

Ripley Central School

Blue Eagle Express

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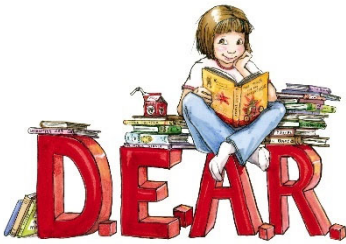


Read Across America Day 2022

Ripley Central School will be celebrating Dr. Seuss's birthday on Wednesday, March 2 with multiple events that celebrate reading.

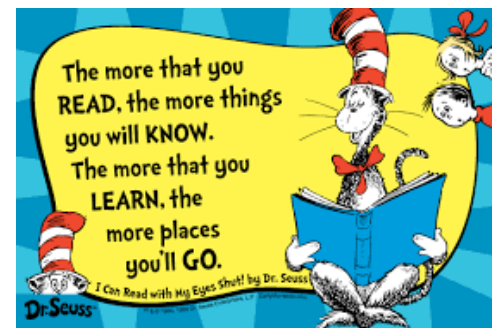
- Guest readers and former students will be visiting the building from Chautauqua Lake to read stories to our younger scholars.
- Students will be taking walking field trips to the local public library where they will listen to stories and complete crafts.
- The entire school will be participating in a DEAR (Drop Everything and Read) time event.
- Students will be enjoying a delicious lunch of... Green Eggs and Ham!

The entire school is excited to celebrate one of our favorite past times: Reading!



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Superintendent's Message



Hello Ripley,

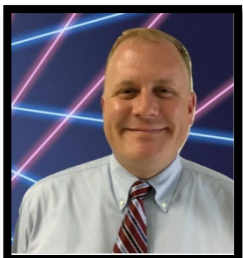
Looking out my window at the snow that has accumulated over the past two weeks, it's difficult to remember that we had a green Christmas, just seven weeks ago and unfortunately, since Punxsutawney Phil and Dunkirk Dave both saw their shadows, it doesn't look like we're going to see green grass anytime soon. While winter and all this snow may not be my favorite season, I have said many times I will take a little bit (OK a lot) of snow over some of the weather patterns other parts of the United States have to deal with. I'll take snow over hurricanes, earthquakes, (I know we have had a few in Chautauqua County), tornadoes (I know, we have had a few of those too), wildfires, etc. One of my sons was recently promoted to a new position in San Francisco. He is currently out there looking for a place to live (Can you say \$3,000 a month for a 700 sq. ft. studio?) and he told us that San Francisco has only had 8.8 inches of rain since October 1st and has been under a drought warning for 11 of the past 12 years. With all the snow we have in our yards, I don't think we have to worry about a drought anytime soon!

You may be asking, "Why is he telling me about drought in California?" Well, I'm sharing this information as a way to help us remember no matter how bad it may seem at times, it could be worse. I certainly haven't enjoyed brushing my car every morning to drive to work, but it's better than finding my car in the neighbor's swimming pool because that's where a tornado dropped it the night before or digging it out from a landslide caused by an earthquake. I'm sure people in warmer climates wonder "Why in the world do they choose to live somewhere where the weather is so cold for a good portion of the year?", but that's what makes us all unique.

I also try to keep the good things in mind as we continue to navigate through the COVID-19 pandemic. We are quickly approaching the two-year anniversary of closing down our schools in hopes of keeping the virus at bay. Whether you agree or disagree with how everything has been handled, I think we can all agree it has been a difficult two years. We are all trying our best to understand and implement the rapidly changing guidelines and we are grateful for the community's continued support. We are keeping our fingers crossed that Governor Hochul will begin to lift school mandates in early Spring and by the time Summer rolls around we can return to some sense of normalcy and enjoy all the beauty that is Chautauqua County.

Until next time, thank you for allowing me to spend part of my day with your children. Seeing them on a daily basis, definitely adds to my list of joys. Also, be safe, be healthy, and remember, "It's a great day to be an eagle."

Principal's Message



We have many traditions at RCS but my favorite has to be Better World Day. Service to one's community is one of the tenets of our character education program. Education is not only about learning but also about using your talents to give back. Last year our students worked within their grade level Crews to come up with an assortment of projects. Some of these projects included: making bird feeders, learning about recycling, picking up litter around the campus/community, creating gifts for our neighbors at Absolut Care in Westfield, planting flowers for the pollinators, planting gardens in the courtyard, leaving positive messages on the sidewalks, raising money for the Chautauqua Canine Rescue, installing a Little Library by Meeder's, and the creation of two inspirational video messages. I am pleased to report that the students have begun preparing for this year's Better World Day which will take place May 6, 2022. I am excited to see how they use their passions to make improvements to our community.

