

Winter
2017/2018

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Superintendent Message

Dear Ripon Unified Staff and Families,

Please enjoy our ‘Say Goodbye to Winter and Hello to Spring Ripon Review.’ In this edition, you will find a brief snapshot of activities, events, and learning opportunities that your students have been experiencing from each of our Ripon schools from November thru this past February.

We are committed to working together with you and the community to provide a high quality education where each student will be a contributing citizen in an ever-changing diverse and global society. As such, we continue to place emphasis on continuous improvement for all. This can be seen in our ongoing work on increasing capacity regarding technology hardware, software and utilization within the classroom directly related to the teaching of instructional goals.

A secondary objective is our focus on implementation of the Multi-Tiered Support Systems (MTSS), which we received grant funding for last school year. MTSS is an integrated, comprehensive framework that focuses on core instruction, differentiated learning, student-centered learning, individualized student needs, and the alignment of systems necessary for all students to attain academic, behavioral, and social success. Components of MTSS include a strong Response to Intervention System (RtI) and Positive Behavior Intervention Supports (PBIS) both of which we now have in place as a result of the diligent and steadfast work of staff over the last few years. Assessment, progress monitoring, and data-driven decision-making are all components of a successful RtI implementation. PBIS is an approach that schools can use to improve school safety and promote positive behavior.

Additionally, this school year we have continued to focus on facilities improvement and renovation. The re-modernization of our Colony Oak School and the new construction of the Ripon High Bleacher and Press Box Project are highlights. I am pleased to share that both projects are proceeding on schedule. You may be noticing the new construction around Ripon and or the articles regarding development in Manteca that includes portions of Ripon Unified School District. These projects are sure to have a visible impact on our school district. I would like to express a special thank you to the members of the Superintendent Facility Advisory Committee (SFAC). The SFAC is comprised of parents and community members. The committee met over the course of this school year to provide the district with facility recommendations in the next steps of addressing our facility master plan needs for the future.

We appreciate all that you do for your children and all of your efforts to support us as we keep striving in this ever-changing climate of limited resources in order to provide your student(s) with the best educational opportunities possible.

Respectfully Yours,
Dr. Ziggy Robeson

Colony Oak

Many fun enrichment activities took place during the month of November at Colony Oak. Here are just a few.



The third grade class performed a play about Thanksgiving. Mrs. McPeak, our librarian, was the star of the play. All enjoyed it.



The kindergarten class held their annual Pow Wow. They rotated through activities focused on Native Americans and Thanksgiving. Thank you to all of our parent volunteers, without them, this event would not be possible. The students decorated drums, colored tee pees with Native American drawings, made necklaces and mini catapults. They even made pumpkin pie among so many other things.



Several classes across grade levels received lessons from the Artist in the Classroom Program this month. Pictured above, Mrs. Steven's class is enjoying their lesson. Mr. Van Vuren and Ms. Bond's classes participated in robotics this month. They programmed their robots to travel several courses.



Colony Oak classes participated in the Hour of Code which took place December 4th -11th. All students participated again this year and students are glad to have multiple opportunities to code throughout the year.



Prior to winter break, the fourth grade class presented an awesome performance of *A Beatles Christmas*. The students sang slightly modified Beatles' songs to include a Christmas theme. It was enjoyed by all. At the end of the assembly, Mrs. Griffiths announced to the students all of the construction that she anticipated happening over winter break. The students all cheered. Students and staff are eager to see the process and get into their new school.



Later that morning the secretaries, librarian and Mrs. Griffiths were caught sleeping on the job.

The 100th day of school took place on Tuesday, January 23rd. Several classes around campus celebrated the 100th day of school. Students participated in several activities focused around the number 100.



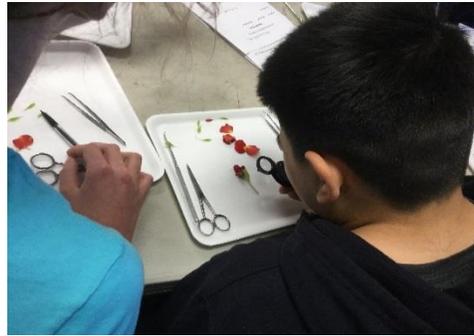
1st grade performed at the January assembly for the entire school. They shared several examples of all of the fun and exciting things they have learned in the first 100 days.



