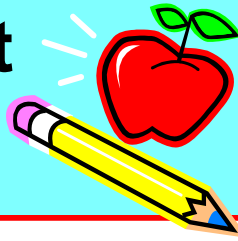


Ridge Street News

Spring 2010 Edition



B.M.P. Ridge
Street School
Advisor
Chrissie Onofrio

What's Happening at Ridge Street?



Silly Bands Are Everywhere by Chris Bucci, Ross Gessow & Jack Wells

Silly Bands are sweeping across the nation and kids are going crazy! If you are a kid or have kids you probably already know that Silly Bands are the newest thing in a kid's life. If you haven't seen them yet they are rubber bands that are shaped like different objects, people, shapes, animals and just about anything you could think of. They're colorful too! Each shape has its own color to help organize them. Kids are wearing a bunch of them at a time and it looks like a rainbow wrapped around their arm.

Every day we see more and more kids wearing them to school. Each day kids make trades, play with them and chat about them. The question is, do you think that these fun bracelets should be banned in school? Some people think that they are a distraction from learning. We don't, in fact we like them a lot. We think that they are really cool and fun!

The Torrential Rainstorm by Annie Liu

I was snuggled under a warm blanket on my sofa, watching a movie on TV. Outside, I heard the wind whistle and the rain pour down from the sky. Suddenly, I heard a big boom. A tree must have crashed down! I walked over to the window. I saw rain, and the trees waved around wildly like they were nothing but a feather. I pressed my ear to the edge of the window. *Whoosh!* I heard the wind- it was blowing so fast that it sounded like a waterfall! The rain fell down from the cloudy sky with a clitter clatter. I heard a siren wail from the distance.

Before I went to sleep that night, I asked my mom if we were going to be OK. "We'll be OK. Don't worry, sweetie," she replied to me. So, I laid on my bed and turned off the lights. I heard the wind again. I still felt very scared and worried. But, the next morning, I found out from the news that half a million people lost power and at least nine people died. I looked out the window again. Sticks and branches were all over the place. In my heart, I felt so lucky, to still be there, in a warm house with electricity. And in my heart, I felt grateful that we survived the rainstorm. I really do.



What's Hatching in Kindergarten? by Carrington Fernandez

Do you remember when the adorable, sweet and fuzzy little chicks were born when you were in kindergarten? Well, it's that time of year again and a whole new clutch will be hatching very soon. The kindergarten children have been watching the life cycle from egg to chick.

Eggs must incubate for 21 days. In the classroom an incubator substitutes for the warm underside of a hen. The eggs must be maintained at a constant temperature, the humidity must be high, and the eggs must be turned at least three times a day. Eggs are rotated for the first 18 days, and lay still for the last 3 days. When the eggs are resting during the final 3 days, the children listen for baby chick sounds. A little hole or crack in the shell is the first sign of hatching. The process may take a day or more. The children must be very patient. It is a very important rule to not touch the eggs during the hatching process. The chicks have to do it all by themselves! The chicks stay in the incubator until they are completely dry and fluffy.

Once the chicks have hatched, they need a pen, food, and water. They use a large cardboard box for a pen. Baby chicks need plenty of room to grow. A baby chick takes two years to grow into an adult. Most chickens live about eight years.



Test Taking Tips by Sarah Rogers and Arianna Kohilakis

This spring, we students are under a lot of pressure because of all of the state tests. Between the ELA, Math and Science tests and even our class tests, it is hard to keep up with all of the information we need to learn. We need to relax. We will give you some tips on how you can do your personal best on your test.

Tip number one is not to get stressed. You can prevent yourself from becoming stressed by keeping yourself occupied. Instead of worrying about the tests and studying for them, go outside and play in the fresh spring air. If you have to study, maybe study with a friend.

Tip number two is not to worry if you get things wrong on your practice tests because you can learn from your mistakes. Some people freak out when they get things wrong on a practice test, and if you are one of those people, you should break that habit. If you miss a problem and you find it keeps showing up, you may want to take a closer look at it.

Tip number three is to get a good night's sleep because if you are tired, you will think about wanting sleep and not your test. You might miss important details in the directions and get a question wrong that you could've gotten right. Even worse, you could fall asleep during the test!

Tip number four is to eat a healthy meal in the morning. Nothing fuels your brain better than good, nutritious food.

