



Union Ridge Elementary

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October 8, 2018

Dear Parents/Guardians,

October is one of the best months of the school year. Students and teachers have settled into routines, and with that, a sense of security. Teachers are busy building strong relationships of trust with each student, which are necessary for learning. Walking through the halls is a pure pleasure as I see students engaged and excited about learning!

Please look over the following for current information and upcoming dates:

Monthly Menus

The link to access the breakfast and lunch menus is <https://ridge.nutrislice.com/menu/union-ridge>.

Cell Phones and Watch Phones

This year, there has been an increase in the number of students who are bringing cellular devices to school. I understand the need to secure communications with your child while they are away from home. However, we are having increased interruptions in the middle of lessons and classroom activities due to these devices ringing, or students talking with their parents during the school day. This is especially happening with phone watches. To prevent distractions, please remind your student to keep these devices in their backpacks, while at school.

Socktober

One of the greatest needs of the homeless during the winter months is socks. In order to help those in need, Union Ridge will hold a sock drive through the month of October. Our goal is 1000 pairs of socks by the end of the month. If you would like to participate, please send in a new pair of socks (any size) with your student to school. The socks will be donated to a shelter in Clark County at the end of the month. Thank you for your support!

Read-A-Thon Fundraiser

Union Ridge's Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) is sponsoring a Read-A-Thon Fundraiser. During October 8-26th, a flat rate donation from family and friends can be recorded on the donation form sent home with your student. Cash and check are payable to Union Ridge PTO. All information is on the link to their website: <https://unionridgepto.weebly.com/>. The Read-A-Thon will be held on November 6th.

October is Anti-bullying Month

What is bullying?

Bullying is unwanted, aggressive behavior among school aged children that involves a real or perceived power imbalance. The behavior is repeated over time. There are three main types of bullying:

Verbal bullying is saying or writing mean things

Social bullying sometimes referred to as relational bullying, involves hurting someone's reputation or relationships

Physical bullying involves hurting a person's body or possessions

When students respond quickly and consistently to bullying behavior, they send the message that it is not acceptable. Parents, school staff, and other adults in the community can help students prevent bullying by talking about it and reporting it.

This year, to support the anti-bully campaign, the Ridgefield School District has had students write their names on orange ribbons and tied it on our school fence as a stand against bullying. In addition, we will all stand in solidarity against bullying by wearing orange on October 24th.

For a second year, Union Ridge will also be supporting The Purple Hand Pledge campaign.

"I will not use my
hands or my words
for hurting myself or
others."

-Purple Hand Pledge

Students are asked to trace their own hand on purple paper and sign their name. Their purple hand will be posted on the wall at school, to serve as a visual reminder of their personal commitment to stop and think before they say or do anything hurtful. Looking at the many hands around the school also represents a symbol of unity, to use our words and actions to help, not to hurt, each other.

Square 1 Art Fundraiser

Union Ridge students have been busy creating artwork for our Square 1 Art fundraiser. Information is coming home soon, but for a sneak peek, take a look at www.square1art.com. Ask your child to tell you about the artwork they are creating with Mr. Guldin or Mrs. Peeler!!

State Inservice - Friday, October 12th - No School

On this date, Union Ridge teachers will receive further training on the new English Language Arts program called Ready Gen. In the afternoon, they will be discussing conference and report card criteria, emergency procedures and further collaboration on the Ready Gen curriculum.

Pie with the Principal - Thursday, October 18th at 7:00 PM in the Library

Please feel free to drop by and enjoy a piece of pie and discuss any issues or concerns you may have with me.

Wear Orange - Anti-bullying Day - Wednesday, October 24th

Wear orange to school and stand up against bullying.

Halloween - October 31 - Dress like a Pirate Day

Students are welcome to dress like a pirate on this day. Please leave any imitation weapons at home.

Your questions and input is valuable to me and the direction of our school. Please feel comfortable to visit or contact me. I look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

Kelly Macdonald, Principal
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