Seventh grade students participated in several STEAM activities over the past few weeks. Students recently concluded their castle projects. Each student researched a castle of their choice, built a model, and gave a presentation to the entire class. On Wednesday, they presented their castles to the entire student body. The students did an awesome job and really enjoyed the activity.



In science seventh grade students dissected flowers. This experiment allowed students to identify different parts of a flower, such as the pistil, stamen, petals, stem, and sepal and to understand each parts function. They also learned the importance of pollen for plant reproduction. This is a great hands on engaging way to study science.



Second grade students conducted research on force and motion with magnets. Students worked in small groups to explore what materials were attracted by the magnet and the difference between attraction and repel.



Valley Days at the Historical Museum of San Joaquin County was a big hit this month for 5th graders. They travelled back in time to the 1880s and learned how to live just like the pioneers. They participated in the following: blacksmithing, branding, rope-making, baking, tinning, leather making, printing, and laundering.



Dedicated volunteer parents and some staff were trained to teach these pioneer skills to the students. The pioneer skills that the kids learned were a simulation of colonial times as well. It was a huge success and the kids really enjoyed themselves.

Construction work got into full swing this past trimester. The new septic system and test well have been completed. Some of the things they are currently working on are the underground utilities, the classrooms pads, and pre-framing of the walls. The process is exciting to watch. Students and staff are amazed by how their old playground is being transformed into their new school. If construction stays on schedule, we will be in our new classrooms by the end of 2018!



Staff Spotlight



Mrs. Stevens is able to not only teach the personal standards to her students, but her students are able to follow her great example.

She is always going above and beyond in trying to reach all her kids academically and behaviorally by being a problem solver.

Mrs. Stevens is a leader on campus. She is well liked by her peers and her students. She is energetic and excited about learning and it shows.

Harvest High

Harvest High School students and staff have seen such growth and productivity fostered by a supportive, hardworking staff and determined students. Seven students have graduated early and will be participating in the graduation ceremony with the remaining students in May. The Positive Behavior System (PBIS) has been assessed and refined throughout the quarter and has helped to decrease the number of tardies, detentions and suspensions. The teacher-student mentorships have helped bolster students' understanding of what they need to accomplish to fulfil their goals and build relationships on campus. The climate of the school is cheerful and the students exude a sense of accomplishment for their efforts thus far.

Students have made huge strides in their credits recovery efforts and their direct instruction courses have continued to address the common core standards through a more engaging atmosphere. Students have created vignettes, carried out STEM activities related to the graphing of linear equations, studied different economic models of countries around the world and many more exciting topics.



Harvest High opened up a small student store that has really sparked a buzz around campus. Students were very excited to see what the store had to offer and what their Positive Behavior Intervention System points would buy them and how they could maximize their points.



Harvest High students had the pleasure of visiting the Forensic Science Lab better known as the “crime lab” located here in Ripon. Students were given a tour and exposed to the different types of careers available to them such as criminalist, clerical positions, managerial, etc. The first criminalist took us to his lab and presented on how analysis of weapons was done for criminal cases. He also debunked myths regarding what everyone sees on television. We then moved onto the blood lab where they showed us a breathalyzer and explained its function and accuracy. We finished up the tour in the lab pertaining to narcotics. Throughout the entire tour students asked questions regarding particular jobs, required training/schooling and clarification on federal/state laws. Students felt it was an interesting place and offered a variety of career opportunities.



Harvest students had the pleasure of visiting Modesto Junior College (MJC) and learn about all the programs MJC has to offer. They were introduced to fire science, the nursing program, medical assisting certification, and respiratory therapy just to name a few. They also had an inspiring presentation regarding their future. MJC representatives will be coming on campus to help students register, file their Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), and take their placement exams.



Harvest High had another wonderful visit from San Joaquin Delta College who sent out Marisol Jacquez Hernandez, the Marketing and Outreach Specialist. Marisol inspired students with her personal story and all the wonderful opportunities Delta College has to offer. She encouraged students to strive for their goals and to not let any circumstance be an excuse for continuing their education. Harvest students will do a Delta College visit in March.

Harvest High School continues to build relationships and work on their Positive Behavior Intervention System (PBIS) through a third field day of the school year. This time, the students played badminton and bonded over the difficulty of the game and the amazing skills that some students possess. Students also attended the annual Ripon Almond Blossom Festival and a couple even marched in the parade.



