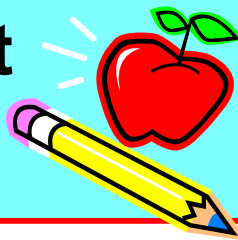




Ridge Street News

Winter 2010 Edition



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

What's Happening at Ridge Street?

Welcome, Mrs. Weisel!
by Annie Liu

An Interview with Bruno M. Ponterio
By Sean Wynn & Jacob Zarkower

There's a new face at the Bruno M. Ponterio Ridge Street School and her name is Mrs. Weisel. Mrs. Weisel is the new principal. I recently had a chance to sit in her office and ask her a few questions. She had some very interesting answers.

Mrs. Weisel worked at the Oak Grove School as a principal. She also was a teacher for 18 years! She worked at the Meyers Corners School as an assistant principal too.

She enjoys being the principal of our school because she says it is very exciting. She thinks the boys and girls have been very caring, helpful and enjoy learning. The best thing she likes about this school is the people here like the teachers and students.

Mrs. Weisel wants to improve our school by looking at what we're teaching and improving that. Her favorite subjects are reading, English, social studies and history because they are interesting.

She wanted to be a principal because she likes to work with children and teachers.

A warm RSS welcome to Mrs. Weisel!



Two RSS students interviewed our former principal, Mr. Ponterio.

Q: When did you become a principal?

A: I started teaching in 1956 in Fairlawn, New Jersey. I received my administrative degree and in February 1963, I was hired as an assistant principal at Ridge Street School. I was an assistant principal through 1970, when I became the principal, and remained in that capacity through 1995.

Q: What the best thing about being principal?

A: Watching the kids grow up in the same town where I raised my children and having them come back twenty years later to say thank you. I was also very proud when Ridge Street was rated one of the best elementary schools in the country.

Q: Was being principal a fun job?

A: Some days it was fun and I was very proud of the accomplishments of my teachers and other days it was difficult, such as facing a budget crisis.

Q: Would you choose to do it all over again?

A: Absolutely. I would do it over in a heartbeat.

Q: Did you face obstacles before becoming a principal?

A: Not really, but I did serve in the Army for three years before I became a principal. I spent most of my career in education at Ridge Street School as an administrator.

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Interview with Mr. Ponterio (continued from page 1)

Q: What was your favorite subject in school?

A: History, political science and world events.

Q: What are some of your hobbies since you have retired?

A: I served as interim principal in Harrison and Chappaqua and helped work with disabled children through BOCES. I am also a Trustee with the Port Chester-Rye Brook Library and I consulted on various finance committees.

Q: Do you remember any of the kids from when you were principal and do you keep in touch with them today?

A: Yes. I see some of my students at the Snow Ball for their children. I also see some of my students in town. One of my students, Mrs. Krouskoff, is a teacher at Ridge Street.

Q: Are there teachers who you hired still at Ridge Street?

A: Yes, Mrs. Esposito, Ms. Greco, Mrs. Sarli, Ms. Camac and Mrs. Aruilio.

Q: Have there been changes to the school since you were principal?

A: Yes, especially for children with special needs. The school is more accessible and there is more assistance given to meet those needs.

Q: Has the school changed for the better?

A: Absolutely. There's a very supportive Board and supportive teachers.

Q: What are your favorite sports teams?

A: I am a big Yankee and Giants fan.

Q: Do you think that it is easier or harder to be a kid today?

A: It's not too different being a kid today, but rather, it's more challenging. Kids must learn to make the right choices from their parents, grandparents and teachers. I believe kids should engage in random acts of kindness, where they help someone less fortunate. I learned this from my mother, who instilled in me that you do good for others and goodness will come back to you. You will be a better person for it.

Q: Do you remember the first Snow Ball?

A: Yes. At the time, Linda Greco was a new teacher at Ridge Street and proposed bringing families together at the holidays through the Snow Ball. I supported her idea and since that time, it has become the highlight of every holiday season because it brings generations together.

Q: If there is one lesson that we should remember, what would it be?

A: Be remembered for random acts of kindness.

School Rules by Gabby Egol and Abby Kimmel

School is cool and everybody knows it rules! That's why everybody goes to school! The teachers are nice, they let us play math games with dice! Sometimes you go outside and sometimes you don't because it's raining. We buy lunch and have homework and also have schoolwork! We like to play when it's warm, but when it's cold we feel old! Third grade is the best grade and everyone knows it. School is cool!



