



RANCH VIEW REVIEW

Vol. 23 Issue 4

Building Bridges to Learning



Spring 2009

Principal's Message

Dear Ranch View Families,

Happy Spring! It seems we all are ready for warmer temperatures and the opportunity to once again enjoy outdoor activities. It is hard to imagine that this school year is going by so quickly. We have been very busy here at Ranch View! We were very happy to see so many of our wonderful volunteers at our annual Volunteer Luncheon. Under the guidance of Mr. Arndt, our students did a wonderful job decorating the gym, and Mrs. Stevenson attended to every detail of the Black and White Ball themed afternoon. We are truly fortunate to have such caring and giving parents and volunteers at Ranch View. There is never a day that goes by that we don't reap the benefits of your generosity.

The Science Fair was a great success! Thank you to Mrs. Saper and Mrs. Anderson for organizing this exciting event for so many of our students. What a wonderful opportunity for Ranch View families to gather and discuss the children's projects and celebrate their hard work. Under the guidance of Mrs. Hayman and Mrs. Meluch, a team of fourth grade students and a team of fifth grade students will soon participate in the Battle of the Books. Many of these students read forty books during the year in order to compete against teams from other District 203 elementary schools. Ranch View students will be challenged by answering questions about the different books they read. We are very proud of our students and know they will successfully represent Ranch View School!

Our fifth grade students have begun the process of transitioning to junior high school. They have visited Kennedy and Kennedy staff and students have had an opportunity to come to Ranch View and talk about the excitement of starting sixth grade. We are very proud of our fifth graders and we know they will make us all proud as they make the move to KJHS!

We have much to look forward to in the month ahead. Please join us for the many upcoming events and activities. In true Ranch View style, we will make the most of every day with your children!

Sincerely,
Kathy Duncan

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DISTRICT 203 MISSION STATEMENT

OUR BELIEFS

Naperville Community Unit School District 203 believes an exemplary school district...

Values the dignity and uniqueness of each individual

Promotes responsible citizenship

Is the result of a collective partnership of students, staff, parents and community.

OUR MISSION

Our mission is to educate students to be self-directed learners, collaborative workers, complex thinkers, quality producers and community contributors.

OUR VISION

Building a Passion for Lifelong Learning

District 203
World Class



End of School Year Dates and Activities

June 1 – Field Day and Game Guru Assemblies

June 2 – Last Day for AM Kindergarten, Last Day for all Early Childhood Classes
Awards Assembly

June 3 – Last Day of School for Grades 1 – 5 and PM Kindergarten
Dismissal time: 10:00 am

April 7, 2009

Dear Ranch View Families,

The City of Naperville is currently working on a major road construction project related to electrical infrastructure work on Ranchview Drive between Wehrli Road and 75th Street. The anticipated duration of the project is approximately three months. Construction started the week of March 23. Ranchview Drive will remain open to traffic throughout the project, but there will be periodic lane restrictions (i.e. one way traffic) and parking restrictions within the work zone.

In working with the City of Naperville, it is our understanding that beginning mid-April through the end of the school year, this work will impact the east section of Ranchview Drive directly in front of our school. As a result, parking on either side of Ranchview Drive immediately in front of the school will not be allowed. Signs will be posted indicating all parking restrictions. Although you may continue to park on Ranchview Drive until the parking restrictions are implemented, please take the time now to make alternate plans for parking and picking up your children. We recognize that this places stress on our Early Childhood and Kindergarten families. We ask your patience and understanding as we work through this together. Safety of our students is the number one priority, and we need your partnership and cooperation during this time.

We are hopeful that the warm weather will allow more students to walk which minimizes the traffic. We will have additional staff members on duty to monitor construction areas around the school and to assist students in safely crossing the streets. We ask any of our driving families to be even more diligent in watching out for all of our students. We also ask for your patience and understanding as we welcome every student to school each morning and send them all home safely at the end of the day. The few extra minutes it might take are well worth the safety of our children.

The City of Naperville has been very supportive in working with us during this time. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or Mr. Jim O'Neal, Senior Civil Engineer for Naperville at 630-305-5937.