Staff Spotlight



The students at Harvest High voted Mrs. de la O as their staff member of the quarter. Mrs. de la O is the site secretary, which entails running the daily operations of the school. Some of her regular tasks include daily attendance, answering phones, calling parents, ordering breakfast and lunches, running reports, helping students, teachers and the principal. As one student phrased it, “she does everything for us and without her this school wouldn’t run as smooth as it does now.”

Mrs. de la O is in her fourth year at Harvest High and one student summed her up beautifully by stating, “she puts 100% into what she does and you can tell she is passionate about what she does. Also, she always goes out of her way to help you out!” Mrs. de la O is an instrumental part to the success of the school and students.

From all the staff and students at Harvest High School, thank you Mrs. de la O from the bottom of our hearts. You make us feel cared for and loved and we would be lost without you!

Park View

This second trimester has been full of wondrous events at Park View. STEAM (Science, Technology, Arts, Math) is part of Park View’s commitment to learning, and as such, we would like to showcase some of our adventures.

Our third and fourth grade students participated in the Link Up program. Link Up is a program of Carnegie Hall’s Weill Music Institute, which pairs orchestras with students in grades 3–5 at schools in their local communities to explore orchestral repertoire through a hands-on music curriculum. On March 7th, our students participated in a culminating concert, in which they sang and played recorders with

the orchestra from their seats. Our students discovered how music through the orchestra moves. While preparing for our March performance, our third grade classes had a delightful time as they were treated to recorder classes by our very own musical expert, Dr. Ziggy Robeson. Mrs. Goeppert's and Ms. Ruiz's classes were excited to have her join them, as they explored harmony and musical notes. Thank you Superintendent Robeson for sharing your love of music with our youngsters.



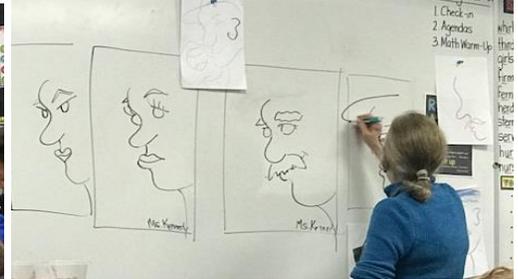
To show our appreciation to Dr. Robeson our third graders also performed at our monthly assembly in her honor. We are also thankful to our 3rd and 4th grade teachers for their dedication to our students and for incorporating the arts in such an interactive manner.



Our seventh and eighth graders took part in our Ag In Motion (AIM) program. Ag In Motion is a mobile science laboratory classroom that travels to schools and invites students to experience hands-on ag science curriculum. A menu of standards-based ag science lessons are offered, labs to schools align with their current lessons while providing students with new perspectives on how ag science impacts the food they eat and the clothes they wear. This year the theme was Zombie Bugs, the students were fascinated by their transformation.



The Artists-in-Schools Program is another one of Park View's integration of STEAM from Kindergarten through eighth grade, designed to bring professional artists in residency to San Joaquin County students. The program's goal is to improve arts education for teachers and students by encouraging creativity and self-expression. During our four-week residency sessions, Mrs. Goeppert's third grade class was fully engaged and learning the many ways to contour a human face. A special thank you to our guest artist Patti Kennedy.



This year at Park View, we are also exploring new programs. Amongst those we are very excited about is our **Panther Patrol**. These seven youngsters have volunteered their time and are exhibiting their leadership skills as they help:

- To foster qualities of leadership and good citizenship in patrol members and our community.
- To help children become safe pedestrians.
- Promote safety while exiting a vehicle.



Panther Patrol 2018: Grant Garza, Megan Owen, Reed Holland, Balseerit Hayer, Haley Grabar, Rylee Inglis, and Grace Mikami.

As a thank you to these students who are always ready and willing to serve, Park View acknowledges their efforts and creates opportunities to celebrate their leadership. This program can only be sustained with the dedication and support of our parents and students. Their willingness to donate their time is a huge gain for our entire student body.



A special thank you to Officer Trevor McGinnis of the Ripon Police Department and Ripon Unified School District's Safety Resource Officer for assisting our patrol team and insuring our parking lot safety.