Off to the Bruce Museum by Danielle Barsky

This fall fourth graders learned about Native Americans in our social studies unit. Recently we went to the Bruce Museum and saw the Native American exhibit. In this unit we learned about two tribes; the Iroquois and the Algonquin. They both lived in New York. The Iroquois lived in southern New York and the Algonquin lived in northern New York.

When we went to the Bruce Museum we saw and learned about many things on the two tribes. The first thing we did was go in a little room, sit down and talk about what we knew with our tour guide, Mr. Mac. He told us about different towns that some Native Americans named themselves, such as Mamaroneck, Connecticut and Tuckahoe. Isn't that cool?

Then we went into this big room that showed us where the Native Americans lived and what it looked like. For example, we saw a big forest with some animals, trees and other natural resources. When we were done observing the land/picture, we sat down on the floor and talked about what we saw and what the Native Americans used the objects for. Did you know that bark was used for canoes?

Then we went to another room. There was a wigwam in it. A wigwam is a house that the Algonquin tribes lived in. Inside the wigwam there were animal skins, pots and tools they used. First Mr. Mac showed us different skins that the Native Americans used for clothing. Did you know that the Native Americans used a sinew, part of a deer's ankle, to make it into thread?

After that, we went into groups of four and each group had an object. We had to figure out what the object was. Some of the objects were a deer shoulder blade, a deer jaw, a hunting game, and a deer antler. That pretty much summed up the trip when we went to the Bruce Museum. Do you know more about Native Americans? I hope so!

Native American Children by Sarah Rogers

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to go back to the Native American time? I learned from the Bruce Museum that it would be very different from today's time.

If you were a boy you would start training to be brave from a young age. You would start by putting a small decorated wooden ring on the floor. The little boy would aim an arrow through the hoop. At 6 years old they would place the hoop on a tree and shoot the arrow at the target. Once they perfected that, they would hang the hoop from a long string and shoot the arrow through it. The last training stage was the 10 year old boy would push the string with the hoop side to side to practice hitting a moving target. Once they could do this effortlessly they were ready to hunt with their fathers.

A girl's training was completely different. They would practice to become a wife. The mom of the child would make her a doll out of corn husk. The girl would play with the doll as if it was her own child. As the girl got older, she would practice sewing and making clothes for her family. The girl would use a knife made of wood and flint. She'd shave the fur of the skin. A part of the brain of a deer would be rubbed on the hard leather skin to make it soft. The girls would poke holes through the leather to then sew it together with another patch of leather. That's how they made some of their clothes.

I hope this helped you imagine what life was like for Native American kids!



Life as a Native American by Lily Koenig

Have you ever imagined having no video games, I-Pods, TV's or even electricity? The Native Americans didn't even have light bulbs and also had to live off the land. On December 3, 2009 our class went to the Bruce Museum to learn about Native American cultures, traditions and everyday life.

If you ever thought that your life was hard, well the Native Americans couldn't just go to the store and buy food and drinks. They had to go and hunt it down. They didn't even have guns to hunt it down, they had spears. A spear is made by chipping flint or stone until it is sharp. Native Americans couldn't just go to their house when it was cold and turn the heat on! They didn't even live in houses. They lived in Wigwams. A wigwam is like a house, except it is made from bark, sticks, wood and leaves.

As hard as Native American life was there arrangement of living made it even harder. You see, Native Americans believed that the land they lived on didn't belong to them. Every seven years they packed up their things and went to a different land.

As you can see, Native American didn't live an easy life. If you were a Native American what do you think it would feel like? Would you think it would be boring or even really exciting?

School Store by Alexandra Turtill

The school store will have lots of fun stuff. There are going to be erasers, pencils, and rulers. There is going to be stuff that you like. The school store is always at lunchtime. It is near the multipurpose room. How much money is your object? Don't forget to bring your money. Go school store!

Free Choice by Julia Rogovic

I like free choice. At free choice I like to draw and make books. At free choice I like to go on the computer. Free choice is fun!

First Grade is Fun! by Emma Wagner

First grade is fun because I love my teacher! I like doing math because I like doing my math book!

