



Russell Ridge News

October 2009
Volume 15, Issue 1

- 1** **SCHOOL PHOTOS**
Nov 5 11:00-1:00
- 2** **LIBRARY TALK**
Nov 9 12:30-1:30
- 3** **PARENT BOARD MEETING**
Nov 10 11:00-12:00
- 4** **Electronics, LEGOS, Art, Writing and Biology**
- 5** **Goin' Buggy & Comedy of Errors**
January 2010
- 6** **FOOD DRIVE GATHERS 228 lbs for MV Food Bank**

District Calendar

- November 11
VETERANS DAY
- November 26-27
THANKSGIVING BREAK
- December 23-Jan 1
WINTER BREAK
- January 4 NO SCHOOL
STAFF TRAINING DAY

Russell Ridge Center
22615 Sweeney Rd SE.
Maple Valley, WA 98038
425 413-5490

NOVEMBER 5th 11-1:00 SCHOOL PHOTO DAY

We are requesting that all interested students have their photo taken for our FIRST RRC yearbook. SIGN UP IS IN THE RRC OFFICE. Purchasing a photo is optional. Price lists and order forms will be available in the RRC office. In the spring we plan to have a class dedicated to publishing, for free, our FIRST Russell Ridge Yearbook.

November 9th 12:30-1:30 "Get to know your King County Library"



Of course, you all know how to use the King County Library System website to look up and put holds on books. But have you ever wondered what the KCLS Databases are all about?

Stephanie Zero of the Maple Valley Library will be here at RRC to tell you all about them. I participated in a Database workshop with her last June, and was amazed by their potential to help our parents find materials to use at home. RRC's Parent Board said they are interested so we scheduled the presentation.

The presentation will take place Monday, November 9, 12:30 to 1:30PM. We will meet in Portable 4, the portable we use for our Cooking class. See you there!
Susan

Russell Ridge Parent Board

The 2009-10 Russell Ridge Parent Board met for the first time this year on October 6th. Discussions ranged from such topics as grounds maintenance to publishing a RRC year book to the "annual" RRC student clothing exchange to arranging afternoon guest speakers and Curriculum Show & Tell presentations. The next meeting is scheduled for Nov 10th at 11:00.

RRC Electronics 2009-2010

By Jim Aigner

If you happen to get a whiff of melting solder while passing Portable 3, or see an occasional wire sticking out the window, don't be alarmed. These are normal happenings for our Thursday morning Electronics class. Ten RRC students are learning about electricity, electronics, and radio with hands-on experiments and projects.



The goal is to encourage student interest and understanding of our increasingly electronics-rich world and to impart some math and science skills in the process. Yes, we'll be learning some common formulas and doing some practical algebra.

So far, students are learning new terminology, how to identify electronic components, how to read circuit diagrams, and how to build simple circuits using various methods from wires to breadboards to circuit boards. They've built audio oscillators and blinking LED gadgets to improve their skills for more ambitious projects to follow.

Weekly homework is required and faithful students will be rewarded with an end-of-quarter drawing for electronics kits and tools.

In late January, the second half of this course will focus more narrowly on radio technology with an emphasis on preparing for the FCC Amateur Radio Technician class license exam. Achieving this will give students the right and privilege of operating a range of amateur radios including small handhelds commonly used in emergency communications.

If you have questions or comments, check out my SWIFT web pages or contact me at jimaigner@comcast.net

What a great bunch of kids you have!

Cathy's Corner

By Cathy Sly

What a great start to the school year we have had!!

All three writing classes are focusing on personal narratives to start the year off. The kids are busy taking their pieces through the writing process and getting them ready to publish. Be sure to check the walls around RRC to read some of the kids writing.

We just finished our first unit in *Globe Trotters on Afghanistan*. What an eye opener it was for the students to study this war torn country. Each child chose a topic of interest and created a project to share with the class. Their projects were so fun. We had several posters, a menu, a few models and even a power point presentation. We also had a huge potluck with lots of Afghan food to sample!! Thanks parents for helping out with this!

The Philanthropy class has been busy heading up the RRC food drive. We are now looking into other projects to do throughout the year. The students have some really great ideas and would like to do something to help out animals, seniors and children in our area. If you have any suggestions for us please email me.

We are reading *Cricket in Time Square* right now in 3-5 Bookworms and are really enjoying it. We are learning about New York City and Times Square along with learning and listening to some classical

music! Chester is a very talented cricket!

I have said this before but thanks again for sharing your children with me. They make me smile and laugh and make coming to work a joy!!

Jill's Thoughts

By Jill Drillevich

We are now wrapping up month two of a new school year and I am very excited to be working with my students, both old and new. To my dismay, however, some of my classes did not draw enough student interest to proceed. I have always been the "outside the box" teacher in a traditional school setting. I taught either fifth or sixth grade at Rock Creek since it opened. My teaching style embraces a personal hands on approach to learning. I believe that your classroom environment should bring out the students trust in their teacher and each other. I encourage questions and challenges. My class motto is "question authority, but raise your hand first".

Moving to Russell Ridge gave me the chance to work in an environment that fostered that. I have discovered, however, that one of my biggest joys here is also one of my biggest Challenges. How do I design classes that reach the needs and desires of such a diverse, transient population?

I have chosen classes that have universal themes such as empathy, and taught current events, history, science and geography through them. These classes require the students to research, reflect and finally internalize information.

My debate class takes this process one step further in asking the students to then argue their point. Anyone that has sat in the class or listened to their children discussing these issues at home will attest to the fact that they are mastering these skills in their daily lives. This year's students are an amazing group. They have already grasped the debate process.

