



Grand Ridge Grade School

NEWSLETTER

Week of Dec. 3 - 9, 2017

400 W. Main Street
Grand Ridge, IL 61325

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

Phone: 815-249-6225
Fax: 815-249-5049

A Few Words from Mr. Sanders . . .

"A good judge conceives quickly, judges slowly."—English Proverb

December is upon us! The school year is zipping along and we are approaching midterms of 2nd quarter. It is hard to believe we are this far on the road, but the time is moving quickly as always.

GOOD NEWS!!!!

We have some good news to report. Our students have placed at the top of the county on our Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) test. Your children scored a composite score of 47.1 cumulative math and reading scores as opposed to the State's average of 34.5. The next closest schools were tied for second at 46.9. We are proud of the teachers and students for doing so well. It has been challenging to keep up with the demands of the State regarding the tests, but through education of staff and students in the new expectations, and a plan to achieve our goals, we are seeing the results we knew our kids were capable of. We celebrated this information with them at a Pep-rally earlier this week.

John Finley Commons Project

After many years of waiting, we are finally back to completing the work of installing the brick pavers in the commons area of the John Finley memorial in the new entrance of the building. We have located a list that had the donors of the current bricks in place, but we noticed that there are some bricks that were not on that list and a few others that purchased a brick or bricks that have not been installed yet. If you or someone you know purchased a brick and did not see it placed, please let us know so we can make good on the purchase. We would appreciate a copy of a canceled check or receipt to verify the purchase. The plan is to work with Glen Gery Brick in Marseilles to get the bricks made and then we will install. Once we are caught up on those that need to be placed first, we will look into opening them up for sale and will keep you posted on how that process will work. Please contact the office at 815-249-6225 if you did not see your brick in the paved area in front of the Finley memorial bust.

Changes to Attendance and Enrollment

As part of the new Evidence Based Funding Model (EBFM) the state passed as an improved way to fund public education, there will be new attendance and enrollment procedures to secure the funding we get each year called General State Aid (GSA). The numbers will be based on school enrollment at 2 different checkpoints in the year, the first in October and the second in March. The state will look at enrollment data only on those dates as the determining factor for how we receive money in our calculation. That is a change from the best 3 month average daily attendance (ADA) number that was used in the past. Using enrollment rather than attendance may help with our total numbers; however, they are also in the process of gathering more data regarding student excused and unexcused absences, which leads us to believe there may be more coming in the future with the attendance issue.

To hold a school accountable for the funding they receive, the state verifies those attendance data through our reporting process we complete daily throughout the school year. Now that everything is computer driven, it is easier for the state to request an audit of our attendance data. Long story short, it is important for all of our students to attend every day and to avoid unexcused absences. Mr. Ahearn has worked very hard to drive those numbers down, along with the cooperation of the students and families involved. We are making strides in reducing absenteeism. For us, it is a simple goal to have students present so they are exposed to the great teaching that is going on each day in the classrooms. That is being expressed in our scores on the state test and our own local testing. When students are here, they are learning. When they are not here, we play catch up.

It has been said that "it is easier to keep up than to catch up," and we believe that old saying. Whether it is through our determined efforts to keep up with curriculum changes, RtI, PBIS, or the countless other hurdles that have been placed in front of us over the past few years, or the sheer determination, will, and stamina of our staff, Grand Ridge District 95 is leading the pack. This is where we want to be. We want the best behaved, most sincere, hard-working, caring children to graduate from these halls; and we are producing that for the community. Be proud of your children and of your school. They are becoming the future leaders we hope for.

Have A Great Week!!!!

- **Christmas Program Grades K,1,2- Thursday,
December 7 @ 6:00 p.m. in the Multipurpose Room**
- **Winter Concert- Thursday, December 14 @ 6:30 p.m.
in the Multipurpose Room**
(Fifth grade Choir, JH Choir, and Band will perform.)
- **Spring Program Grades 3,4,5- Thursday, April 26 @
6:30 p.m. in the Multipurpose Room**
- **Spring Concert- Thursday, May 17 @ 6:30 p.m. in
the Multipurpose Room**
(Fifth grade Choir, JH Choir, and Band will perform.)

**** - Music classes are co-curricular. Information learned in Music class each week is applied to our programs. Daily participation and performance attendance play an integral part in each student's grade. Please plan to attend!**



Calendar of Events

*Mon. Dec. 4 - Santa Secret Shop
5/6 Boys Basketball @ Marquette 5pm
7/8 Boys Basketball vs. St. Michaels 5pm*

*Tues. Dec. 5 - 5/6 Boys Basketball vs. TCA 5pm
7/8 Boys Basketball @ Saunamin 5pm*

*Wed. Dec. 6 - 5/6 Boys Basketball @ Deer Park 5pm
8th Grade Girls Basketball Sectional
2:20 Dismissal
6pm PTO Meeting*

*Thur. Dec. 7 - 7th Grade Girls Basketball State
6pm K-2 Christmas Program*

Fri. Dec. 8 - 8th Grade Boys Basketball Harding Tournament

Sat. Dec. 9 - 8th Grade Girls Basketball State

Special Birthdays

Dec. 3	Dec. 4 Arya Shah	Dec. 5	Dec. 6	Dec. 7 Bianca Reilly Xander Shelton	Dec. 8 Kieran Black	Dec. 9
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Lunch Menu