Just One Book for Exuma by Gabrielle Applebaum, Hannah Marrow and Jesse Alexander

This year Mrs. Esposito's first grade class will be working on the Exuma Project. Former students in fourth grade and second grade joined together to expand the Exuma Project to their own classmates. This is a project that benefits kids who needs books in the Bahamas. We got lots of books from those grades! We hope to get more books this spring! Mrs. Esposito will be shipping books down to Exuma and will also be leading a reading workshop for the primary teachers in Exuma this spring. We hope our school will embrace this project and help get books down to kids who do not have books of their own to read. Please think about the children!

Exuma Project by Jake Morrissey

In school we are bringing books to donate to Exuma. So far, we have 230 books. You can bring books to RSS room number 7 until the summer. The books that we are donating to Exuma are for the schools. Let's help kids from Exuma to learn to read!

The Geography Bee by Samuel George and Larsen Talmadge

I have always loved geography and history since I was little, so I wanted to take part in the Geography Bee at RSS on December 4th. When I found out about the Bee I said, "Why not, I'll do it!"

My classmate Larsen also likes geography, but didn't know much of this subject. She decided it would be fun to try. We studied hard. When I studied I studied the whole atlas. Boy, did I learn a lot.

If you're wondering what a Geography Bee is, it is sort of like a spelling bee, except on geography. First, all fourth grader participants went to the library. Next Mrs. Bova told us the rules and we sat by class in ABC order. Mrs. Weisel and Mrs. Taylor asked us questions one by one. Finally, it came down to the tiebreaker questions. "What Canadian Province stretches down from the Great Lakes to the Hudson Bay?" We never expected to make it to the next round, but we did. On the second day we didn't make it to the writing test, but it was fun anyway.

If you win the National Championship you win money and you could be on T.V.!

Student Council by Caroline Levine

I bet you don't know much about what we do on Student Council. Do you think we have wild parties? No. Do you think we take naps? No. How about watch movies? No. No TV either. I'm going to tell you what really goes on in Ms. Blumstein's room when we meet.

Every few weeks, we get together to talk about how we can make school better. We sit at tables and discuss our plans over lunch. Ms. Blumstein leads the group.

On the first day, Ayden Bauer and I were so excited about being part of Student Council that we got there way too early! Ms. Blumstein was still teaching. We walked up and down the hallway for what seemed like forever. Luckily, the door opened a few minutes later and were able to sit down.

So far we've made posters for Pajama Day and Kids Who Care. Didn't they make the school look great? Did you see the big pink heart or the gold pajamas? Those were mine. I spent a lot of time making sure they were colorful and bright - and gave you all the information you needed about the events.

We also brought breakfast for Attitude of Gratitude. We brought muffins, donuts, juice and coffee to thank the teachers and administrators for all of their hard work. We like to keep them in a good mood!

The Student Council also raised money for UNICEF and reminds you to wear school colors on the first Friday of every month.

We've got lots of other plans, including one super secret mission. I can't wait for you guys to see what we are doing! Unfortunately, I'm sworn to secrecy, so you'll just have to wait. I know you'll love it!

Foul Shot Contest by Jordan Schoen

For the foul shot contest each person gets 15 shots. You have to make 10 shots to go to the next round. Mr. Turkewitz and Mr. Forzaglia host the foul shooting contest for Rye Brook. The foul shot line is 15 feet. Mr. T. and Mr. F. take the top three or four shooters to Port Chester where you get two turns. You have to make a lot of shots to advance to the next round. Good luck!

What's Happened in Second Grade by Sabrina Vuong

In second grade we have learned about our community! We also have our own banks made out of cans. We decorated our cans with stickers, colored paper and more. We earn tickets (which are the money) that are colored red, pink, blue, orange and white. They are all worth different amounts. We also went to TD Bank and to the Carver Center to donate toys to children. In class we have science experiments. Second grade is fun. I love second grade!

Second Grade Alligators by Gabriella Fern

In second grade science we got a pretend growing alligator and we put the growing alligator in water. It grew! Our classes are going to see how much it grows, it weighs and how long it is for a week. We got the idea from a book called Zack's Alligator.

Alligator Predictions by Lily Janjigian

Second grade classes are doing a new experiment in science. It is about an alligator that might be able to grow. It is not a real alligator, but we do think it will grow. We don't know if it will grow or not. We want to know if it will grow or not. Why don't you try to figure it out?

