reading :)

We look forward to working with you throughout this coming school year. Together, we can help your first grader to be the most successful! Please feel free to contact us through email, phone call, or by note in your child's Assignment Notebook.

Thank you for sharing your child with us!

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

Second Grade

Second grade has gotten off to a wonderful start this school year! We have been busy reading nonfiction articles through the magazines published in our reading program. We have discovered new and unusual creatures like the big red sea spider and the sea pig that live in the ocean near Antarctica. We discovered inventions made by children as well as those designed by Leonardo da Vinci. Da Vinci created designs for his inventions that would not be able to be built for many years after his death because the technology hadn't been developed yet. Leonardo's designs were later used to develop ideas used in gliders, helicopters, and underwater air tanks!

We've also begun reading novels as part of our reading program. *Frog and Toad Together* by Arnold Lobel and *Nate the Great* by Marjorie Weinman Sharmat have turned out to be two of our favorite books! It's so much fun to meet characters that have had the same types of feelings we do. Some of us have already checked out other books by these authors.

In mathematics we are learning to master our addition and subtraction facts. We are learning some important mental math tricks to help us with our memory. Learning the Base Ten system using place value will also be an important goal for us this year as well as writing written explanations of our thought processes as we complete our math problems.

In Social Studies, we have been learning about our families, traditions, and about our ancestors. It is so important for our cultural education to know the experiences our ancestors have had and how that impacts our plans for the future.

In Science our studies of Interactions and Systems has begun. We will work with everyday objects and liquids to determine their properties, materials, and recording evidence of interactions.

The Second Grade Team
Mrs. Kubinieć, Mrs. Musiał, Mrs. Skidmore

Third Grade

This year in 3rd grade we are focusing on TEAMWORK. We have discussed what it means to be a good team member and how to achieve success by working with everyone. We have discussed the qualities of what it means to be hard working, determined, strong, and loyal. These qualities all make up a great team member and all represent what it means to be a Union Ridge Husky. These are qualities that will help all students make the right choices. This ties in to this year's school theme, "Be Here! Be Ready!"

During this year we are also focusing on preparation for the PARCC tests that take place in March. We work on many strategies for academic success in math, writing, and reading throughout the entire year. The children work on writing math extended responses as well as reading responses. We also write a number of essays throughout the year which include the topics of "All About Me" and "How Do You Eat Your Oreo Cookie?" just to name a few.

Finally, we are using the Green, Yellow, Red classroom management system once again. Encourage your kids to continue to go for green, as this will earn them money from the 3rd Grade Fortune (ask your kids about that) and classroom prizes. Help us reinforce the importance of staying on task, following rules, and completing all assignments on time by asking your son or daughter what color they ended their day on.

We look forward to meeting all of you during Parent/Teacher/Student conferences. Remember, **Together Everyone Achieves More!**

Thanks,

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

Fourth Grade

The fourth graders have been very busy with our general curriculum. It has been wonderful to get to know them as they are a very delightful group of students.

In Math the children started the year with our most vocabulary rich unit: geometry. They have reviewed lines, line segments, rays, polygons, regular polygons, concave polygons, convex polygons, parallel, perpendicular, and concentric, to name a few. They learned how to identify these terms as well as construct and label them. We are currently moving onto a unit about numbers. They will be learning: mathematical expressions to name numbers, reading large numbers, adding and subtracting larger numbers, estimating with larger numbers, and manipulating data to analyze what numbers mean in a set of data.

In Social Studies the students have been reinforcing complex map skills. They have learned about cardinal, intermediate directions, and how to use a compass rose to find where places are on a map. They will continue to build on these map skills and eventually, by the end of the unit students will be creating their own map.

In Science students have been exploring the concept of the Scientific Method. They have conducted several experiments in each class following the steps that real scientists would follow to solve a problem in the physical world. Some students experimented with different brands of paper towels and eggs, while others used M&Ms. See if your child can tell you about the scientific method and the conclusions they developed after looking at data collected during the experiments.

