

Special Edition

A monthly look at what's happening
in North Ridge Specials!
February Issue

Phenomenal PE with Mr. Keller

K: We will be continuing our Manipulatives unit in which students will be exposed to different types of balls, bean bags, hula hoops, jump ropes, etc. This unit will test students' hand-eye coordination, and fine motor function. 1st-2nd: We will continue with our manipulatives unit. Students will be working with hula hoops in different ways. Manipulating their bodies in different ways as well as controlling their equipment to make it do what they want. 3rd-5th: We will be wrapping up our volleyball unit. So far students have been learning how to perform a bump, set and serve. After the fundamentals of these skills have been covered, we will be incorporating them in small group activities as well as whole group games. Students will learn the basics of the game of volleyball which includes rules and positions of the game.

Morning Track begins at 8:00am. This is a great opportunity for your child to get a little bit of exercise first thing in the morning. No better way to start the day!

Stay Active. Stay Healthy. Go Unicorns!



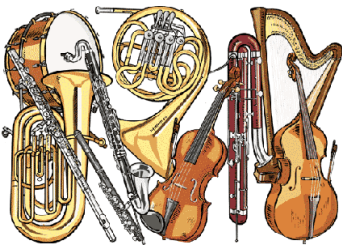
Awesome Art with Mr. Ring

Kindergarten – Van Gogh Sunflowers – We will learn a little about the artist and how he used thick paint and left brush strokes on the painting. We go through a step by step process of making oil pastel sunflowers in a vase 1st – Positive and negative space – We will look at some artworks that have strong use of negative space and talk about how these artist accomplished that look. We will then make our own artworks from cut paper that bring out strong negative space in the works. 2nd – Totem Poles – We learn about totem poles and their function in the lives of Native Americans in the Pacific North West. We design and make our own totem poles 3rd – Aboriginal Dot Painting – We will look at the works and life of the native Australian people. We will try to recreate an Aboriginal style artwork. 4th – Shading to Abstraction – after looking at abstract work and Op Art we collaboratively created abstract designs using acute and obtuse angles, compasses for circles, and freehand lines. Students will then be shading all the parts of their work to create abstract designs. 5th – Two Pictures in One – similar to a hologram students will make two pictures and join them together to make one picture that changes when viewed from different angles.

Special Edition Cont.

Magnificent Music with Mrs. Ferri

Here's what we're doing in music classes this month. Kindergarten and 1st Grade have been learning traditional songs from holidays that are celebrated here in America – Groundhog Day, Presidents' Day, and Valentine's Day. They have also been learning various percussion instruments to add instrumental accompaniment to these songs. 2nd Grade is also learning Groundhog and Valentine's Day songs. At the end of February they will begin a unit of music from around the world. 3rd Grade has begun to learn about Ostinato and by the end of the month will create their own ostinato to accompany their songs they are singing. 4th Grade is preparing to go the N.C. Symphony on February 22. They are learning about the four families of instruments in an orchestra, the composers and the song "This Land Is Your Land". During the symphony they will sing this song as the symphony orchestra plays. 5th Grade has started learning the music for the musical "I Need A Vacation". Auditions will begin the last week of February. The musical will be presented April 6th.



Terrific Technology with Miss Philbeck

Here's what's happening in Tech for February! Kindergarten students are going to be introduced to a program called Kidspiration. Their first activity will be an All About Me. The software is very kid friendly but requires good listening and following directions by the students in order to be successful. First grade is back to reviewing Microsoft Word skills. They still need a lot of practice when typing more than 1 sentence. There will be a focus on remembering to use punctuation as well as not hitting the space bar multiple times between words. Second graders are finishing their winter acrostic poems in MS Word; next is internet safety. Third grade students have done a superb job with their first MS Publisher project. I guarantee they can teach most of you a few things about it! Fourth graders are finishing their unit about current events. When we talk about places to find out about current events (newspaper, internet, radio) I always tell them that YOU (their parents) are the best place! Finally, 5th graders are putting their final touches on their Emaze career project. They will then choose to present their Emaze or Photo Peach, from earlier in the year, to the class. As always the class website can be found at <http://nrtech.weebly.com>

Special Edition Cont.

Marvelous Media with Mrs. Lewis

The book fair is here! The students will be able to preview the books on the book fair February 6 through 9 during their media specials time. Purchases can be made Monday-Friday of that week from 8-8:30 and Monday-Thursday 3-3:30. Parent's night is Thursday, February 9 from 3:00-7:00. The students of North Ridge thank you for your support of the media program. After the book fair, kindergarten will be reading a fiction and a non-fiction book and discussing the difference between them. 1st grade will be talking about "how-to" books and how they work and following directions. 2nd grade will be taking a closer look at the Dewey number 700's which is sports, arts, games and puzzles. 3rd grade will be testing their alphabetical skills while putting mini libraries in order. 4th grade will be comparing and contrasting print and online sources of almanacs, atlases and dictionaries. 5th grade will be diving deeper into how Google Maps works while taking "virtual field trips" of some of the sites they will see in Washington DC on their class trip.

