
EAGLE RIDGE MIDDLE SCHOOL



January 2012

Dear Eagle Ridge Community,

Welcome to the New Year, 2012! With only two and a half weeks left in this first semester we would like to take this opportunity to revisit some items and to also look ahead to the next semester and next year.

Arrival and Dismissal: Our student drop off and pick up lane has become busier over the past few years. We have more and more students being dropped off by parents in the morning and picked up in the afternoon. We do have designated staff that is on duty but the increase of cars and students also requires your assistance and cooperation. With the increase of volume we want to remind everyone of our safety procedures:

Please stay in the designated lane for drop off.

Please do not pull into the parking lot and let your students off to walk across traffic. If you choose to park, then we ask that you walk your student across the parking lot and onto the sidewalk.

Please follow the directions of the staff on duty. Please do not move the orange cones.

Please do not pick up your students in front of the building during arrival and dismissal. This area is designated for school buses.

During the winter, we ask that all students come into the building upon arrival and to wait in the hall outside of the main office until they are dismissed to their grade level waiting areas at 8:15.

Early next month our guidance counselors will begin meeting with students regarding scheduling for next year. Our eighth grade students will be meeting with the high school counselors from

their perspective high school. **On February 2 at 7:00 PM** there will be an informational meeting for our current 6th and 7th grade parents regarding scheduling classes. This information meeting is geared towards parents. I strongly encourage you to attend this informational meeting. With the school board goals of every student completing an Advanced Placement Class by graduation, we are strongly encouraging all of our students to take at a minimum one honors class. During this current year, we have a ratio of four to one enrolled in the honor level classes. We look forward to seeing you on the 2nd of February.

The end of the first semester is January 20th. Please continue to work with your students at home on their academics and encourage them to set high goals for themselves. Our focus here at Eagle Ridge goes beyond a grade and directly to the learning. We communicate to our students that “everything” counts. As discussed at the beginning of the year at Back to School Nights as well as parent information nights on Grading, we continue to require students who earn 70% or lower on summative assessments to revisit the learning, reassess, and then re-communicate. We appreciate your support in this endeavor as well as your continual support of Eagle Ridge Middle School. Happy New Year!

Bridget Beichler

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

6TH GRADE

Cayla Kumpf is a responsible and well-behaved student. She is sincere, cheerful, good humored and trustworthy. Her friends and teachers can always count on her to do the right thing. We are proud to be her teachers and know she will do many great things.

Sujit Anumakonda is an extremely respectful and friendly student. He always goes above and beyond what is expected of him. Sujit is eager to help other students and his teachers. He is an excellent writer and he gobbles up books! We are very lucky to have Sujit on Team Fierce!

7TH GRADE

Team Barracudas would like to recognize **Maddy Casanova** for December Student of the Month. Maddy brightens the classroom every day when she walks in with her beaming smile and positive attitude. She genuinely cares about people and goes out of her way to think of others and make them feel special. Maddy is a hard worker, and she has the special ability of making her classmates strive to do better when they are around her. Maddy can be counted on to put forth her best effort in every endeavor, both big and small. Maddy is sure to find continued success throughout middle school and beyond with her unique qualities.

Team Barracudas would like to recognize **Riley Neimo** for December Student of the Month. While every student has something unique to contribute to the classroom, Riley's contributions are immeasurable. Students love to work with Riley because he is open-minded, has a great sense of humor, and is self-motivated. Riley leads by example, putting forth 100% effort in all that he does. A self-starter who sets high expectations for himself, Riley excels academically. We are confident that Riley will continue to succeed in middle school and beyond.

8TH GRADE

Christopher Morris is a quiet thinker and accurately draws the right conclusions and executes his work in science exceptionally. His peers would say he is fun to be around, yet he is always focused on accomplishing the goals of the day.

Emily O'Connor is funny, enthusiastic, and she is a real leader among her peers. She strikes a balance between establishing positive relationships with her peers while working in the classroom and never compromising her strong work ethic or standards of excellence. Both of these students are outstanding examples of student leaders and they strive to make positive contributions to their learning environments.

IMPORTANT DATES

- Jan 5-6** **6th Grade History Benchmarks**
- Jan 7** **District Band Auditions @ Seneca Ridge**
- Jan 9-10** **6th & 7th Grade Science Benchmarks**
- Jan 11-12** **8th Grade Civics Benchmarks**
- Jan 12** **8th Grade Chorus/Strings Concert/ Cantare**
- Jan 12** **6th Grade Spelling Bee**
- Jan 16** **HOLIDAY**
- Jan 18** **Elementary Schools visits for Music**
- Jan 19** **7th Grade Spelling Bee**
- Jan 19** **Rising 6th Grade Parent Information Meeting 9am and 7pm**
- Jan 20** **Last Day of Grad ing Period**
- Jan 20** **6th Grade Hockey Event**
- Jan 23** **STUDENT HOLIDAY**
- Jan 25-26, 31** **Rising 6th Grade Music Instrument Tryout**
- Jan 26** **8th Grade Spelling Bee**
- Jan 28** **Music & Art Dept. featured at Local Music Store**

Calling all fellow music lovers:



On Thursday, January 12th, the 8th grade orchestra, 8th grade chorus, Select Chamber Orchestra and Cantare (select choir) will present their Winter Concert. The concert will begin at 7:00pm in the Eagle Ridge auditorium.