Classroom Updates

Pre-Kindergarten 3-year-old Classroom

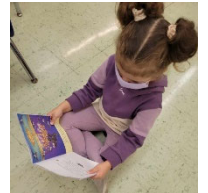
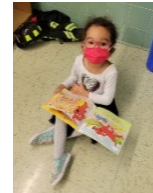
RCS's littlest learners have ELA during story time each day. For Mrs. Graham and Ms. Stoica's PK3 students, ELA involves learning language through songs, poems, books and even yoga activities. When we read Jan Brett's *The Mitten*, we used props to tell the story multiple times. We learned the names of the animals who burrowed into the little white mitten, and we sang a song which retold the story. As our animals came up in the song, we took turns adding them to our big white mitten. At the end, we all sneezed like the bear in the story, and our mitten and animals flew into the air!

We may be small, but our language is becoming mightier by the day!



Pre-Kindergarten 4-year-old Classroom

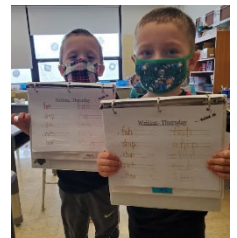
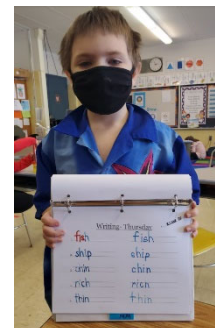
PK4 has started reading books by looking at the pictures. This is one of the first steps to reading. Students go page by page and make up their own story. They have learned that we read from left to right and they also have learned that the pictures help tell the story. At first students are nervous to make up their own story and they want to know the words that are on the page, however, we encourage them to look at the pictures and tell their own story. Students are also learning about the characters in the book and where the story takes place. This is a great skill that they will continue for the rest of this year and into kindergarten and eventually they will be able to read on their own. The students are very excited and proud of themselves while they are reading their books!



Kindergarten Updates

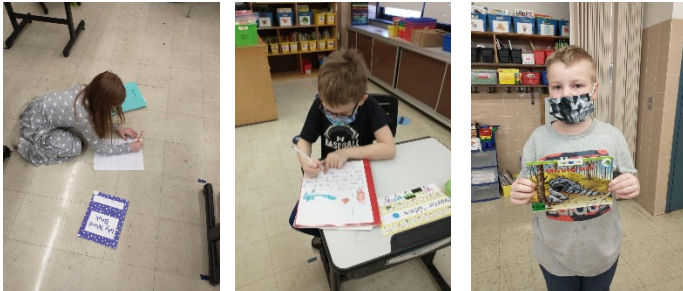
Kindergarten Reading/Writing

At this point of the school year, the Kindergarten reading and writing growth is really taking off! Kindergarteners are learning sight words, blending words and the excitement is growing as they start to realize that they can actually read a book on their own! Their writing is only adding to this growth because now that they have learned to write all of their lowercase letters, they are segmenting and writing words! Kindergarteners are so excited to show what they can do, so if you have a kiddo in Kindergarten, make sure to ask them to read to you from their book baggie so they can show off their skills!

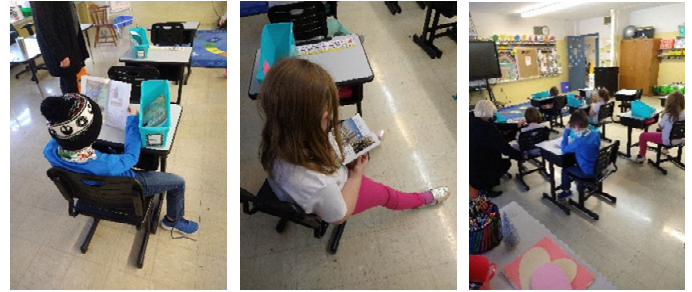


First Grade Updates

Mrs. Gestwicki's first graders have begun working on Writer's and Reader's Workshops. Students are building their writing stamina and choosing topics that interest them to "write from the heart." Writers are also learning strategies to help them spell words, add details, and write complete sentences. During Reader's Workshop, students are reading nonfiction books to become experts on different topics. These first graders have worked hard since September to use various strategies to solve tricky words and improve their reading!



Miss Smith's first grade has been focusing on nonfiction during Reader's Workshop. We've learned how to spot nonfiction books by looking for real photos and titles that give us clues that it's a true story. Students have started choosing nonfiction books from the classroom library to read during independent reading time.