It is only with the partnership of our loving community and the support of our families that we can continue providing the best education for our students. Park View's Parent Faculty Committee (PFC) along with volunteers, and donations from our community, have given so much time and energy towards our fundraising efforts. This year alone, they have hosted our Back to School Bash in the first trimester, and this trimester they had tremendous success with our annual Crab Feed.



Below are two members of the PFC board awarding two Park View teachers with donations from the Crab Feed to go towards their classrooms. Both classrooms' parents outbid to take home the prize... a Panther quilt. Thank you once again for your generosity.



Staff Spotlight

The heart of teaching embodies what it means to be a great teacher. Park View is proud to spotlight our fifth grade teacher Mrs. Nicole Stock. She is very compassionate and understanding, and an absolute ROCK STAR teacher! She opens her doors before and after school to tutor and encourage students beyond her classroom. She has built close bonds with students and parents alike and has earned trust from many with her vast knowledge and understanding of the whole child. Mrs. Stock brings her classroom to life with her cheerful personality and extraordinary knowledge of content and technology. She is well respected by peers, as she is always willing to share her knowledge and skills with us to support the needs of those around her. Park View is indebted to Mrs. Stock for her dedication and commitment.



Ripona

The second trimester was filled with lots of wonderful activities at Ripona Elementary. Students learned the true meaning of the Christmas season when different organizations graciously donated gifts to special families throughout the district. Ripona was extremely appreciative of their kindness and generosity. Sixth grade student Ahmed Almarwani-Zaro participated in the district Spelling Bee and everyone at Ripona is very proud of all of his accomplishments. Fifth grade students had the opportunity to see what it is like to be a teacher and lead their fellow classmates in an instructional how-to project. They learned to overcome their fears of public speaking, the importance of organization, and how to control a group.



Ripona students and staff recently participated in the student council sponsored Pennies for Patients to raise money and awareness to find a cure for leukemia. The student council set a goal of raising \$2,018 dollars for the cause, and they exceeded their goal with a total of \$2,179. Students enjoyed Pajama Day as they celebrated the end of Pennies for Patients. Ripona students enjoyed a special musical entitled Character Matters. The musical was presented by the drama class, which is one of Ripona's STEAM class offerings.



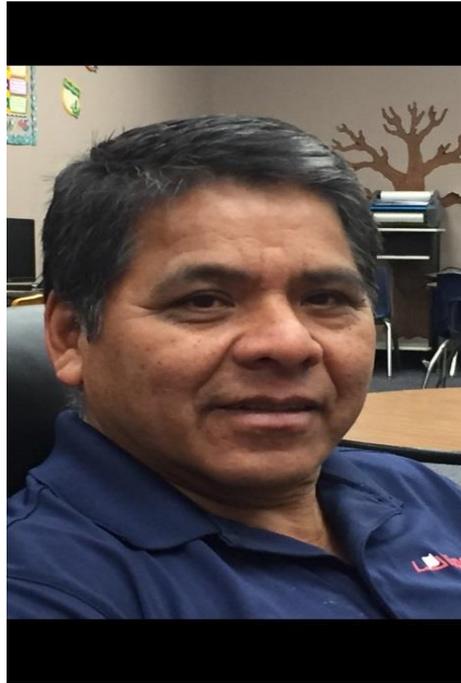
Students and staff celebrated Dr. Seuss's birthday with a week full of dress-up days, a Read-A-Thon, and so many more fun activities. Our sixth graders attended Outdoor Education and had a wonderful and exciting week. For many students this was the first time away from home and on their own. They went on hikes, visited the beach and tide pools, made new friends, and of course found a few of the famous banana slugs. As always, it was truly a great experience for all that went.



Third graders visited the Gallo Center for the Arts. They were able to participate with the symphony while playing their recorders. Teachers and students are beginning to prepare for state testing. It is important to prepare our students so that they feel confident and ready to do their very best. Everyone at Ripona is looking forward to a fun and relaxing Spring Break so that we can return and finish this year off strong.



Staff Spotlight



Ripona Elementary is proud to have Jose Villalta as a member of our staff. Mr. Villalta has worked for Ripon Unified for almost eleven years.

Jose and his wife Flor have been married for forty-two years. They have three children and six grandchildren. His son Jimmy also works for Ripon Unified School District. His daughter Karla is a nurse and lives in El Salvador and his other son Wilburt is a principal.

