

Grand Ridge Grade School

NEWSLETTER



Weeks of Dec. 13, 2020 - Jan. 9, 2021

400 W. Main Street
Grand Ridge, IL 61325

Ted Sanders, Supt. — Terry Ahearn, Principal
"Large enough to educate you, small enough to know you."

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A Few Words from the Superintendent . . .

"To cherish peace and good will, to be plenteous in mercy, is to have the real spirit of Christmas."

--Calvin Coolidge, 30th President of the United States

2020, the year that saw the greatest transformations of public health safety and economic swings in 100 years, is drawing nearer to an end. Undoubtedly we do not need to recap all that has happened this year, for you are most aware of the challenges and obstacles this year has produced. It may be some time before we return to normalcy after having been forced into isolation and cut off from others in ways not seen in modern history. However, even with the current challenges we see that the spirit of our community has not diminished, but instead has grown to meet those challenges. Grand Ridge has been through a lot this year; but at each stage people have stepped up to help each other get through these tough times.

At the beginning of the year I charged the staff with this goal, to act and behave in this moment in such a way that you will look back on these days and be proud of your actions. Our staff has done that. They have been courageous and brave to meet the needs of students despite any fear or concern they had for themselves. As the year started, we really didn't know what we were going to be up against. In the spring we were forced to shut down, but in the fall we were told to make decisions on our own and rely on data to be informed in those decisions. The questions of what data to follow, who to listen to, what rules to establish, all needed to be answered before students entered the building. Then came the creation of rules and structure along with the procedures to make our vision possible. We met with many people who provided us with good advice and encouraged us to move forward.

As the year progressed, we realized that our plan was working. Mr. Ahearn and the teachers began building plans to reach more children with a recovery program in the afternoon to help students who were struggling to keep their grades up or were in need of additional services. The plan saw major growth with that population of kids, and we look forward to getting back to it as soon as we can after break. We learned a new way to use curriculum and technology. We learned how to make major changes in a quick fashion in order to meet the needs of our students. And during it all, we have had support from the community to get us through.

Now we look forward to 2021 with great optimism. As we approach this New Year, ask yourself if you have lived courageously and in such a way that you will be proud of your actions in the years to come. Did you give when you could? Did you commit yourself to helping instead of complaining? Did you volunteer to make a difference when called upon? I believe the answer for those who I have worked with so far has been a resounding "Yes!" So many people have been giving and helping without complaint. Many are volunteering and helping meet the needs of our community and those who cannot meet their own needs. Imagine a day when you are sitting with friends or your family many years from now and a little voice asks the question, "How did you ever make it through that COVID thing?" What will you say?

I know what I will say. "During that very rough time I saw men and women, children, families and friends, finding ways to encourage each other through FaceTime, texts, emails, Zoom meetings, anything they could find to make a connection. We witnessed giving unparalleled in my lifetime. We saw people struggling, but getting help quickly through the kindness and generosity of strangers. That's how we made it. We didn't hunch over in fear; but we stayed together, and in so doing, we were strong." And with that, I wish you much kindness, generosity, love, and joy, which produce the strength we all need to carry on. Happy Holidays, and a very Merry Christmas.

All Happiness and Joy Be Yours this Holiday Season!!!

Sources of Assistance

You can dial 211 on your cell phone OR call 1-888-865-9903 to reach the United Way held line. This line will connect you with any agency in your area that can give food, rent, or financial assistance.

Servant's Heart in Ottawa has a program called Emergency Food and Shelter Program. Call 815-434-3470. They should be able to help with rent.

The Community Food Basket in Ottawa is open Tuesday's 9-11am and Thursday's 3-5:00pm.

Marseilles Food Pantry - 200 Broadway St. Marseilles, Illinois. Serving all those that have a Marseilles mailing address. We are open the 1st and 3rd Tuesday's from 8:30-10:30.

Bill assistance: Tri-County Opportunity Council can help. Call 800-323-5435. When you call DO NOT say you need bill assistance. Say that you are looking for "Hardship Assistance Dollars." Currently the program is not giving direct bill help until October but they can give the Hardship Assistance Dollars.

There are food micro pantries across the area. Locations include:

1055 6th St (Grove Center) LaSalle
807 LaSalle St (Jeremiah Joe) Ottawa
514 State St (New Chalet) Ottawa
1320 Union St (Grundy Co Health Dept) Morris

Grace Community Church, Streator, IL Food Pantry: 1634 N Illinois Rt 23. Open Wednesdays and Fridays 9am - 11am

Streatorland Food Pantry. 210 N. Wasson St. Streator, IL 815-673-3688. Open Monday, Thursday, Friday's 9-10:30am.

The mobile food bank is the 1st Saturday of the month in Ottawa.

The school food bags will begin in September of each school year.

The school has soap, shampoo, lotions, deodorant, toothbrushes, toothpaste, shaving gel, and feminine products students can take home. They can see Mrs. Grenda.

Salvation Army of Ottawa Food Pantry. The daily feeding program, in partnership with A Servant's Heart, will offer to-go meals for lunch from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. There will be no dine-in available, meals will be served at the door.

Salvation Army - Request for assistance such as for rent, utilities and emergency food pantry will be by appointment only from 9 a.m. to noon Monday through Friday. Call 815-433-0798 for more information.

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) services also have been suspended. Call 1-800-323-5434 for LIHEAP questions or assistance.

SPIRIT WEEK

Monday, December 14th
Hat Day

Tuesday, December 15th
Mohawk Day

Wednesday, December 16th
Twin Day

Thursday, December 17th
Pajama Day

Friday, December 18th
Christmas/ Ugly Sweater Day

Calendar of Events

December 14 - 11:50 Dismissal

December 15 - 11:50 Dismissal

December 16 - 11:50 Dismissal
Booster Club Meeting

December 17 - 11:50 Dismissal

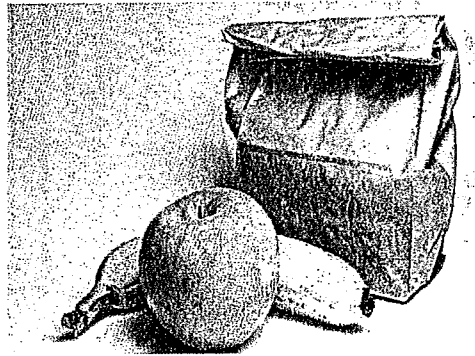
December 18 - 11:50 Dismissal

December 19 through January 3 - Christmas Break

School Resumes January 4, 2021 - 11:50 Dismissal



MOHAWK STRONG



Even though you will be pre-ordering free lunches each week, that menu will be subject to change. Therefore we ask you to simply sign up if you want lunches to be provided for the week.

Thanks!



CHRISTMAS BREAK BIRTHDAYS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

- December 13 - Emma Rambo
Gabe Spencer
Carla Swiskowski
- December 14 - Leah Kearfott
- December 17 - Clay Christoff
- December 20 - Liam O'Connor
Evelyn Penfield
- December 21 - Gunner Grammer
- December 22- Jordan Kirkman
Levi Laasch
- December 23 - Carter Santorineos
- December 27 - Trace Campbell
Lillian Grady
- December 28 - Dante Cave
- December 29 - Deacon Knott
- December 31 - Colden Smith
Skyleigh Speirer
Emma Wilson
- January 1 - Alex Rodriguez - Hammond
- January 3 - Levi Jaegle
Ms. Killelea
- January 5 - Jackie Grady
Brandon Rogers
- January 8 - Vincent Chapman
Cooper Masley
Mrs. Schrik
Mrs. Ericson