Sincerely,

Kathy Duncan, Principal

The 2009 - 2010 Executive Board is as follows:

President:	Debbie DelGrosso
1st Vice President	Laura Novak
2nd Vice President	Tory Barba
Secretary:	Chris Birck
Treasurer:	Kirsten Haskell

Our thanks go out to these ladies for their service to Ranch View!

HOME & SCHOOL

Ranch View Elementary School

I hope you all enjoyed a well-deserved spring break! As we make our way into warm and sunny days, it's hard to believe we are in the home stretch of the 2008-09 school year. With just six weeks remaining, RV staff and students will be very busy completing another successful year of learning. Home & School volunteers will be busy as well, rounding out an action packed year of activities.

We've had a chance to rest up from the month of February, when we hosted another fabulous Saddlefest and Silent Auction. There were smiling faces all over Ranch View on February 21st! **THANK YOU** to all who helped make this day a success, especially our staff and parents, without whom the event wouldn't be possible. We are so lucky to have such supportive staff members, who took time out of their busy schedules to run games, serve food, sell tickets, and even setup/cleanup!! A very special thank-you to Pam Berryman & Julie Lenzion (Saddlefest Co-Chairs) and Doreen Damge, Anne Onorati, Janet Lowe & Sheryl Athanassiades (Silent Auction Chairs) for all you did to make it a great day. Aside from having fun, we also raised the bulk of our funds for the year on this day – a little over \$19,000, which goes directly to educational programs and materials for our children!!!!

March brought the annual spring Book Fair, scheduled in conjunction with spring conferences. Ranch View readers were treated to a wonderful variety of interesting and affordable books from Scholastic. Thanks to Suzanne Blazek & Sue Walsh, along with all their dedicated volunteers, for organizing a great fair! Our Hospitality committee (Rhonda Kelly & Doreen Damge) also served a delicious breakfast to the staff during that week – much appreciated during those long conference days!

Let's not forget to thank a few committees that are hard at work every month – Market Day, Hot Lunch (every week!), and Art Partners. Your efforts do not go unnoticed. ☺

Looking forward, please mark your calendars for some important dates on the horizon:

- April 29th – Band & Orchestra Concert
- April 30th – 5th Grade Parent Orientation @ Kennedy Junior High
- May 4th thru 8th – Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week
- May 7th – Flower Sale
- May 13th – SFCEP Meeting
- May 14th – 5th Gr. Program
- May 18th – Home & School End-of-Year Celebration
- May 20th – Capital Projects Meeting
- May 21st – Market Day
- May 29th – 5th Gr. Bowling, Pizza & Autograph Party
- June 1st – Field Day, Picnic Lunch, Wheel of Wisdom Assembly
- June 2nd – Last Day of School for AM Kindergarten
- June 3rd – LAST DAY OF SCHOOL!!!

Whew!!! Six weeks and counting.... ☺

Debbie DelGrosso
RVHS President
630-527-1807

Home & School – Capital Projects Meeting

Our annual Capital Projects Meeting has been scheduled for May 20th, 12:30-2:00 PM. At this meeting, all capital requests are reviewed and decisions are made as to how Home & School funds raised this year will be allocated. Any interested parties are invited to attend. If you would like to participate, please contact Kirsten Haskell, H&S Treasurer at kirstenhaskell@wowway.com.

Home & School – 2009/2010 Board Positions Available

We're always looking for new faces on the Home & School Board! The following committees have chairperson positions open for next year:

- Art Partners (current chair returning, looking for co-chair)
- Art to Remember (two co-chairs)
- Book Fair (one chair returning, looking for one or two additional)
- Faculty Liaison
- Fifth Grade Liaison (2-3 positions)
- LRC Coordinator
- Market Day (two returning chairs, looking for one additional)
- Nominations
- Silent Auction (two returning chairs, looking for one additional)
- Volunteer Coordinator
- Historian (end-of-year scrapbook)
- Wrapping Paper (“apprentice” third chair desired)

Additionally, the committees listed below have chairpersons that are willing to continue another year, but have served as chairs for two years or more. We list these as “open” positions to allow new people to step forward if interested.