Mr. Villalta has worked as a custodian at several other schools in our district. He also enjoys driving the bus for special events. Mr. Villalta is a hard worker and takes great pride in keeping our campus beautiful. Although he has only been with us a short time, he has made many improvements at Ripona. Staff and students value his diligence. Whether it is the shiny floors, clean classrooms or improvements to our stage, Mr. Villalta is always looking for ways to enhance our school. He always goes the extra mile for everyone. Ripona is fortunate to be the recipient of his many strengths and talents. Mr. Villalta takes the time to get to know the students and they have a deep respect for him and all that he does. He has taught them to take pride in their surroundings and in return, they help keep our campus clean. In summary, Mr. Villalta is a highly respected and valued staff member at Ripona Elementary.

Ripon El

Mrs. Wyrsh's second grade class performed *With A Mighty Roar*, a play about Savanna animals. They performed for Mrs. Genasci's third grade class. The play was part of Mrs. Wyrsh's Reader's Theatre enrichment program.



Mrs. Genasci's third grade class enjoyed celebrating Valentine's Day reading the book *Slugs in Love*. Students were asked to identify the setting, characters, problem, and solution in the reading selection.



During Ripon Elementary's February assembly, students' names were chosen from new MTSS Indian bags for demonstrating appropriate lunchroom behavior. After the assembly, Mrs. Phelps honored those students by having a pizza lunch party during their lunch hour.



Fourth graders practiced weekly with Dr. Robeson on recorders. In March, they performed at the Gallo Center. Students thoroughly enjoyed getting to know our school superintendent. We appreciated Dr. Robeson taking time out of her busy schedule to share her love of music with Ripon Elementary's 4th grade students. Our Tier 3 class enjoyed Clifford the Big Red Dog's 55th birthday by reading his well-loved stories and making a fun art project.



Mrs. Holt's TK class celebrated Dr. Seuss's birthday with a special "Green Eggs & Ham" event hosted by our librarian Mrs. Cavazos. Students enjoyed watching the movie while eating Green eggs and ham.



Meet the Josephina Book Club whose members include 3rd-5th grade students. They had their first American Girl Book Club meeting. They learned about Josephina's world through crafts and a book discussion



Wow! Our second graders are amazing! What does it feel like to be in a tornado? Here you see some of our Ripon El. students experiencing just that...Gavin Ross is used his hands to attract lighting using a glass plasma ball.



Can you surround yourself in a giant bubble before it pops? Sam Genasci attempted to master the challenge.



Our fourth grade students attended a special event at the Gallo Center after months of practicing their recorders. They were able to join other county students in a performance with a professional orchestra.



In March, our sixth graders had an amazing time at San Joaquin Outdoor Education Camp located at Jones Gulch.



Sixth grade boys enjoyed “beach day” even though it was overcast and cold. Students were able to bury their friends in the sand, check out tide pools, and learn about the local sea creatures.



Ripon El’s Parent Faculty Club (PFC) hopped into spring. Our first See’s Candy fundraiser was a huge success. Our school raised over \$10,000.00 dollars. Mrs. Phelps kissed a baby goat at the assembly. Our teachers were also “silly stringed” by the students who sold thirty items or more.



Staff Spotlight



Ms. Keo is our Title 1 RTI teacher at Ripon Elementary. When you meet Ms. Keo, you will immediately realize that she has a passion for teaching. She enjoys being a life-long learner and is happy to share her knowledge with her staff. Ms. Keo uses many strategies to help teach our K-3 students to read. When you are around Ms. Keo, you feel her compassion for others and her desire to make Ripon Elementary a comforting place where all students feel they can learn.

Her beautiful smile is contagious. Ms. Keo is the third oldest out of eight daughters. After her mother passed away at the young age of 45, she legally adopted her four younger sisters and put them through school and college. As you can see, Ms. Keo is very driven and is quite amazing. In her free time, she enjoys reading, exercising, hanging out with friends/family and going to the beach. Ms. Keo, we are fortunate and proud that you are part of our tribe.

Ripon High

Student athletes at Ripon High continue to rise to the occasion in the Trans Valley League. Most teams competed in the playoffs. Boys' and girls' basketball earned a spot into the section playoffs with winning a league title, while girls' soccer won a Sac-Joaquin Section Championship and placed 2nd in Northern California. Our first annual competitive cheer team qualified for Nationals and placed 7th. We are not just proud of the athletic accomplishments these students have displayed, but more importantly the character, commitment, and scholastic achievements.