FACS Wanted List:



Mod Podge

Cardboard Pizza Rounds

A special thanks goes out to Joshua Stern and his family for all the cardboard water bottoms they have been bringing in for the past two years :) Without them, our Gingerbread Houses would not have been a success!

ERMS GEOGRAPHY BEE 2011

The Eagle Ridge Geography Bee took place in November and December this year. Every student in the school had the chance to participate in Round One during their Social Studies Class. This first round consisted of 14 questions about US and world geography. Student who got 11 or more correct advanced to Round Two, which again took place in their Social Studies class. In this round, students were given 7 questions to answer orally. Those who got 6 or more correct advanced to the Final Round. The Final Round took place on December 15th. There were 26 students that made it – 21 students participated. The final round was a tough competition with three very intelligent and competitive finalists. The end result – Third Place: Laura Detweiler, Second Place: Patrick Beck, and First Place: **CeCe Chu**. CeCe will take a test in January to determine if she qualifies for the state competition held in the spring at Shenandoah University in Winchester.

January Artist of the Month—
Featured in the Main Office
8th Grade-Braden Cmeyla
7th Grade - Jay Pulley
6th Grade - Quinn Eisenhower

Counselors Corner



6 th Grade	Gretchen Mostero
7 th Grade	Loretta Jacoby
8 th Grade	Gary Sharp

Please feel free to contact us via phone at (571)252-2140, or by e-mail if you have any questions or concerns. To access our e-mail addresses, please go to the staff link on the Eagle Ridge webpage. Click on the counselor's name you wish to e-mail.

Start the New Year off with Success!

Here are Ten Easy Steps that can help you get Better Grades:

1. **Believe in yourself**
2. **Be organized**
3. **Manage your time well**
4. **Be successful in class**
5. **Take good notes**
6. **Know how to read a textbook**
7. **Study smart**
8. **Use test – taking strategies**
9. **Reduce test anxiety**
Get help when you need it

News:

- **If there is school closing or delay for inclement weather all conferences will be cancelled.** Please contact your grade level counselor to reschedule any conferences canceled due to inclement weather.

- **Scheduling Dates for Parent Nights**

Rising 6th grade Parent Night @ ERMS: Jan. 19th at 9:00am OR 7:00pm

Rising 7th and 8th grade Parent Night @ ERMS: Feb. 2nd @ 7:00pm

Rising 9th grade (High School Freshman) Parent Night: TBA

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

Reading News

By Erica Cohen, Reading Specialist

Making connections while reading will help develop comprehension. Readers naturally make connections between what is happening in the books they read and their own lives. This is called a **text-self connection**. Once students have heard and read many books, they begin to connect themes, characters, and issues from one text to another text. This is called a **text-text connection**. When students make connections between what they read and the larger world, they are making a **text-world connection**. Making connections while reading is just one way to enhance comprehension.

SOL NEWS

The 8th graders will be taking the Writing SOL on March 6th (multiple choice) and March 7th (short paper composition). Both of these are paper/pencil tests. They will also be taking part in the VDOE field test for the online version of the Writing SOL that will go 'live' next school year (2012/13). The **short paper** online field test will take place in February prior to the paper/pencil testing. The online **multiple choice** portion of the field test will take place following the paper/pencil testing. The March 6th and 7th tests will be the ones that are scored for the 2011/12 school year.

Students' Rankings for Continental Math League

Our rankings on this national test are based on a cumulative score from adding the number of correct answers from the November and December tests together. Our top students per grade are as follows:

Sixth Grade:

First place: Emily Wolfe

Second place tie: Ben Garber, William Helmrath, Owen Poisson, Natalie Sedita

Third place tie: Victoria Bechtold, Daniel Beverly, Nico Burbano, Cody Kim

Seventh Grade:

First place: CeCe Chu

Second place: Landon Chu

Third place: Matthew Pinney

Eighth Grade:

First place: Abhi Chahda

Second place tie: Sweta Karlekar, Christopher Morris, Tarun Vipra

Third place tie: Nathan Riopelle, April Xie

Spectrum students will continue to take part in this above-grade level test each month through March. In our discussions after each test, we review several ways to solve each problem to improve on critical thinking skills.