- Flower Sale
- Ranch View Review
- Science Fair
- Spirit Wear
- Yearbook



It's hard to believe how quickly time flies! It seems like just yesterday it was February and we were in the midst of planning Saddlefest and Silent Auction, and here we are making plans for summer. Before the school year gets completely away from us, we wanted to take this opportunity to thank the Ranch View Community for a very successful day. As always, the support of all the volunteers and staff that worked tirelessly to bring together the awesome event for the kids and the school is appreciated by so many.

Saddlefest is a tradition that the kids really look forward to and we know that it may not have been easy to come out on that snowy day in February, but appreciate all who did. The kids had a wonderful time playing games and eating great food among family, friends and their favorite RV staff. The Silent Auction was also a success with so many generous donations that provided people with a variety of items to bid on. There certainly was a little something for everyone to enjoy.

Thanks again to all of the volunteers who make this day possible. See you next year!

Sincerely,
The Saddlefest and Silent Auction Committees

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Teacher Appreciation Week - May 4th - May 8th

It is that time of the year when we show our thanks and gratitude to the Teachers of Ranch View School. Day after day, they teach our children in fun and exciting ways, with patience and kindness. Teacher Appreciation Week is an excellent way to show them how much we appreciate all they do for our children. We are planning a week full of activities to honor our teachers. Students will be asked to contribute with thoughtful notes in the week prior. A flyer will be sent home explaining all details for that week. If you are interested in contributing an item to a breakfast for the Ranch View staff on May 4, please contact Laura Novak at 983-4166. We are really lucky to have the best teachers in Naperville at Ranch View School. Let's show them how much we care!!!



Important Hot Lunch Information

The year is almost over for hot lunch. Please remember that the last hot lunch is on **May 4th**. There will be 4 more Mondays of school after this, so **remember to send your child with a lunch every day after May 4th**. Thank you to all the parents and grandparents who volunteered throughout the year for hot lunch. You are awesome!

Pick up for Flower Sale - Rain or Shine - Thursday, May 7th 2009

We would love to have any volunteers interested in helping out early –
7:00am - 10:00 a.m.

Call Claudia DeStefano 630-355-7044 or Christine Birck 630-527-0979.



There is a lot of lifting and moving of trays of flowers in potentially bad weather - only hardy souls need apply!



MARKET DAY NEWS



The end of the school year is approaching quickly. That means there is one more Market Day event left to stock up on your family's favorite products. Enjoy them all summer long!

Receive a FREE 4 pack of ¼ LB burgers with a minimum purchase of \$35 order in the month of May.



Congratulations to Rebecca Paulsen and Sandy Kehl who each won a \$25 Market Day certificate during the winter sweepstakes!

A Big thanks to everyone who supported our Market Day sales this past school year. Every order has helped Ranch View reach its goal! Continue supporting our school by:

- 1) Ordering online 24/7 at www.marketday.com or
- 2) Filling out the order sheet and returning it to school.

Market Day also offers promotions only available through online orders. For example, in the month of April, you received \$8 off any minimum purchase of \$80.

Thanks to all our loyal volunteers! Market Day would not be successful without the help of volunteers who come out each sale date. We are always happy to have an extra helping hand.

For any questions or to volunteer please contact a Market Day committee chairperson.



Field Day is coming!

When: Monday, June 1, 2009

Volunteers Needed!!

First through Fifth grade classrooms will each be allowed 3 parent volunteers to help with Field Day. We need two Station Managers and one Team Leader for each classroom. In addition, one volunteer will be asked to stay and assist their class with the picnic lunch that will be provided by Home and School. Kindergarteners will enjoy the picnic lunch and 2 parent volunteers are needed from the morning and from the afternoon classes. If you are interested in participating with your child's classroom on Field Day and would like more information please contact Lori at Kouchoukos@wowway.com. Thank you for volunteering.

Parent Coffee Update

The Parent Coffee on Curriculum sponsored by SFCP is being postponed to next school year due to scheduling conflicts. We will notify parents when we have a new date.

Parent / Child Book Club

The final book club for the year will be held for 1st and 2nd grade students on April 29 from 6:30 – 7:15 pm. Look for more details in backpack mail.

On February 26, 4th and 5th graders and their parents met to discuss selected books. Thanks to Mrs. Jamnicki, Marie Whirledge and Judy Fan for their help in organizing the evening.