In Language Arts, the 4th grade students are preparing for and delving into complex text analysis comparison across genres. They are learning the true meaning of "close reading," learning to identify a text's genre to better understand its meaning, and they are examining the implied points of view of an author to help them make inferences. In other words, they are beginning to do the deep reading of literature that you may recall encountering in high school. Steadily, 4th grade students are acquiring the language skills for academic success and lifelong learning.

Fourth grade has certainly had a busy start, and it will keep getting busier. In order to assure success, please help your child by checking over their homework for accuracy and neatness each and every night. And **please** continue to practice addition, subtraction, and dive into multiplication and division problems for 5-10 minutes a night to develop that automaticity that is extremely important for future math concepts.

It's been an exciting start to the school year. We encourage all students to do their best to *Be Here and Be Ready!* for a successful year!

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

Fifth Grade

The fifth graders have been very busy with our general curriculum.

In Language Arts, the 5th grade students are engaging in complex text analyses and comparisons across genres. They are learning the true meaning of "close reading," learning to identify a text's genre to better understand its meaning, and they are examining the implicit biases of an author through language examination and inferences. In other words, they are beginning to do literature

studies that you may recall encountering in high school or even college. Steadily, 5th grade students are acquiring the language skills for academic success and lifelong learning.

In math the children have been busy reviewing and expanding their knowledge of multiples, factors, exponents, place value, prime factorization, divisibility, and multiplication of larger numbers. All students need to have a solid grasp of their multiplication and division facts. Tests had been given, and parents should be aware of whether or not their child needs to work more on this skill. Each student has an account on the xtramath.org website, which is designed to provide extra fact practice. Either by way of this site, or old-fashioned flash cards, each and every fifth grader should be working on memorization of these facts to ensure a smooth transition to more complex mathematics. Also, encourage your child to use the other math websites they have been introduced to in class.

In Social Studies the kids have been using the Social Studies book *Build Our Nation*. We have begun talking about early exploration of the world as a prelude to the discovery of North America and the explorers who were instrumental in the emigration of people here from other continents. In the text we have been conducting some close reading, taking notes, and writing summaries. We are also working on answering multiple choice questions as well as complex written responses using text evidence to support our answers. The process of answering the questions in writing can sometimes start out as a difficult one for many students. We will continue to plug through as we learn the expectations for answers and how to present them. Using technology as a tool, the students further researched information about the Vikings expeditions and Marco Polo's journey. They then worked in collaborative groups to create booklets, maps, posters, and timelines to demonstrated their learning. At the end of the project, students presented their work to their classmates.

In Science students have been exploring the concept of energy through discovery and controlled experiments. Using colliding spheres and rubber band-powered propellers, they have conducted controlled experiments, interpreted evidence they have collected, organized data to identify trends, predicted outcomes based on prior knowledge and trends, and tested their own theories. In the process of this learning students have discovered and developed for themselves solid understandings of one of the most relevant topics in science: energy. The exploration of the concept of energy will be a continuous theme this year in science class, and will provide students with a foundational understanding that will help them grapple with the concepts of energy in a scientific way for years to come.

Fifth grade has certainly had a busy start, and it just seems to keep getting busier. In fifth grade students have been able to sign up and participate not only in chorus and drama club, but cross-country and band as well. We will also have DARE later this year. It's been a busy start to the year. We encourage all students to keep being here and ready so the year will continue to be great!

Mr. Brown
Ms. Magneili

Sixth Grade

Welcome to Middle School!

Your teachers have some questions for you: Your 6th grade year is in full swing now. Are you having fun? Are you doing your best? **Are you here? Are you ready?**

If you've had a good start to the school year, what can you do to keep it going that way? If you've had a rough start, what can **you** do to make it better, and **who** would be a good person to ask for help?

We like to help each other at Union Ridge because we know we're all part of the same team.

The students in 6th grade have written goals for this school year. Check in with 6th graders to see what goals they have set for themselves!

Let's all strive to work together and to make it a great year!!

The 6th grade students are approaching the new, school year with positive attitudes and enthusiasm. We have already had some amazing conversations in advisory. We have broached the subjects of politics, citizenship, and justice.