	Monday Dec. 4	Tuesday Dec. 5	Wednesday Dec. 6	Thursday Dec. 7	Friday Dec. 8
Breakfast Menu	Cereal Honey Squares Fruit Juice	Breakfast Boat Fruit Juice	Cereal Strawberry Chex Fruit Juice	Cereal Pop Tart Fruit Juice	Cereal String Cheese Fruit Juice
Lunch Menu	Tyson Chicken Variety Day Potatoes w/ Gravy Peaches Condiments	Pork Chop on Bun Salad w/ Dressing Fruit Condiments	Chicken Fajita Lettuce / Cheese Cup Cowboy Salsa Refried Beans Pineapple	Sub of the Day Turkey Sub Variety Bag of Chips Carrots w/ Ranch Strawberry Cup	Grilled Chicken w/ Cheese on Bun Curley Fries Orange Smiles Condiments

December 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 7th Boys Basketball Marseilles Tournament 8th Grade Girls Basketball Regionals	2 6th Grade Boys Basketball 7th Play @MVK 7th Grade Girls Basketball State
3	4 Santa Secret Workshop 5/6 Boys Basketball @ Marquette 5pm 7/8 Boys Basketball vs. St. Michaels 5pm	5 5/6 Boys Basketball vs TCA 5pm 7/8 Boys Basketball @ Samamin 5pm	6 5/6 Boys Basketball @ Deer Park 5pm 8th Grade Girls Basketball Sectionals 2:20 Dismissal PTO Meeting 6pm	7 7th Grade Girls Basketball State K - 2 Christmas Program 6pm	8 8th Grade Boys Basketball Harding Toruney	9 8th Grade Girls Basketball State
10	11 PBIS Store 5/6 Boys Basketball @ Odell 5pm 7/8 Boys Basketball vs. Flanagan 5pm	12 5/6 Boys Basketball @ Central 4:30pm School Board Mtg 7pm	13 5/6 Boys Basketball @Parkside 4:30pm Senior Lunch 12pm 2:20 Dismissal	14 8th Grade Girls Basketball State 6:30pm 5 - 8 Band / Choir Concert	15	16
17	18 5/6 Boys Basketball vs. Lincoln 5pm	19 5/6 Boys Basketball @ Putnam 4:30 pm	20 11:50 Dismissal	21 Christmas Break	22 Christmas Break	23
24	25 Christmas Day	26 Christmas Break	27 Christmas Break 5th Grade Boys Basketball	28 Christmas Break Holy Family Toruney	29 Christmas Break	30
31 New Years Eve						

LOST & FOUND

Our LOST AND FOUND pile is growing! Please have your child check out our lost and found table located down the hall from the office if he or she has misplaced an item.



HOMEWORK PROGRAM

Effective Tuesday November 28th, students that stay for the Homework Program will follow new dismissal procedures for locations where they are to be picked up.

Walkers will be dismissed as usual to proceed out Door E 2 down the alley.

Car riders will exit the building out of Door N 1 on the Northside of the new addition. All students that are picked up by a parent or guardian will only exit out this door.



Santa's Secret Shop

We are having our annual PTO Santa's Secret Shop *December 4-8* for all grades during school hours. The children will have an opportunity to shop for great Christmas presents at low prices for their families and pets. The teachers will sign up their homeroom classes to shop and let the students know when they will be doing their shopping. The gifts will be bagged and ready to put under your Christmas tree.

To volunteer to help the kids shop, purchase, or bag their gifts, please call or text Paula Krohe at (815)257-3772.

The list below is especially helpful when others are assisting the younger children shop for and wrap their gifts. Gift items are priced \$.25 - \$3.00. If necessary, please help your children budget and make their lists using the following:

My Shopping List

<i>Relative/name:</i>	<i>I can spend:</i>
1.	\$
2.	\$
3.	\$
4.	\$
5.	\$
6.	\$

~Names may be added for larger families.



Breakfast with Santa!

Pancake and Sausage Breakfast
Saturday, Dec 2, 9 - 11 am
Farm Ridge Twp Hall in Grand Ridge

Admission: Please bring a non-perishable food item
for the Grand Ridge District Emergency Fund Food Drive.

*KIDS! Bring letters to Santa! Mail Box will be at the Hall
All letters must be received by Dec. 15
so Santa has time to answer all your letters before Christmas.*

Sponsored by The Grand Ridge Community Fest, a Registered 501(c)3



2017-2018 Final deadlines for Labels for Education®

With the Labels for Education Program coming to a close, please keep these dates in mind so your school can maximize all the points it can collect and redeem.

January 2, 2018 - Final date to submit UPCs into your school's bank account. All UPCs with the Labels for Education logo must be mailed & postmarked by 1/2/18 for acceptance.

May 31, 2018 - Last day to redeem merchandise for your school from the 2017-2018 Merchandise Catalog - be sure to get your orders in and postmarked no later than 5/31/18.

Please be sure to share these dates with your school and community. For any questions call 1-800-424-5331. And also, please continue to visit LabelsForEducation.com for full details.

A heartfelt thank-you to all the schools and all the families who have made Labels for Education so special over the years.

Sincerely,

Campbell's

Campbell Soup Company



Participating Products