Parent / Child Book Clubs are sponsored by Ranch View's School / Family / Community Partnership team (SFCP).

SFCP



Second Annual Movie Night!

Student Council Reps made the decision to hold a second Movie night at Ranch View School on May 8th from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. in our own RV Theater (the gym). Last year's movie night benefited children who were suffering from cancer. Our proceeds were sent to fund research and we made over \$700.00!

This year, we are working with Johnson School in Aurora. Mrs. Rule had met teachers from Johnson School through a graduate course she was teaching. She learned that many of the children do not have books to read at home or at school. The classroom libraries there are very small limiting what the students have to read. Our movie night will be held to help build the libraries up for the students. As admission to movie night, students from Ranch View can bring a gently used book or pay \$1.00. All books will be sent to Johnson School. Any money collected will be used to purchase books to send to the school. Movie goers can also buy snacks to enjoy and a water to wash it all down with.

All students at Ranch View are invited to attend. EC students are also welcome but need to have a parent/guardian with them in case they cannot sit for that long. We hope everyone can join us for a fun night at the movies! Look for the flyer to come home with the permission slip and more details on the movie to be shown!!!



An Energizing Beginning to Spring Break!

Ranch View Students began Spring Break with an Ozzie Read-In. Those who read and completed the Kane County Cougars Reading Program in grades 1-5 were invited to come to the gym on Thursday, March 26th. There they were treated to a snack and a chance to read with friends. Our fifth graders were matched with a first grade buddy and they read together.

To energize the readers, the Energizer Reading Rabbit made an appearance to help encourage the readers and award raffle prizes to some of those lucky readers! He made quite an entrance, banging his drum and visiting with the readers! Thanks to Energizer Rabbit for taking time out of his busy day to come visit!

All readers also receive a ticket form to turn in to the Kane County Cougars for a free ticket, a T-Shirt and some ball park food at one of the Ranch View games coming up on May 4th and May 12th! Hope to see the readers and their families there! It is a great time!



ART

As spring comes the art room is filled with activity. 5th grade students have just completed a large unit on Illustration and Cartooning. The students viewed and discussed the history of Illustration and how this form of art is used today. Each child created a caricature of themselves as well as a fictitious monster drawing. During the next few weeks the entire 5th grade class will be working on projects related to their 5th grade music program. Currently the students are studying portraits and are creating pirate portraits that they will be finishing with watercolor paints.

All of the 4th grade students recently completed the Naperville Police Department Crime Prevention Poster Contest. This was a wonderful opportunity for students to use their artistic skills and create a meaningful message for other children of all ages. The winner of this contest will be announced at the Ranch View Awards Assembly at the end of the school year. Currently the 4th grade students are studying the "South" and its influence in art. The children learned about Artist Georgia O'Keeffe, her life and influences. As a twist on her subject matter the students created cartoon cactus plants that they are painting with watercolors.

3rd grade students are finishing the year with multiple art projects relating to Japan. These lessons will coincide with their classroom Japan Unit. Currently the students are creating wall scrolls influenced by the Japanese Kakejiku Scroll.

What's New In Music at Ranch View

This has been a year of new possibilities and exciting adventures in general music class at Ranch View. Ms. Stephenson joined the Ranch View Staff in August of 2008 and has enjoyed collaborating with the students and staff. Thus far, the music classes have learned basic music history and theory, they have worked in small groups on projects, they have composed pieces of music, played on the Orff and percussion instruments, played music games, and sung songs. In addition to general music classes, Ms. Stephenson also worked with the 5th grade chorus. The 5th grade chorus is comprised of several 5th graders that come sign up and meet twice a week in the mornings for 45 minutes each week. The chorus students sing and prepare additional pieces of music to perform throughout the school year. In November, the students of Ranch View and the Ranch View Chorus performed an all-school concert.

On May 14, 2009 at 7:00pm in the Ranch View Gymnasium, the 5th grade students of Ranch View will be performing a musical written by John Jacobson and directed by Ms. Stephenson, entitled "Pirates". It promises to be "swash-buckling" fun!!! All parents, students, and community are invited to attend that evening. (The performance will last approximately 45 to 60 minutes.)