It's going to be a great year for advisory discussions.

6th grade **math** is off to a great start. Ask your 6th grader to tell you more about analyzing data and graphs. Please see the following websites for additional every day math resources.

Specific sites for the Everyday Math program:

General online math games and activities:

<http://illuminations.nctm.org/>

<http://www.math.com/>

<http://www.ixl.com/>

Our Language Arts team has worked hard to prepare for the new school year, and we are ready to provide challenging, Common-Core-Based lessons that incorporate technology, interactive Promethean Boards, and strong online resources. This 6th grade class is already showing that they are **"here and ready,"** by completing quality work and by submitting work according to the assigned due dates.

In **science**, we are currently learning, **how**, to **"think like a scientist."** This may sound easy, but to truly appreciate science, we must learn **how**

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to think like a scientist. In order to properly ask scientific questions and propose explanations based on evidence that has been gathered in the science lab, students must embrace scientific inquiry. Students will learn to think about and question our natural world. Once this is accomplished, we will correctly apply "the scientific method" to pose and answer scientific questions. We have already seen our 6th grade scientist exhibit enthusiasm toward science, by successfully completing their first experiment, using eggs, water and salt.

Finally, In Social Studies we have been studying the world around us and how it is divided into regions. In addition the students are aware of why they study Social Studies and can tell you that it is because we are human, we live in a society, and we want to survive. These three themes were very evident in our two day lesson of 9/11. We are very much looking forward to learning more about ourselves and our world in this next year.

Mr. Tenglin
Mrs. Walsh
Mrs. Richardson

Seventh Grade Math

The seventh grade began the year reviewing all kinds of graphs and charts. They analyzed and created graphs based on real life data. We then moved on to order of operations, exponents, and decimals. We solved equations that involved decimals. Currently, we are working on mental math skills. Students are learning how to find percents mentally. These skills will come in handy when shopping or figuring out the tip at a restaurant. Next time you are out shopping with your child, or out to eat, have him or her calculate the percentage. These are life-long skills that each child should know and use.

Next, we will be working with fractions and more percents. Please check to see that your child is completing the homework each night. Homework is given on a daily basis. It should be completed in pencil and revisits the lesson of the day. Homework is an excellent way to practice the skills being taught in class and should be completed at home. Union Ridge also offers the GAP program which allows students to complete their homework in a quiet setting with a teacher available for assistance. Sessions are every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. This is a wonderful opportunity for all students to receive some help and work on their homework or a project.

Mrs. Panos

Seventh Grade Social Studies

In Mr. Chambers' 7th grade Social Studies class, students have been studying how the United

States became a country. The story began with studying the very first Americans and how they were diverse groups of people spread throughout North America. We focused on how Native Americans lived prior to the arrival of Europeans to the Americas. The story was continued looking at why and how Europeans came to the Americas in the 1500-1600's. We are currently looking at how major European powers at the time began to colonize North and South America.

Mr. Chambers

Eighth Grade Social Studies

In Mr. Chambers' 8th grade Social Studies class, students have been studying the effects of industrialization on America in the late 1800's. Students recently completed inquiry research projects on a variety of topics. Some of these topics included Andrew Carnegie, John D. Rockefeller, the Pullman Strike, child labor, the Statue of Liberty, Teddy Roosevelt, the Spanish American War of 1898, along with many other exciting topics. This inquiry research project had students develop their own research questions and then present their findings to the class. On a different note 8th grade students are excited about the upcoming trip to Springfield on October 16 and 17. We will visit important Abraham Lincoln sights as well as Illinois Government sights such as the Illinois State Capitol building and the Executive Mansion. We are really looking forward to two days of exploring our state capital!

Mr. Chambers

7th Grade Language Arts

7th graders just completed reading Monsters Are Due on Maple Street written by Rod Serling. This science fiction play was enjoyed through live class performance. The students researched related background topics that included: Twilight Zone, Golden Age of Television, McCarthy Era, and the Space Race. Vocabulary building activities and extended writing responses were also included in this unit. Students travelled back in time to appreciate the extremely talented and entertaining writing of Rod Serling. Next, the 7th graders will be inspired by Serling to create their own suspenseful science fiction stories!