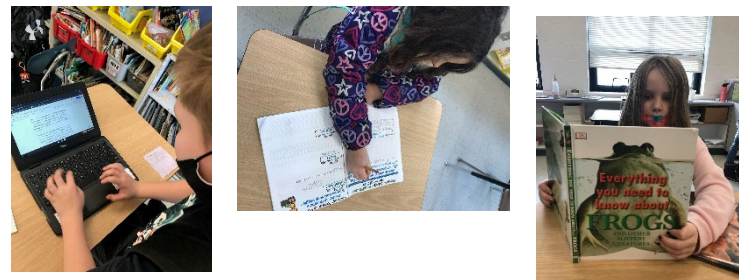
Second Grade Updates

Students in second grade have been working hard on new units for all core subjects. In math students have started to explore the vertical method for adding and subtracting 2-digit by 1-digit numbers as well as 3-digit by 2-digit numbers. Students first explored the concepts of regrouping with their place value charts and have now tied that understanding into how to solve questions with or without regrouping using the vertical form.

In our reading unit we have started to read *James and the Giant Peach* by Roald Dahl. We are using this text to practice new reading strategies like retellings. We have been practicing retelling each chapter using only the most important details. If we are unable to do so, we practice rereading to better our understanding. Students have really enjoyed this shared reading time and are eager each day to see what will happen next in the story.

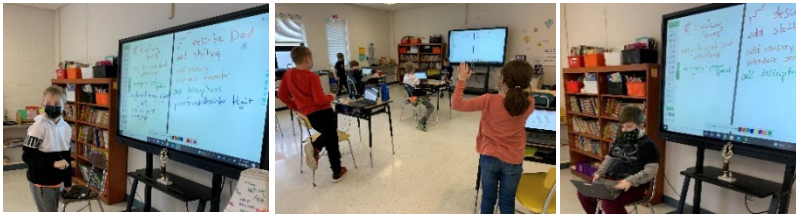
Third Grade Updates

Third grade scholars have continued to exemplify our Ripley Scholar Character traits as they "jumped" into a lengthy exploration of frogs. They studied various frogs in great detail and learned about their life cycles, habitats, adaptations, and much more! In ELA, they continue working diligently at creating their own frog book including a pourquoi tale (fictional narrative that explains why something is the way it is), an essay, multiple informational paragraphs, and a freaky frog trading card. This type of writing is important because it allows students to use literacy skills to become experts--people who use reading, writing, listening, and speaking to build and share deep knowledge about a topic. We look forward to sharing our expertise with our families and other students at RCS!



Fourth Grade Updates

In fourth grade, students are writing Choose-Your-Own Adventure stories to inform and entertain their readers. Their narratives will include setting, plot, dialogue, sensory details, and transitional words. In the pictures, students are reading their adventure drafts to get feedback from their classmates.



Fifth Grade Updates

Fifth grade is learning about factors that lead to the success of professional athletes as leaders of social change. They have been reading about Jackie Robinson and will learn about other male and female athletes. At the end of the module, students will create a poster highlighting the personal qualities necessary to be an effective leader of social change. During their independent reading time, students are learning about Greek and Latin roots. Knowing these roots helps to strengthen students' vocabulary and can help them decipher unknown words when reading.



Sixth Grade Updates

6th grade has been studying modern voices of adversity during ELA. We have learned about the Middle Ages and the adversities that they faced through the book *Good Masters! Sweet Ladies!* We held small group discussions to decide if we still face these adversities today. Students wrote an argument essay on whether we still think the same adversities exist or that we do not think these adversities still exist. Most of the class argued that we still face the same adversities; however, some thought we face different adversities. Both groups showed grit while drafting and revising their high-quality work.



RtI Updates

Students in Mrs. Noonan's class are currently working on reading skills using the Wilson Reading System. Students have a three-step process every day when coming to class. They have assignments given to them on Seesaw which includes: making words, writing sentences and recording themselves reading. Another task that needs to be completed is a weekly choice board with vocabulary words, sentences, a short story and a word search. The last task that is completed daily is group work with Mrs. Noonan going over consonants, vowels, digraphs, welded sounds and review of high frequency words.



Disney
Aladdin
KIDS

Save the Date
Tuesday, May 17, 2022
More Details to Follow

Music Updates

Students in first grade music class have been demonstrating High Quality Work while finishing their “Down by the Bay” projects. Using rhyming words, they rewrote the song and created an image representing their song! They have even been performing their songs and posting them on their music class Seesaw page for parents and families to hear. Scan the QR code below to hear an example of one of our first graders singing their own version of the song and displaying their picture representing the song.