Activities and events have been plentiful this winter as the student body, staff, and community have celebrated success and school pride. Some of the highlights this winter include:

- Dude Be Nice Week, this event culminated after a spirit week filled with dress up days and different themes displaying kindness. This was a collaborative event that included the Encouragement Club, Girls' League and Leadership. The second annual Dude Be Nice award recipient was our beloved custodian Mr. Jeff Hessler. Students voted and selected Mr. Hessler for his dedication to Ripon High School and to the community of Ripon.
- RHS Yearbook Publication, "The Mission" held its first rally. We revealed our theme, which is "101 Ways to be Heard". We also decided to start a new tradition and dedicate our yearbook to someone who has impacted our school and community in some way. Our recipient was Nina Winters, mother of seniors, Mackenzie & Michael Winters. We chose Nina for her spunky spirit and support she has brought to Ripon High over the years. We hope this tradition is here to stay for many years to come.
- Ripon High School participated in Study Buddy Nights. This time was used for staff and students to get together and review for finals, enjoy snacks, and ask last minute questions to be prepared for the end of semester finals. Thank you to all the staff who participated.

Ripon High School welcomed all 8th grade students on March 6th. This event consisted of 265 8th graders that came to campus to see what a day is like as an Indian. Welcome Class of 2022!

- Students were welcomed by a warm cheer from Link Crew members and school staff with a spirited rally.
- JROTC and FFA gave presentations to display their talent and provide information on their programs.
- The counseling office and Advanced Placement (AP) teachers provided a detailed presentation on school courses, class schedules, graduation requirements, and being prepared for college and a career as they leave RHS.
- Mr. Wright, our Athletic Director, and student athletes were able to speak to 8th grade students on what it means to be a Student Athlete at Ripon High.
- Link Crew provided a BBQ lunch for everyone as an opportunity to meet new friends. During this time, different clubs and organizations provided informative tables for students to sign up for next year.

A showcase stopper occurred March 8th, 2018 at Ripon High School with the 1st Annual Gallery of the Arts Show. A night of the arts that displayed digital art, hand crafted drawings, personal song lyrics sung, the beauty of instrumental compilation and angelic voices of our choir. This event allowed the school community to share passion for music with our advanced choir group and band. It was a beautiful night of talent, conversation, laughter, refreshments, and more.



Mr. Felver and the band headed to Washington D.C. to perform at the Parade of Heroes - A Monumental Salute to the Veterans. While on this trip, a visit to the National Capitol and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier took place. We are honored to represent the community of Ripon in such an amazing event.



- Advanced Placement Geography students attended the Valley Worx Open House and 2018 Hack-a-Thon to study local economic development in the central valley. Valley Worx is a co-working space in Salida that rents out

office space to Bay Area start-up companies, hosts the annual hack-a-thon, and offers weekly coding classes for high school students.

- On Saturday, February 3rd, the Estudiantes Unidos Club took seventeen students and three parent-chaperones to the Steps to College Conference in Sacramento. It was a successful event filled with beneficial material regarding the college process. Students received valuable information regarding different colleges and organizations. They visited UC Davis and heard an informative talk about the requirements to be accepted to a university and how to receive grant money.
- Ripon JROTC hosted their 2nd annual regional drill competition. Ripon JROTC finished the drill competition with 4 first place, 1 second place, and 2 third place trophies. The unarmed drill team achieved the overall championship. Samantha Fox and Alexis Ramirez were offered a full placement in the Fresno State ROTC program upon graduation.

We continue to work towards preparing all students to be college and career ready when leaving Ripon High School.

- Local colleges and universities continue to visit campus and present to students. Informative presentations help students understand the enrollment process, degrees awarded, placement tests, and the transfer requirements to 4-year universities.
- The counselors have completed the “Preparing for Senior Year” presentations in all junior English courses. These presentations focused on the counseling website, SAT/ACT, Subject Exams, and college prep courses. Information on college programs to help with college admission and financial aid was shared to support students reach their college goals.
- Congressman Denham personally called three of our seniors at RHS to let them know they received a nomination to a military academy. From left to right in the photo: Daniel Esenwein received his nomination to Naval Academy, Kayla Hutto received her nomination to both the Naval Academy and Air Force Academy, and Delaney Buss received her nomination to the Air Force Academy. Receiving the nominations from Congressman Denham completes one-step to getting a final appointment to a military academy. Good luck to each of these three deserving seniors!