Mrs. Grzeskiewicz

8th Grade Language Arts

Language Arts is off to a successful start and quickly beginning preparation for high school! The 8th graders completed reading an

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excerpt from "Flowers for Algernon", accompanied by a vocabulary unit and two major writing pieces. One writing assignment required students to construct an argumentative essay, using specific types of supporting evidence woven in with logical reasoning. The other project helped students better understand how to properly write an essay in 1st person point of view versus 3rd person point of view. As the trimester progresses, the students will continue practicing specific writing skills with every new essay assignment. Our next adventure will allow the 8th graders to explore their creative sides by writing suspenseful, spooky stories.

Mrs. DeLeonardis
Mr. Manning
Mrs. Grzeskiewicz

Gifted Education

Union Ridge School's gifted/talented student program provides experiences for students of exceptional academic ability and aptitude. It is a program that maximizes learning, while exposing students to a variety of fields of study that might not necessarily be imparted within the regular classroom setting. It is a program that incorporates an accelerated pace, higher-level thinking, logic, problem solving, and divergent thinking, while fostering independence, self-direction, and discipline in education. To meet the needs of Union Ridge School's gifted/creative students, a variety of specialized programs and services are made available. Specialized program and services include: personalized-pullout classes, enrichment classes, accelerated courses, unique weekend opportunities, (sponsored by regional suburbs), various talent searches, (sponsored by our regional educational service center and Northwestern University), and specific summer programs. In grades three through six, identified students receive specialized instruction two to three times per week in a differentiated LA program which stresses core-subject extensions, critical thinking, problem solving, logic, and deductive reasoning. Identified, middle school students, in grades seven and eight, are cluster-grouped and receive services within the regular classroom setting. Identified middle school students, are also afforded an opportunity to participate in accelerated Geometry classes. This year, sixth-grade students, who met the criteria, are enrolled in a Pre-Algebra, enrichment math program. I look forward to working with all of these talented students, and I am already inspired by the start of a very successful school year.

Mrs. Wilk
Gifted Education Coordinator



BAND

Welcome to another school year! There was a big change made to the band room over the summer. A studio/practice room was constructed! We can use this room for practicing, recording, and assessment. This is a wonderful addition to the band program and the students love using it.

The Concert Band has 60 members and we are working on the music for the Winter Concert as well as learning all of their major scales. The theme of the December concert is very "colorful."

The Beginning Band just started at the end of September. They are enthusiastic and ready to learn. The first lessons have gone well and they are all progressing! The first beginning band rehearsal before school will be on Wednesday, October 22nd. A note has already gone home as a reminder.

Later in October we will be visited by the Ridgewood Marching Band. I am so proud of our band alumni that play in high school. Some of them have even gone into music in college!

Remember that there is a calendar on the website with all the band rehearsals and concerts.

Ms. Rooney



MUSICAL MOMENTS IN ROOM 55 –

EC4 – Grade 5 music classes have gotten off to a great start for the 2014-2015 school year. Students have been eager to learn lots of new things, and have shown great participation and progress. Here are some things that have been going on in Room 55:

- The students in **EC4 and Kindergarten** are enjoying singing and moving to some new songs.
- **Grade 1** has been working on keeping the beat of some new songs, through movement and instrument play.

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- **Grade 2** is starting to read some basic rhythmic notation, using singing and instrument playing to practice their new skills.
 - **Grades 3 and 4** are developing mallet skills to be used when playing our classroom instruments. We are using these skills to accompany our singing voices.
 - **Grade 5** recently began playing recorder, and has shown great progress in just a few short weeks. So far, our favorite song is "Rock On Recorders".
- HAPPY 200TH BIRTHDAY TO OUR NATIONAL ANTHEM**

Students in Grades 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 celebrated the 200th birthday of "The Star Spangled Banner" on September 14th. During the first two weeks of September, students learned about Francis Scott Key, the man who wrote the lyrics to our national anthem. Students also discovered the meaning of the lyrics, and practiced expressing this through singing with emotion.