The fifth tip is to never rush because there is no reward for finishing first. In our class, if we finish early we are not allowed to doodle or read. Since we don't want to be bored, we check over our answers and most of the time, are able to correct a careless mistake.

There are our tips for doing your best on your tests.

How to Avoid Bullies

by Tyler Shiffman, Michael Abrutyn and Jason Frankel

In third grade, Mrs. Gerber teaches students how to avoid bullies. Bullies are people who bother you every day and don't stop because they want all the attention. They think acting like this is cool and will make them popular. All children need to learn how to deal with a bully. For example, we learn to use power words, stand up for ourselves, address the bully by their first name and not show our weaknesses. If a bully tries to bother you, you are supposed to tell an adult and tell them what the bully is doing. Here are things you don't do; you don't call the bully mean names, don't be physical with the bully and never egg them on. So, if a person tries to bully you, follow Mrs. Gerber's advice and you will have a happy school experience.



No Bullying Anywhere

by Gilad Price

At the game Jason Kidd was open for the pass, but one teammate, Bob, said, "No!" Then Bob the bully told the whole team to not pass to Jason. Then Coach Joe told the bully, "You will sit on the bench for the whole season."

Then some of the team started to pass to Jason Kidd. So now, no one passed to the bully! The bully stopped bullying him.

No Bullying Allowed!!

by Kenta Kato

At the store the big guy was fighting with the little girl and the bigger guy was bullying her! The cameras were looking. The bully said, "Oooopsyees!!!" He wanted the girl's money. "Hey! Give me your money!"

"No I won't!" said the little girl. "I'm telling on you." "I don't care if you tell!" yelled the bully.

"Help!! Ok, I'll give you \$5.00, but you have to bring \$10.00."

"That's not fair!" said the bully. "It's \$5.00 more!"

"That's because you're bullying me, that's why. And I'm telling! Bye!"

So the girl told the store man and said, "The big guy is bullying me!"

"OK, I will tell him that he can't bully you. "

"OK!" said the girl.

The store man said to the bully, "Do not bully her! I don't like bullying here."

"OK! I do not want to be a bully anyway."

The bully went home.

A Bad Day

by Guillermo Prieto

Big brother Alex was bullying little brother Ben. Their little sister Jessica was yelling, "Let's go bully! Go bully!" The day was starting to get worse. Alex and Ben were calling each other names. Alex went to Ben's room and called him names. "Hello Gogile!" "Hey! Stop that or I'm telling Daddy! STOP!" Then dad grounded Alex for 3 months. He told him, "You're grounded!" Alex cried, "NO!!!"

Alex apologized to Ben and Alex said, "I'm sorry. I won't do it again." Ben said, "That's OK."

And the day was starting to get better! "YAY!"

Colonial Times by Julia Bucci, Lauren Comstock and Sarah Rogers

Have you ever imagined living during the Colonial Times?

Well, in the Colonial times, people just couldn't go to the grocery store and get bread and butter; they had to make it themselves! The middle colonies were called the "Breadbasket" because they grew so much food. Colonists had to churn their own butter. Can you imagine how long that might have taken? In the Colonial times you had to be patient. For example, it might have taken hours to make a simple meal of bread and butter.

In the Colonial times there were no states, only colonies. The first 13 original colonies included Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New Hampshire, New York, Delaware, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia.

People who lived on the Atlantic coast usually caught fish and whales; they would sell the fish and the whale blubber for money. There were also farmers who grew wheat, barley, tobacco, corn, or rice. They would try to sell these goods to traders who would then ship the goods to other colonies. They could not just ship these goods to faraway places, they had to send them on a boat, send them down a river or ocean, or send them on a wagon.

A good American Colonist would take care of their own needs. It was not uncommon to have a family that has crops

growing by the sea while that same family could fish and collect clams. In other words, they were their own grocery store.

The New England Colonies of British America included Massachusetts Bay, Connecticut, Rhode Island and Providence Plantations. They were part of the 13 colonies. These were early colonies of what would later become the states in New England. The New England coast was largely populated by tribes of Wampanoag, Tarrantine, Wabanaki, Narragansett, Passamaquoddy and Pequot. The tribes often battled with each other.

The Pilgrims in Massachusetts and the Quakers in Pennsylvania were examples of people who had left England so they could practice the religion they chose. Maryland and Rhode Island passed laws of religious toleration (meaning that people couldn't be harmed just because their religion was different from other people).