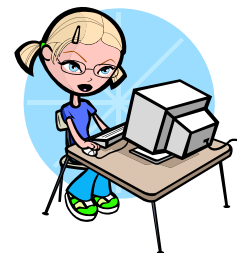
Both intermediate and advanced art classes have very talented students in them. We have reviewed basic art concepts and are starting to be able to "play" with the many marvelous mediums at hand. I have asked several community artists to come in to work with the students in specialized areas including welding.

Some of these students have been with me for 3-4 years and I have been able to watch and participate in their artistic growth. Last year some of my artists participated in a fundraising art auction for a prominent Issaquah gallery. One of these students, Kaz Dreyer, sold his piece for the highest bid possible and was nominated the number 1 artist in the show. It was hard for the adult artists to believe that a student had done the piece.

I thank you for these students and for the chance to be a part of their educational and personal growth.

Susan's Musings

By Susan Aigner



Custom Typing Available to RRC Students

We bought 30 licenses for the online typing instruction program Custom Typing (www.customtyping.com) and are not using all of them for our Beginning Computers class.

Do any of you want access to Custom Typing to use at home? I can set you up as the teacher for your students so you can monitor their progress, give them assignments, etc. The time spent using the program would be part of your student's Learning Plan.

If you are interested, let me know (saigner@tahomasd.us).

Lego Robotics



This year, RRC's 6-12 grade Science classes are using Lego Mindstorms NXT robotics kits and software to build and program robots.

We started by building a basic model, and then used the software tutorials to learn to make them more elaborate.

In the spring, I hope to have Lego competitions in each of the two classes. If you know about Lego robotics and would like to help plan the competitions, I would welcome your help. This is my first time using the Lego kits and while I did learn the basics this summer, I am not an expert. I am learning with the students.

If you are interested, let me know (saigner@tahomasd.us).

Susan

Philanthropy Class Clothing & Toy Drive

The RRC Philanthropy class will be collecting gently used books, toys and games for the Ruth Dykeman Children's Center during the month of November.

The center is a temporary placement for children of all ages, who are in need of emergency housing. Many of these children will be placed in foster care. They are in need of books, toys and games.

Please help us by donating your gently used items. Boxes are located in the office for your generous donations

Laurie's Update

By Laurie Shanin

This year has been fabulous thus far! There seems to be so many new families at RRC with excellent schooling happening at home. We are privileged to offer courses here that compliment your child's education.

Textile Art Class is filled with very eager students ready to tackle any challenging skill. We have made rag rugs, designed templates for bleaching and tie-dying shirts, learned to crochet (some of us even made baby booties and scarves), and with Leslie Nelson and Dion Valdez's help we have learned to knit. Our first adventure out of the classroom will be visiting a local sheep farm to learn the process of making wool yarn in November. Sewing will be our next skill and I have invited some ladies from the Covington Quilters Guild to come in and help us out along the way.

K-3 Music Production This class is very small but has much enthusiasm. We are working on the musical called Goin' Buggy. The bugs in this musical are tired of being stomped on and sprayed with Raid. They feel that they are entitled to some rights, so they appeal to the congressmen and present the Bugs Bill of Rights. The production has great music, a cute story line and the best little group of actors and actresses you will ever see. The production will be performed on Friday January 22nd right before the Shakespeare play. Put this date on your calendar and be prepared for a super fun musical.

K-3 Art Class started the year with learning value and shading. We have scumbled fall trees, painted pumpkins, blown paint to make crazy hairy creatures and made giant spiders. Be careful to not get caught in their web when you come into the office. Watch out, Lea!!!

Biology Class This is a High School equivalency class that has at least 5 hours of homework per week. The students are excelling! I am very proud of them. In 8 weeks, our stacks of vocabulary cards are approaching 1 inch thick, we've worked with microscopes, done lots of hands-on activities, presentations, and created visuals. We are learning so much this year already; Chemistry basics, organic compounds, structures of Carbohydrates, Lipids, Proteins, Enzymes, Plant cells, Animal Cells and all the organelles. By the end of the year we plan on knowing everything there is to know about every living thing. Good goal?

CONGRATULATIONS

PHILANTHROPY CLASS, RRC STUDENTS AND PARENTS

Russell Ridge families, through the work and guidance of the Philanthropy class gathered 228 pounds (6 crates) of food and toiletries for the Maple Valley Food Bank food drive. Thank you to all who donated.

WAY TO GO!



**RUSSELL RIDGE CENTER
IS A COMMUNITY MADE
UP OF STUDENTS,
BROTHERS AND SISTERS,
PARENTS AND STAFF**

**WE CARE FOR EACH
OTHER AND
ABOUT EACH OTHER!**

**IF YOU WISH TO BE REMOVED FROM THE RRC MAILING LIST
PLEASE CALL 425-413-5490 OR EMAIL LDELPILA@TAHOMASD.US**

Russell Ridge Center
 22615 Sweeney Rd SE.
 Maple Valley, WA 98038
 (425) 413-5490

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 US POSTAGE PAID
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To be removed from this mailing list please see instruction inside

For Your Refrigerator

<u>Office Hours</u>	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>
Mon.-Fri. 8:00-3:30	11/2	11/3	11/4	11/5	11/6
<u>Holidays & Exceptions</u>	11/9	11/10	11/11 V Day	11/12	11/13
November 11 Veterans Day	11/16	11/17	11/18	11/19	11/20
November 26-27 Thanksgiving	11/23	11/24	11/25	11/26 T.H.A.N.K.S	11/27 G.I.V.I.N.G
Dec 23-Jan 1 Winter Break	11/30	12/1	12/2	12/3	12/4
January 4 Staff Training	12/7	12/8	12/9	12/10	12/11
January 18 M L King Jr Day	12/14	12/15	12/16	12/17	12/18
	12/21	12/22	12/23 W. .I. .N. .T	12/24 E. .R B. .R	12/25 E. .A. .K