COMING SOON: THE UNION RIDGE HOLIDAY MUSICAL

Drama Club began meeting on Tuesday, October 7th, to start preparing for the annual holiday musical. "Toys! The Night They Come Alive!" will be performed on Wednesday, December 17 at 6:30pm. In following a great Union Ridge tradition, the students in Kindergarten, Grade 1 and Grade 2 will sing the songs in the musical while the Drama Club will play the parts in the cast. Be sure to **SAVE THE DATE** for a performance that will warm your heart with the holiday spirit.

CHORUS UPDATE

Chorus rehearsals began in September. The Middle School Chorus, which meets every Thursday morning during advisory, has 18 members. The 4th/5th Grade Chorus, which meets every Thursday after school from 3:45 – 4:25, has 73 members. Upcoming performances include:

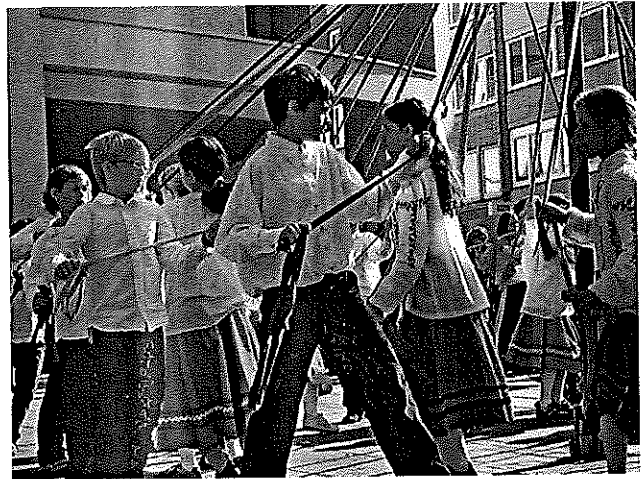
- Veteran's Day Assembly, November 5th at 10am
- Holiday Band/Chorus Concert, December 12th at 9:30am
- Holiday Musical and Chorus Concert, December 17th at 6:30pm

Family and friends are invited to the December 17th concert. Mark your calendar and plan on enjoying some delightful holiday tunes.

Mrs. Swantek

What's Happening in Dance class?

Seventh grade students are learning various Line and Folk dances in their 6-week dance exploratory class. Students have learned such line dances as the Freeze, Bus Stop, and Cowboy Boogie.



Students are also researching the history of many of the styles of dances they are performing. They have learned about the famous Arthur Murray Dance studio located in suburban Morton Grove. Arthur Murray has many dance studios located around the world where you can go to learn many different types of dances.

Students will be learning about Folk Dances this week. They will learn dances from such countries as France, Denmark, Romania, Greece, Yugoslavia, and Bulgaria. A few of these dances are the Virginia Reel, Chimes of Dunkirk, Hora, and Seven Jumps.

To complete the exploratory, we will be learning different types of Square Dances as well as Ballroom Dancing.

Keep up the good dancing!!

Mr. Bonfiglio

PE DEPARTMENT

We can't believe that our first unit is already over. Our middle school students were very busy participating in Softball, Rugby and Ultimate Frisbee. The next unit will consist of Lacrosse and Soccer. They have been working on their skills so far and plan on participating in games next week. As a reminder, we will be outside through middle of November and the students are encouraged to bring a sweatshirt and/or sweatpants to class for cold days. Students in first through fourth grades were participating in Tee Ball, Rugby, and Kickball. They are now starting Lacrosse and Soccer. The PE department has a student teacher from North Park University named Mr. Brooks. He will be with our department through Oct. 16th and he is doing a great job with the students. Please remember to encourage your children to participate in some type of exercise on the weekends, as well as during the week. Exercise increases higher learning and better focus in the classroom.