We hope you learned more about the Colonial Times!

How the Earth was Formed by Alexandra Turtill

After the sun started to light up, there was a lot of rocky space dust gloating around in space. The space dust started to collide and with a bigger and bigger clump, there was gravity pulling even more on the dust. When the space dust hit the Earth clump, it got really hot and this made lava. The middle of the Earth is still very hot lava, but now the outside of the earth is cooled off and is dirt.

The Monkey and the Gorilla by Matthew Vandenerik and Zachary Marks

Once upon a time there was a family of monkeys. They lived in a forest. They always had bananas. They had banana soup, banana pickles, banana cake and banana sandwiches. It was a big family of 102 aunts, uncles and kids. One day a gorilla came and took their bananas. Most of the family was very hungry. Then, one day the youngest monkey in the family who was 5 years old said, "I will go and get rid of the gorilla." After that the mom said, "It's too dangerous." The youngest monkey told the mom, "I know what I'm doing mom." Then the mom finally agreed. So the monkey went to find the gorilla. Finally after he walked 5 miles he found the gorilla's cave. He went inside and found the gorilla. The gorilla was munching on a dozen bananas. The monkey said, "Why are you eating those bananas when there are more on the top of the mountain?" So the gorilla went to the top of the mountain. Quickly, the monkey ran home. He told his family that they had to build a wall around the mountain. The family asked why and the monkey said, "The gorilla is at the top of the mountain looking for bananas even though there are none. We have to build the wall fast!" So everyone ran to the mountain. They built the wall very fast. They built a wood wall tall enough that if two gorillas stand on each others heads they still couldn't get over the wall. The gorilla kept looking in the mountain. Finally he gave up. He came down from the mountain and saw the wall. He was furious! The gorilla stayed there forever and ever. The monkeys finally started eating bananas again. The monkeys lived happily ever after.

Instruments by Sabrina Rubinshteyn and Kristen Cambriello

Kindergarten, 1st, 2nd and 3rd graders, you might be in the band in the 4th and 5th grade. You get a lot of choices like alto sax, trumpet, clarinet, drums, low brass, oboe or flute. Sabrina Rubinshteyn used to play the trumpet and Kristen Cambriello still plays the clarinet.

Sabrina thought it was difficult at first because the trumpet is challenging and Kristin thinks that playing instruments is a lot of fun because sometimes you get to play around with them and make cool sounds. We both think that playing instruments is fun, but hard because it's kind of hard to get the right sound out of the instrument.

Also, you have to fit in practicing your instrument. If you don't practice, you won't get better and if you don't get better, you won't play as good as others.

Being in band isn't just having fun, but it is fun. You just have to work more than you think you have to. Holding the instrument is different for each instrument so we can't really describe it to you.

Having an instrument is really fun, but not as easy as you think. If you need help, tell someone and they will help you. We hope that you would like to be in the band and play an instrument. It's really fun!



My Day in Third Grade by Rhea Munjal

First my day starts in the gym, and then we get called out.

Then our teacher tells us what the day is all about.

Then we do our DLR after that we have jobs to do.

At snack time everybody likes to eat.

At HRE it's fun and neat.

At recess it's time to run.

When we come back in the classroom we have a few hours left, so we do some math and science.

On Friday we put on some songs and dance filled with glee!

Then it is dismissal time and I go on bus 9. Then I sit beside my friends.

My bus stop is the 2nd to last.

When I get out off the bus, my baby sister comes running to me. That's the end of my 3rd grade day!

A Day in Third Grade by Jordan Numme

First it starts in the gym hanging out with our grade. We sit in the middle of the gym, when we get out it's a rage. Our class sits by the door watching the kids go by. I'm so tired from last night I just want to fly. After that our teacher let's us in. We do DLR, jobs and the helpers take down the recycling bin. Then it's time to go outside and when recess is done all of us go in then we go to lunch, and are satisfied just because we didn't have brunch. We do some math and have a special, and when the day is done I see my bus driver. Sorry if I'm rhyming too much. I'll try to make it stop, but then I see my brother when I get off at my stop.

Elvira Comes to School by Eri Tominaga

Elvira the witch was coming to Ridge Street School. The teacher didn't like the witch. The teacher said, "Get out of my school!" Elvira left school. She felt sad. The next day Elvira was mad and made some changes. She went home to get her magic book. She put a magic spell on her friends. Keita changed into Rosalyn, Rosalyn changed into Eri, and Eri changed into Keita!