Second Step Updates

Kindergarten students are learning about Belly Breathing in Second Step. Belly Breathing is a technique used to calm yourself down whenever you feel mad, frustrated, excited, scared, or any other strong emotion. The way you breathe affects your whole body. Breathing exercises are a great way to relieve stress, reduce tension and relax. Breathing exercises are easy to learn. They can be done whenever you want and you don't need any special tools or equipment to do them. They have practiced sitting, standing, or laying in the floor with a stuffed animal to focus on their breathing. We try different exercises to see what works best for them!



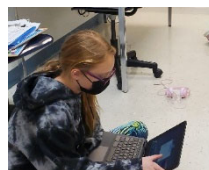
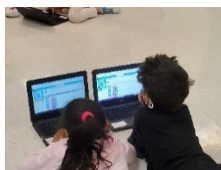
Computer Class Updates

We live in a world surrounded by technology. And we know that whatever field our students choose to go into as adults, their ability to succeed will increasingly depend on their understanding of how technology works.

That's why our 2nd-6th grade students joined in on the largest learning event in history: The Hour of Code, during Computer Science Education Week (December 6-12). More than 100 million students worldwide have already tried an Hour of Code. Our Hour of Code is making a statement that Ripley is ready to teach these foundational 21st-century skills.

Ripley students celebrated/learned coding throughout December. They wrote code that told angry birds how to move, directed BB-8 through mazes, and created a game to collect jewels. The students enjoyed learning to code so much that many have started doing it outside of computer class.

Visit <http://hourofcode.com/us/en> for details, on how to code, or www.code.org to try your hand at programming.



Art Updates

Students in Mrs. Parker's Eagle time enrichment in art group created beautiful low relief landscape artworks. They had to cut shapes from cardboard and glue them to a background piece of cardboard to build up the layers of the relief. The students demonstrated grit while cutting the cardboard as it is a bit difficult. The next step was to paint the whole piece black. The final step was to add color using oil pastels, allowing some of the black to show through to give the artwork a dramatic effect. The finished artwork shows each student's individual artistic style.



Library Updates



During library class, the PK3 students worked on their sequencing skills. We read the story *Bear Wants More* by Karma Wilson and discussed the order of the foods Bear eats in the story. He began eating grass but wanted more so he moved to strawberries. After that, he was still hungry so he ate some clover, then fish and finally honey cakes. Students worked to glue pictures of these foods in the order they came in the story. Sequencing events in a story helps children work on comprehension skills and their ability to retell a story after hearing it. Sequencing is an important skill for students to learn because it helps children understand that things and events often happen in specific order.

PE Updates

The Physical Education classes have been taking advantage of the snow this week. We have not only participated in sledding activities, but have also been using snowshoes to explore the school grounds.

These are some of the benefits of outdoor play in the winter:

- Being outdoors in the fresh air strengthens the immune system.
- Promotes energy levels and better sleep.
- Limiting large muscle exercise during the winter months can weaken children's muscles. Activities like snowshoeing and sledding can help children remain active.
- Playing in the cold and snow offers different physical challenges than during the warmer months, which promotes problem solving and imagination. Learning how to pack snow tightly to make a snowman or a snowball, balance when on ice or snow, steer a sled or shovel snow are lessons that can only be learned outside during the winter.
- Children only burn about half as many calories in the winter as they do in the summer due to the decreased activity and increased time spent inside. Outdoor activities for kids help them use up unused energy and extra calories.
- Balance, endurance and lower body strength



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Mr. Micah Oldham,
Principal
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Business Official
Mr. James Morrison,
Transportation
Mrs. Jennifer Shearer,
Cafeteria

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Learn today. Lead tomorrow.

Employment Opportunity

The Ripley Central School District is seeking
qualified candidates for the following position:

**One Certified Long-Term Substitute
Elementary Special Education Teacher**

effective approximately March 16, 2022 through June 30, 2022
successful candidate will be responsible for all classroom duties

NYS Certification Required in Students with Disabilities (Grades 1-6)

Per diem rate of \$140

Resume and application should be addressed to: Micah Oldham, Principal
Ripley Central School
12 North State Street
P.O. Box 688
Ripley, New York 14775

Applications are available on our website at www.ripleycsd.org

For first consideration apply by February 10, 2022
Applications will be accepted until position is filled.
Ripley Central School is an E.O.E.

Date of Posting: January 31, 2022



Substitute Bus Drivers Wanted
\$16 per hour to start
PAID TRAINING

Contact: Jim Morison, 753-5901

Ripley Central School District
12 North State Street, P.O. Box 688, Ripley, New York 14775