Mrs. Russ
Mr. Bonfiglio
Mrs. Malicki

The Cross Country season is in full gear with three meets already run. Cross Country is a 1.5 mile race open to all 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th graders. The following students made up this years Girls team members are: Karolina Szelag, Reagen McEleney, Nicole Woloszyn, Maysa Hasan, Jovanna Stanojevic, Milica Videnovic, Marlena Siudeja, Paulina Buczynska, Kasia Jackowski, Nikolija Videnovic, Angela Borek, and Ivana Stanojevic. Boys team members are: Adam Witusik, Nick Scaletta, Brayan Hendzel, Max Dignos, Armando Garcia, Dawid Hendzel, Gavin Sangathit, Gabby Dignos and Dominic Colletti. Our last race will be on October 7th where we will compete in the Leyden-Norridge Conference Championships. Good luck Huskie runners!!!

Mr. Bonfiglio
Mrs. Russ
Mrs. Malicki

The 2014 Girls' Softball

The girls' softball team ended their season with our best record in over ten years 5-5. I am very proud of all they accomplished this year. The girls played hard each and every game. They made the playoffs as the sixth seed and played Mannheim Middle School. We had a great season. We will miss our 8th graders next year and wish them continued success in softball. The team consisted of sixth, seventh and eighth grade girls.

Marlena Siudeja
Taylor McFall
Stefania Santoro
Alyssa Valdivia
Sophia Rasche
Marina Ventrella
Anna Bidnik
Audrey Trevino
Haley Pedd
Allison Shuttleworth
Hailey Moll
Melonie Vera
Caitlyn Adams
Kiara Cannon

Managers: Mairead Fagan and Victoria Stogowska

Coach: Mrs. Malicki

Thank you, boys 16" softball players.

Ahmad Bendaoud
Brandon Dosch
David Dygdon
Derek Bielawski
Doni Gjoka
Gabriel Hebler

OCTOBER 2014

Ian Trevino
Jimmy DeGrazia
Kamil Romanek
Lucas Meier
Nicholas Mikrut
Nicholas Scaletta
Tomasz Lechowski
Yaralsau Varabyeu
Zachery Rodifer

Mrs. Russ

Girls' Volleyball

The girls volleyball season will begin on Oct. 5th and I'm very excited to see what the girls will accomplish this season. The girls' varsity team consists of:

Taylor McFall
Kasia Lechowska
Mairead Fagan
Alyssa Valdivia
Marlena Siudeja
Julia Tomczyk
Milica Videnovic
Klaudia Podzada
Victoria Stogowska
Jovana Stanojevic
Alexandra Drozdowska

JV Volleyball

Congratulations to the following 7th grade girls. Looking forward to an awesome season.

Sophia Rasche
Raine Calimutan
Marina Ventrella
Nicole Woloszyn
Maysa Hasan
Karolina Szelag
Paulina Buczynska
Kasia Jackowski
Audrey Trevino
Nadia Attia
Haley Pedd
Kasia Barnas

Mrs. Russ and Mrs. Malicki

HAPPY FALL!

Ways a Parent Can Help with **LEARN TO READ**

1

Let your child see you reading!

Have magazines and books in your home.

2

Look for appropriate word and reading games online to play with your child

3

Ask your child to draw a picture or write about what happens in a story.

Keep paper, notebooks, pencils, pens, markers and crayons available in your house.

4

When you're reading a magazine or newsletter, ask your child to look on the pages for pictures that start with a certain sound.

Do you see a picture of a thing that starts with "p"?

5

Set aside a time and place for reading -

like a comfy chair with a reading light for bedtime stories

6

Visit your public library regularly.

Find and read together the books that were your favorites when you were a kid.

7

Enjoy reading with your child.

Laugh at silly pictures. Make goofy voices. Have fun!

8

Ask your child questions about the story as you read together:

- What is the story about?
- Why do you think he/she made that choice?
Was it a good choice?
- Why did that happen?
- What do you think will happen next?
- What was your favorite part of the story?
Why?

9

Make a game out of finding words that rhyme or that start with the same sound

10

After you finish reading a story, look back at a page and ask your child to find common words.