Keita became Rosalyn and was now speaking Chinese. Rosalyn was not speaking at all and Eri was Keita still speaking Japanese. Next, Peggy and Mai and Erika changed too! Erika was Peggy and Peggy was Mai and Mai was Erika. Glenda was flying by on her broom. She went down to the school to help. She switched the kids back to normal. She used her magic wand. She said, "CHANGE!"

All the kids said, "Thank you!" Then Glenda said, "Stop bullying Elvira!" to the teacher. The teacher said, "I'm so sorry!" Glenda and Elvira went back to their magic world.

Bolt and the Baby Crocodile by Dennis Carvalho

An egg was on an island as Bolt was flying by. The egg cracked and the big crocodile wanted to eat the baby crocodile. The crocodile was about to eat the baby and Bolt said, "Do you want to fight?" Bolt super barked at the crocodile. Now Bolt did his laser eyes and the crocodile wasn't going to eat the baby. The crocodile went away because Bolt was too powerful.

The Writing Process by Julia Bucci and Lauren Comstock

Hi, we are Julia and Lauren and we are in 4th grade. 4th grade has a lot of challenges in the stage of "The Writing Process". Here you will learn what we have been going through.

Step 1 Prewriting

- Make a list of ideas on what you want to say.
- Who do you think will read your writing?
- Don't make your writing obvious; make it so the reader would have to think about the secret message.

Step 2 Drafting

- Think about your writing and figure out if your writing is organized.
- Think about your ideas and figure out which words you would like to develop.
- What order do you want your writing to be in?
- Talk about your writing with someone and see what ideas they can make to try to make your writing better.

Step 3 Revising

- Read what you have written and see if your writing is completely organized.
- Add or take out sections that are really not important.
- Try to use the best words and best ideas.
- Try to see if your writing is in the sensible order you would like it to be in.
- What suggestions have your fellow classmates given you?

Step 4 Editing

- Use as many complete sentences as possible.
- Check if your spelling, capitalization and punctuation are correct.
- Make sure your writing is neat and correct.
- Make someone check it.

Step 5 Publishing

- Once someone has checked your writing, you are ready for the really fun part - the font and color! Don't get too crazy though, you still want the reader to recognize your writing.

Mary and Lucy Go To the Movie Theater by Ayaka Yamamoto

Mary and Lucy went to the movie theater. They wanted to see "Hannah Montana". The movie is fun. The girls are happy. They bought butter popcorn. They have drinks too. "I like Hannah Montana!" said Mary. "Me too!" said Lucy. The girls like Hannah Montana.

After the movie Mary and Lucy go to Lucy's house. They played dolls. They dress up and sing Hannah Montana songs. They sing "Best of Both Worlds".

Knock, knock. Mary's Mom knocked at Lucy's house. She said, "Come on Mary." "OK" said Mary. Lucy said, "Bye!" They had a good time.

Olympic Night by Gabriella Fern

Every year there is something called Olympic Night. Olympic Night is where you do all kinds of activities like tug of war, soccer and hockey. This year I was on the blue team. Go blue team go! I hope everyone had fun, even the coaches. I hope you will all do Olympic Night next year! Have fun!

The Natural Disasters that
Shake our World
by Annie Liu

Imagine yourself outside on a sunny day. What if you suddenly hear low rumbles like thunder but, there are no clouds in the sky? Suddenly the ground starts to shake. You see animals acting strangely, people becoming imbalanced, and cars starting to drive off the road and into trees. A crack abruptly appears on the ground. You feel like the whole world is shaking and the sunny day becomes a day of doom. Buildings quickly tumble down, crash and people start to run for their lives. Within minutes, the whole city is all rundown and destroyed.

What you would be experiencing is an earthquake. Some can last for minutes; some can last for seconds, which people cannot feel at all. Earthquakes are one of the most terrifying and dangerous natural disasters, and in this year, 2010, many have occurred. The order is: Haiti, Chile, Taiwan, Mexico and Indonesia.