Stories from Mrs. Giard's ESL Students

My House Walks to School by Eri Tominaga

My house follows me to school. My house walked to school with me. My teacher, Ms. Giard, fainted. Ms. Giard was scared of the house. "Eri, what is that?" "That's my house," I said. My teacher is writing ABCD. The house and Eri are writing ABCD too. Eri and my house go to play soccer in gym class. The house is the goalie. My classmates are scared too! My teacher, Mrs. Onofrio was scared too! She said, "OK, your house can stay in our classroom." Later my happy house and Eri do homework at home.

Snowbot and Truckbot A Story About Robots by Gilad Price

There was a Snowbot and a Truckbot and they didn't know what to do. Snowbot and Truckbot made a satellite to make pizza. But they didn't know how to control it. So they stole some stuff to make the satellite work. Then they got the things they needed. So then they bought a canon. They put the satellite in the canon to launch it. They put in the ingredients for pizza. But they only sent pizzas to America. Snowbot and Truckbot were so happy.

Getting a Treat in ESL by Erika Teruuchi

We get a treat after the ESL class. Everybody was so good, and Ms. Giard ran out of treats. Yesterday I was absent, so Ms. Giard saved a treat for me. Ms. Giard said, "We missed you. We saved a treat for you." Erika was happy and Ms. Giard said, "Welcome back! We saved your favorite treat."

The Pencil is Magic by Dennis Carvalho

My magic pencil dropped on the floor and disappeared. A witch put an invisible spell on the pencil on Halloween. My pencil disappeared and I'm very weird because I'm worried. This was my favorite pencil from Halloween.

The pencil was orange and had black bats and it was big. Vanessa was doing her homework and she held my pencil. I was playing with Vivian. Vanessa and I were fighting for the pencil. The pencil broke and I cried and Vanessa threw my Power Ranger glove. Back at school the next day, I had my pencil when I was writing.

The Lunch Ladies Are the Best by Ella Virtanen

The lunch ladies are fantastic because they make fantastic food. The lunch ladies wanted to bake a cake but they didn't have the ingredients. So I stepped into the lunchroom and I said, "What do you need help with?" They said, "We need a cake recipe." Then I said another question and it was this. "So then let's look on the computer." "But we don't have a computer." "So let's go to the computer room and find a recipe." They found a recipe and made a delicious apple cake.

Queen Hazuki's Birthday Party by Ayaka Tominaga

Queen Hazuki lives in her house. Queen Hazuki is at her birthday. She is 8. The cake has 8 candles. She has six balloons. She has two presents. She has two flowers. She has five candies. Ayaka and Erika are at the party. The party is fun. The girls are happy.

Keido and the Snowdrado by Keita Suzuki

There was a boy named Keido Dragon. He loved snow, so he made a snow dragon. Two hours later, he was done with the snow dragon. He called the dragon a "snow drado because it was part dragon and part komodo dragon.

On the next day, Keido Dragon came out of the house and was surprised. The snow drado was moving around and people were frozen! Keido liked his drado because Drado froze his bully sister Erika! He told him to be his pet and Drado agreed. He froze all the people except Keido's friends.

Keido's friends thought Drado was cool. They patted him and Drado was happy. Keido took Drado and their friends for a walk and then drank hot chocolate cocoa and marshmallows. Then they made a big igloo so Drado could get in.

When it was night, Keido called their parents to cook inside the igloo. Then Dreido and his friends helped bring a big sleeping bag. Then he and his friends asked their parents if they can sleep in the igloo and they said "Yes!" So Keido, Drado and their friends all slept in the igloo that night.

Making Books by Guillermo Prieto

This is me making books. I wanted to spell the words, but I didn't know how. I asked my mom to show me, but she wasn't there.

"Mom! (gasp!) She's gone!"

Next, I asked my dad, but he wasn't there either.

"Not again! Hey, Dad?"

I asked my friend John, but he did not know either.

"Hi Guillermo. Come in!"

So next I asked.....

His mom, but she was busy.

"Hi boys!"

Then I couldn't find another person to ask to help me.

"I know who the best person is!"

Then finally I asked a teacher and she said she can help me.

"Hello!" said Mrs. Camac.

Best Friends by Hazuki Yamamoto

My best friend is Maiko. Maiko and I have a play date every week! In 4th grade I stayed at Maiko's house. We stayed up late at night and talked and played together.

Maiko and I like Conan. We go to the movies to see the Japanese movies Conan and Doraemon. We go to the parks together. In summer vacations we make sand castles.