It has been a wonderful year in music thus far and we look forward to our continued learning experiences.



Physical Education News
By Ms. Flannery

Ranch View students have been very lucky lately, they have had the pleasure of having two student teachers helping them to learn. Ms. Rystau is from Univ. of Illinois Champaign and is now at Naperville Central H.S. and Mr. Sulce is from Northern Illinois University and will be with us until the middle of May.

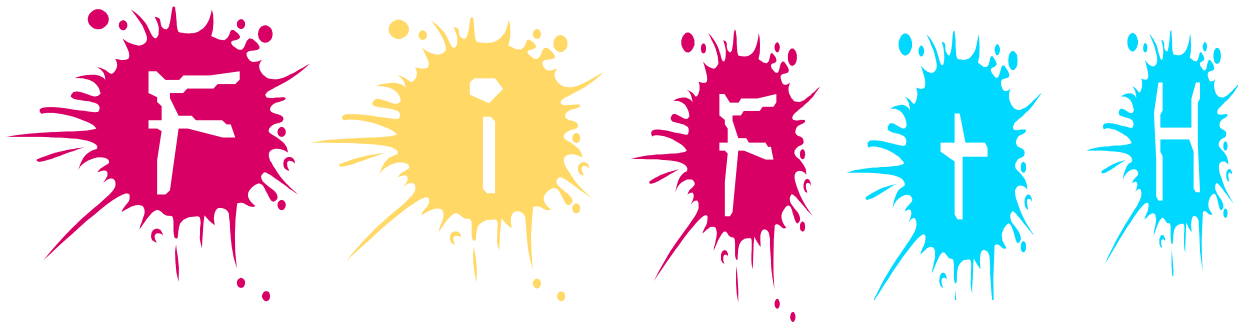
3rd thru 5th graders have been busy working on their jumping, balance and agility, throwing, aiming and teamwork skills while K thru 2 have been working on locomotor, ball throwing, catching and bouncing, and scarf juggling skills. 1st and 2nd graders have also been busy challenging their brains through movement in our Learning Readiness Physical Education classes that they experience in addition to their regular Physical Education classes.

All grade levels participated in our “heart course” right before spring break. In this course students were able to complete an obstacle course as they pretended to be the blood going through the heart carrying oxygen to the muscles of the body and then collecting carbon dioxide to bring to the lungs for filtration. Ask them why the Pulmonary artery and Aorta are famous!

After spring break, students will be using their social, rhythm and pattern following skills by doing some square and line dancing followed by ball striking activities intermixed with our spring fitness testing.

Enjoy spring's warmer weather and get out of the house to get some exercise as a family!





By Mrs. Garbarino, Mrs. Meluch, Mrs. Trygar, and Mr. O'Dowd

MATH

Fifth graders should be able to answer the following questions about Data: What is a typical fifth grader? What are the Mean, Median, and Mode? Is that numerical or categorical data? What is the difference between a line plot, a bar graph, and a stem-and-leaf plot? After data collection, students will learn about Probability.

SOCIAL STUDIES

World War I has ended and World War II has begun. The concept focus shifts to students looking at the use of power not only within our country but in our country's relationships with the rest of the world. Students should see how the differing views of leaders and citizens over time impacted the use of power in decisions.

LITERACY

In Writing, students have continued to refine their skills with the 6-traits. The students have been writing various pieces to incorporate all the traits they have learned this year and will complete a persuasive paper. In Reading, each class has continued to work on the comprehension strategies with the main emphasis on synthesis.

SCIENCE

5th graders are making rivers! Our last Science unit is Earth Changing Surfaces. What dynamic forces occur IN and ON the Earth that result in changes on the surface? Through a variety of inquiry-based experiments, students will develop a deeper understand of how Earth's surface changes.

GOOD LUCK

At the end of the school year you will be saying goodbye to Ranch View and goodbye to a school you have grown up in since kindergarten. We hope you can look back at all the memories and feel proud of what you have accomplished. We hope you remember learning discovering the wonder found in your favorite books, creating an imagination for science in the world, developing your voice as a writer, understanding the connections and links between people and history, and holding cherished friendships. The fifth grade teachers wish you all the best of luck and success as you continue your journey at Kennedy Junior High School.