

THE RIVEREDGE SCHOOL INQUIRER

The Official Newsletter of The Riveredge School



Cross country skiing across the prairie

Monthly Updates

February has been a month full of activity, particularly with and because of the wider Riveredge School community.

Riveredge Nature Center (RNC) Adventure Educator Steff taught students how to get started with skis and provided additional expertise to support our initial efforts with snowshoeing.

RNC Teacher Naturalist Stephanie worked with 2nd-4th graders to explore the frozen world of the Bentley Pond, putting several holes in the ice, bringing scientific tools as well as her knowledge of the land to help our students take their inquiry of frozen water several steps further.

RNC Land Manager Matt Smith, with the help of his dedicated volunteers, brought a new playscape feature (giant willow trunks) to the pick up/drop off area. Students have loved having the opportunity to engage their bodies while waiting to start and end their days at The Riveredge School.

A visit to town from "the original Mr. T" (Ms.T's dad, a retired music educator and professional musician) brought the opportunity to explore the rhythms and melodies that we can create with our own bodies.

Even the deputies from the Ozaukee County Sheriff's Department have been joining in, helping students work on math and other activities during their visits. What a great community of people we have here at The Riveredge School!

UPCOMING EVENTS:

END OF TRIMESTER

3/6

PTO MEETING

3/9, 6PM IN CONNIE'S CLASSROOM

CONFERENCES

3/11

SPRING BREAK

3/23-27



Working together to build water molecules



Learning how to XC ski on carpet

Learning Updates

K/1 students loved learning how to cross country ski! The students first practiced inside on the carpet. Ms. Steff taught the students how to put on skis, move by sliding, turn around, and get up if they fell down. The students were eager to try out their new skills and excitedly ventured out onto the trails. While the icy trails were definitely not ideal conditions, all of the students persevered and made it around the loop. They all agreed that it was "really hard but really fun".

2nd graders spent the month of February diving deeper into exploring ice and using our observations of water to understand how all matter can change states. The Ice Field Day at Bentley Pond was a wonderful experience for students; they learned from RNC Educator Stephanie and used Secchi Discs and Eckman Grabs to get a better picture of pond life in winter. We enjoyed taking advantage of the frozen landscape to bushwhack and explore a few off-trail areas that were new to us - leading us to find different animal habitats and even a few different animal remains to observe and spark our curiosity. Reader's Theater is a favorite activity for our class as well - we enjoy the opportunity to collaborate with the 3rd/4th grade class and practice our reading skills in a new way!

3/4 students have enjoyed experimenting with new ways to get around our snowy surroundings this last month. Cross country skis were first, followed by snowshoes. It was especially interesting to explore new areas opened up by the snowcover. It has been fun to collaborate more with the 2nd graders, participating in reading, music, science and art in mixed groups on a more regular basis, now that we have our routines in place. Our inquiry of the River Outpost area has begun to take off, starting with an inventory of living creatures in the area. We also tapped a maple tree and are collecting data from our tree throughout the Maple Sugaring season. Stay tuned for the results...

THE RIVEREDGE SCHOOL PTO

The Riveredge School PTO has been working hard over the course of this year to organize and establish themselves as an organization. So many of us have experienced PTO groups that seem to have always existed, and the creation process has meant a lot of learning for everyone involved.

With an executive board, bylaws, bank account, platform for communication, one big event under our belts and two upcoming, we are well on our way! There is a lot of passion and creativity within our community around various fundraising possibilities and other wonderful ways to enhance the experience of ROLES students! Somehow, we've reached the point in the year when there are only 2-3 more PTO meetings before the summer, which means it's time to take what we've learned and turn it into a plan of growth for the future!

Join us for PTO meetings on the second Monday of each month if you are interested in helping with any of the upcoming events or assisting with preparing for next year.

"When we try to pick out anything by itself, we find it hitched to everything else in the Universe."

-John Muir

February Faces & Places



Taking a break from snowshoeing



Putting new skills into practice



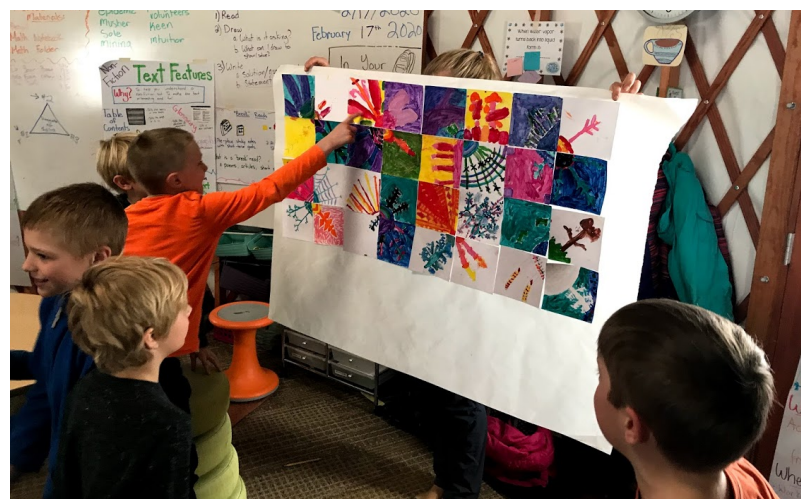
"Turtle-ing"



Feeling the music of our bodies



Getting a close look at deer adaptations



A collaborative art project