"Can you find the word ____?"

Use words like: the, me, up, and, go, run, can, to, stop

11

Teach your child to recognize his or her own name



Read out loud to your child -
books, poems, nursery rhymes, recipes, billboards,
newspaper articles, ads, signs - whatever words you see!

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 a medication to school to be used 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.*)

VISION AND HEARING SCREENING



Vision and hearing screening is mandated by the Illinois Department of Public Health and will begin in October. 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. All Kindergarten students are required to have an exam by an eye doctor and turn in a vision exam report by October 15th of their Kindergarten year.

SICK CHILDREN SHOULD NOT BE IN SCHOOL



PLEASE do not send your child to school if he/she has diarrhea, vomiting, fever, frequent cough, a continuously runny nose, or other symptoms of being sick, especially if they occur during the night, or if they develop the symptoms before the start of school. Your child should be kept home and observed, rather than expose others to his/her illness. **Children should be fever free for at least 24 hours, without a fever reducing medicine, before returning to school.** **A child who is ill will not be in optimum condition for learning.**

When your child needs to be kept home, please remember to call the school office **each morning that your child will not attend school,** and send a note explaining the absence when he/she returns. **A doctor’s note is required for absences of five or more days.**

ALL STUDENTS are expected to take gym **unless excused for medical reasons.** A parent’s note to the teacher is acceptable for a **one-day** excuse. **A doctor’s note is needed if the child must miss gym for more than one day.** Please keep this in mind when your child is injured or ill. When you call or visit your doctor, please have him write or fax a note to us if the student cannot participate in gym classes for a time.



HEALTH OFFICE NEWS



DENTAL EXAMS

Dental exams must be submitted before May 15, 2015 for all students in **Kindergarten, 2nd, and 6th grade**. Regular dental check-ups are very important to your child's general health. If you need a dental exam form, or a dental waiver form, pick one up from the office, or download one from the URS website under the Parent/School Nurse Office tab.

HEAD LICE SCREENING

It's the time of year when head lice sometimes show their ugly heads! Head lice screenings will be conducted throughout the school year on an as needed basis. If any cases of head lice are discovered in your child's grade, I will send out notices to inform you. I strongly encourage you to make head checks for lice a regular part of your child's hygiene routine. If you want more information about head lice, please contact me, and I will be glad to supply you whatever information you need. Additionally, if your child develops head lice, please notify Nurse Kelly so appropriate measures may be taken and notices can be sent home.



SCHOOL WEBSITE

Need a school physical form 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 “Parents” tab – then click on “School Nurse Office” tab and you will find the forms under the “Health Requirements and Forms” tab. There is information on, the medication policy, immunizations required for each grade, head lice, and physical, vision, dental exam and immunization requirements. You can download the forms needed to meet these requirements. Forms are also available in the school office or health office.



SPORTS REQUIREMENTS

Students in grade 6th through 8th grade may be eligible to try out for any sport. 5th Grade students may be eligible to try out for Cross Country only. In order to be eligible to try out for **ANY** sport, **the student athlete must meet the following guidelines mandated by the Illinois Elementary School Association**. There are no exceptions to these rules and all requirements must be met **BEFORE** the time of try outs.

1. The athlete must have a current physical on file. Physicals are only good for one year from the date the physical was performed. If the physical expires during the sport season, a new physical must be obtained in order for the student to remain eligible for the sport.
2. The parent/guardian must fully complete the student health history portion of the physical form and sign it.
3. The parent/guardian must fully complete the Consent for Participation form and sign it. Medical Insurance is required for sports participation.
4. The parent/guardian must fully complete an Authorization for Emergency Medical Services form and sign it.

If you need any of the above mentioned forms they are available on the Union Ridge website-www.urs86.org. – Click on the “Parents” tab – then click on “School Nurse Office” tab and you will find the forms under the “Health Requirements and Forms” tab for Extra-Curricular Sports Forms. Forms are also available in the school office or health office. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact Nurse Kelly during regular school hours.