Field Trip to Gallaudet University

The sixth and seventh grade Spectrum students visited Gallaudet University on November 30 and December 1 as part of their Communication unit, during which they have learned about American Sign Language and the Deaf culture. It was an enriching experience to meet with our tour leader, Patrick Baker, and several other student interpreters. Our students had a full tour of the campus which is the only university in the world to accommodate deaf and hard of hearing students. We learned about its early beginnings with a charter granted in 1864 by President Abraham Lincoln, and how it has grown into the vibrant university it is today serving over 2,000 students. In addition to the tour, our students enjoyed a marvelous lunch in the dining hall interacting with the mostly deaf staff to order their food. Since the college students come from over fifty countries, the menus are culturally diverse and delicious.

In addition to educating college level students, the University's Laurent Clerc National Deaf Education Center serves deaf and hard of hearing young children at its two demonstration schools. The university accepts donations for these innovative programs to teach parents how to read to their young children using ASL and strategies to make book sharing most effective. The money is used to cover the costs of materials and tutors for parents of children attending Kendall Elementary School, a demonstration school on the campus of Gallaudet University, so the parents can read to their deaf children at home.

Anyone wishing to donate money to this program can make checks payable to:

Gallaudet University, you can include "Shared Reading Project" in the memo section.
Checks may be sent to: Anita Gilbert, Coordinator
Laurent Clerc National Deaf Education Center
Gallaudet University
800 Florida Ave, N.E.
Washington, D.C., 20002-3695

The following link provides an explanation of the SRP.

http://www.gallaudet.edu/clerc_center/information_and_resources/info_to_go/language_and_literacy/literacy_at_the_clerc_center/welcome_to_shared_reading_project/srp-how_it_works.html



BUY A YEARBOOK

**We sold out last year!
Deadline is January 20th!**

Different Ways to buy:

Go to the ERMS Home Page - there is a link on the right side.

Go online to www.yearbookordercenter.com

Call toll-free 1-866-287-3096

Order #13563



The Parent Connection
Cindy Rolin~Parent Liaison
January 2012

Happy New Year to our Eagle Ridge families! I hope your holidays were filled with rest, relaxation and memorable times with family and friends. While speaking of the holidays, our Eagle Ridge community stepped up to the challenge in December to help make the holiday season special for those in Loudoun County, who would not otherwise have gifts. Our "Toys for Joy" collection last month received over 80 gifts and collectively as a Briar Woods Cluster, provided hundreds of gift items that were taken to the Holiday Coalition. Thanks to all who helped in this effort and provided for those in need in our county.

As always, if you have questions, needs, community resource identification, etc., please contact me at Cynthia.rolin@lcps.org or 571-252-2140.

Best Wishes for a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous 2012!





Earn **BoxTops**™ *
this season with:

 3 eBoxTops per \$10 spent	 6 eBoxTops per \$10 spent	 3 eBoxTops per \$10 spent	 6 eBoxTops per \$10 spent	 5 eBoxTops per \$10 spent
 5 eBoxTops per \$10 spent	 2 eBoxTops per \$10 spent	 1.5 eBoxTops per \$10 spent	 .5 eBoxTops per \$10 spent	 1.5 eBoxTops per \$10 spent

Message from your Coordinator:

While shopping this holiday season check out these locations and earn extra Box Tops for Eagle Ridge Middle School
Beckie Belcher



Go to btfe.com/marketplace where you can find over 175 retailers!

*Every qualifying purchase. Please check individual merchant Terms & Conditions

Calling ALL Businesses!

Eagle Ridge has formed a new committee in order to create business partnerships. We are looking for businesses in our community who would like to partner with our school, in order to best serve our students.

If you own a business or know a business that might be interested, Eagle Ridge Middle School would like to invite your business to become a partner with our school to positively impact the lives of our students! Our school community consists of over one thousand students, over one hundred staff members, and thousands of parents and community members. It takes the combined effort of our school community along with local businesses to create a complete learning environment for the students of Loudoun County.

How can your business help our school? Eagle Ridge offers three levels of partnership to create a bond between our students and local community businesses. We also are interested in businesses that would like to present on career or curriculum related information. These partnership levels include:

SILVER: Donation of Goods- (i.e. complimentary meals, business coupons, store items, etc.) to students as a community business gift. These are given to students at quarterly award nights recognizing academic and character achievement.

GREEN: Purchasing a "Business Card"- (\$100 per quarter/\$400 per year). Your donation is used to purchase educational supplies (i.e. literature books, instructional supplies, student awards, etc.). Your business card will be displayed at all nightly events which allow the school community to recognize your commitment to Eagle Ridge.

GOLD: Technology Grant- a cash donation of \$500+ for the purchase of technology items. Some examples of items that may be purchased are printers for the laptop carts, a new laptop cart, document cameras (elmos), flip cameras, iPods for podcasting, and many more hardware options.

If you are interested in participating with Eagle Ridge at any level, please contact Nikole Mullen (nikole.mullen@lcps.org) or Shawn Lacey (shawn.lacey@lcps.org) by email or by calling (571) 252- 2146.