Maiko and I go to Prospect in Tokyo. There we see beautiful scenery.

Maiko and I are best friends. The reason is....there are many, many pairs. For example, a pencil and eraser. But we are the best pair. When I get upset, she helps me. We never fight because every day we are the closest friends! At the present moment, I moved away from Maiko, but we are still very, very, good best friends!

First Time At Goal by Yuta Kato

One day my coach said, "Play goalie" and I was very nervous because it was my first time at goalie. After I scored a goal for my team, I played goalie. When the game started, players shot at the goal, but they missed. After my friend scored for our team, my other friend tripped the other team's player. The referee said, "It was a penalty shot!"

After they scored, the referee said, "It's half time." At halftime, I said, "I don't want to be goalie," and my coach switched me and my friend played goalie. Coach said, "Now play striker."

The second half started. I shot and I scored easily. After I scored, the other team's player punched me. I was very mad. I punched him too and he fell. The referee blew the whistle. The ref said, "You are out of the game" to the other team's player.

It is 2 to 1 now. There were two minutes left and I shot again. I hit the crossbar. Then my friend shot and scored. Now it was 3 to 1. Then the game finished and my team won. My team got gold medals and a team trophy with a soccer ball on it.

How Katie's House Got Upside Down By Rosalyn Shi

One day my house got turned upside down. I was surprised. It was fun, but I told my mom.

"I know!" said Mom.

"Why did it happen then?" I asked.

"A giant guy flipped it over, so we need to find him now!"

I still don't think my mom is right, but I am still going to find him.

"WAIT!" called Mom. "He's in the mountains!" said Mom.

"Ok," I said, "thanks for telling me."

"You're welcome." said Mom.

Next I saw a very big hole so I went in the big hole. I saw a very big statue. "It's a person statue!" So I touched it. "It's moving!" I said. The giant guy said, "Hi! I'm Flippy."

I said, "Hi! I am Katie. Could you go to my house to flip my house back to normal?"

"Sure!" Flippy said. "But I don't know where your house is."

"Don't worry, just follow me."

"OK!" said Flippy.

"Just go straight up to the end then make a right and then go straight. You'll see a sign that says, "Good Parents Here". That's my house!"

"But first help me get out of here! I can fly!"

"You can?" I asked. "Then let's get out of this hole!"

"OK," Flippy said. "Let's go. Hold on tight!"

"Whoooooohooooo!"

"Waaaaaahaaaaa! Straight up to the end and make a right and then straight up. I see the sign. That's my house! Now Flippy, flip my house back now!"

"Oh! I am so sorry that I don't have any energy. I need food."

"OK! Coming right up! Mom, give me 100 slices of bread, please!"

"OK" said Mom. "Here you go!"

"Thank you" I said.

"Here you go now, eat it NOW!"

"OK." (CRUNCH!)

"OW! My ears!"

"Oh, sorry about that!" said Flippy.

"Come on, flip it over NOW!"

"OK" (crush!) "DONE!"

"Thank you very much!"

"You're welcome. Bye-bye!" said Flippy.

"Flippy, bye-bye!" I said.

"Bye!" said Mom.

Alex the Jaguar Goes to Mexico By Kenta Kato

The jaguar's name is Alex and he wanted to fly to Mexico. He was a brave jaguar, but another jaguar was not brave.

Alex saw a ship. He raised his hand to stop the ship. It was Alex's dad on the police ship.

He said, "Can I go to Mexico?"

His dad said, "OK!" So Alex sat in the chair.

Then Alex's dad went into the deep water.

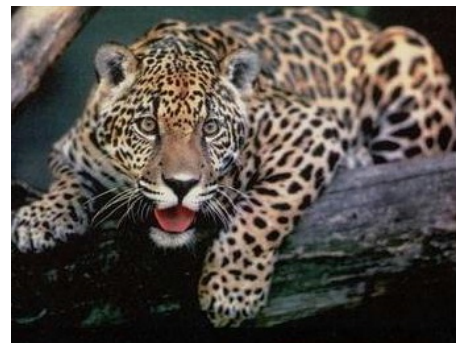
Alex saw a shark and the shark saw Alex.

The shark made a big wave.

Alex yelled, "Don't come here!" The shark swam away. Then Alex saw Mexico.

His dad said, "Get out, please."

Alex the jaguar saw his friends, lion, puma, tiger and eagle. It was very hot in Mexico!



Continued...