Why do earthquakes happen? They happen when the tectonic plates on earth move and collide. This causes the earth to shake, and creates an earthquake. Each earthquake is different. Each time an earthquake occurs, scientists record how much magnitude, or the force of the quakes is. From 0 to 4 is very minor. From 5 and 6 they are considered to be strong, but 7, 8, 9 and 10 quakes are the worst.

Right after an earthquake occurs, sometimes the force of a quake is so strong that it can send a monster wave to a place over 1,000 miles away at the speed of over 600 mph. This is a Tsunami. Tsunamis do not have an impact on the water in the middle of the ocean. These natural disasters only take place into the action when it reaches shore.

If you ever see the tide come in but doesn't go back out and the seawater starts to foam,

then this is a sign that a Tsunami is coming.

Another natural disaster is when a mountain of fire - the truly indeed most terrifying disaster of all - erupts with a plume of smoke and fire combined. What is it? It is a volcano!



A volcanic eruption happens when too much gas and heat is trapped in the earth's core. Slowly a mountain forms with a hole in the center of it. Suddenly all of the gas, heat and flames trapped in the core explode out from the mountain. That is why volcanoes erupt.

Have you ever been skiing? If you come across a large amount of loose snow, it will eventually crash down from the mountain as an avalanche, speeding down at the speed of over 70 mph.



Avalanches happen at the least expected times. They cannot be predicted because an avalanche can be caused by any passing tourist in skis or an animal crossing the snowy ground. They can be outrun; but there is more of a chance that you can become engulfed inside it.

No matter what, natural disasters cannot be controlled. If we destroy forests, lakes and rivers by polluting or tearing trees down one by one, of course Mother Earth will be angry. We have already cut down acres and acres of trees in the rainforest. This is causing danger and possible extinction for all the animals and plants that live there. What we are destroying is their home and ours too because we share one planet together. We are the ones that started this destruction and we are the only ones who can put it to an end.

Dear Mother Earth,

On this day and everyday I will try my best to protect you. I will do that by using old things that could have been thrown out and making something new. I can pick up trash even when it's not mine. I normally turn off the water while I'm brushing my teeth and will continue to do so. The final thing I can do is to encourage others to help you too. I will protect you and all of your natural treasures, so that the next generation will get to see the beauties and treasures of Planet Earth.

Your protector,
Carly Kabot

Dear Mother Earth,

My promise to you is that I will try my best to protect you. I will help you by taking submarine showers and turning off the water when I put the toothpaste on my toothbrush. I will help by using every inch of paper on each side. I will not waste any bottles or bags. I will clean up litter if I see some and I will recycle everything that is a one or a two.

Environmentally yours,
Noah Swartz

Earth Day
by Lily Janjigian

I hope you all had a great Earth Day! My class got to go to an assembly, and we got to make an Earth Day stamp in honor of a plant. It was also someone's birthday in my class! She's lucky her birthday is on Earth Day! Some ways to help the Earth are by recycling, saving water, planting flowers or trees, and instead of throwing trash on the ground, throw it away in the trash can. There are so many other ways to help the Earth. I hope you had a happy Earth Day, but remember everyday is Earth Day!

What can you do for the Earth?

I can go to the forest to pick up some plastic and paper and glass. At home I recycle. I recycle paper and plastic and glass. I like taking care of the Earth.

- Veronika Prospal

I will protect the earth by not spilling the oils in the ocean because sea creatures will be affected. The pollution is very bad for the fish, sharks, and other sea animals. The pollution could also affect our lives by us eating poisoned fish. Another idea is not to waste paper. Instead, you could recycle the papers, cans, and water bottles so you can reuse them again and again. Also try picking up the trash and recyclable things that are around your neighborhood. You could travel to places to pick up the trash and recyclable things around the world too! If you want to save the Earth, try some of these things.

- Keita Suzuki

When it is Earth Day let's plant a tree or not waste water when you're brushing your teeth. Turn off the light when you leave the room. Use both sides of paper when you are coloring or drawing or writing. Use tin bottles not plastic. If you see litter, throw it away.

-Erika Teruuchi

Earth Needs You
by Sammy Sloves and Mackenzie Drangel

1, 2 trees come be green with me. Reduce, reuse and recycle. Use less fuel in your motorcycle. Don't litter and you'll get glitter. Be clean or ants will be mean. Use less paper. We need oxygen for air. Get your umbrella ready, we're taking a trip to the Rainforest. Eat healthy or your body won't be wealthy. That's what the Earth needs you to do!