Staff Spotlight



Mr. Tyler is the Academic Achiever, Community Contributor, and Effective Communicator (ACE) staff member of the month at Ripon High School. He currently teaches Advanced Placement Statistics, as well as College Prep Statistics. He has taught at RHS for two years, but has been teaching for a total of four years.

“I grew up at Ripon High, I love Ripon High. I was happy to be back at Ripon High, my favorite part about teaching is helping students. I love helping students. I especially love when I can help students who want to learn and are trying their best... and I intend to stay teaching here a long time.”

Mr. Tyler was nominated for his outstanding personality, one that his students describe as unique, genuine, and funny. The nomination that determined him being selected was made by an anonymous student saying, “Mr. Tyler teaches in his own unique way compared to any other teacher and doesn't get a lot of recognition for being a good teacher. Mr. Tyler is also a very caring and understanding teacher that wants people to do well.” Mr. Tyler was humble about receiving the title of ACE winner of the month saying, “I want to thank my students for the motivation and emotional support because they give me the emotional support I need to keep going. They're very kind to me, and I have a great group of kids who encourage me to keep teaching.”

Weston

First graders celebrated Veteran's Day by making flags and taking a field trip to the Ripon Veteran's Wall. Students also learned to sing patriotic songs using sign language.

Kiera Perry proudly presents her veteran report about a very special veteran, Mr. Perry, her dad. Students in first grade interview family members that are veterans of our country. They write a brief report and then create a presentation board to present to their class.



Second grade students created animal reports that included classification, description, living conditions, and its impact on our environment. Once the reports are completed, students read their reports to younger students. These pictures show the second graders reading to kindergarten students.



In addition to animal reports, second grade students also studied maps. They finished their unit on Fairy Tales and mapped out all of the places they visited including roads and points of interest.

Third grade students enjoyed pumpkin catapulting and learning all about agriculture in our valley. Students participated in AgVenture, which is sponsored by Manteca School District.



Fifth grade students were awed by the presentation of Bill Meyer, scientist at Livermore National Labs. Bill loves his 3-D printer and brought it into class to show students how it works. Students were intrigued by all of the items that Bill has made using his printer, such as chess pieces.



Field trips are an integral part of educating our students in Ripon. Each grade level trip is designed to provide real-life examples of content learned in the classroom. We also want to provide unique experiences. Our fifth grade students annually visit the state capitol and Railroad Museum in Sacramento.



Fifth graders went back in time to relive the American Revolution with the annual Walk Through the Revolution. This never gets old as every year the kids add their own unique perspectives to the performance.



The Weston boys' basketball teams thoroughly enjoyed themselves on the court. There was a very exciting game with Ripon Elementary with both teams playing well and exhibiting good sportsmanship.



Students in 6th grade are “buddies” with kindergarten students. They meet several times over the school year for different activities. It is a great experience for all.

Student Council held a pep rally for 4th-8th grade students with an Olympic theme. Students thoroughly enjoyed the games. In addition to the pep rally, our Student Council members purchased some Weston “fence decor”. We now have two paw prints and a Wildcat adorning the fences along the entrance to the school and at the corner of Jack Tone and Stanley.



Staff Spotlight

Christine Merchant has been a teacher in Ripon since 1987. She spent 27 years teaching 8th grade and then moved down to teaching 5th grade in 2015. She has thoroughly enjoyed teaching and is excited when her students share their learning with each other. Mrs. Merchant is married to retired Ripon Police Officer Steven Merchant. They have three sons, Steven Jr., Jonathan and Michael along with four grandchildren. Mrs. Merchant loves spending time with her grandchildren when she is not at Weston and traveling. One of the greatest recent moments for Mrs. Merchant was going to Las Vegas and seeing Bruno Mars in concert for her birthday.





Please join us for our
Superintendent Facilities Advisory Committee
Round Tables:

Thursday, April 19th 7:00 pm at Ripona Elementary School

Thursday, April 26th at 6:00 pm at Ripon High School Library

Last Day of School: Friday, May 25, 2018

First Day of School 2018-19: Tuesday, August 14, 2018